



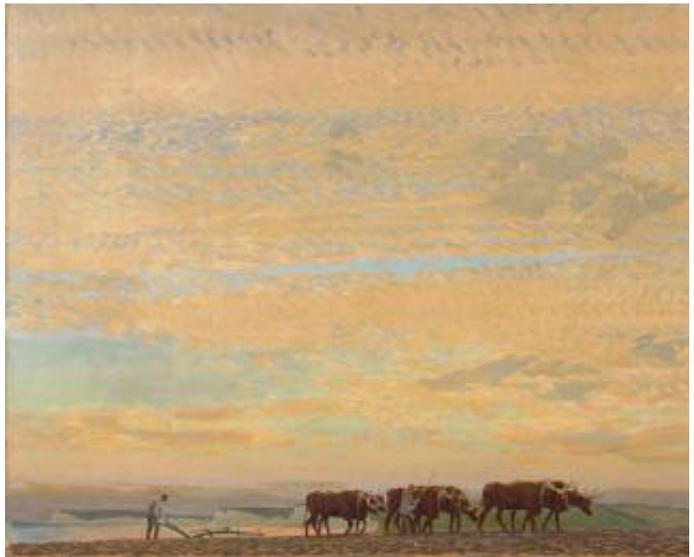
# THE FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

Supporting the Arts in Eastbourne

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## NEWSLETTER

*Winter 2010*



***News*** ***Reviews*** ***Interviews*** ***Events***

- Winter attractions ● Committee profiles
- Reviews of past events
- What's on at the Towner

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

# A message from the Chairman

**Elizabeth Muir-Lewis**

We have had another busy year and once again Christmas is just over the horizon. I and the team have been working hard on your behalf and I hope very much that the events you have attended have been enjoyed. I think that on the whole they have been at a high level and a good mix.

Before the year is over we will have yet more excellent art and music events for you and on December 11th we will have our coffee morning in the Hydro when new and old members can join and re-join and enjoy a happy social get-together. Do come to this, we would love to see you. Then on Tuesday, December 21st there will be our Christmas lunch when a magnificent feast will be served and everyone will enjoy some festive music. Full details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. Ladies, put on your glad rags (men too!) and feel the joys of Christmas together with all our friends.

I am really delighted that our very first event in 2011 (on January 19th) will be a talk by the well known Antiques Road Show expert, David Battie. He will be a superb send off for the new year. This will be in the Winter Garden Gold Room at 7.30 pm. However it will be our last event in the Gold Room, at least for now, as we are trying the Under Ground Theatre which as you may know is a popular, small, intimate place that should be well suited to our events. Dare I say it was their new piano that sold the idea to me!

A wonderful list of distinguished speakers and performers is lined up for you. Your support for our events this year has been strong. In our large



membership we have those who like talks on art, some who like music or literature, others who like jazz. It has been interesting to see the diversity of who comes to what. We have gained many members from the public who just dropped in to enjoy an event and realised that something was going on in Eastbourne that was special. While our reason for being is to raise money for our Gallery, I and the committee feel that to achieve as high a standard as we can is the best way to go about it.

Next year there will also be more events which will move us closer to the gallery. These will be announced in due course. I am aware that some members have missed the closeness that the Friends had with the Gallery when we were in the old building. For obvious reasons that closeness was hard to keep as we were in a different building. We all knew that the enormous changes that took place would pose some problems and our job has been to try to address them. We are not quite there yet, but your patience, support and understanding has been wonderful and for that I and my committee thank you.

The Friends of the Towner are important to us.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Elizabeth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

## Committee Member Profile introducing: **Frances Lloyd**

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Frances' early ambition was to go into show business but after much thought her father, a wily old bank manager, persuaded her that what she needed was "show business with a pension". So it had to be the BBC. Frances applied to be a Secretary and when she went for an interview - armed only with six GCEs and a swimming certificate - the Appointments Officer asked her how she saw her future. Her reply (that she would like to be a Producer) caused much mirth because in those days Secretaries never became Producers.

So her BBC career began in a supply department ordering uniforms for Commissionaires and Firemen. Eventually she moved into production departments, ranging from the World Service during the Hungarian revolution to television Light Entertainment where she worked on the first ever "Top of the Pops" and countless editions of "Juke Box Jury".

