

Dear Members,

The Woodlands Centre

Tuesday 15 November 2022: Please note that the doors will open again at **09.30 hrs.** The meeting will start promptly at **10.00 hrs.**

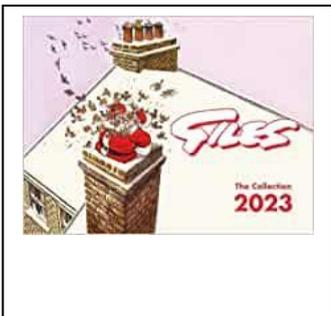


The Church Recording Group has now produced the final record for St Mary Magdalene at Lyminster. The recording began when Church Recording was still part of our Society's Volunteering work. Gillian Baxter will start the meeting with a short presentation of the work involved, enlightened with some photos. The Lecture will start at the usual time of 10.20 hrs.

Refreshments: Thanks to the members who helped out in the kitchen last month. If you have time, just pop into the kitchen to see if you can help. We also need a volunteer to sell raffle tickets.

AGM

A reminder: Our fee for Membership 2023 is £43. The deadline for renewal was **31 October 2022 but it is never too late to renew.** Once we have received your payment we will send you the new Programme for 2023*. New Members will also receive a new member's pack.



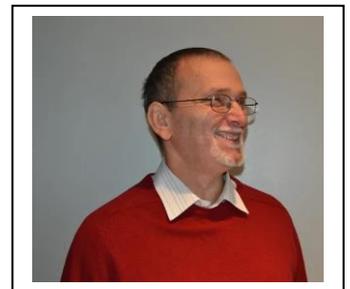
*To save on footwork and stamps you can collect your programme at the meeting next week. One of our members will guide you to the correct table.

Raffle: £1 per ticket.

Lecture: Our lecture this month is by Barry Venning: *Christmas with Giles, Grandma and the Family.* This talk looks at Giles's life and work with particular emphasis on his seasonal cartoons. So popular were the Giles

Annuals as Christmas presents that they helped to make him Britain's best loved, most successful and wealthiest cartoonist. He was also, as his editor John Gordon put it "a spreader of happiness' and 'a genius...with the common touch'.

Barry Venning himself himself is a historian of British Art His interests and his teaching extend from medieval architecture to contemporary British art. He has a special interest in J M W Turner and John Constable.



Visits:

30 members enjoyed a guided tour of Goodwood House last month. This was followed with a magnificent afternoon tea. Feedback and photos can be found on the website.

Chichester Cathedral - Wednesday 8 February 2023 £11

A self-drive visit to the Cathedral, Library and Song School has been arranged. Duration approximately 1.5 hrs. The tour will include 40 spiral steps, quite a work-out! Ticket sales are starting on Tuesday is a booking form on the website.

AGM Resolution

A Member's Resolution was put to the vote: *Committee to assess feasibility of, and if viable, implement, all meetings being accessible by Zoom.* The Resolution was not carried forward, lack of votes, but, as we had already started to research the possibility of going hybrid, I present our considerations to you:

- Wi-Fi: The venue needs sufficient signal strength to enable hybrid lectures (untested)
- Cost: to produce a hybrid lecture just showing the Lecturer's slides but with only the lecturer's voice (like a zoom lecture but no view of the Lecturer) we need to buy a better microphone (approx. £100). To also view the Lecturer we need to buy at least one camera (cost unknown) – Our annual fee covers only the necessities.
- Manpower: the Committee and current volunteers lack the skills and expertise, or time and availability for setting up a hybrid lecture. It is possible that one of our Members has that skill (not followed up)
- Time: a hybrid lecture will require the Lecturer to arrive much earlier so the system can be set up (often not possible (trains/traffic/distance) Our last Lecturer arrived only at the last minute after being stuck in traffic)
- How many Members would benefit? Not viable for a small number.
- Most importantly: will the Lecturer agree to a hybrid lecture? We have asked a few who strongly indicated that, having tried it, now refuse to do hybrid.

It seemed logical to find out from other Societies what their experiences were. I contacted all the Sussex Societies and received a number of interesting replies.

- Most Societies have not even tried hybrid lectures. Some quotes: 'I definitely won't go down that route as we have enough problems with our current system in our Hall'; 'Have not tried hybrid and no plans to do so. ... one lecturer got covid and did lecture via zoom ... but the topic changed because of copyrights'; 'Never run these – partly due to lack of technical expertise, but also the desire to keep up the in-person social nature of our society.'
- One Society who did go ahead with hybrid, only did so as they had professional technicians running the performance. Although this worked very well, they stopped when more members came to the live meeting. The eye-watering unbudgeted cost of an extra £200 per meeting may have played a role in this decision as well.

Considering the outcome of the vote on this resolution, we do not intend to follow up any further. We are aware that some of our Members have been losing out on lectures. We regret this but would like to point out that the main website of The Arts Society presents a wealth of interesting articles and short lectures.

You may be aware that once again The Arts Society will run an Artvent Calendar this December, an innovative take on the traditional advent calendar. Each day until Christmas a new window will open to reveal that day's offering. We'll celebrate art anniversaries and achievements, and explore topics such as feasts, festivals and fireworks. Accredited Lecturers will present mini lectures and readings. Each day's virtual gift will be different and surprising.

I look forward to seeing many of you next week.

Miek Bell

Chair