



# FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

Supporting the Arts in Eastbourne

## TOWNER TIMES

*AUTUMN 2012*



### *News Reviews Interviews Events*

- Coming Events
- The Hidden Piper painting
- Remembering Eric Ravilious  
70 years since his disappearance
- Exhibitions at Towner

[www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk)

## A message from the Chairman

This has been an interesting and positive year I hope you will agree. I know that you all understand how tricky it has been moving into a new venue, beginning new things, in other words getting our act together! In our desire to give you top class events, whether in art, music or literature, we have juggled with various avenues, coming out on the whole with a well put together programme. However if I say that the rest of 012 (and 013 soon to arrive,) will have some marvellous events, we hope you will appreciate that what we do is what you want.

One thing we are particularly proud of are the Friday afternoon lectures in the Gallery. Our first series with Michael Kaye was a great success. The next series, starting in September will feature individual lecturers with a diverse variety of interests. (see page 8).

Our association with the Sussex Opera and Ballet Society has been fruitful for us all. We joined forces with them for a concert by The Royal College of Music singers and a recital by Felicity Lott and Gabriel Woolf. Both these events were a sell out. Which brings me to that vital matter of audience support!



The only way we can succeed is dependent on how many people join us for an event.

So in the coming season we are trying out afternoon events as well as evening ones, having taken notice of what many of you have said over the years. Please give me feed back on this so that I know we are doing something you like and want.

And one last thing. Ticket prices. We have had to put our prices up, for if we don't we simply cannot afford to leave them as they are. It is only £2 on top of the usual price. You all have the same concessions. Using the wonderful Birley Centre, while it costs us to be there, we feel it is worth it, and reflects our standing in Eastbourne. It has become a home.

And finally; please bring a friend to join the "Friends" as your guest. If you all found one new member what a great thing that would be!

**Elizabeth**

## The Hidden Piper Painting - 2 for the Price of 1 !

Towner were excited to discover that one of the **John Piper** artworks recently purchased following their Appeal had another artwork on the reverse! This is an unfinished work which Piper evidently discarded, but like many artists of the time, he had to use paper sparingly and so he had simply turned it over and begun a new work on the other side – a fitting message for our own day and age, and one that rather resonated with the ‘Green Towner’ initiative!

The reverse work has never been exhibited – this is a possibility for the future, however it would not be possible to display both of the works at once (e.g. inside glass that would allow both sides to be seen) as the reverse work is upside down compared to the work on the other side! These two paintings by John Piper were recently purchased with funds from various sources, including a contribution from Friends of the Towner.



## Eastbourne College and Glyndebourne – a musical partnership

In October 2011 Eastbourne College and Glyndebourne announced a new partnership to promote a love of music throughout East Sussex and invest in musicians of the future. The partnership was formed in relation to The Birley Centre, a dynamic new hub at Eastbourne College, generously funded by friends, parents and alumni of the College as well as local people with an interest in music. Providing the College and the local community with a ‘hi spec’ arts facility, The Birley Centre completes the cultural quarter of Eastbourne.

## A Big Thank You

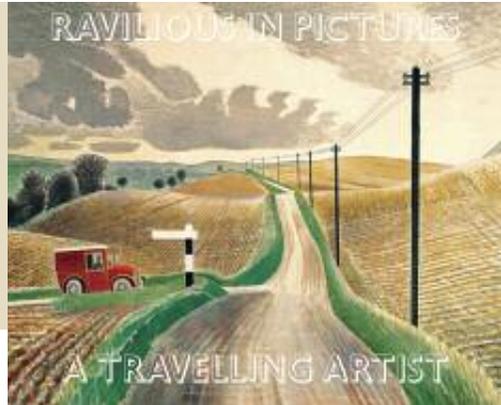
Thanks to **Michael Kaye** and **Robin Gregory** for their informative and meticulously researched talks.

Robin sent us away smiling and humming remembered tunes, Michael prepared us for future talks on Art with his broad sweep from the Classical to the Surreal.  
*Thank you.*

## COMING EVENTS - BOOK NOW!

### Remembering Eric Ravilious His Life in Pictures

Sunday 2 September, 3pm  
Birley Centre, Carlisle Road  
Admission £15 balcony £8  
Tickets include refreshments



#### **A joint presentation by Dr Alan Powers and James Russell.**

As the speakers will show, Ravilious's contribution fully deserves its prominent place in the story of modern British art (and of the Towner Gallery). Sunday 2 September is the 70th Anniversary of the disappearance of Eric Ravilious whilst on active service in World War II.



