

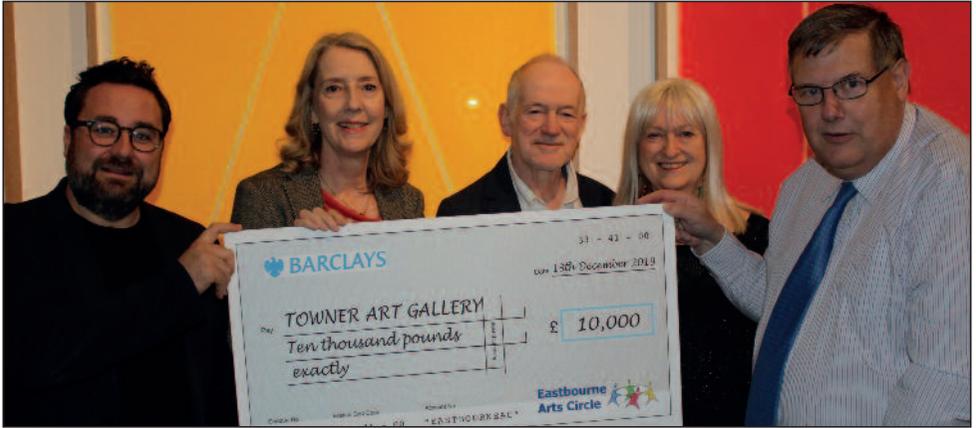
# Eastbourne Arts Circle



Newsletter Spring 2020



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



## Eastbourne Arts Circle present cheque for £10,000 to the Towner Art Gallery

*From left Joe Hill (Director of Towner), Dr Helen Rufus-Ward (EAC Chair), Derek Irving (EAC Secretary), Helena Birch (EAC committee member) and Sir Philip Anson (EAC Treasurer).*

### TICKET BOOKING FOR EVENTS IN THE TOWNER ART GALLERY

Members: £10 non-members: £12 unless otherwise indicated. Tickets are available by post from Sir Philip Anson, 34 Martello Road, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS. Please send **one** payment to cover all your purchases payable to "Eastbourne Arts Circle" please include an SAE, or email address for confirmation. A postal Ticket booking form is available on our web site. Tickets also available from the Tourist Information Centre in Cornfield Road. Tickets at the reduced rate for members are ONLY available in advance from Sir Philip, or at the door, and are NOT available from the Council's Tourist Information Centre. [www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk](http://www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk)

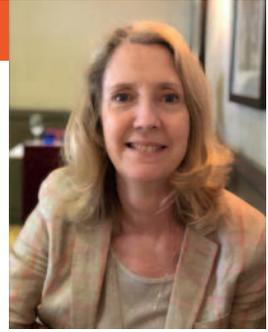
### EASTBOURNE ARTS CIRCLE Registered charity No 306339

**Patron** The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL  
**President** The Mayor of Eastbourne  
**Chairman** Dr Helen Rufus-Ward  
**Vice Chairman** Elizabeth Muir-Lewis  
**Honorary Treasurer** Sir Philip Anson

**Honorary Secretary** Derek Irving  
**Membership Officer** Sir Philip Anson  
**Publicity** Helena Birch and Derek Irving  
**Editor** Claire Patterson-Snell  
**Committee Member**  
Yvonne Burrell

**Cover Picture:** William Gear, Composition Blue Centre, 1949, oil on canvas, Towner Art Gallery

## Chairman's Letter



Dear Members

February was a very sad month for the Eastbourne Arts Circle with the passing of two of our valued members. Jess Baker a lovely lady who has supported our charity for many years and who I often bumped into through our shared interest in pilates. We must also remember the inspirational Peter Pyemont, the retired headmaster of St Bedes' Prep School. I hope you will join me in sending heart-felt condolences to their friends and families. They will not be forgotten!