She moved into radio still as a Secretary and finally achieved her ambition by becoming one of the first women Producers in the Light Programme.



From production she moved into management, first as Chief Assistant to the Controller of Radio 2 (a sort of ADC) and then on to the same position in Radio 4 where amongst many other things she was responsible for scheduling the network's coverage of the Falklands War.

She returned to Radio 2 as Head of the Music Department and two years later was appointed that Network's Controller - only the second ever woman Controller in Radio. After forty years at the BBC Frances retired in 1997 and that year was proud to be awarded an OBE "for services to broadcasting".

At the BBC she was known as Frances Line. Frances is the Editor of the Friends' Newsletter.

## Committee Member Profile introducing: **Frankie Robinson**

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Frankie was born and raised in Wimbledon. When she left school she went to the London College of Fashion and then worked for a cosmetics company. She enjoyed it but wanted to travel so she left to work for a casino so that she could see the world as a croupier on cruise ships. She did this for the next twelve years including trips to Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and the Far East. After living in France she moved to California to attend University in Los Angeles. She has always been interested in the arts, music and architecture of all countries so she found her travels and studies very enriching.



While in Los Angeles she worked for a major film studio and also on large projects such as the building of the new Getty Museum complex. She finally returned to the UK in 2000 to be near her parents. She now works for an architect specialising in church refurbishment. Frankie loves Eastbourne and feels very lucky to be part of such a lively cultural community.

### ***A NEW VENUE...***

The Friends of the Towner are shifting the scene of many of their operations in 2011 to the Under Ground Theatre. This popular and intimate venue hosts a wide variety of events and will be familiar territory to many Friends.

If you have joined us recently or simply never visited the UGT before, you will find the theatre entrance on the right, inside the portico of the Eastbourne Public Library which stands on the corner of Grove Road, opposite the railway station.

The Gold Room is a splendid venue and its staff have been very attentive and congenial, for which we owe them our warmest thanks. However, there are economic considerations regarding the use of the Gold Room, which have confined our events to Tuesdays. The move to the UGT enables us to mount events on any day of the week without incurring any extra cost.

The UGT has undergone various improvements recently and will close in January 2011 for further renovation. We will celebrate our new venue with a swinging jazz evening on February 2nd next year. "Be there or be square!"

***Michael Kaye - Events Chairman***

## EVENTS REMINDER

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*  
and hope to see you at the Friends' celebrations. There is a change of date for the first of these - our **Christmas Coffee Morning (no tickets required)**. This will now be held on Saturday 11th December 1030-12 noon at the Hydro Hotel and, as well as being a highly sociable occasion, it will give you a chance to renew your membership for 2011. We hope too to have tickets on sale for the first few Friends' presentations in the New Year. If you're stuck for a last minute present for someone who has everything, membership would make a very acceptable gift as would tickets to an event. Our Chairman, Elizabeth, will say a few words and Michael Kaye (Chairman of the Events Committee) will amaze and delight you with news of good things to come! Admission is free. There is a charge for coffee.

The Friends' **Christmas Lunch** will be held at the Chatsworth Hotel on Tuesday, December 21st. The cost will be £20 a head to include a complimentary drink on arrival. Seasonal songs will be provided by The Meads Singers. The meal will be served at 1.00 pm but do come any time after 12 noon to mix and mingle and enjoy your drink in the bar area.

The hotel needs notice of our requirements at least two weeks in advance so you will find the menu with

the Christmas Lunch Order Form and you are requested to return it (duly completed) to Wendy Bishop by this coming Friday, December 3rd to allow us to make the necessary arrangements.

### Here are the menu choices:

*Fanned Honeydew Melon accompanied by Exotic Fruits and Raspberry Coulis*

or

*Fresh Shrimp Cocktail served with Brown Bread Wedges*

∞

*Baked Chicken Breast stuffed with a herb cream cheese and wrapped in bacon, served with Potato and Turnip Mash*

or

*Fresh Plaice Parcels filled with Tarragon and Creme Fraiche served on a Crispy Potato Rosti*

*All served with a side dish of Roasted Vegetables (peppers, onion, carrots, courgettes)*

∞

*Home made Key Lime pie and Fresh Cream*

or

*Cheese and Biscuits served with Fresh Grapes and Celery Sticks*

∞

*Tea or coffee*

Place your orders now and we greatly look forward to seeing you all at these two very special events!



