

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Our President, The Duchess of Grafton, presided over this meeting on 6th June at which the officers and committee were formally elected for the forthcoming year and the audited annual accounts were accepted by the members. Members approved a £50 fee for the 2023-24 season and received an assessment on future risks to the Society as a going concern. For members not at the AGM, these papers will be re-circulated with membership renewal forms. The Duchess thanked the committee and its officers for their individual efforts on behalf of the society over the past year and wished our society much continued success. The AGM was immediately followed by our monthly lecture, 'Historic textiles—Kumihimo the gentle art of Japanese braid making', the final lecture in this year's programme. We hope that you have received details of the varied and interesting new programme awaiting us in October when we look forward to seeing our loyal members again, as well as warmly welcoming new ones. In the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful summer! Membership renewal forms will be with you shortly.



VISITS: Following a very enjoyable trip to the Islanders Exhibition, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, our next excursion is to Audley End House on Wednesday 28th June. Bookings are now being taken for the trip to -

EUSTON HALL on Tuesday 26th September 2023 £24

Guided tour, coffee and cakes, and a light lunch. Please contact Julia Eeles, Visits Organiser, on 01359 240838 or email juliaeeles@hotmail.co.uk to book your place.

CHARITY LECTURE RAISING FUNDS FOR YOUNG ARTS
Tuesday 5th September 2023 Coffee from 10 am at Blackbourne Community Centre
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL Entrance £10
Please encourage your friends to come along to hear Anthony Russell lecture on

The Power and the Glory of Country Houses



It is often argued that Britain possesses the finest collection of "living" stately homes in the world. It is harder to deny that they represent one of the country's greatest assets and its greatest contribution to the decorative arts worldwide.



Kumihimo, the gentle art of Japanese braid making was described with great warmth and enthusiasm by Jacqui Carey, our speaker this month. Japan's distinctively different culture is reflected in its shapely architecture, bonsai gardening, haiku poetry, ikebana, origami and many other unique art forms. Kumihimo (literally meaning 'coming together thread') is the epitome of a Japanese craft; it is quiet, precise and intricate. Always aiming for perfection, craftsmen traditionally wove silken threads through a frame with weighted bobbins to create colourful braids. There is evidence of the craft being performed in Japanese temples as early as the eighth century with skills passed down from master to pupil. Kute-uchi, braids woven over fingers instead of a frame was initially only practised in secret but was much quicker and was often used for Samurai armour braids. These linked together the armour plates and provided decorative but strong protection. Kumihimo were also used as belts for kimonos, to attach inros and netsukes and as bindings for everyday objects such as caskets or blinds. In modern times braids are being used creatively in jewellery, sculpture, millinery, fashion and furniture. Jacqui's slides displayed the myriad ways that these multi-coloured pieces may be used, many of which she has demonstrated herself to amazing effect. She has now published several books on Kumihimo, which you may be interested to read and may even be inspired to take up the craft yourself. Jacqui ardently endorses its calming and therapeutic effect!