What an excellent spring programme we have had with some great events, including our second special interest day on the 13th March which focused on 20th century British Art. The success of our lecture programme has allowed us to present the third instalment of £10,000 to the Towner Gallery director Joe Hill, making that £30,000 of the £50,000 that we pledged to the Towner over 5 years. Amazingly, we have gifted over £140,000 to the Towner over the past 3 years.

I would like to extend my thanks to our committee member Roger Burrell who has stepped down due to ill health. He will, however, continue supporting our events when he is able. We were cheered to see him at our Art Habit lecture on 21st February.

**Just a reminder that we are holding our AGM on 17th April** and, as I said in my last chairman's letter, we do hope that we have a good turn out this year. It is a boring but necessary evil! Look forward to seeing a good turnout of members in the Auditorium at 1pm on the 17th.

Once again thank you for continuing to support us.

**Helen**

## To the Manor Born: Unpacking the Towner Art Collection

**Helena Birch and  
Dr Helen Rufus-Ward**

**Friday 15 May 2.30pm**  
**Towner, College Road,  
Eastbourne**

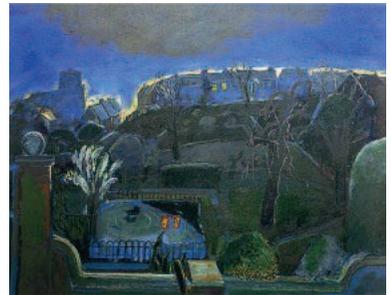
For nearly a century the Towner Art Gallery has enriched the lives of Eastbourne residents and visitors to the town, turning from a small provincial art gallery into a gallery that champions contemporary art in the 21st century. This lecture will begin with the gallery's inception in the 1920s (thanks to the generosity of Alderman John Chisholm Towner) before exploring the development of the Towner Collection. The main focus of the lecture will be some of Towner's key art works (some very familiar, others not so) that express the evolution of the gallery's acquisition policy that has allowed the collection to grow into the respected gallery it is today. Along the way, the audience will encounter all manner of delights – tranquil landscapes, mysterious and shadowy interiors, controversial abstracts and iconic Eastbourne imagery.

**Helena Birch** is an ex Head of Art and is now a practising artist and a tour guide at Tate Modern under the heading of 'Making Sense of Modern Art!' Dr Helen Rufus-Ward is a published art historian, university lecturer and an accredited speaker for the Arts Society.



Giovanni Battista Lombardi (1823-1880),  
*The Veiled Lady*, 1869 Marble,  
Towner Art Gallery

*A reminder of the  
art riches on our  
doorstep.*



Harold Mockford,  
*When the Lights Come on*, 1989,  
oil on canvas, 95 x 122cm,  
Towner Art Gallery

# The History of Fans and their Language with Janie Ramsay Friday 12 June

2.30pm

Towner, College Road,  
Eastbourne



This illustrated talk traces the history of the fan, with emphasis on the beautiful Georgian and Victorian fans of the 18th and 19th centuries. This was truly the age of the fan when they were the height of fashion throughout Europe from royalty to parlour maids.

We look at the different materials from which they were made, how they were used and the pitfalls awaiting the unwary user.

And what about the Language of Fans.

*Did it exist and if so, how did it work?*

*Can YOU 'have a conversation?'*

Here's your chance to have a go!

**Janie Ramsay** started her antique business in Tunbridge Wells in 1975 specialising in pre 1870 furniture, Tunbridge ware, silver, jewellery, 18th century glass, collectibles and fans. Janie could have over 100 fans in her shop at any one time! In 1998 Janie joined Sotheby's in Bond Street and became a Director in 1998 before retiring in 2008 when she continued working as a consultant until 2014.



Detail of the 19th Dynasty wall paintings in the Tomb of Nefertari, Valley of the Kings, Luxor, Egypt

## **Preserving Wall Paintings: From English Churches to Egyptian Tombs with Stephen Rickerby**

**Friday 17 July**

**2.30pm**

**Towner, College Road, Eastbourne**

From our earliest cultures to the present day, we have decorated the places that we inhabit, in both life and death, with wall paintings. Decorated surfaces are found in all parts of the world, from mountain-top monasteries to remote desert caves. They have been used by rulers to immortalise their authority, by the wealthy to display their opulence, and by the less wealthy to demonstrate social aspiration. Pagan cults and religions have developed imagery for decorating the walls of tombs, churches and temples. The human desire to decorate houses with painting has left glimpses of how people like us lived thousands of years ago.