Please do not contact the Hotels about our Christmas events. Enquiries to Wendy Bishop on 731607.

# REVIEW by Michael Kaye

## Afternoon Concert at Glyndebourne

**A Concert to Celebrate the Life of Douglas Craig at the Jerwood Studio, Glyndebourne 7th November 2010, jointly presented by the Sussex Opera and Ballet Society and the Friends of the Towner.**

Douglas Craig would, I am convinced, have rejoiced to be present at this vivid and delightful afternoon of opera by students from the Royal College of Music. The singers assembled at the Jerwood Studio were a credit to Craig's beloved RCM. Five of the ten students have actually received bursaries in memory of Douglas, given by Sussex Opera and Ballet Society.

After a welcome from Elizabeth Muir-Lewis, Chairman of the Friends of the Towner, the afternoon's programme was introduced by Nicholas Sears, the Head of Vocal Studies at RCM, who explained that Händel and Mozart were the cornerstones of the RCM student's repertoire.

So we began with three contrasting arias from 'Giulio Cesare' by Händel. Anna Huntley proved a fearless mezzo who attacked Sesto's aria 'Svelgiatevi nel core' (Awaken in my heart) with passion. Her brisk pace gave way to Ruby Hughes' poignant soprano and 'Piangerò la sorte mia' (Pity my fate). Finally Ben Williamson's counter-tenor rose to the challenge of 'Al lampo dell'armi', Caesar's aria, originally performed by the great castrato Senesino.

Next came two arias from 'Rodelinda', another Glyndebourne Händel favourite. Ed Grint looked too young and svelte to be a bass baritone but his low register was very convincing. Edward Hughes is a disarmingly innocent tenor with a wide range. The Händel section concluded with a duet from 'Tolomeo' between our counter-tenor Ben and Lorna Bridge, a sweet-voiced and expressive lyric soprano.

After a short break it was Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' and Sam Evans' turn to move to centre-stage. Total confidence and warm communication with the audience were displayed in a captivating performance of 'Non piu andrai'. As if that were



Photograph © Leigh Simpson

not rich enough fare, Martha Jones acted and sang bewitchingly in Cherubino's equally familiar aria 'Voi che sapete'. These two actor/singers were followed by the biggest voice of the concert so far, that of Monica Bancos. Monica has a thrilling voice. Just a faint buzz in her lowest notes was a slight distraction in an otherwise lovely performance. After an effective duet with Lorna Bridge's Susannah, Ed Grint's Count embarked on his most difficult aria. He handled its complexities with ease and conviction. Ruby Hughes and Anna Huntley soared to new heights in the duet from Idomeneo 'S'io non moro a quest'accenti'. The audience was only too happy to hear more Mozart, in the shape of 'Cosi fan tutte'. First, Martha Jones interpreted Dorabella, while Sam Evans sang a disillusioned Guglielmo and then the cynical Don Alfonso in the exquisite trio 'Soave il vento' with Martha and Lorna. After the interval came a mixture of 19th and 20th century music. Ed Hughes' comic performance with Monica Bancos in a duet from 'The Bartered Bride' was a real audience-pleaser. An eerily beautiful Britten offering from 'Midsummer Night's Dream' was sung by Ben Williamson as Oberon. The singers and their brilliant accompanist, Sergey Rybin, produced a grand, touching finale; Bruderlein und Schwesterlein' from Die Fledermaus.

The concert was thrilling; not only for the range of its music but also for the excitement in prospect as these ten young singers move out of the Royal College and into the wider world of performance. How long will it be, one wonders, before these talented youngsters appear on the main stage at Glyndebourne?

# Janet Canetty-Clarke

**Robin Gregory reviews a sparkling talk at the Gold Room**

Janet Canetty-Clarke's skills as a lecturer have been displayed as widely as her mastery as a musician. She has conducted in Vienna and spoken at Covent Garden Opera House. A couple of years ago I was privileged to share a happy lecture-cruise with her on the Baltic. On July 27th she was in fine form in Eastbourne, infecting us with her enthusiasm for *The Rake's Progress* both as paintings and as opera.