Dr Alan Powers

Dr Alan Powers is Professor of architecture and cultural history at the University of Greenwich. He is the author of the acclaimed book: *"Eric Ravilious - Imagined Realities"*.



James Russell

James Russell is the author of numerous books on art, and has written for a wide range of magazines and newspapers including a new series of books entitled: *"Eric Ravilious in Pictures"*.

*This will be a memorable event for lovers of Ravilious!*

## Swing Fever An Afternoon of Jazz

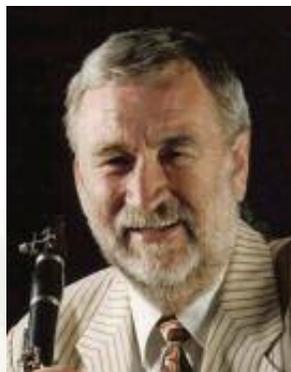
Wednesday 24 October, 2.15pm

The Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

Admission £12.50 (Members £11.50)



A Jazz Matinée in the elegant Wedgwood Room in the Hydro Hotel, led by the great clarinettist **Dave Shepherd** and featuring **Chris Walker**, a clarinet and saxophone playing bandleader in his own right. Supported by a rhythm section they will be recalling the magical music and song of the 1930's through the 'swing era' including melodies made famous by Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie and many more!



This is a new departure for the friends. If, as we confidently expect, the concept proves to be popular then it could be the first of several such shows.



**Lucinda Dickens  
Hawksley  
Charles Dickens  
- Two Hundred Years On**  
Thursday 1 November, 7.30pm  
Birley Centre  
Admission £12 (Members £10)

With his great-great-great-granddaughter, Lucinda Dickens Hawksley, we celebrate the birth in 1812 of the great Victorian novelist Charles Dickens. Lucinda is an award-winning travel writer. Her non-fiction work also includes '50 British Artists', 'Lizzie Siddal' and (in 2011) 'Charles Dickens'. It is no surprise to learn that she is patron of the Charles Dickens Museum.

It is clear from her writing that Lucinda has a special empathy with her eminent forebear. She will share those insights with us on November 1st in the Birley Centre at 7.30pm.





## Antony Penrose Journeys Among Surrealists

Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm

Birley Centre

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Antony Penrose will present Picasso, Man Ray, and Max Ernst through the eyes of Lee Miller and Roland Penrose. Roland Penrose, a surrealist painter of considerable talent, was co-founder of the ICA (Institute of Contemporary Art), and was knighted in 1966 for his work for the greater understanding of Surrealism and the visual arts in Britain. His wife, Lee Miller, was a great beauty, a muse to Picasso, Man Ray, and others, as well as a remarkable and courageous wartime photographer.

This illustrated talk about these two remarkable people is presented by Antony Penrose, their son. They retired to Farley Farm in Chiddingly after the Second World War, and were frequently visited there by their friends, many of whom were iconic figures in the arts.

After the interval Antony will present a light-hearted insider's view of the Lee Miller archive; their efforts to conserve it, and the problems involved in the mounting of exhibitions of the archive worldwide.

**If there is sufficient interest we will organise a visit to Farley Farm in 2013. The extended tours have to be booked months in advance.**

## FRIDAY TALKS FOR THE FRIENDS

**Our Art Lectures continue this Autumn at the Junction Box, Towner Gallery. All talks 3-5pm**

### Talk 1 - Julie Brown

Friday 21 September

#### Harold Mockford A Retrospective on his 80th Birthday

Coinciding with the Harold Mockford Exhibition gallery expert Julie Brown will give a talk about this popular artist. Following the Ravilious exhibitions, yet another fine British painter will be featured, with the Towner Gallery showing a variety of representative paintings in one of the top galleries (just outside the Junction Box lecture room where the talks are held.) Tea and biscuits 50p followed by a guided tour around the exhibition.



### Talk 2 - Bryan Davies

Friday 19 October

#### Life and Work of Dégas

Bryan Davies is a distinguished and experienced lecturer on art. He is perhaps one of the most popular and interesting of the many lecturers on art that work in universities and art groups. He is himself a painter. His sense of communication and passion will make his visit to us something not to miss.

