

October 2025

NEWSLETTER

The Arts Society of West Suffolk



Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th November 2025
Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell
Doors open 10 am, Welcoming Coffee/Tea
10.45 am The Age of Jazz ... Sandy Burnett

Jazz, a fascinating blend of structure, free-wheeling creativity, close-knit ensembles and improvisation. Drawing on his experience both as musicologist and gigging musician, Sandy sheds light on jazz from the inside from its early years to the Second World War.

Since 2017, Sandy has been an accredited Arts Society lecturer, his talks aimed at unlocking the worlds of classical music and jazz to general arts-loving audiences: his busy diary of speaking arrangements takes him right across the world. He leads cultural tours to music festivals everywhere from New Orleans to Leipzig and Bath to Budapest. He currently works in close partnership with ACE Cultural Tours. His trips cover everything from Bach and the Baroque and the Viennese classical style through Wagner operas to the origins of jazz and blues, and cover both domestic and international destinations.



VISITS

Thursday 6th and Friday 14th November 2025 West Stow Hall:

A personal tour around West Stow Hall, built by the Master of the Horse to Mary Tudor and featuring Elizabethan wall paintings discovered during Victorian restoration. Cost £23.

Both of these visits are now **fully booked**. However, if you would like your name placed on a waiting list, please contact Julia Eeles by phone on 01352 240838 or 07896 311389 or email juliaeeles@hotmail.co.uk.



Thursday 21st April 2026 Blickling Hall: A visit to Blickling Hall for a talk and tour around the Textile and Conservation Studio. This is the National Trust's only specialist in-house textile conservation facility. The afternoon offers a chance to wander round Blickling Hall and gardens. Cafes, shop and pub on site. Payment for this visit will not be required until January, but you may register your interest at any of the meetings before this.



Change of Lecture for January 2026: The scheduled speaker for January has unfortunately had to cancel her lecture as listed in the 2025/26 Programme. Please note on your programme that on Tuesday 6th January 2026 this will be replaced by **Tulips and Hyacinths: The story of Iznik Ceramics Antonia Cevizil**

In her stimulating lecture this month, Dr Emma Watts analysed the **Value of Art** looking at how we assess it and how real, or otherwise, it can be. This ranged from the simple premise that an object only has value if at least two people believe that to be true, to her invaluable Ten Commandments of Value.

From the obvious principles of rarity, provenance and authenticity she took us to the more contentious areas of fashion, subject matter and size. The overwhelming rule, regardless of all other considerations, will always remain quality. With examples taken from ancient Chinese tea bowls to Michael Jackson's gloves via Leonardo and Picasso, this was as wide ranging as it was entertaining. Continuously enjoyable and thought provoking; it made a wonderful opening to the new season.

It was marvellous to have such a good turnout for the first lecture of the new season, a lecture which was outstanding as well as entertaining. We were delighted to welcome our new and our returning former members. There is an exciting programme ahead of us, as well as interesting visits, and the Special Interest Day in February.

I have been asked by the Diss Society Chairman to let you know that they have places available for their Special Interest Day on November 11th; the topic is The Creation and the Early Years of the Newlyn School. The cost is £25, without lunch. Please contact me in the first instance if you would like more information dianahollins@hotmail.com

Diana Hollins, Chairman

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