



Radlett Art Society
www.Radlett-Art-Society.co.uk

Dear Member,

Last month we enjoyed our first lecture at the Radlett Reform Synagogue. Many thanks to the staff there who went to great trouble to prepare the hall and welcome us.

With winter approaching, it has been agreed to revert to on-line lectures and demonstrations but we will meet again in the hall next spring.

Meanwhile we can look forward to our **Annual Luncheon** which will be held on **December 8th** at **Porters Park Golf Club**. It will be the Society's first social occasion in Radlett for nearly two years so we hope as many members as possible can come and enjoy the traditional entertainment.



This is also a reminder to our practicing artists that the **Weekly Workshop** at the **Village Institute** will continue throughout the winter. It is an opportunity to enjoy two hours of uninterrupted work and beginners are always welcome. Also, the **Artists' Challenge** has restarted after a short summer break - providing an opportunity to exhibit your work on the website.

Finally your Committee wishes all members very **Happy Seasonal Greetings** and looks forward to enjoy a healthy and progressive 2022

Chairman Adam Lewis.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2022

The renewal of our annual subscription is due on 1st January and remains at £35.00. With eight first class lectures and three demonstrations during the year, our annual fee represents unparalleled value and we look forward to enjoying them with you.

Anna Cross

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FUTURE LECTURES

Thursday 27th January 7.30 for 8.0 pm – via Zoom Meeting

Lecturer: Val Woodgate

THE MYSTICAL AND SPIRITUAL IN BRITISH

ART

This lecture looks at paintings from the 14th to 20th centuries and discusses the way artists have used signs and symbols to give deeper layers of meaning to their work with the eccentric and visionary world of some of the most creative and imaginative British painters, including William Blake, Samuel Palmer, Stanley Spencer, Paul Nash and Graham Sutherland



Thursday 24th February – 7.30 for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting

Lecturer: Simone Bloom

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM THE SHOCK OF THE NEW –



Abstract Expressionism is a visual language which can be both destructive and creative, personal and universal and in the United States it gave expression to the optimism and Uncertainty of the post-war world. In Pollock's words, "Today painters ... can work from within. The modern artist is working

with space and time and expressing his feelings rather than illustrating... Painting is self-discovery." This lecture will look at the influence of Kandinsky, Picasso and Miro before focusing on the work of Pollock, De Kooning, Frankenthaler, Rothko and Newman.

Workshop Report

The Radlett Art Society resumed meeting in the Radlett Institute in September after a long break, and continues to flourish and attract a very happy group of artists who draw, paint and chat together for 2 hrs during a Thursday afternoon.

We would be very pleased to welcome new faces to the workshop. If you would like to come along - we meet every Thursday afternoon from 1.30 until 3.30., and costs just £4. You need to bring along your own paper, pencils and paints etc. You have to be a member of the Society.

Some people bring along their own flask of tea and biscuits, since because of the covid epidemic it was decided not to offer refreshments as before

Gill Cooper

FUTURE LECTURES

Thursday 17th March 7.30 – DEMONSTRATION - *JEM BOWDEN* via Zoom
JEM BOWDEN Is a watercolour artist whose inspiration lies in being outdoors and painting landscapes in an impressionist way . Jem lives in Fife Scotland.

Thursday 28th April 7.30 for 8.0 pm

at the RADLETT REFORM SYNAGOGUE, 118 Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7AA.
with Zoom transmission for those unable to come in person.

ERIC RAVILIOUS AND THE LURE OF THE EVERYDAY

Lecturer: Jo Walton

Ravilious 'stunning yet deceptively simple water colours, along with images of everyday life by other artists working on the Home Front, provide a fascinating picture of Britain in the 1930s and 40s Eric Ravilious has been described as the greatest English water colourist of the twentieth century and his images of the landscape and of everyday objects attract many devotees. He was an artist who combined a love of the landscape with a fascination for different types of transport – from trains, old cars and gypsy caravans to the aircraft and destroyers he depicted as an Official War Artist in his precise, dry watercolours. Despite his short life, he was a prolific painter, printmaker and designer and his work reflects a deep delight in the world and time in which he lived



Radlett Art Society Facebook Page

Radlett Art Society now has its own Facebook page.

If you search in Facebook you will find it. Ask to be admitted to the site. You will then receive notification that you are a member and can use the page according to normal, conventional rules of being pleasant and polite to all other users.

Please join our Facebook community.

There will be messages about events. We also very much hope that artists will post photographs of their current work. Also that members post anything else of interest to society members, such as other lectures and exhibitions that they have been to or can recommend

PAST LECTURE

Thursday 14th October FRANK WOODGATE lectured on:

THE ART AND SCANDALOUS LIVES OF THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP

Frank introduced his talk by focusing on three pivotal members; **Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Roger Fry**. The nucleus of the group, mostly wealthy, had coalesced at Cambridge under the influence of Fry, originally a traditional Art Historian and journalist. He came to develop an appreciation of Modern Art and played a leading part in challenging the very conservative British attitude to Art with its reliance on safe narrative subjects.

