



FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

Supporting the Arts in Eastbourne

TOWNER TIMES

SPRING 2013



News and Events

- Introducing Towner's new Executive Director
- Operatic Gala with three superb young singers
- Friday Afternoon Lectures information

www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk

Towner appoints Photoworks' Emma Morris as Executive Director

Towner has appointed a new Executive Director. Emma Morris, who has been Director of Photoworks in Brighton since 2010, will take up the post in mid-March 2013. Emma joins at a very exciting time for Towner, as the organisation moves forward to independent trust status.

As Executive Director, Emma will lead Towner through the transition to become an independent charitable trust, and will be tasked with defining the organisational development needed. She will create a sustainable business plan to ensure the continued artistic excellence of Towner's programmes alongside the development of partnerships with the local community, funders and agencies.



Emma will also head up the recruitment of a new Artistic Director to replace Matthew Rowe, who recently departed Towner to take up the post of Director of firstsite in Colchester.

Continuing to work with Eastbourne Borough Council, Arts Council England, the Plus Tate network and other key partners, Emma will build on the success Towner has already achieved to grow the profile of the gallery locally, regionally and nationally.

Friends of the Towner have recently donated £3,000 for three paintings by **Roland Collins** (b.1918), including *Oil Wagon, Newhaven, 1955*, *Gouche on Paper* (pictured on the cover of this edition of Towner Times) and *Eastbourne Beach*, (pictured right). Like his near contemporaries Ravilious, Piper and John Nash, Collins found particular inspiration in the Sussex coast



Eastbourne Beach, 1958,
Roland Collins,
Gouache on paper



A message from the Chairman

Dear Friends

I hope that you feel as I do regarding this last year. With all the changes and new ideas and venues that we went through, it is almost as if we have survived all the "Slings and Arrows" and have come to land in a nice place!

We have the superb Birley Centre for our main events. I don't need to tell you how lucky Eastbourne is to have such a modern well run building. The Towner Gallery lectures have really taken off, with class participation growing all the time. We have been fortunate in finding so many first class lecturers.

One extremely positive happening is the new regime at the gallery. They now look for a strong link from us, and while a few things still need clarifying, the scenario is very encouraging.

Our AGM was a great success, with a friendly buzz of friends meeting. Nigel Rees gave an interesting talk about how he came to be a journalist and broadcaster.

I announced at our AGM, there will be fewer events in 2014. The Towner lectures will be every month (except July and August) and the Birley events will be every second month. The starting times will be 3pm in the Winter/Autumn, and 7.30pm in Spring/Summer. Sunday is a popular choice, so many events will take place then. (Except jazz at the Hydro).

This edition of our Towner Times sets out the next series of events, which I hope you agree are diverse and interesting.

Please feel free to make suggestions, comments and views on our events. We are always looking for willing helpers (raffles, publicity, etc). If you would like to get involved please get in touch with me.

Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Email: pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk

The Great American Songwriters

“Smoke gets in your eyes when they begin the Beguine”

Robin and Ann Gregory

Sunday 21 April, 3pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Tickets £12 (Members £10)



Cole Porter



George Gershwin

Following the success of his talk on The Great Musicals, Robin Gregory plans to share his love of many superb American songs. He has a large collection of classic recordings which he will bring along for your delight to illustrate his choices.



He will be joined by his wife Ann who will help in this celebration of a period in American musical history when there was a great flowering of lyrical vocal masterpieces. Composers like Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin are just the tip of an impressive iceberg. Some of the music can be put on a pedestal alongside the great songwriters of the past, (Schubert and Richard Strauss spring to mind), and some of their lyrics can be seen as significant poetry. Robin and Ann will explore all these ideas; but first and foremost they will present some wonderful examples of magical, singable tunes that have never been equalled since.