This was by no means an easy assignment. The pictures can so readily seem scenes of mere depravity, and the music of Stravinsky is often thought to be "difficult". Yet by the time her presentation was over the audience was well-able to appreciate the subtlety and the truthfulness which both Hogarth and Stravinsky chronicled. Brief reference was made to the 1935 ballet to a score by Gavin Gordon, and to the film which starred Rex Harrison, but her focus was firmly on the opera. She pointed out the brilliant choice of David Hockney to design the sets for the 1975 Glyndebourne production (which I saw in Manchester in the days when Glyndebourne toured that far);



and reminded us that they will appear again in this year's revival.

The clarity of Janet's diction and the high quality of the projected images (once again using the Council's elderly but Rolls Royce projector) were not always matched by the audio material which "came-and-went" occasionally, but this did little to diminish the way in which she could hold the listeners spellbound with her narrative.

The Towner Friends can feel satisfied that this was a fine example of a speaker who could show the interdependence of various art-forms and, in so doing, enhance one's appreciation of each.



## Grace Robertson at the Gold Room

An appreciation by Michael Kaye

Take one tall woman with a commanding presence and a great tale to tell. Grace, daughter of Fyfe Robertson, the eminent journalist and broadcaster, at the age of sixteen decided to take up photography.

Largely self-taught, under a male pseudonym and with great persistence she established herself as a freelance photographer with the legendary magazine, *Picture Post*. One of her photographic essays was of a schoolgirl doing her homework - Grace's sister, Elizabeth Muir-Lewis.

The first part of Ms. Robertson's presentation gave us a fascinating insight into the history of *Picture Post* and its founders. The magazine set out to tell the British people's story as they faced the prospect in the 1930s of a second world war. *Picture Post's* success would be the envy of magazines or newspapers today. Within six months of launch it was being bought by two million readers.

The absence of Grace's own work from the narrative was made good in the latter half of the evening. Her first great triumph involved picturing the lives of Welsh sheep farmers in Snowdonia, at some considerable risk to her own life and limb. Then came images from the (literally) riotous "Mothers Day Off", a bibulous trip with a group of working class women. Most poignant and beautiful of all was the photograph of a young woman in the throes of childbirth. This essay and the new baby appeared in 1955.

Grace Robertson spoke with vigour, clarity and humour of her career in photography. The *Post* died in 1957. Thankfully Grace lives on to delight her audiences and remind us of the thrilling heyday of British photo-journalism.

### Pianism of the Highest Order

Robin Gregory reviews Towner Friends' concert by **RONAN MAGILL**

Tuesday September 7th was an evening those of us who were at the Gold Room will not easily forget. Pianist and composer Ronan Magill not only made the small Sojin grand-piano perform feats beyond its normal capability, but treated us to a mini-lecture before each musical group to be played. He proved to be the master equally of Scarlatti's sparkle, Chopin's patriotism, Scriabin's introspection and Mussorgsky's brilliance.

Two minor- and two major-key Scarlatti sonatas displayed a refreshing approach to works which can sometimes seem routine. Clarity and romantic involvement co-existed. A strange triple-time march thundered; and rapid repetitions sparkled like gems on a ballgown. Then the unbroken singing-line of Chopin's F Sharp Nocturne (never disturbed by the fluttering "twiddly bits") led us to the virile and assertive F Sharp Minor Polonaise, the performance of which brought us not only the composer's patriotic anger but also, magically, the shafts of sunshine which occasionally broke through the clouds.

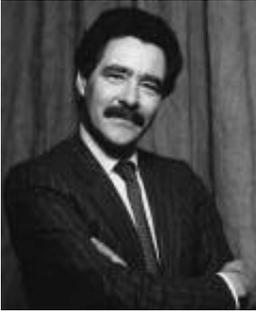


Photo by Michael Kaye

In Rachmaninoff's G Sharp Minor Prelude, Ronan Magill seemed to discover, and bring out, melodies which elude most pianists. The Scriabin Sonata (in the same key) was a revelation: an exploration in sound of the meaning of life - or so it seemed.