### Talk 3 - Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Friday 23 November

#### The Life & Songs of Franz Schubert (part 1)



Elizabeth studied in Vienna with the great Lieder coach Erich Werba winning a scholarship to the Vienna Academy of Music following her first season singing at Glyndebourne. This first lecture will explore in depth Schubert's life and his songs, illustrating with a variety of different singers as examples of this genre of music, as well as talking about the poets who inspired him.

### Talk 4 - Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Friday 14 December

#### The Life and Songs of Franz Schubert (part 2)

Elizabeth will take one of Schubert's great song cycles "Die Schöne Müllerin" and explore what inspired this extraordinary branch of composition and the influences that gave birth to them.

#### Ticket cost per talk:

Members: £8 non-members: £10  
For 4 talks members: £30  
non-members: £38 (a saving of £2)

*For bookings contact Philip Anson  
on 01323 411906 or use the  
enclosed Booking Form*

## EXHIBITIONS AT TOWNER THIS SPRING

### Harold Mockford:

**A Retrospective of a Sussex Painter**  
**14 July - 30 September 2012**

£5.50 full or £4 concession (+ £1 donation\*)  
Under 16s and Towner members free

Harold Mockford (b. 1932) is one of the best loved Sussex artists, and a favourite of the Towner Collection. In celebration of his 80th birthday, this exhibition brings together a large body of paintings that span his long and distinguished career.

His inspiration comes from the South Downs and Sussex coast - he depicts our familiar rolling hills, woodland and coastal scenes, but transforms them into mystical, dreamlike landscapes through his use of deep, rich colours and surreal perspectives. He is also known for depictions of his own personal history and self portraits.



**Harold Mockford, *When the Lights Come On* (1989). Towner Collection**

*The View from Newhaven* - an exhibition of Mockford's later Newhaven paintings - will be held at the Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven on 1 and 2 September.

\* Visitors are asked to kindly make a donation of £1 on top of their ticket price to the Towner Summer Appeal, which this year supports our award-winning youth participation programmes.

### The Edge in Landscape

**13 July - 30 September 2012** Free

An exhibition of world class contemporary art by some of today's most celebrated and exciting international artists - featuring *Yael Bartana, Mario Garcia Torres, João Penalva* and *Eugenio Dittborn*. The exhibition explores boundaries and borders, be they physical, political or social, and the journeys or endeavours by which such 'edges' are transgressed. The works on show are new acquisitions for the Towner Collection, acquired through Art Fund International. The theme was inspired by our location, where the white cliffs of Beachy Head form a sudden and dramatic edge to the land.



**Eugenio Dittborn, *Nine Survivors, Three Stains* Airmail Painting No. 182, 1986-2011. © the artist. Courtesy Alexander and Bonin, New York.**

### A Point of Departure

**Until 11 November 2012** Free

This Towner Collection display explores the edge of the Sussex landscape. Our coastline has long been an inspiration for artists - including Edward Bawden, John Piper and Eric Ravilious, and forgotten Sussex printmaker Eric Slater - who were captivated by the beauty and drama that unfold where the South Downs meet the sea, and shingle beaches neighbour the heart stopping white cliffs of Beachy Head.

# UNDER GROUND THEATRE PROGRAMME



under ground theatre

GROVE ROAD EASTBOURNE



Home of EASTBOURNE ARTS CENTRE

**The Under Ground Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm for Coffee and home made cakes. On Saturday morning there is music in the auditorium, admission free.**

Website: [www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk](http://www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk) Tel: 0845 680 1926