American Jazz Stars

Lenore Raphael and Howard Alden

Wednesday 1 May, 7.30pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Tickets £16 (Members £14)

Pianist **Lenore Raphael** and guitarist **Howard Alden** are world renowned and their most recent CD was nominated for a Grammy Award. As an award winning composer, Lenore has been called "*The Queen of Swing*". She has appeared at major jazz venues and festivals throughout the world. "*Howard Alden may be the best of his generation.*" **Jazz Times**

Paul Morgan (bass) was a member of the Dudley Moore trio for 35 years, and **Peter Ingram** (drums) is not only a leading jazz drummer but a Professor of Pathology at Duke University in North Carolina! Peter spent his formative years in Eastbourne and it is through his good offices that we are able to present such a major jazz event.

**The Friends of the Towner in Association with
Sussex Opera and Ballet Society present**

Operatic Gala

Sarah-Jane Lewis (Mezzo soprano)

Jennifer Stafford (Soprano)

Ross Scanlon (Tenor)

Sunday 26 May, 3pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Tickets £15

Three superb young singers will perform a selection of arias and ensembles from popular opera.

Sarah-Jane Lewis is an outstanding young singer studying at The Royal Academy of Music. Notable among her many competition achievements are the Kathleen Ferrier young artists award and last year she was the winner of the prestigious Richard Lewis vocal award.

Jennifer Stafford is another up and coming singer, also studying at the Royal Academy of Music, where she won the Isobel Jay operatic award and the Kirklees young musician of the year in 2010. She is also supported by the Dame Eva Turner scholarship and the Josephine Baker Trust.

Ross Scanlon is a young Irish tenor hailed by the Irish Times "He's the most promising young Irish tenor I've heard in years, singing with commanding lightness and clarity". He was part of the successful group "The Young Irish Tenors" who had a number of European tours. He sang with the national dance company in Ireland, then won the Oratorio cup, and the mens solo cup and gold medal in the Arklow Music Festival. He also won the John McCormack cup and silver medal. This outstanding young tenor is sponsored by the Irish Arts Council and the Wicklow County Council.

The renowned bass baritone Mark Wildman, who is a teacher and vocal head at the Academy, will be the singers Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.



Sarah-Jane Lewis



Jennifer Stafford



Ross Scanlon



“Creating Utopia. The Life and Work of Yehudi Menuhin”

with Nicholas Chisholm MBE

Sunday 16 June, 3.00pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Admission £12 (Members £10)

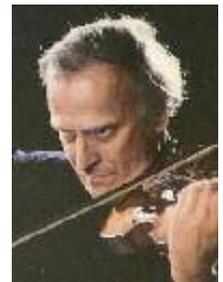
Refreshments included

Nicholas Chisholm recently retired from being headmaster of the famous Yehudi Menuhin School. His relationship with the great violinist was close and long. The stories and anecdotes that he will talk about, as well as the superb recordings of Menuhin's, will embellish a fascinating talk about one of music history's most outstanding performers with an extraordinary career.



Yehudi Menuhin
pictured with pupil

He was thrust into the worldwide spotlight through his magnificent playing when still just a small boy; adulated and lionised by the musical world, Menuhin struggled to find meaning in his adult life. An enthralling story through the eyes of someone who knew him well.



“Nordic Vision” Scandinavian Painting c.1880 - 1914

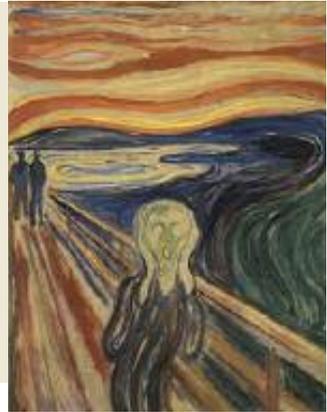
Dr Anne Anderson BA PhD FSA

Sunday 28 July, 3.00pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Refreshments included



The Scream, Edvard Munch

The lecture will discuss how Scandinavian painters initially embraced the 'modern' in terms of technique and subject matter, following in the footsteps of the French Naturalists and Impressionists, but how, in the 1890's, many northern artists turned inward, both physically and mentally, to explore Symbolism, Edvard Munch being a notable example of contemporary angst. The lecture will also look at Norwegian landscape painting, linking the unique landscape of the country to the painted images of fiords and mountains, tundra and snow.