After the interval we had the whole of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. For once there was no need to fight against any feeling that Ravel's orchestration had somehow enhanced the original pianistic conception, for here was a performance of supreme concentration and power. Castles, ox-carts, unhatched chicks, market-places, catacombs, huts on chicken-legs and the great gate of Kiev: all became symbols of humanity, art and existence. It needed the short Bach encore to return us to the world of bus-timetables and umbrellas !

## COMING ATTRACTIONS - BOOK NOW!



### David Battie

Wednesday 19 January, 7.30pm. Gold Room, Winter Garden Admission £11 (Members £10)

One of the best known Antique Road Show experts, David

Battie will present a talk for the Friends which he calls "**These Are A Few of My Favourite Things**".

David appeared in the very first Antiques Road Show back in 1979. He is a specialist in Ceramics, 19th Century Pottery and Porcelain.

Oriental works of art are one of his great passions and, like his colleague Paul Atterbury, David has a huge love for his subject with a knowledge born of a lifetime's fascination with the Orient as well as the great British tradition of

Ceramics and Pottery.

He came up the hard way, learning his job at Sotheby's as a book porter! He trained as a graphic designer and flourished at Sotheby's where he is the Editor of their Encyclopedia of Porcelain and - until his retirement in 1999 - he was a director of the firm.

One of his many hobbies is book restoration. He is also an amusing and informative speaker.

*Tickets from Wendy Bishop (on form enclosed) or from the Tourist Information Centre.*



### "Spats" Langham with The Keith Nichols Trio

Wednesday 2 February, 7.30pm. Under Ground Theatre Admission £12 (Members £11)

This is our first Jazz event in 2011, and we will be welcoming back Thomas "Spats" Langham with the Keith Nichols Trio.

Spats' talents as a guitarist, banjo player and vocalist are renowned. His specialism is the music of the 20s, 30s and 40s. He was inspired at the age of ten by the music of the Temperance Seven (with whom he has since played) and his idols include Eddie Lang and Al Bowly.

Pianist Keith Nichols is renowned as a master of classic jazz and his trio will include ex-Chris Barber reedman Trevor Whiting and Malcolm Sket on euphonium and bass. *Tickets from Wendy Bishop (on form enclosed) or from the Tourist Information Centre.*

## Bella Tromba

Wednesday 16 February, 6.45pm  
The Music of Six Centuries  
Eastbourne College  
Admission £7.50 incl. workshop

Bella Tromba are appearing in concert at Eastbourne College as a result of a creative Arts Partnership between the College and the Friends of the Towner.

Formed in 2004 at the Royal Academy of Music, Bella Tromba is an established chamber group performing extensively in the UK and abroad. Cheltenham Music Festival, South Bank's Purcell Room and BBC Radio 3 have all featured the group. Bella Tromba have performed recitals and presented conservatoire level master classes in Europe and at the 2010 International Women's Brass Conference in Toronto, Canada.

The Guardian describes Bella Tromba as *"a glamorous all-trumpet girl band, dedicated to exploring and expanding the instrument's potential"*

We begin with a workshop from 4.30-5.30pm and then a concert from 6.45- 7.45pm. Tickets which include the workshop are £7.50 per person.



As admission to the Workshop is free for Friends, there are no other concessions. Tickets from The College Box Office - Tel: 452255.

You should mention that you are a Friend when booking.

*Bella Tromba feature the music of six centuries and this promises to be a most enjoyable and unusual event.*

### TICKET INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ~ Please use the Christmas Order Form

GOLD ROOM EVENTS ~ Use the standard form please or from Tourist Information Centre

GALLERY STORE TOURS ~ Wendy Bishop only

HYDRO HOTEL ~ No tickets required

UNDERGROUND THEATRE ~ Use standard form please or from Tourist Information Centre



## Mark Pomeroy

### A History of the Royal Academy of Arts

Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm. Under Ground Theatre  
Admission £8 (Members £7)

#### 'Honour and Glory to the next Exhibition': A glance at the history of the Royal Academy of Arts

Mark Pomeroy is Archivist of the Royal Academy and has been working with archives for fifteen years. Before joining the Royal Academy in 1998 he worked for the UK Parliament, surveying the records of both the Commons and the Lords. Mark has long been an active member of the Archives and Records Association and is a regular lecturer for The Archives Skills Consultancy.

