

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2022 Blackbourne Community Centre 10am Sorolla - Master of Light Arantxa Sardina



Joaquín Sorolla hated darkness. Monet once said that painting in general did not have enough light in it. Sorolla could not agree more. He believed painters could never reproduce sunlight as it really is; they could only "approach the truth of it". He captured like no other the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved. We will look at his life and art, from early education to success.

Arantxa Sardina is an official volunteer guide at Tate, covering the permanent collection and some of the temporary exhibitions at both galleries, Modern and Britain. She completed her MA in Art History at the Open University in 2019, where her dissertation focused on fellow Spaniard Joaquín Sorolla. She is also an enthusiastic amateur musician, playing the cello and piano and a lover of opera and ballet. She is an accredited Arts Society lecturer who takes every opportunity to find out more about the stories behind artworks. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and continuously learning from others.

Places are still available for our

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY
The Mayan Civilisation Maria Chester
Blackbourne Community Centre
Tuesday 15th February 2022 9.30am - 3.00pm
£27 per person

Coffee, tea and cake will be provided.
Please bring your own lunch.

**Please pay at the door if you have not
pre-booked your place.**

2022 VISITS:

The Queen's House and the Fan Museum, Greenwich
May 2022 - Exact date to be decided

EUSTON OPEN DAYS 2022

9th April to 15th April
2nd May to 8th May
25th August– 31st August - Restricted garden access due to a music festival. Outdoor Tea Room only in a marquee in the walled garden.
12th September to 18th September - NB This has changed since last year.

Small groups and tours only, booked in advance.

Art and Architecture of Historic Pools and Lidos: Great Lengths

Simon Inglis dived into the history and heritage of British bathing pools, vividly describing their evolution and architecture. Reminding many of us of the noisy, damp pools of our youth, he then related how bathing first began with men only, dipping naked in streams and rivers as far back as 16C when even a relationship with washing was considered awkward. City waterways such as Fleet Ditch, London, were used by increasing numbers of male bathers, but it was not until the invention of the bathing machine in 18C that bathers took to the sea. Queen Victoria gave this pastime respectability when she had her own bathing machine built at Osborne House. Some outdoor swimming ponds fed with spring water existed in 17C, but these were only for the rich, often surrounded with park land or by a fishing lake. The first local authority pool was constructed in Liverpool in 1829 using heated water filtered from the Mersey. Of Romanesque style, it housed a tepid bath with cubicles opening directly onto the water, the impracticability of which meant that it closed after only a few years. Following the 1846 Act to encourage the establishment of public baths and washhouses, civic authorities erected impressive buildings where, for a small fee, a bath could be taken for 30 minutes or the weekly wash laundered in the washhouse. Even when baths were installed in private houses, public baths were popular, being less expensive than heating water at home. Communal baths sometimes had as many as 200 unwashed boys bathing together at the end of the week. Only in late 19C were baths constructed for the purpose of swimming rather than simply bathing with grander designs, better ventilation and improved acoustics. Lidos provided popular sociable outdoor spaces but were difficult to maintain so soon fell into disuse. However, several lidos are now being refurbished as part of our British heritage. Simon illustrated his talk with numerous images of the various architectural styles of swimming pools and lidos ranging from basic to luxurious.

