

Eastbourne Arts Circle



Newsletter Winter/Spring 2022



www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

Registered charity No 306339

EAC Lectures will be moved to the Locker Room

As you probably already know the Towner is undertaking a building programme in its entrance and reception area which requires the closure of the auditorium from now until April 2022.

Consequently, our events will be held temporarily in a conference room in the **Locker Room** which is the building situated behind the Towner in the Devonshire Park Quarter.



The Locker Room

Ticket Booking for our Lectures

Tickets are £12 (£10 for members) for lectures held at the Towner or replacement venue due to the building works, and £5 per lecture for those on Zoom. 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. For a postal ticket booking form visit: www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

Pandemic Protection: Members are aware that there is still a risk from the Covid-19 pandemic, and despite the national relaxation of the rules, the Eastbourne Arts Circle is taking the following measures to protect you.

- We will be limiting the total number of people admitted to our lectures to approx. 50. If you will not be attending a booked lecture, please let Sir Philip know.
- Face masks are no longer obligatory; however, we would prefer if our audiences used them while in the building.

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: The Cast Court (showing Trajan’s column), V&A. See page 5 for lecture details.

Chairman's Letter



Dear Members

It has been wonderful to see so many of you back watching 'live' lectures at the Towner. It was a pleasure to welcome you all back.

This December we will be gifting the final £10,000 instalment of the £50,000 that we promised Towner over five years. Even though our yearly revenue, earned from our programme of events, has been significantly reduced, our charity has survived with the support of our members and the transferring of our lectures onto Zoom for the period of the Covid restrictions. Thanks to Sir Philip the Zoom events were a success, proving an ideal format for some of our members, so much so that we plan to continue offering them occasionally.

We are delighted to be arranging a musical coffee morning (see below), and another musical treat for you in April at the Hydro Hotel for a recital from competition winner Patrick Keefe, a talented baritone – definitely a rising star (see page 9). There is so much to look forward to next year.

Please continue to support our efforts by renewing your membership, see forms enclosed. There was never a time when we needed your support more.

Helen.

**Eastbourne Arts Circle Members are invited to a Coffee Morning with a musical surprise
Saturday 22 January 2022 at 11am**

Join us at Manor Barn, Ratton, Eastbourne, BN20 9BN at the home of Elizabeth our Vice-Chairman in her 12th century barn.

Coffee, Tea, and biscuits will be served together with a musical interlude and a raffle. The event is free – just a jar for donations. It provides a chance to celebrate the New Year and chat with the committee and fellow Eastbourne Arts Circle members.

Feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in joining. See you there!



Lecture Review by Derek Irving

To the Manor Born: Unpacking Towner Art Collection

*with Dr Helen Rufus-Ward and
Helena Birch 10th September 2021*

This fascinating introduction to the history of the Towner and its art collection was given in two parts.

First, **Helen Rufus-Ward** described how the gallery, developed around a legacy of £6,000 and 22 paintings from local Alderman John Chisholm Towner in 1920 and was used to establish a home for the collection at Gildredge Manor House where it opened on 2nd June 1923. Combined with the local history museum, it remained there, serving the people of Eastbourne until closing in 2005 and eventually reopening in its present purpose-built gallery in 2009. Helen described some of the original paintings, representing the art appreciation of the day and which went on to form the core of the present collection.

The second part of the talk by **Helena Birch** focused on some key local artists whose work has since contributed to the collection. These included Joseph Swanwick, Margaret Benecke, William Gear, Harold Mockford and Eric Ravilious. These works, mainly reflected a more contemporary style and, as Helena explained, were often obtained amongst considerable controversy. As well as being an artist, William Gear was an early curator who encountered much local hostility to both his work and acquisitions from other artists, but which now form the basis of this highly regarded contemporary collection. Beachy Head is of course a key local feature and Helena finished by illustrating several works on this theme.

Together these two well researched talks help to explain the current success of the Towner as a key, award winning, art gallery in Britain.



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



Friday Art Lecture - Locker Room

Casts of Thousands: British nineteenth-century collecting of plaster casts with Dr Helen Rufus-Ward Friday 14 January at 2.30pm Locker Room, College Road, Eastbourne

From the 18th century there was a widespread interest in collecting plaster casts of classical sculpture and important architectural monuments. Surviving collections (Cast Court V&A) reveals the scope of this collecting: medieval effigies, sarcophagi, carved gemstones, seals, bronzes, brasses, coins, medals, ivories and even textiles! Helen has published two articles on this theme with another due out shortly. It's much more exciting than it sounds!