Whilst many of these artists are barely known beyond Scandinavia, their work allows us some insight into notions of wilderness and the Sublime in nature. Included are Peder Severin Kroyer, the artists colony at Skagen, Vilhelm Hammershoi, the Danish Vermeer, and Karl Larsson and Swedish Style.

Anne Anderson FSA author, broadcaster, international speaker, exhibition curator and Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians, was a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University for 14 years and is currently Hon Research Fellow at Exeter University. She has had several exhibitions in various towns around the country, lectured in many, has travelled to speak in many countries. She has also lectured on cruises and her television credits include BBC's "Flog It".



“The Mysterious Language of Painting”

with Valerie Woodgate

Sunday 28 September, 3.00pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Refreshments

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, for the National Trust and other organisations. Valerie also lectures for Tate on P&O Cruises, is a member of the teaching team at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, is a Script - writer for the Living Paintings Trust, bringing art to the blind and partially-sighted, and lectures regularly for NADFAS in this country and abroad.

Friday Art Lectures

All talks 2.30-4.30pm

Friday 24 May

Illustrated lecture
David Hockney
with Bryan Davies

English painter, draughtsman, print maker, stage designer and photographer.

Venue:

Underground Theatre

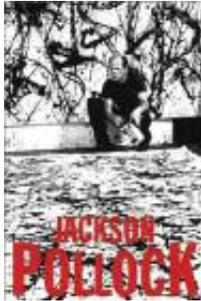


Friday 28 June

Illustrated lecture with
John Perrin
Mark Rothko
and **Jackson Pollock**

Mark Rothko, American abstract painter of Latvian Jewish descent and Jackson Pollock, a major figure and pioneer in abstract expressionism.

Venue: Towner



Friday 26 July

Illustrated lecture
William Hogarth
with **Prasannajit De Silva**

A successful painter and engraver, this review of Hogarth's career, will introduce a selection of his work including some of his series of 'modern moral subjects'.

Venue: Towner



Friday 18 October

Paul Cézanne
and **Georges Seurat**

Illustrated lecture
with **John Perrin**

French post impressionist

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



Friday 22 November

Illustrated lecture
with **Richard Cupidi**
Georgia O'Keefe
and **Edward Hopper**

Georgia O'Keefe, a Major American modernist Painter.

Edward Hopper
a prominent American realist painter and print maker.

Venue: Towner



Ticket cost per talk: Members: £8
non-members: £10. For 4 talks
members: £30 non-members: £38 (a
saving of £2). All tickets are 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, admission free. Web: www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk Ticket Hotline 0845 680 1926

May 9	Open Stage Night
June 8	Friends of Devonshire Park Theatre - talk
May 12	Chamber Concert - Alexsander Szram
June 13	Open Stage Night
May 17	Jazz - Georgia Mancio trio
June 14	Jazz - Rythme Futur
May 18	Richard Durrant - Music
June 16	Film - Animal Crackers
May 19	Film - Morocco
June 29	Young Guitarists Showcase - music
May 22	Talk - Eastbourne Moviemakers Showcase
May 25	Little Something Theatre - children's entertainment
July 5	Jazz -Matt Wates Quintet
May 25	Classical Piano - Jonathan Bending
July 11	Open Stage Night
May 31	Live Music - Worsted Duo
July 12	Musical Comedy - Relatively Speaking
July 22-24	Just Joyce - Musical Comedy
July 27	The Bourne Chorus - Music

Art at the Under Ground Theatre

May 3-26	Andrew Voller, exhibits for sale
May 31-June 29	Janet Redden & Jackie Hurwood, oils and watercolours
July 5-27	Peter Waller, exhibits for sale



Andrew Voller



Peter Waller



Janet Redden

Jackie Hurwood



EXHIBITIONS

East Sussex Open 2013 Now - 28 April 2013 (free)

This exhibition showcases the best of artists and makers from across the East Sussex region - from Rye to Brighton. With works in every medium, from small scale paintings to large scale installations, the East Sussex Open never fails to delight and inspire!