He sits on the advisory committee for the Royal College of Art print collection and is historical advisor for BBC2's coverage of the Summer Exhibition.

The Royal Academy has held station at the centre of British cultural life for nearly 250 years. Far from being a monolithic institution the Academy is a confusing melange of art school, charity, exhibition hall and professional body. The Academy emerged from an atmosphere of intense rivalry and bitterness in 1768. Its mission was to promote the "arts of design" through its arts school and exhibition. Mark Pomeroy charts a path through the Academy's often tumultuous history.

## Elizabeth Muir-Lewis on Peter Grimes

Friday 1 April, 7.30pm. Under Ground Theatre  
Admission £8 (Members £7)

Benjamin Britten's "Peter Grimes" is now acknowledged to be the finest British opera of the 20th century. Elizabeth Muir-Lewis, herself a professional singer, will explore the history of this great work.

The story behind it is fascinating. The intrigues. The excitement. How after the second world war this young composer emerged to form his own company (The English Opera Group) at Glyndebourne, and composed the operas that are now in every company's repertoire (Peter Grimes, Albert Herring, Turn of the Screw, Rape of Lucretia, Let's make an opera, Billy Budd, Gloriana, Noah's Fludde, Death in Venice) works that would change the face of British opera for ever.

Elizabeth has herself sung at Glyndebourne, and, married to one of its premier singers who was

part of that extraordinary time, was privy to the true story. She knows about the back stage jealousies, the crises.

She was lucky enough to know and talk to many of the people involved in what must have been exciting times, when Britain, damaged and hurt after five long years at war, found a new energy and creativity.

Elizabeth will illustrate her talk with superb recordings of Peter Grimes, as well as reading the fascinating reviews of that time when the English opera group toured Britain and Europe, attracting rave notices. So come and go behind the scenes of what would be Britain's triumphant years when we became, maybe for the first time, internationally lauded for our opera.



Photo by  
Mike Goss

# TOWNER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Towner Gallery is anxious to recruit more Volunteers to assist its frontline team. Could this be you? In this role, you would be on hand to welcome visitors, to share information on the building, its famous Towner Collection, its exhibitions, education and outreach programmes and events. Working alongside Towner's professional Gallery Assistants, volunteers play a vital role in making this state-of-the-art building the leading visual arts centre for the South East.

You will need to achieve excellent standards of customer service, have an outgoing personality and be able to help visitors to understand and enjoy the galleries and exhibitions. Volunteers will be given a full



programme of training, staff briefings on each exhibition, the Collection and the building's architecture plus a 15% discount at the Towner shop.

They will be allocated to as many or as few shifts a week as they can manage. Shifts are four hours covering Tuesday-Sunday 10am - 5.00pm.

If you are interested in applying to become a volunteer, please phone Karen Mitchell, Visitor Services Manager on 434679 or e.mail [karen.mitchell@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:karen.mitchell@eastbourne.gov.uk) for an application form.

**Please note the Towner's winter opening hours are  
TUESDAY - SUNDAY 10.00 am - 5.00 pm**

Over the Christmas - New Year period the Gallery hours will be as follows:

Closed: Friday 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26

Open: Monday 27th until Thursday 30th

Closed: Friday 31st, and Saturday January 1st

Open: Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd January **Then OPEN AS USUAL**

**And - for your new diary -**

Please note that there will be an exclusive FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER event, at the Towner. This will be a private view of new acquisitions plus a store tour followed by afternoon tea in the Junction Box. The date is Sunday 20th February 3.00-5.00 pm and you should find a handbill enclosed (on a separate sheet from the Newsletter) giving full details of the afternoon. This is sure to be an enjoyable and enlightening event. It is being arranged by the Gallery and we hope to field a full house which is only 20 people, due to space limitations in the Store. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis and you are urged to book early as demand is likely to exceed capacity. Friends only. Please complete the booking slip provided. Tickets £8 - advance purchase only. Our thanks go to those at the Gallery who have initiated this private tour.



