

Eastbourne Arts Circle



Newsletter Spring 2021



www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

Registered charity No 306339

EAC Committee - Latest News

Grace Robertson OBE (1930 – 2021)

Sadly, we must report that our vice chairman Elizabeth Muir Lewis lost her sister 91-year-old British photographer Grace Robertson on the 8th January. A tall and elegant lady with an amused twinkle in her eyes, she was often seen attending our lectures having been a member for some years. Grace also delivered a lecture to members on her work a few years ago. Grace had worked as a photojournalist publishing in *Picture Post* and *Life*. She will be sorely missed.



We are delighted to report that the geometric artwork **Dance Diagonal** by Lothar Götz will remain decorating the exterior of the Towner Art Gallery until Spring 2024!

Photo Michael Graham

The Committee would like to send our heartfelt condolences to Marion Boyle at the loss of her husband John Boyle. John who passed away on 10th August aged 85 was a retired local authority lawyer and former Chair of Eastbourne Citizens Advice Bureau. He will be greatly missed.

TICKET BOOKING FOR OUR ZOOM LECTURES

Ticket cost: All tickets are currently £5 per lecture which are currently held 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. A postal ticket booking form is available on our web site. 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: Silhouette and the Moon: Photograph: Flora Loske-Page

Chairman's Letter



Dear Members

Eastbourne Arts Circle committee have worked hard over the last few months to find a way to keep our programme of events going, after a year of cancellations, by offering lectures on Zoom. As you will see in this newsletter, we have arranged not one but six virtual lectures for you from May to July. Generously, Sir Philip has taken charge of the new technology by opening a ProZoom account as well as familiarising himself with the technology, so that he can successfully serve as the host of our Zoom lectures. This new role is on top of dealing with ticket bookings, running the membership and keeping our accounts in good order as treasurer. We had our first Zoom lecture on 19th February which went very well indeed.

A big thank you to all those who joined us on Zoom and gave us feedback on the lecture (see Derek's review on the opposite page). It should be noted that our long-term plan is to return to holding events in the Towner's auditorium whenever safe to do so. I realise that many of you may not be able to join us on Zoom and we are sorry for that. Despite this, we sincerely hope that you will keep faith with us and look to the future when things return to 'live' events we can all enjoy.

I am proud to report that a cheque for £10,000 was presented by bank transfer to the Towner Gallery. Although we were social distancing, we include a 'festive' photo to celebrate the event.

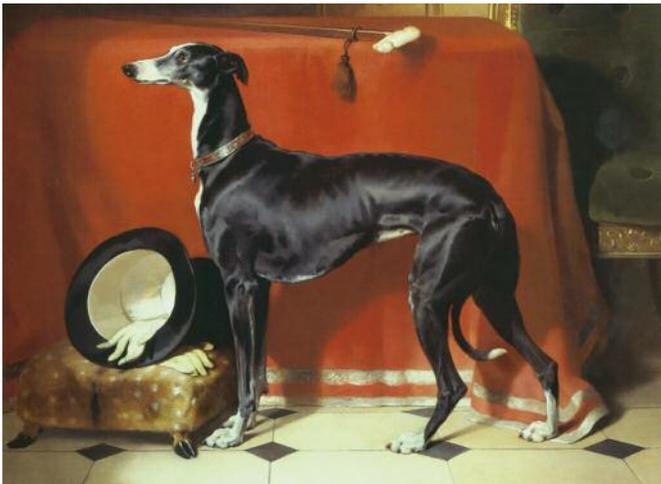
Our AGM will take place on the 16th April at 1pm on Zoom followed by our Zoom lecture *Bringing India to Britain* which starts at 2.30pm. Please join us if you can.

Very best wishes to you all
Helen.



Edwin Landseer

A fascinating review and commentary of Edwin Landseer's life and works was provided by Dr Prasannajit De Silva in an entertaining Zoom session on 19/02/21. Landseer, (1802-1873), was a Victorian artist with a particular interest in depicting animals, especially dogs, in both realistic and idealised situations. Popular in his lifetime, his work could now be considered limited in appeal, focusing as it does on the somewhat sanitised view and patronising attitudes of the Victorians to social issues. Knighted in 1850 and a great favourite of Queen Victoria, who commissioned several of his works, Landseer suffered increasingly from mental health until dying insane in 1873. One of his most popular works during his lifetime was 'The Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner' painted in 1837 and now in the V&A, a typically sentimental work, much admired by John Ruskin. Today his most famous works are probably the 'Monarch of the Glen', now in the Scottish National Gallery, and often used as a logo by Scottish whiskey producers, and the four lions in Trafalgar Square, surprisingly, his one and only sculpture commission. The talk was followed by a lively question and answer session by EAC members who showed their appreciation to Dr De Silva.



