

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th April 2022 Blackbourne Community Centre 10am Master Masons - Imogen Corrigan

Standing in Ely Cathedral it is easy to stop listening to the guide and start wondering how on earth ordinary human beings created sky-scraping, dizzyingly high buildings on which even the top-most parts were delicately decorated. How, why and for whom? For God, for redemption and to make a living, are two answers. To answer the "how", we need to meet the Master Masons.



Imogen Corrigan spent 20 years in the British Army before studying Anglo-Saxon and Medieval History and Art at the University of Kent. She graduated with 1st class honours, followed by an MPhil from the University of Birmingham. She works as a freelance lecturer across Britain and Europe as well as lecturing on small cruise ships and running study tours and courses on land. Imogen has written *Stone on Stone: the Men Who Built the Cathedrals*, published in 2019. She is a Freeman of the City of London, being a Member of the Company of Communicators.

2022 VISITS:

*The Queen's House and the Fan Museum, Greenwich
Tuesday 24th May 2022*

Coach leaves Ram Meadow at 7.45 am

*Guided tour at each venue with coach transfer
Afternoon Coffee/Tea and Biscuits in The Orangery*

Booking forms will be circulated to all members shortly.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th September 2022

**The Arts Society of West Suffolk 50th Anniversary Lunch
in the Walled Garden, Euston Hall
Full details to follow shortly.**

Special Interest Day: The Mayan Civilisation

Maria Chester delivered three informative lectures:

The Maya were one of the ancient world's most fascinating, prolific and mysterious civilisations. The earliest evidence of this culture is found in the South of Guatemala. They had a well-established social order. Their monarchy was hereditary and absolute and their religion was complex. Considered to be a divine being, their king demanded blood sacrifices.

Bonampak (650 CE-850 CE) is a Classic Maya site in Mexico with exceptional murals. These clearly depict war, torture and bloody rituals representing a vivid portrait of Classic Mayan life.

The Mayan World in Clay included polychrome ceramics depicting scenes from Maya mythology, historical events and domestic life. Decorated pottery was used as gifts and at feasts and sacred ceremonies. Grave offerings excavated at Jaina Island consisted of slate ware, pottery and figurines. Hollow figurines normally have a clay pellet inside producing a rattle-like sound when it is shaken. Ball players were often represented. They are regarded as "the finest figurines produced throughout the Americas".

.Sorolla - Master of Light

Arantxa Sardia, our speaker this month, led us through the life of Joaquin Sorolla from his birth in 1863 in Valencia to his death in 1923. Orphaned at 2 years old, he was brought up by his blacksmith uncle and aunt who encouraged his artistic talent. Sorolla was a prolific painter who beautifully captured the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved, gaining the appellation of "master of light" from Claude Monet. He married his muse, Clotilde, with whom he shared a long and happy life, often portraying her and their three children. Sorolla sought for truth and realism in all his work, painting en plein air on large canvases, frequently depicting life around him. His prodigious output included detailed historical scenes, portraits, landscapes and scenes of daily life. Among his many commissions was *Vision of Spain*, 14 monumental canvases depicting the customs, costumes and traditions of Spain for the Hispanic Society of America. Arantxa's selection of Sorolla's work showed us a wide breadth of subject matter, perfectly illustrating his own words, "Light is life. Therefore the more light in the painting, the more life, the more truth and the more beauty".



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 Changed since last year.

Small groups and tours only, booked in advance.