



# FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

Supporting the Arts in Eastbourne

---

## TOWNER TIMES

AUTUMN 2013



### *News and Events*

- Events at the Birley Centre
- Superb String Quartet event details
- Friday Afternoon Lectures

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

## Committee Member Profile on Helen Rufus-Ward

Dr Helen Rufus-Ward is a published art historian who has worked as an associate tutor and lecturer at the University of Sussex for the past seven years. Her PHD focused on the Liverpool Collection of carved ivories and was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Helen's areas of specialism centres on early Christian, Byzantine and Medieval art and covers fields such as ivory carvings, enamels, mosaics, icons, glass, architecture, pilgrimage art, silver hoards (buried treasure!) and religious reliquaries. Helen has great enthusiasm for her subject, harbouring a desire to introduce audiences to a Pre-Renaissance era of non 'artist-centric' art that focuses on 3D objects (that can be touched if you are lucky) rather than flat 2D paintings.

In her role as a tutor at the University of Sussex, Helen has led study trips to European cities such as Rome and Venice as well as overseeing artefact handling sessions at the British Museum.



Helen pictured at the Bode Museum, Berlin

Helen holds a Higher Education Academy teaching qualification, is a member of both the Association of Art Historians and the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies.

*Friends of the Towner welcome Helen to the Committee, and look forward to attending one of her talks in the future.*

---

### Cover picture:

'Morning Calm' by Eric Brindley Slater, c.1935. Colour woodcut on paper, probably based on Newhaven. Courtesy of Towner and James Trollope, author of 'Slater's Sussex: The Colour Woodcuts of Eric Slater' (available from Towner).

Born in 1896, Eric Slater lived for much of his life in Seaford where he died in 1963. James Trollope will be giving a talk on this fascinating artist in 2014.



## **A message from the Chairman**

Dear Friends

It has been very encouraging to get so much feedback from you, and I thank the many who emailed with your opinion about the starting time for events. It was pretty much divided, and I will let you know the result soon when we announce the 2014 programme.

The visit to Farley Farm was excellent. It was a fascinating glimpse into the world of art and artists in sublime countryside. Antony Penrose greeted us at his parents' home, and the guides gave us an interesting and informative tour.

The Friday lectures in the gallery seem to have become a regular and popular event. The Rothko and Pollock lecture on June 28th invoked much discussion between the excellent lecturer John Perrin, and the class.

I was lucky to be able to tap into an amazing source of first class speakers when we began these lectures. For our 2014 season I have acquired for you two more highly experienced and qualified lecturers. Also I hope that when you see the list for next year you will like the variety of art subjects you can attend.

I am also pleased to tell you that our

membership climbs ever upwards. There is still great confusion about the "Towner" and "The Friends of the Towner", we must soon make a big decision about this. The Towner becomes a trust in September, so that will give us the opportunity to discuss with members what we would all like to do.

The Birley Centre events have on the whole drawn in good audiences. It is always swings and roundabouts. The two art lectures in July and September should be fascinating, so do support them if you can. Then our programme year ends with the wonderful Alauda Quartet. (Page 7)

It is only by your support that we can continue to thrive and grow. I like to think that what we do for the membership is something that not only provides entertainment, but also stimulates and excites, and that we create an atmosphere of a very special club of like minded people.

Finally, I personally have learned, since becoming chairman, that we are so lucky to have as members so many interesting and, dare I use the word, cultured and knowledgeable people. You keep us on our toes, so thank you for that.

**Elizabeth Muir-Lewis**



### **More Than Meets the Eye** **“The Mysterious Language** **of Paintings”** **with Valerie Woodgate**

**Saturday 28 September, 3.00pm**  
**Birley Centre, Carlisle Road**

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Refreshments available

Points, 1920

*Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944)*

This lecture will discuss how artists can manipulate colour, form, composition, subject matter [and even facts!] in order to explore universal themes such as life, death, feelings, or politics and can engage our emotional participation in the work. We will see how artists Delacroix, Matisse, Kandinsky and others use colour, composition and subject matter to stir our emotions or provoke a response, and will also examine the way that modern treatments of traditional genres, by artists such as Rubens and Manet, can add to, or change our understanding, of the subject and its message.

We will further explore the way in which Raphael, Poussin, and Beckmann, for example, frequently manipulate perspective, composition and reality in order to convey more than meets the eye.

Valerie Woodgate is a lecturer and guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and at many other London galleries. She lectures for the National Trust, as well as for Tate on P&O Cruises. She is a member of the teaching team at Dulwich Picture Gallery, and is a script writer for the Living Painting Trust, bringing art to the blind and partially-sighted. She lectures regularly for NADFAS.

# Afternoon Jazz at the Hydro Hotel

## Le Jazz Hot Hydro Hotel

**Wednesday 23 October**  
**2.15pm**

Tickets £12.50 (Members £11.50)



Our popular jazz matinées continue with a concert recalling the unique jazz style created in Paris in the 1930s by The Hot Club of France, and which featured the twin talents of violinist Stephane Grappelli and guitarist Django Reinhardt.