Stephen Rickerby is a conservator who has worked on wall paintings around the world. In this illustrated presentation, he will talk about the challenges of preserving paintings in locations as diverse as English churches, Buddhist caves in China, rock-cut churches in Ethiopia, and Egyptian tombs.

**Stephen Rickerby** received his MA in art history from Aberdeen University before undertaking the Courtauld Institute of Art/Getty Conservation Institute Postgraduate Diploma in the Conservation of Wall Painting (1985-88). He has since worked extensively on wall painting projects in the UK and internationally. He now co runs his own London-based wall conservation practice called Rickerby & Shekede.

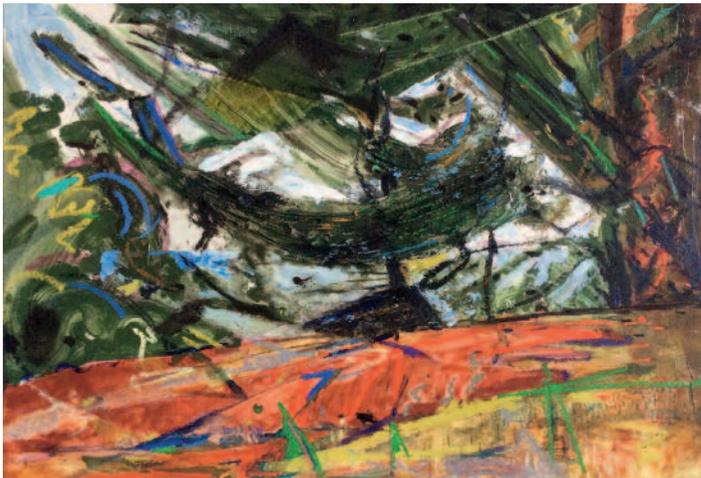


Detail of a 17th century  
Buddhist wall painting in Bhutan

### The Art Habit:

An illustrated journey of discovery into human creativity and perception, with Neil and Elspeth Morrison  
Friday 21 February 2020.

Looking and the how and why of art', was the sub-title Neil Morrison used to describe his approach and personal experiences of a lifetime's dedication to both painting and music. Accompanied by Elspeth, the pair described their journey through the creative processes of painting, instrument making, musical composition and performance. Having taught at the Glasgow School of Art for 35 years, Neil declared that there is no art, only artists! He maintained that art came from our relation to the natural world where simplification, ordering and repetition were key. For art to work, it had to be, on the one hand, predictive, soothing and boring, but on the other, random, stimulating and exciting. Methods of composition were illustrated that followed these criteria, and Neil's works were used throughout to illustrate the concepts. With a recording of Elspeth providing vocal accompaniment, the pair performed a range of Classical, Baroque and Rococo renditions on the lute that illustrated similar concepts in music.



Neil Morrison, *The Elements: Wind, Fire, Wood and Water*,  
2019, 61 x 90.8cm, oil paint and ochres on boards with carved plaster.

# SUSSEX SONG MAKERS

Music Director Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

This superb vocal group has acquired a music lovers following since they were formed. They have appeared with the London Choral Festival for three years. The Bexhill Festival of Music for two years.

They have performed at Berwick Church, St Mary's Church in Willingdon, St Mary's Church, Old Town and the Towner Art Gallery. Led by Elizabeth Muir-Lewis the twelve female singers entertain with ensembles, solos, duets and trios from early music to the present day.

*Come and support us to enjoy lovely and entertaining music.*

*Also available for private functions.*

## ***Programme of Events for 2020***

St Michael & All Angels. Brighton

**Sunday 10th May at 6.30pm**

Tickets bookable via the  
Brighton Fringe Festival brochure.