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|----------------|--|
| 14 Sept        | Jazz - Roy Hilton Quintet at 8pm   |
| 16 Sept        | Film - Double Indemnity at 2.30pm  |
| 20,21,22       | Drama - Snared at 8pm  |
| 23 Sept        | Drama - Snared at 4pm  |
| 27 Sept        | Film - Walkabout at 7.30pm   |
| 5 Oct          | Jazz - Ian Shaw & Sue Richardson at 8pm  |
| 6 Oct          | Drama - Fagin's Last Hour at 7.30pm  |
| 14 Oct         | Chamber Concert - Irina Lyhakovskaya, piano at 2.45pm  |
| 21 Oct         | Film - The Lady Eve at 2.30pm  |
| 25 Oct         | Film - Repulsion at 7.30pm   |
| 2 Nov          | Jazz - Simon Spillett Quartet at 8pm   |
| 4 Nov          | Chamber Concert - Helen Nicholas, piano at 2.45pm  |
| 8, 9, 10 Nov   | Bootcamp Drama - Secret Honour at 7.45pm   |
| 16, 17, 18 Nov | (16,17 from 10am-4pm; 18 from 10am-2pm) <b>Quilt Show</b><br>Our biennial Quilt Show brings together the work of many local quilters in an explosion of colour. Also jewellery from Linda Parrish, handmade cards by Polly Mansell, gifts, fabric stall and raffle. Coffee Bar Open. £3 entry. |
| 25 Nov         | Film - Rope at 2.30pm  |
| 29 Nov         | Film - Private Road at 7.30pm  |
| 30 Nov         | Jazz - Branco Stoysin Trio at 7.30pm   |
| 2 Dec          | Chamber Concert - Trafalgar Trio at 2.45pm   |
| 7 Dec          | Music - Fiona Hosford, Harpist at 7.30pm   |
| 14 Dec         | Jazz - Andy Dickens Quintet at 8pm   |

## Art at the Under Ground Theatre

31 August to 29 September: **African Art**

6 October to 9 November: **David Armitage**

23 November to 29 December: **Christine Monro**

## TICKET BOOKING

All tickets are available from Philip Anson on 01323 411906. See the enclosed Friends' Events Order form, or purchase from the Tourist Information Centre in Cornfield Road.

Tickets at the reduced rate for members are ONLY available in advance from Philip, or on the door, and are NOT available from the Council's Tourist Information Centre or website.

## Christmas Lunch

The Friends Christmas lunch will again be held at the Lansdowne Hotel our date is **Thursday 20 December**.

Please see the enclosed booking form for menu choices.



## ADVANCE NOTICE

### **Forthcoming events in 2013**

*Saturday 26 January*

Recital by the winner of the Norah Sande Award competition

*Thursday 21 February*

A talk about Augustus and Gwen John (Art)

*Tuesday 28 March*

An afternoon with John Betjeman (Gareth Thomas the well known actor)

*April (date to be decided)*

Jazz at the Hydro Hotel.

*Sunday 26 May To be announced*

*16 June*

Hilary Kay (Antiques Road Show)

### **Afternoon Lectures 2013**

*Friday 25 January*

*with John Perrin*

Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson

*Friday 22 February*

*with Janet Canetty-Clarke*

John Piper/Benjamin Britten

*Friday 22 March*

*with Richard Cupidi*

Early Renaissance

*Friday 26 April*

*with Prasannajit Da Silva*

Pre-Raphaelites

*Friday 24 May*

*with Bryan Davies*

David Hockney

## FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

**Patron** The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

**President** The Mayor of Eastbourne

**Vice President** Geoffrey Williams

**Chairman** Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

**Honorary Treasurer** Rodney Browne

**Honorary Secretary** Christine Gawad

### **Committee Members**

Rodney Browne, Christine Gawad, Ann

Gregory, Geoffrey Mantle, Sylvia Tye,

Geoffrey Williams, Sheila Yates

**Co-opted Member** Philip Anson

**EBC Representative** Councillor Neil Stanley

### **The Friends of the Towner Newsletter**

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We would love to hear your comments and views on our events. Let our Chairman Elizabeth know. Email: [pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk)

# Forthcoming Events 2012



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**Alan Powers & James Russell**  
**Eric Ravilious, His life in pictures**  
The Birley Centre



Wednesday 24 October, 2.15pm  
**Jazz with Swing Fever**  
The Hydro Hotel



Thursday 1 November, 7.30pm  
**Lucinda Dickens Hawksley**  
**Charles Dickens 200 Years On**  
The Birley Centre



Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm  
**Antony Penrose**  
**Journeys Among Surrealists**  
The Birley Centre

## Friday Lectures at the Junction Box

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- 19 October - **Life and Work of Dégas** with Bryan Davies
- 23 November - **The Life and Songs of Franz Schubert (part 1)** with Elizabeth Muir-Lewis.
- 14 December **The Life and Songs of Franz Schubert (part 2)** with Elizabeth Muir-Lewis.

For tickets, please complete the ticket order form. Enquiries regarding tickets only to Philip Anson on 01323 411906 . Tickets are also available from the Tourist Information Centre, Cornfield Road.