The Mike Piggott Hot Club Trio will be joined by the brilliant clarinetist Mark Crooks for the occasion. Mike has toured, recorded and broadcast with artists including Ralph McTell, Bert Jansch and Phil Collins.



Mike Piggott

Guitarist Nils Solberg has appeared with Nigel Kennedy and Claire Teal, and toured with Bryan Ferry.

Pete Morgan (bass) is much sought after by visiting American jazz musicians and has accompanied, amongst others, Peanuts Hucko, Slim Gaillard and Jimmy Witherspoon.

Clarinetist Mark Crooks has appeared at major London jazz venues including a recent week at Ronnie Scott's. He electrified a sell-out audience in Dublin when he took the role of Artie Shaw in a gala tribute to the great American band leader.

# Birley Centre Event

## Sussex Opera and Ballet Society

Registered Charity 271113

**Sussex Opera and Ballet Society presents**

### **Ballet Masterclass**

**With Doreen Wells**

**Saturday 2 November, 2.30pm**

Doreen Wells, Marchioness of Londonderry, was a much-loved prima ballerina of the Royal Ballet in the Sixties and early Seventies. After her early early training at the Bush Davies School she joined the Sadler's Wells School, winning, in 1954, the Adeline Genée Gold Medal, one of ballet's highest honours.

She danced with both Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet and the Royal Ballet and, from 1960 to 1974, she was prima ballerina of the touring company while still dancing with the main company. She created roles in many ballets and danced all round the world.

She now teaches and has adopted a holistic approach to 'an art form where each element of the mind and body are unified to create a powerful dancer'. She will illustrate this approach when teaching her students at this masterclass.

Tickets £15 (includes interval refreshments)  
(concessions available) 01323 732523  
Email: [secretary@sussexoperaandballetsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sussexoperaandballetsociety.org.uk)



# Birley Centre Event

## The Alauda Quartet

**Sunday 17th November, 3.00pm**  
**Birley Centre, Carlisle Road**

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Refreshments available

**Christina Prats-Costa** (Spanish) 1st Violin  
**Milan Berginc** (Serbian) 2nd Violin  
**Rhoslyn Lawton** (British) Viola  
**Elena Cappetti** (Italian) Cello



**Programme:** **Seven Last Words of Christ** Haydn, with narrator Gareth Thomas.  
**String Quartet Op 44 No 2 in A Minor**, Mendelssohn.  
**(Il Tramonto) "The Sunset"** Respighi, with Sarah Shorter (mezzo-soprano).

Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ" was considered by Haydn to be among his finest works. The Mendelssohn quartet was directly influenced by the Beethoven quartets. Mendelssohn was fascinated by studying Beethoven's scores, drawing inspiration, and starting the quartet only two years after Beethoven's death. "Il Tramonto" (The Sunset) is one of three compositions that Respighi composed between 1910 and 1915. Set from a poem by Shelley, it is a romantic ballad or tone poem in miniature, with the mezzo soprano voice inter-playing with Respighi's wonderfully textured music.

**The Alauda Quartet** was formed in 2011 by four master students at The Royal Academy of Music. They perform on a regular basis in the UK and have toured in Spain and Italy. In February 2012 the quartet was awarded highly commended in the Wolfe Wolfinson quartet competition. They have also been appointed to the prestigious Pozanski quartet scheme at the Royal Academy of Music which provides master classes to distinguished visiting professors.



**Sarah Shorter** (mezzo-soprano) is currently in her first year on the Royal Academy Opera course, where she studies with Anne Howells and Iain Ledingham. She made her professional operatic debut with Scottish Opera at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival, creating the role of Boletta in the award winning production of *The Lady from the Sea*.

# Friday Art Lectures at Towner

All talks 2.30-4.30pm

Friday 18 October

John Perrin:

## PAUL CÉZANNE AND GEORGES SEURAT

French post  
impressionist

Paul Cézanne laid the foundations of the move from 19th century art to the radically different art of the 20th century. Georges Seurat, was a French post impressionist painter and draughtsman, founder of 19th century neo-impressionism.



Friday 22 November

Lecturer Richard Cupidi

## AMERICAN ORIGINALS: JACOB LAWRENCE

The life of artist Jacob Lawrence reads like a modern Cinderella story: growing up poor and black in Harlem in the 1930s, dropping out of high school to support his mother and two siblings, being discovered drawing in the street by an art patron who sponsored him through art classes, then going on to become the most celebrated African-American artist of the 20th century.



They were very Poor, panel 10, 1942

Jacob Lawrence's elemental and haunting images recorded the lives of ordinary people in Harlem, as well as the often unrecognised trailblazers of Afro-American history.

In this talk, we'll be concentrating on Lawrence's *Migration Series*, an epic sequence of 60 paintings inspired by the exodus of African-Americans from the Deep South to the melting-pots of Chicago, Detroit and New York, weaving in some blues, gospel, jazz and poetry along the way as well.

Richard Cupidi, American born and Brighton-based, is an experienced art historian, adult education tutor, specialising in American art, American history and film studies. Workshops include Tate Modern, Goldsmiths, Lighthouse and the Barbican.



