

February 2025

NEWSLETTER

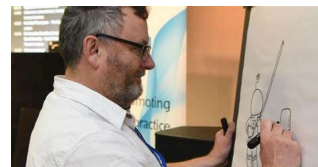
The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th March Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell Doors open 10 am for Welcoming Coffee/Tea 10.45 am The Art of the Cartoonist Harry Venning

Harry will be tracing the history of his profession from early practitioners like Cruickshank and Hogarth, to more contemporary artists such as Giles and Schulz, ending with events produced fresh on the page live that day! Prepare to hear some tricks of his trade, learn where to put eyebrows for maximum effect ...

Harry Venning is a cartoonist, comedy writer and speaker based in Brighton, and best known for *Clare In The Community* as a weekly strip in The Guardian and as a BBC Radio 4 sitcom starring Sally Phillips. Awards he has won include UK Cartoon Art Trust Strip Cartoonist Of The Year and The Sony Radio Comedy Award. In 2020 he was made a Fellow of The University Of Wales, Aberystwyth. As resident cartoonist for Blue Hat Event Management Harry has his own events *Animate With Harry Venning* and *Harry Venning's Cartoon Warehouse*. He is also an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society offering talks on the history of cartoons, sitcom writing and BBC radio comedy. A former actor, Harry still has his Equity card.



Programme for Special Interest Day: Tuesday 18th February 2025

9.30 am Doors open
10.00 am Lecture: "Hot Stuff - The Birth of Studio Glass"
11.00 am Coffee/tea break
11.30 am Lecture: "Mid 20c Modern Italian Ceramics"
12.30 pm Lunch - a light lunch with soft drinks. You are welcome to bring your own wine and wine glass.
1.30 pm A spontaneous discussion about glass and ceramics you have brought.
3.00 pm Finish.



The Rotary Swimathon will be taking place on **Sunday 16th March** in the Abbeycroft Leisure Centre. Our members' team will once again be taking part to raise funds for the Young Arts programme.

If you would like to join the team, please contact Jacky Livens on 01359 242425.

Cash donations will be very gratefully received in the top hat on the reception desk at our March meeting.



Euston Hall Opening Times 2025

21st to 23rd April
5th to 11th May
19th to 22nd June
25th to 31st August
13th to 19th September

VISITS

Cambridge Colleges Visit: Thursday 27th March This visit will include private guided tours of St John's and Queen's Colleges, providing exclusive viewing and inside information. Lunch may be taken at Michaelhouse Café. The exact cost of the visit (with or without lunch) will be announced at our March meeting, when payment will be required. As with other recent trips, in order to avoid any now very costly coach travel, we will be travelling in our own cars, sharing where possible. Please contact Julia Eeles on 01359 240838 if you have any queries.



During this month's lecture, Richard Burnip guided us skillfully and entertainingly through a life full of incident dispelling, on the way, a number of myths surrounding the life of the distinguished star, **David Niven**.

Born in 1910, David Niven was brought up in London. Despite being a difficult pupil at school, the combination of an inspirational teacher at Stowe and hard work, earned him a place at Sandhurst. Having reluctantly joined the Highland Light Infantry, he served in Malta and Dover. During this time he met Michael Trubshawe with whom he had an enduring friendship. In 1934 he left the army for Hollywood. After a number of minor roles, his big break came through the legendary producer Sam Goldwyn, who saw Niven's potential, and gave him increasingly important roles. During this time he worked with many of the greatest film stars and directors of the day.

The Second World war saw his return to England. He had a distinguished military career, ending up as a Colonel serving under General Eisenhower. He married in 1940 which ended in 1946, when his wife died in a tragic accident. He remarried in 1948. The end of hostilities saw Niven return to his acting career, making some notable films such as *A Matter of Life And Death* as well as some less successful but even these showed his wide range of acting skills. By the 1950's, in addition to film making, his face was widely used to promote products from cigarettes to fountain pens. His role as Phileas Fogg, in an epic production of *Around The World in Eighty Days*, remains one of his best loved. He also starred in *The Pink Panther* series, *The Guns of Navarone* and won an Oscar for his part in *Separate Tables*. By the early 80s, the motor neurone disease which eventually killed him restricted his work but he bravely continued for as long as possible. He died in 1983.

Modest and charming, with an extraordinary ability for making and keeping friends, Niven in later life also became a successful writer with his volumes of autobiography, *The Moon's A Balloon* and *Bring on the Empty Horses* topping the bestseller lists.

Website: www.theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk (Registered Charity Number: 281081)