Portraits in the Towner Collection 23 March – 6 October 13 (free)

This collection display encompasses a variety of images and styles, including historical and formal portraiture, narrative scenes and self portraits. Key Towner Collection artists such as Edward Bawden, David Bomberg and Christopher Wood are represented, whilst some intriguing lesser known artists and works are also revealed.

Fiona Rae “Maybe you can live in the moon in the next Century” 27 April

- 23 June (free)

Fiona Rae has established herself as one of the leading painters of her generation with a distinctive body of work. Described by the Guardian as “a Jackson Pollock for the digital age”, her distinctive body of work – full of restless energy, humour and complexity – has set out to challenge the modern conventions of painting.



TOWNER EDUCATION

Many interesting activities are part of the Towner education and learning programme. Students aged 13-19 and adults can take part to enjoy art.

Saturday 1st June
A free visit to Tate Modern.

Wednesday 24th April
"Walk and Talk" with the curator Sanna Moore, this is for adults.

Saturday April 27th 2-3pm
A talk about and launch of James Trollope's new book about the colour wood cuts of Eric Slater.

Thursday 2nd May
"Portraits"
Curator Sarah Cooper will give a talk.

11, 12, 25 & 26 May
Collection Store Tours - A unique opportunity to view behind the scenes, and learn how the art collection is stored and conserved.

Saturday 18 May
10am - 4pm
Footsteps of Ravilious

Author and Ravilious expert Andy Friend will lead you on a guided walk. You will explore Eric Ravilious's love of the South Downs, and the landscape and locations which inspired him. £40 per person including tour bus



These are just a few of the interesting projects that the education programme offers. For more information contact the gallery on 01323 434670
Email: towner@eastbourne.gov.uk
www.townereastbourne.org.uk

Visit to Farley Farmhouse, Muddles Green

Following Antony Penrose's talk on Surrealism several of you expressed an interest in visiting Farley Farm.

We have arranged this at cost (£9) for 23rd May. At the moment we have morning 'slots' for the tours at 11:00 and 11:30, giving plenty of time for lunch afterwards. The tour will last for 55 mins. Suggested pubs are "The Six Bells" at Chiddingly (frequented by Pablo Picasso), and "The Gun" at Gun Hill, both about 10 minutes' drive from Farley Farm.



Lee Miller and Roland Penrose came to live at Farley farm in 1949, and were visited by many friends and visitors including Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, Max Ernst, Paul Éluard, and Joan Miró. Some of the works by these artists and many others are exhibited in the house, and it will also give you a fascinating insight into the world of Lee Miller; model, photographer, fearless photo-journalist, and, ultimately, gourmet cook.

Sheila Yates will meet those wishing to take the tours at the Boship Hotel car park at 10:30 to lead the way. Do please let her know if you would like to meet at the Boship. Tel:01323 811043 mob: 07714 256538.

Tickets from Philip Anson as always.

Farley Farm website: www.farleyfarmhouse.co.uk

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ADVANCE NOTICE

On November 17th this year we have engaged a superb string quartet.

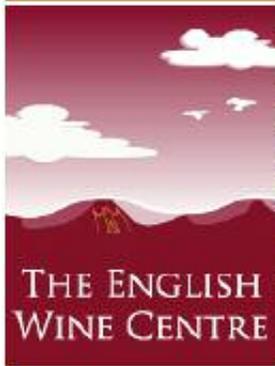
The Aluda Quartet is a group of young exciting players
Cristine Prats-Costa (Spanish)
Milan Berginc (Serbian)
Rhoslyn Lawton (Welsh)
Elena Cappelletti (Italian)

Their programme will be announced in the next Towner Times, but they will be performing the sublime "Seven last words of Christ" with Gareth Thomas the Welsh actor as narrator. This is a work that Haydn considered among his best. The movements reflect the text that unfolds, and the result is a most beautiful work of art.





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★★★★
HOTEL

FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

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Vice President Geoffrey Williams

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Geoffrey Williams, Dr Helen Rufus-Ward,

Sheila Yates

EBC Representative

Councillor Carolyn Heaps

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TICKET BOOKING

Tickets are available by post from 34 Martello Rd, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS
cheques payable to "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.