

March 2025

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st April Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell Doors open 10 am for Welcoming Coffee/Tea 10.45 am Les Trois Grandes Dames of Impressionism Sarah Burles

From the start, the impressionists included women artists whose contribution to impressionism has often been overshadowed by their male contemporaries. A study of Maria Bracquemond, Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt who all exhibited regularly alongside Monet, Renoir and Degas.

Sarah Burles studied History of Art at Cambridge University before doing a Master's Degree at University College London. She went on to have a career in museum and gallery education, establishing new services in three different museums before working at the Fitzwilliam museum for many years.

Sarah is a founder of Cambridge Art Tours, which runs tours and courses in and around East Anglia. She is also a Tour Director for a travel company and has led tours to Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and America. At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Sarah moved her work online, offering art history courses to audiences all over the world.



Special Interest Day: Tuesday 18th February 2025

With two fascinating lectures and an enlightening valuation session, Mark Hill, from the Antiques Roadshow, was the speaker at this year's Special Interest Day.

His first talk, on the birth of studio glass, told the extraordinary story of how within 60 years an ancient industrial process was transformed into a less polluting art form. From America to the Royal College of Art in London we learned how studio glass evolved from simple forms to the extravagant creations of Dale Chihuly. An intriguing journey for all of us.



In contrast, the second talk covered the explosion of colourful and often whimsical ceramics that developed in Italy in the post-war period. Although enormously popular they had never been properly catalogued until Mark and a friend took on this onerous task. This was a lecture from someone who truly knew his subject from the inside.

After an excellent lunch, Mark discussed and valued a wide range of glass and ceramics, showing an astonishing range of knowledge.

A great day, much enjoyed by all, including the speaker.



The Rotary Swimarathon

took place on Sunday 16th March in the Abbeycroft Leisure Centre. Our stalwart members' team consisting Di Hollins, Caroline Byrne,

Mark Livens and Jacky Livens swam 70 lengths to raise funds for the Young Arts programme.

Congratulations to the team and many thanks to everyone who sponsored this event. Any further donations to Young Arts funds will be very gratefully received.



VISITS

Cambridge Colleges Visit: Thursday 27th March 10.30 am

This visit will include private guided tours of St John's and Queen's Colleges, providing exclusive viewing and inside information. We will gather at 10.30 am outside the front of the Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge CB2 2QJ where we will be met by our guides..

The Art of the Cartoonist: Harry Venning, our speaker this month, is a well established cartoonist but, as we quickly learnt, also a first class entertainer. His talk - or maybe performance - took us through the history and importance of cartoons to the role of eyebrows in denoting different expressions. Even the eyebrow-less Mona Lisa was not spared. Particularly interesting was the section on developing a plot and how a few subtly placed lines can alter the narrative and our perception of where the story is going. In between, there was a long running series of 'To be or not to be' jokes. Was this the first audience participation at an AS lecture? At the end, we felt exhausted from laughter, better informed and none of us will look at cartoons with the same eyes again..

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

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