Sir Edwin Landseer, *Eos*, 1841, Oil on canvas,
111.8cm x142.9cm ©Royal Collection

Art Lectures on Zoom

A Virtual Tour with a London Blue Guide - Diane Burstein From Shakespeare to Socially Distanced Performances - Theatrical London Friday 30 April 2.30pm Zoom Meeting



Diane Burstein

London Blue Badge Guide Diane Burstein takes you on a virtual tour of theatreland treating you to historical vignettes and anecdotes about some of our famous theatres. Discover how theatre developed from the Elizabethan playhouses of Bankside and Shoreditch, through the rise of restoration drama in Convent Garden to the West End's Victorian and Edwardian theatres. Bringing things up to date we'll discover the birth of the Fringe, Off West End and socially distanced performances! The illustrated talk will include stories about theatrical personalities, superstitions and traditions.



Diane Burstein with Sylvia Pankhurst Mural, (Honouring a Suffragette)

All lecture tickets £5
Order form enclosed or
from the EAC website:
**[www.eastbournearts
circle.org.uk](http://www.eastbournearts
circle.org.uk)** or available
from Sir Philip Anson on
01323 411906.

Flanders and Swann Revisited

with James Mitchell

Friday 14 May

2.30pm - Zoom Meeting



Flanders and Swann

The wonderful world of **Flanders and Swann** is recaptured by James Mitchell providing hilarious entertainment for a Friday afternoon!

Flanders and Swann were an unlikely musical double act that became incredibly successful with middle-class British audiences during the 1950s and 1960s. Unlikely because one of the performers was in a wheelchair and the other on a grand piano! They also had no scenery apart from a selection of hats! Their witty songs reflected the mood of the time and included some gentle political satire. This illustrated Zoom presentation includes video and other recordings of the duo.

James Mitchell is a lecturer and speaker on musical theatre after a career during which he appeared in many musicals and operettas.

How to Write a Novel and get it Published

with Elizabeth Muir Lewis

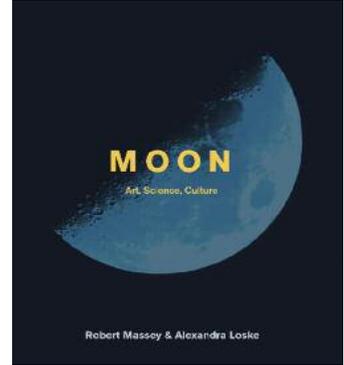
Friday 28 May

2.30pm - Zoom Meeting



Elizabeth has, after a successful career in music, found another wonderful way of carrying on her need to express herself! After years of creative scribbling in odd moments, writing poems and short stories, Elizabeth is now a published author with one of London's best publishers. To her delight one of her novels is already published with two others due later this year. A recent review described her work as 'an accessible, dynamic and enthralling writing style, the strength of each story a unique piece to create a compelling collection. Well crafted, and engaging, the narratives well written'. Elizabeth's lecture takes her audience through the different stages of her journey to become an author, emphasising that whatever your age it is never too late to follow your dream. Inspiring stuff!

The Moon in Art and Science with Dr Alexandra Loske Friday 11 June 2.30pm Zoom Meeting



Book cover, Moon: Art, Science, Culture by Robert Massey & Alexandra Loske, published 2018.

The Moon in Art and Science. Humans have been fascinated with our nearest heavenly body, the Earth's Moon, since prehistoric times. It has been half a century since we set foot on the Moon during the Apollo space missions, and many exhibitions, films and publications have explored our continued with this other 'world' that we reached 50 years ago.

Join Art Historian Dr Alexandra Loske for an illustrated talk about how our obsession with the Moon has manifested itself in both the sciences and the visual arts, from earliest ritualistic drawings and objects, Romantic symbolism and silent movies, to scientific observation, photography, space race propaganda, and recent creative responses to all things lunar.

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.



The Crescent Moon over Brighton, Anonymous artist, c.1870. Courtesy of Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

The Treasures of St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai

with Dr Helen Rufus-Ward

Friday 25 June

2.30pm

Zoom Meeting

St Catherine's Monastery, at the foot of Mount Sinai, Egypt was founded in the sixth century by Byzantine emperor Justinian I - the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments, the location of the legend of the Burning Bush and the resting place of the martyred body of St Catherine. The Greek Orthodox monastery is packed full of precious religious art – a splendid basilica with exquisite little chapels, intricately carved wooden doors and breathtaking mosaics, an amazing collection of the rarest early icons to survive, and a library of rare and beautiful religious manuscripts.

Dr Helen Rufus-Ward is a published art historian and university lecturer whose specialism is early Christian and Byzantine art.



The Chapel of the Burning Bush, St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt



The painted back of an Archiepiscopal throne, 18th century, St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt

The History of Fans and Their Language with Janie Ramsay

Friday 16 July

2.30pm

Zoom Meeting



This illustrated Zoom talk traces the history of the fan, with an 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 was a Director of Sotheby's in Bond Street until 2008 and continued working as a consultant until 2014.



Selection of 18th century antique fans



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.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.

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



01323 725 174

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events@lansdowne-hotel.co.uk

www.bw-lansdownehotel.co.uk

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





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**Retirement Planning
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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).



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

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*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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