

CHALFONT FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Newsletter ---- Spring 2010

Wednesday 20th January. 'The Long History of a Royal Necklace'



Pearls before Swine?

Lecturer: Mrs Jane Kelsall

We will hear about the long and interesting journey of a magnificent collection of pearls from their beginnings as a wedding present from Pope Clement VII to his niece Catherine de Medici, who became Queen of France; she later gave them to her daughter-in-law Mary Queen of Scots. Acquired by Queen Elizabeth, they passed down - in a roundabout way - through the British royal family, until a foolish act by Queen Charlotte caused a lengthy legal battle over their ownership between Queen Victoria and the King of Hanover, her uncle. Now Queen Elizabeth II wears some of the 'Hanover Pearls' as they are now called. But where are the others? (Please wear pearls at this meeting - fake, cultured & natural are all welcome - all kinds have their merit and the good fakes don't need hefty insurance.)

Visit

Monday 8th February. Tour of the 2012 Olympic Site.



Now is the time to come to see this exciting project take shape. This fully guided tour includes morning coffee and biscuits and lunch.

Enquiries: Ingeburg Nesbitt 01753 - 887853

Wednesday 17th February. 'The Viennese Secession'



Lecturer: Mrs Elizabeth Gordon.

Otto Wagner, Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele, flavoured with music by Mahler and Schoenberg.

Special Interest Day.

Tuesday 2nd March. 'Shakespeare Through The Artist's Eye'



Murderers, Magicians, Madman and Monarchs.

Lecturer: Vivien Heffernan.

The lectures will be based on two great tragedies, Macbeth and Hamlet, and the comedy of A Midsummer Night's Dream. These plays have inspired many artists including Blake, Landseer and Millais. Other Shakespeare plays will be used. We will be joined by an actor from the RSC who will perform verses for us as we explore the paintings. A feast for the eyes and ears - not to be missed!

Enquiries: Mary Horgan 01494 - 670746.

Wednesday 17th March. A.W. N Pugin: 'A Passion for Gothic'

Lecturer: Mr Denis Moriarty.



Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin 1812 -1852. Architect and Designer extraordinary. Theorist and practitioner, passionate for the glories of gothic, Pugin is perhaps the most important and influential forerunner in pointing and shaping Victorian design and taste in churches, furnishings, stained glass, screens and altars. He worked also for the theatre at Windsor Castle and in the Houses of Parliament. This lecture - rooted in the framework of the events of his somewhat sad and short life he embraced Catholicism, lost two wives and subsequently his mind - draws on his important writing and building legacy cathedrals, churches, furnishings and fitments; a compelling and comprehensive exponent of the totality of architecture and design.

Visit.

Wednesday 14th April ' Pallant House and Chichester Cathedral.'



Pallant House Gallery is a unique combination of Queen Anne townhouse and a contemporary building holding one of the best collections of 20th C British Art in the world. In the airy restaurant, customers may enjoy light lunches or afternoon tea while admiring the sculptures in the courtyard garden. The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity at Chichester was founded in 1075. After the original wooden building was destroyed in a fire, the present cathedral was built in 1184. The spire rises to 82metres.

Enquiries: Ingeburg Nesbitt 01753 - 887853.

Wednesday 21st April. 'Trompe L'Oeil - The Art of Illusion'

Lecturer: Mr Tom Errington



The lecturer talks about what it is that makes the brain accept information provided by the eye - the messenger - and how it blindly has to come to an instant decision on whether a painting is really three dimensional or simply flat representation. He briefly covers the theory of perspective and goes into the parts that colour, tone and shadow have to play in a Trompe L'Oeil painting, before discussing actual examples.

Friday 23rd --Monday 26th April. Short Spring Holiday



NORFOLK

Other Activities.

There is a welcome to members to be volunteers for other activities the Society organises.

The contacts are:

Chenies Manor
Milton's Cottage
Church Recorder Group

Hew Motion
Heidi Nolan
John Dodd

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