The group (not dubbed 'Bloomsbury' until much later) was wittily said to have **'Lived in squares, mixed in circles, and loved in triangles'**. The speaker illustrated their complex family and personal relationships with a **'Relationship Tree'**, reminiscent of the (broadly contemporaneous) 'Forsyte Saga' but by no means so exclusively heterosexual or genteel.

The artworks of the group were displayed with some persuasive juxtapositioning highlighting their main influences (Cezanne and Gauguin in particular but also including Japanese and African influences) and their common themes and styles. These included the use of strong colour and the common subject of people and interiors often adopting a flat plane. An important feature was the absence of narrative; the painting need not have a story, still less a moral, but simply stood for itself.

'I have been to at least twenty talks on the Bloomsbury Group, and this was by far the best' commented one member of the Society. **Edward Cross**

Artist's Challenge

Dear Artists & Painters,

Here are your next challenges to think about. Please use them as creatively as you would like to. They are not intended to be taken literally. I hope they help to inspire you to take up your artistic materials - paints, pencils, ink, charcoal, iPad or android tablets, cameras, modelling materials, print, scissors and glue and any other ways of expressing yourself artistically. Please do send your submissions to me to put up on our Radlett Art Society website. If you are not artistically inclined, do look at the Artist's Challenge section of the website anyway. There is the opportunity to comment on the pictures if you would like to. There is something for everyone amongst the collection of paintings now available to look at.

Submit by 5.pm November 14th - **Magical Moments**

Submit by 5.pm December 12th - **All's Well that Ends Well, or What You Will**

Submit by 5.00pm January 16th - **Recycled / Bits and Pieces**

Submit by 5.00pm February 13th - **One Fine Day**

Submit by 5.00pm March 13th - **Driving Force**

As ever, please send your submissions to me anna.cross@me.com

Looking forward to opening my emails and seeing your wonderful work.

PAST LECTURE

Thursday 4th November JULIA MUSGRAVE lectured on

THE IRRITATING AND INFLUENTIAL MR. WHISTLER

The Society's 2021 Art History Talks certainly ended very strongly with this engaging presentation by Julia Musgrave ..

Born in 1834 in the USA, the son of an internationally-renowned railway engineer **Whistler** spent much of his childhood in St.Petersburg. Despite wishing to become an artist he was then educated at West Point Military Academy, not ideal for a personality averse to discipline. He learned engraving in his first job as a draftsman in the US Coastal Geodesic Survey but on being 'let go' took himself to Paris and began a life devoted to art. There, he studied under Charles Gleyre and came under the influence of Courbet and Realism. Finding his work not accepted by the Paris salon he decamped to England, where he would make his career.

Success soon arrived, and he was able to move his home from Wapping to Chelsea, as his style developed beyond realism with the adoption, then increasingly fashionable, of Japanese styles and subjects. His most famous painting - the **Arrangement in Grey and Black** - came about when a model let him down and his mother agreed to take her place. His style was characterised by the use of multiple layers of very thin paint, and close attention to tonal harmony.

Seemingly having what might now be called an 'oppositional' or 'difficult' personality he readily fell out with Patrons and Critics alike. Having been lampooned as 'A coxcomb flinging a pot of paint in the face of the public' with his **'Nocturne in Blue and Gold: the Falling Rocket'**, he testily sued leading critic John Ruskin but won a hollow victory, with a technical verdict but damages of only a farthing; a result that left him bankrupted by his own costs.

Likewise he alienated his patron Frederick Leyland over the redecoration of his Peacock Room where he invited Whistler to make minor changes. The room emerged transformed into a wonderfully beautiful masterpiece of the High Anglo-Japanese style, involving the wanton destruction of valuable 16th.-Century Cordoba leather wallpaper (for which Leyland had paid £1,000) which he obliterated with his own undeniably gorgeous painted designs.

This lively talk was creatively illustrated with sophisticated graphics. Julia Musgrave brought to life a vivid account of Whistler and his works.

Edward Cross

FUTURE VISITS

We plan to restart our day trips in 2022 on Sunday March 27th with a visit to Compton Verney. We had planned to go there in 2020 but cancelled due to Covid.



The Compton Verney Estate was acquired by Richard Verney in 1435 and the house was rebuilt in the 1730's. Further remodelling took place under Robert Adams in the 1760's and of the grounds by Capability Brown in the 1780's. The house was sold in the 1920's and went through a series of owners and was also used as a film set for several films including Peter Hall's celebrated Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, starring a young Judi Dench, Helen Mirren and Ian Richardson. It was opened to the public in 2004 and has themed collections of Chinese Art, paintings from 'Golden Age' of Neapolitan art from 1600 to 1800, Northern European Art from 1450 to 1650, British Folk art and British Portraits.

Further details, costs and a booking form will be provided in the New Year. We also expect to have further day trips and a holiday in 2022, again details will be provided in the New Year.

Gary Harding

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