Graham Gussin (born 1960)  
*Future City (1996)*, pencil on board

**The Collection Display, currently running in the Collection Gallery is titled **HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE.****

This exhibition brings together an eclectic mix of artists whose work in one form or another forges a strong connection with places both real and imagined. Inspired by 60s and 70s archive film footage of the South Coast, the show includes work by Eric Ravilious, Louisa Paris, Grayson Perry, Graham Gussin and Tracey Emin. The exhibition also contains a newly commissioned work entitled **SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT** which uses archive footage to stimulate an exploration of ideas of home and identity through interactive technology, by young people in Eastbourne and Bexhill.

**Opening on 11th December** will be the **TOMOAKI SUZUKI** solo exhibition. His figurative sculptures are extraordinarily lifelike. Hand crafted in lime wood, they stand at one third human scale. Suzuki challenges

conventional methods of displaying figurative sculpture by placing his statuettes directly on the floor, rather than on a plinth. The scale of his work recalls childhood toys, requiring the viewer to physically get down onto the gallery floor in order to connect with each figure at eye level.



Tomoaka Suzuki  
*Charmine (2007)*

**Construction of Eastbourne College's Birley Centre is going well.** Opposite the Towner Gallery and close to the Congress Theatre, the centre will transform the College and provide a key facility for the local community in Eastbourne's cultural quarter. The Birley Centre - named in recognition of the contribution made to the College by former Headmaster, Michael Birley and his wife Ann, is due to be completed in July 2011 and will be open for business from September 2011.

# **A Familiar View**

**By Margaret Whitehead - Hon. Sec. of the Friends**

(on visiting the exhibition – ‘A Familiar View’ - of paintings and engravings by Eric Ravilious and the black and white photographs of 60’s and 70’s Devon of James Ravilious)

Through a lens darkly to a black and white scene,  
Where only the photographer’s eye has seen  
The searing humanity of it all  
Wide skies and hay ricks and serried clouds of cotton wool  
Faces that are light, and bright and brilliant and dull  
Beauty and timelessness after the war  
A journey in time through an open door

Through the eyes to the painter’s hand  
Landscapes and furrows geometrically planned  
The order and safeness of it all  
Farmhouses drawn with perspective true  
Lines of grass and skies grey and blue  
Simplicity of line that overtakes all  
Chaos abandoned in tidy recall

Life in art is a world apart - does photography have the upper hand ?  
When truth’s in the reality of people and land  
And yet there’s a gleam in the painter’s eye  
A different view of the sea and the skies  
A moment to think and philosophise  
A moment to wonder why ?

## **FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER**

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

**President** The Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne

**Vice President** Geoffrey Williams

**Chairman** Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

**Honorary Treasurer** Wendy Bishop

**Honorary Secretary** Margaret Whitehead

### **Committee Members**

Ron Cussons, Ann Gregory, Nicholas Howell, Robin James, Frances Lloyd, Frances Robinson, Geoffrey Mantle, Sam Sweiry, Michael Kaye

**Co-opted Member** Philip Anson

**EBC Representative** Greg Szanto

### **Events Committee**

Michael Kaye (Chair), Elizabeth Muir-Lewis, Ann Gregory, Robin James, Frances Lloyd, Margaret Whitehead

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

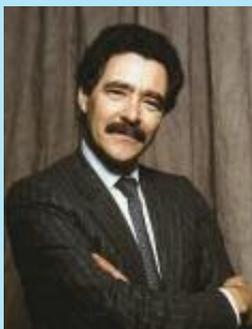
**Editor** Frances Lloyd OBE  
fmlne267@sky.com

### **Design and Printing**

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# Forthcoming Events 2011



Wednesday  
19 January  
**David Battie**



Wednesday 2 February  
**Jazz with  
"Spats" Langham**



Wednesday 16 February  
**Bella Tromba**



Thursday 17 March  
**Mark Pomeroy**  
Archivist of the  
Royal Academy



Friday 1 April  
**Elizabeth Muir-Lewis**  
Peter Grimes

For tickets, please follow instructions in the Newsletter or complete the ticket order form. Enquiries regarding tickets only to Wendy Bishop 01323 731607,