St Mary's Church. Willingdon

**Saturday 20th June at 7.30pm**

Tickets via the Church or on the door.

St Nicholas Church, Brighton

**Wednesday 18th November 12.30-1.15pm**

Tickets via the Church or on the door.

St Nicolas Church, Pevensey

**Sunday 6th December at 3pm**

Tickets via the Church or on the door.

For further details contact Elizabeth:

01323 507337



## SUSSEX OPERA AND BALLET SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 271113

Members share an interest in opera and ballet by meeting for lunchtime talks, master classes and recitals in Eastbourne, the majority being lunchtime talks which are held on Sundays at the Hydro Hotel. There is also the option of attending the talk only. Master classes for both ballet and opera, which are arranged by SOBS, are held at the Birley Centre, including some recitals, as well as dance workshops at the University of Brighton. Visits to Glyndebourne on Tour performances are also arranged for members and guests as well as visits to the Royal Ballet School in Covent Garden. Bursaries are also given to promising ballet students.

Talks have included: Keith Warner, Dr Jane Glover, Dame Felicity Lott, David Cullen, Paul Wynne Griffiths, Robin Gregory, Lynn Wallis, Wayne Sleep, Philip Gammon, Julie Kavanagh, Ross McGibbon, and Mary Goodhew.

Membership is £12 for a single member and £20 for double membership.

If you would like to join the Society, please contact Eileen Murphy, Hon Treasurer, Flat 4, Carlisle Grange, 22a Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4HF (01323 749339) or visit the website [www.sussexoperaandballetsociety.org.uk](http://www.sussexoperaandballetsociety.org.uk)

### **Forthcoming events:**

Saturday 25th April, visit to the Royal Ballet School Covent Garden.

Friday 29th May, film of the Royal Ballet in Romeo and Juliet at the Towner Art Gallery Cinema.

Sunday 4 October, Dr Harry Brunjes, Chairman of English National Opera at the Hydro Hotel.

Saturday 31 October, a talk on Italian Opera at All Saints Centre.

November, a backstage tour of Glyndebourne.

January 31st 2021, David Pickard, Director of Proms at the Hydro Hotel.



# LANSDOWNE HOTEL

*Family Owned Since 1912*



The Hotel occupies a premier position on Eastbourne's uncommercialised seafront overlooking the Western Lawns and Wish Tower and is located near to Eastbourne's theatres and the Townner Gallery. The town centre is only a 10 – 15 minute walk.

The Lansdowne Hotel has been awarded three stars by the AA for many years and maintains a high standard of comfort together with personal service to its guests.

Lansdowne Hotel is a member of the Best Western Hotels consortium. This is a group of privately owned Hotels, providing a countrywide network of over 280 carefully selected establishments. Each Hotel retains its complete independence but works in close co-operation with other members.



There are 102 individually furnished en-suite bedrooms with many overlooking the sea.

The Hotel has many years' experience of arranging Weddings, Conferences, Meetings, Special Occasion Events and Afternoon Teas.



**01323 725 174**

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

[events@lansdowne-hotel.co.uk](mailto:events@lansdowne-hotel.co.uk)

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

King Edward's Parade, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4EE





# Informed

## FINANCIAL ADVICE

**We provide independent financial advice,  
using the latest technology, including our secure  
Personal Finance Portal for our clients.**

**Retirement Planning  
Investment Planning  
Inheritance Tax Planning  
Equity Release Specialists\*  
Care Fees Planning Specialists  
Pre-Paid Funeral Plans**

We offer a free no obligation initial meeting and  
will donate 10% of any initial fees to the  
Eastbourne Arts Circle (please quote EAC 10).



**Bellcrest House, 114 Battle Road,  
St Leonards on Sea, TN37 7AG**

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**W: [www.informedfa.co.uk](http://www.informedfa.co.uk)**

\*Equity Release refers to Home Reversion plans and Lifetime Mortgages.  
To understand the features and risks, ask for a personalised illustration.

The value of investments (including property) and the income  
derived from them may go down as well as up.

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