

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Thank You! Many thanks to the musical group from Abbeygate Sixth Form College who so kindly played for us at our Christmas celebration following last month's lecture. Their tuneful accompaniment greatly added to the festive atmosphere. Thank you also to those who generously donated to their fundraising for sheet music.



Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 10am

Garden design in relation to art - The subtle science and exact art of colour in English garden design - Why gardening can rank as fine art .

Timothy Walker



Gertrude Jekyll reminded her readers that designing a garden border was "painting a picture", advice that has influenced many other artists.

From 1988 to 2014 Timothy Walker was the Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. Botanic gardens are often described as living museums, and garden curators lecture about them in the same way as museum curators talk about their collections. Gardens are often thought to be the place where science and art meet on equal terms and Timothy's lectures often investigate this relationship. Since 2014 he has been a college lecturer and tutor in Botany and Plant Conservation at Somerville College, Oxford.

Fake or Fortune - Have I discovered a Constable in my attic? Our speaker this month, Sarah Cove would certainly say that this is unlikely to be the case! Now a leading authority on authentication of Constable's paintings, Sarah set up the Constable Research Project in 1986. Working with Ann Lyles, a Constable Curator, she has used her skill as a picture restorer to authenticate and renovate many of the artist's previously unknown works, and declared many more as fakes. Using not only X-rays, scientific and forensic methods of research, but also her vast knowledge of style, pigment and artists materials, Sarah has been able to discern whether a painting has been created in comparatively modern times or could actually date to 19C. Her accurate recognition of composition and image size as well as distinctive brushstrokes, type of paint and choice of colours used by Constable has led to her being consulted by prestigious galleries. She has appeared on the television programme 'Fake or Fortune', and been contacted via her website or Facebook by many private owners seeking her advice. The difference in the sale price of a painting that is attributed to Constable, as opposed to one that is not, may be thousands of pounds; a recent discovery by Sarah from a Facebook contact, a small painting of a windmill with a rainbow, recently sold for £728,750.

**** CAN YOU HELP? ****

DO YOU HAVE IT/COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS?

We urgently need someone to act as our **Communications Officer** to help to increase our membership and someone who could help in providing **IT & AV Support** for speakers at our monthly lectures. If you can help with either (or both) of these roles, please contact Diana Hollins, Vice Chairman on 01449 736930