Dr Helen Rufus-Ward is a published art historian and university lecturer.



The Cast Court (showing Trajan's column), V&A



The Cast Court (with Michelangelo's David), V&A

Lecture tickets £12 (EAC Members £10)

See page 2 for full ticket details.

An Orchestra in Sussex: The Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra with Nicolas Chisholm MBE Friday 28 January 2022 2.30pm On Zoom

The Brighton Philharmonic has been bringing amazing concerts to music lovers all along the South coast and beyond for almost 100 years. Some of the world's greatest musicians have been associated with it during that time and it is now one of the last regional professional orchestras. Nicolas Chisholm relates how a local music teacher founded an orchestra for her son to conduct and such was its success that she was soon able to invite Sir Thomas Beecham to be President of it.

Nicolas Chisholm retired as Chairman of the Orchestra in 2019 just before the Pandemic, having steered it through six challenging years. He is therefore uniquely placed to talk about its development, its highs and lows.

Nicolas Chisholm was Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School for 22 years. In 2011 Nicolas was awarded the MBE for services to music education.

Zoom Lecture tickets £5



Friday Art Lecture - Locker Room

Talent, Wit, Buffoonery: George IV's life, loves and tastes

with

Dr Alexandra Loske

Friday 11 February

2.30pm

Locker Room, College Road



George Cruikshank: A Trump, 1825,
©Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust

2020 marked the 200th anniversary of George IV becoming King (although he wasn't crowned until 1821). He is arguably the greatest collector in British royal history, and we owe him much for the splendour and sparkle in the Royal Collection, as well as several magnificent and sometimes baffling buildings and interiors. Perhaps the greatest expression of his excitable and creative mind is his oriental fantasy palace, the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Alexandra Loske will introduce this complex and much criticised of British monarchs, from his privileged upbringing to his difficult relationship with his father, to the influence of several strong-minded women on his tastes. The talk will finish with a look at what has recently been happening at the Pavilion, such as the complete restoration of one of the most magnificent state rooms, a very special royal visit, and the temporary return from the Royal Collection of many of the original decorative objects that were in the building in the 1820s but were removed by Queen Victoria in the 1840s.

Dr Alexandra Loske is a German-born art historian and curator at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton specialising in late 18th century and early 19th century European art and architecture. Alexandra has lectured and published widely.

Lecture tickets £12 (EAC Members £10)

Henry Purcell: his baroque music and the art of the time

with

Nicolas Chisholm MBE
and Elizabeth Muir Lewis

Friday 11 March 2.00pm

Locker Room, College Road



Henry Purcell, unknown artist, after 1695, oil on canvas, ©National Portrait Gallery

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) is without doubt one of England's earliest and greatest musical giants. Nicolas Chisholm and Elizabeth Muir Lewis will explore his life, times and music compositions revealing why his work is so glorious yet under appreciated. To set Purcell into the context of the 17th century Helen Rufus-Ward will illustrate the richness of the art of the baroque period. Clearly this is a period where music and art came together in such splendid harmony.



Print of Great Fire of London, 1666

Nicolas Chisholm was Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School for 22 years. In 2011 Nicolas was awarded the MBE for services to music education. He is Chairman of the Baroque Collective.

Elizabeth Muir Lewis ARCM, Hon ARAM, Hon LRAM has combined a career as a singer and a conductor as well as running an important trust that helps young singers. Elizabeth founded the Eastbourne Choral Society.

Lecture tickets £12 (EAC Members £10)

Music Event at the Hydro



Music Event with Baritone Patrick Keefe

Thursday 21 April
at 5.00pm
Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

Come and join us at the Hydro to experience an exciting new star of the opera world before he debuts at Glyndebourne in 2023.

Baritone Patrick Keefe was the winner of the prestigious *Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks International Song Contest* at the Royal Academy of Music on 15th June 2021 (Patrick's prize of £14,000 makes it one of the major singing competitions in the country.)

His entertaining programme will include songs and opera - we are fortunate to be able to hear this sensational singer at the beginning of his career! Includes the glories of English song and popular operatic arias.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)



SUSSEX OPERA AND BALLET SOCIETY

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 and opera 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.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 9 January

David Pickard, Director of the BBC Proms
at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

Sunday 3 April

Jayne Cooper, Teacher of the Junior Associates
at the Royal Ballet School
at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

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.com



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 Towner 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.

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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).



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St Leonards on Sea, TN37 7AG**

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*Equity Release refers to Home Reversion plans and Lifetime Mortgages.
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