Migrations, panel 3

**Ticket cost per talk:** Members: £8  
non-members: £10. For 3 lectures  
members: £22 non-members: £28 (a  
saving of £2). Tickets available by  
post from: 34 Martello Road,  
Eastbourne BN22 7SS. (Cheques  
payable to "Friends of the Towner"  
Enquiries 08432 895129

# UNDER GROUND THEATRE PROGRAMME



under ground theatre

GROVE ROAD EASTBOURNE



The Under Ground Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm for Coffee and homemade cakes. On Saturday morning there is music in the auditorium which is free. There is also an art exhibition in the foyer which changes every month. For further details on all our events visit our website: [www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk](http://www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk) Ticket Hotline 0845 680 1926

- 8th Aug Open Stage Night - free entry music showcase open to all.  
22-24 Aug Just Joyce, an amusing and affectionate tribute to Joyce Grenfell.  
6th Sept Drama - The strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde  
12th Sept Open Stage Night  
13th Sept Jazz "Red Skies"  
18th Sept Music - Chris Harris at the piano  
20th Sept Drama - An Audience with Dickens  
21st Sept Talk - Eastbourne Bonfire Society  
22nd Sept Film - Blonde Venus (Marlene Dietrich)  
26th Sept Film - Art House Film "Tommy"  
3rd Oct National Poetry Day  
4th Oct Jazz - Tribute to Oscar Peterson  
6th Oct Classical Concert - Matthew McCombie  
10th Oct Open Stage Night  
13th Oct Film "The Country Girl" - Grace Kelly/Bing Crosby  
19th Oct "Found in The Loft" diaries revealing 1914-18 war.  
24th Oct Film "Round Ireland with a Fridge"  
8th Oct Jazz Concert

## Art Exhibitions at the Under Ground Theatre

- Aug 2 - 31 **Albert Parmigiani**, paper sculptures including dinosaurs!  
Sept 6 - 28 **Mike Hatchard**, political caricaturist, illustrator and portrait.  
Oct 4 - 26 **Philip Brown**, Watercolours, acrylic and pen.  
Nov 1 - 30 **Joan Crowhurst**, Joan explores shadow, reflection and silhouette with gouache, watercolour, acrylic and pastel.



Albert Parmigiani



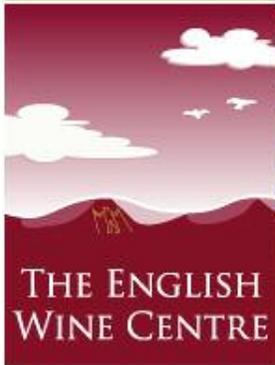
Mike Hatchard



Joan Crowhurst



WE HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY EXPLORING THE UNIQUE OFFERING AT OUR BEAUTIFUL COMPLEX OF COUNTRY BARNES IN THE NEW SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK.



Come and dine in our Restaurant  
Special discount offer of 10%  
for Friends of the Towner

**THE ENGLISH WINE CENTRE**  
Cuckmere Barns  
Tel: 01323 870164  
[BOTTLES@ENGLISHWINE.CO.UK](mailto:BOTTLES@ENGLISHWINE.CO.UK)  
[WWW.ENGLISHWINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.ENGLISHWINE.CO.UK)

BEST WESTERN  
*LANSDOWNE HOTEL*  
the personal touch within elegant surroundings



- **102 En suite Bedrooms**
- **Regency Bar open to non residents**
- **Extensive snack menu available**
  - **Afternoon Teas served daily**
  - **Traditional Sunday Lunch**
  - **Private Function facilities**
- **Licensed for Civil Ceremonies**

**King Edward's Parade**

**Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4EE**

**Tel: 01323 725 174 Fax: 01323 739 721**

**Website: [www.bw-lansdownehotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-lansdownehotel.co.uk)**

**E-mail: [reception@lansdowne-hotel.co.uk](mailto:reception@lansdowne-hotel.co.uk)**



★★★  
HOTEL

## ***From the Chairman***

I have just been informed by the gallery that we are to have a nice new display area in the entrance hall. It will be eye level, off the floor, with modern text, so that all our information regarding events will be clearly seen.

This will be a big improvement. The old stand that we have is looking the worse for wear, old fashioned and awkward for everyone if something is on that brings in a lot of people. Drop in and have a look when you can.

## **TICKET BOOKING**

Tickets are available by post from 34 Martello Rd, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS  
cheques payable to "The Friends of the Towner", please include an SAE.

Enquiries 08432 895129, or from the Tourist Information Centre,  
or via the link in the Friends web site.

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 on their web site.

### **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** Phillip Anson

**Honorary Secretary** Christine Gawad

#### **Committee Members**

Rodney Browne, Christine Gawad,  
Geoffrey Williams, Dr Helen Rufus-Ward,  
Sheila Yates

#### **EBC Representative**

Councillor Carolyn Heaps

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

**Editor** Sheila Yates

sheilayates4@btinternet.com

#### **Design and Printing** Claire Patterson-Snell

Printing Services, Eastbourne Borough Council

Registered charity no 306339