

June 2021



NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk

Additional Zoom Talk : Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 11 am Walking Tour of Venice with Luisella Romeo



Venice Registered Tour Guide, **Luisella Romeo**, will take us on a virtual tour of Venice, both along the off-the-beaten track paths and the major attractions of the city.

Luisella was born, raised and studied in Venice, where she gained a degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures. She perceives the labyrinth of Venice as a crossroads of human stories to narrate, and hopes her passion for her job will be apparent as we discover Venice together.



Great Railway Stations

During this month's talk Ian Swankie recounted how railway stations are important buildings – places where people meet or congregate, depart and arrive. Some have amazing architecture and ingenious engineering feats, especially tunnelling and huge structures



from the Victorian era. Famous artists captured the magic of the steam train era, such as J.M.W. Turner, William Powell Frith, Isambard Kingdom Brunel (also engineering), George Gilbert Scott RA, Claude Monet, Gustave Caillebotte, John O'Connor. Coal and steam gave way to diesel, but both created dirty environments. Ian took us on a whistle-stop survey of numerous stations both in the UK and abroad, during which he made the following interesting observations: W H Smith started as a Traveller's Newsagent at Euston station in 1848.

Competition existed between Kings Cross and St Pancras for passengers and routes. New 21st Century development of Kings Cross/St Pancras included contemporary departure area at Kings Cross and tunnel connection to St Pancras. St Pancras Hotel originally had 300 bedrooms and only 5 bathrooms! It was closed in 1930's. Lobbying then made it Grade 1 Listed building to prevent proposed demolition. It now has 244 bedrooms (with en-suites!) and 68 Apartments. All platforms are on 1st Floor to avoid tunnelling under canals. The "Dent" clock is a replica because it was irreparably damaged during restoration. Fortnum & Mason have beehives on roof!

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

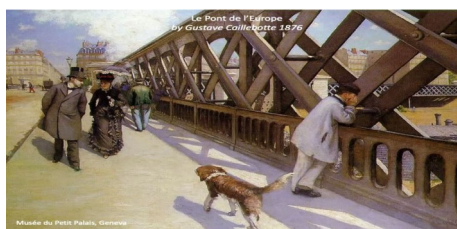
After three years in the hot seat as our hardworking Chairman, Sue Barrett will be standing down at our next AGM. Sue's energetic and sympathetic leadership of the committee, particularly during this past difficult year, has ensured that, despite all the limitations forced upon us by COVID-19, our society has continued to thrive and we have enjoyed a full and varied lecture programme, albeit virtually. Our Chairman Elect is Tony Callender, who will be relinquishing his present role of Honorary Secretary. We are therefore in urgent need of a new Secretary to join our cheerful committee (tea, coffee, cake and conviviality provided at all meetings!). If you are able to help us in this important role or would like more information about it, please contact **Tony on 01379 651259**. Also standing down this year will be Jacky Livens, our Young Arts Member, after an amazing ten years on the committee. Jacky has found this role extremely interesting and rewarding and would be happy to discuss it further with anyone who may be interested in taking over from her. Please contact **Jacky on 01359 242425**. In addition to these key roles, we also need extra members on the committee, to add new blood to our enthusiastic group. We are delighted to have already had interest from one new contact and would greatly welcome more. Please contact **Sue Barrett on 01284 700296** if you think this is for you.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

VISITS:

*Please note that our visit to **BLETCHLEY PARK** has now been postponed until **Tuesday 12th October 2021***

Waterloo Eurostar platform, modelled on 1851 Crystal Palace design, has a glass side giving a view of London on arrival.



York has a rectangular building, though tracks inside are curved. Sao Bento has blue/white tiles inside depicting a tableau history of Portugal and frescos. Grand Central is the

world's largest station with 44 platforms and 67 tracks!