

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk

OUR NEXT MEETING Tuesday 5th November 2024 Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell Doors open 10 am for Welcoming Coffee/Tea 10.45 am Debo Mitford Simon Seligman

Deborah Devonshire, the youngest of the Mitford sisters and wife of the 11th Duke of Devonshire, was hefted by marriage to one of Europe's greatest treasure houses, Chatsworth. In the second half of the 20th century, in partnership with her husband, she imbued it with a spirit, elegance and sense of welcome that transformed it from being the worn-out survivor of decades of taxation, war and social change into one of the best-loved, most-emulated, and popular historic houses, gardens and estates in the country.



Having grown up wanting to be an architect, Simon studied art and architectural history at Warwick University, which included a compulsory term living in Venice, an experience of cultural immersion from which he is still recovering! For 19 years until 2010, he worked at the great treasure house of Chatsworth, in Derbyshire, in a variety of roles, starting with a summer job cleaning lavatories and car parking, and ending as Head of Communications. In that time he lectured extensively about Chatsworth, the Devonshire Collection and associated topics,

Young Arts: First Grant of the New Season

Members will remember that we joined with the King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS) Foundation to fund, jointly, two electric potter wheels at Abbeygate Sixth Form College. The electric kiln was already in place. We are delighted to report that the wheels have transformed the ceramics capability. The same partnership has now completed the project with a joint grant for the third wheel. This will enable the college to consider offering an A level course in ceramics. A great project and a great outcome. Thank you. Pictures will follow..



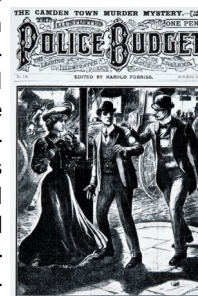
Our "I promise to do one thing ..." campaign

A huge thank you to all of you who filled in the "I promise" questionnaire at the end of the membership renewal form. To be frank, we were quite overwhelmed with the response. Just so much hidden talent! Please do not think that you have been forgotten, or overlooked, but there has been a quite a bit of collation work to be done within the team building process. We hope to be able to reply to you all, individually, before our next meeting.

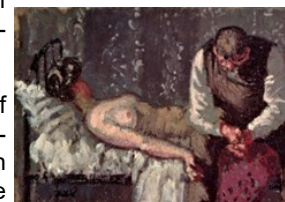
For members with e-mail who chose to complete their renewal with a paper form or other method, we will be sending you the "I promise" questionnaire so that everyone will have had a chance to respond.

Sickert and The Camden Murder

The graphic police publicity of the murder of a young Camden Town prostitute in 1907 caused the equivalent of a tabloid sensation, as it would today. It prompted Walter Sickert, the charismatic leading artist of the English avant-garde, to produce one of his darkest, most enigmatic works entitled "The Camden Murder or What shall we do for the rent?" Our lecturer, Steven Barrett illustrated the development of Sickert's shocking and ambiguous style with a series of paintings with often mischievous or misleading titles.



His recurring theme was one of challenge and this was reflected in your feedback which showed some discomfort. The complexity of Sickert's messaging was acknowledged whilst some thought the development of his artistic style was underplayed whilst others would have liked more of the psychology linking the artist and the murder.



Member's Feedback

Every month we send out a round robin asking for your feedback on lectures. It is only fair that we provide some feedback on the feedback. The first thing to say is that your opinions and judgements really matter. We usually get comments through the website from half of those who attended, thank you, but we always would like more. We do read them carefully. The average scores for content and for presentation are generally just over 4 out of 5, a good result for us all. However, there is a recurring theme around sound quality in the hall, albeit from a minority.

There is a limit to any further improvements we might seek as the sound system is provided for us. Technically, it is fundamentally sound. However, as with all aspects of our society, this is a partnership. We do rely on the technology to perform properly but we also rely on lecturers to be adept and professional in their delivery and their use of the system provided. We also rely on you, the audience, to sit in a good position and alert the lecturer if you are unable to hear.