

October 2023

NEWSLETTER

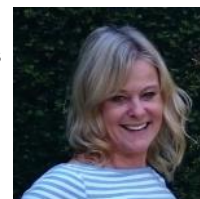
The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 10am Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell The Art of Modern Dance ... Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes

An exploration of dance as an art form from its earliest beginnings to the expansion of street dance, hip-hop, break and rock dance.

Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes is an experienced guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern and lectures at various art societies and institutions. She has a special interest in British and European art of the late 18th, 19th and early 20th century. Having gained an MA in film and television practice, Jennifer had a long-standing career spanning twenty years as a television producer/director making documentaries and factual programmes for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. She was also a visiting lecturer at Goldsmiths and Birkbeck Colleges, University of London and a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University in the Faculty of Media, Arts and Society.



VISITS Many thanks to Julia Eeles, Visits Organiser, for arranging a delightful visit to Euston Hall Estate last month. Jean Gillard-Burton, Heritage Volunteer, and the excellent Euston



guides organised highly informative tours of the Hall describing its history and all its splendid art and furnishings. Morning coffee and lunch were served in the Old Kitchen and we were invited to wander through the gardens between tours; altogether a most enjoyable visit.

If anyone has yet not visited Euston Hall, we thoroughly recommend that you book a tour there. The tremendous wealth of art and the beauty of the home of our President, Duchess Olivia, is highly impressive. Several members of our committee already volunteer at the Hall where extra help as stewards and guides is always welcome. Please contact Jean Gillard-Burton on 01359 244101 if you would like to join the team.

The Power and Glory of Country Houses,

September's Charity lecture, was well attended and raised a total of £401.30 for Young Arts*. Anthony Russell took us through a whistlestop tour of British country houses, many containing amazing art collections. We hope that his enthusiasm and plethora of illustrations of stately homes the length and breadth of the country may have inspired some of the audience to visit a few more of these national treasures this year!

*Read exciting news about Young Arts in next month's Newsletter.



New Members Tea Friday 20th October 2023

Duchess Olivia, our President, and the Committee are very much looking forward to welcoming new members for Afternoon Tea on Friday 20th October. Invitations will go out later this week. If you think that your invitation may have gone astray, please contact Sue Barrett or Di Hollins.

Birmingham - More canals than Venice Our speaker this month, Roger Butler, stated that Birmingham has 35 miles of canals whereas Venice has only 24 miles. He began his talk with illustrations of brightly painted barges in idyllic countryside settings passing under ornate cast iron bridges. Historically pulled by horses, these barges were used to convey goods all over the country via a vast network of waterways. Whole families lived in the cramped interior of the barges brightening their existence by decorating the exterior with vivid paintwork and ornate signwriting. Long tunnels were negotiated by leggers lying on their backs pushing their feet against the walls to move the barge along. Pictures from this time depict small boys fishing by the side of the canals, bargee families lined up on the towpath and lockkeepers standing proudly by their locks. The first Birmingham canal designed in 1769 by James Brindley was 180 miles long with 216 locks, 7 tunnels and 3 aqueducts. Canal building employed thousands of navvies who worked with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. The golden age of the canals lasted only 60 or 70 years with the last canal being opened in 1844, before being superseded by the



railways. The neglected canals deteriorated and many dried up but several have now been regenerated by waterway recovery groups. Birmingham's canal system has been revived with new buildings, coffee shops, contemporary architecture and new traffic consisting of water taxis and pleasure boats. On the outskirts of the city anglers, cyclists and joggers are attracted to the leafy canal-side pathways. Traditional canal art is still displayed on the barges, buckets and utensils with colourful unique designs of castles and roses.

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