

Dear Members,

The Woodlands Centre

Tuesday 17 October 2023: Please note that the doors will open at **09.30 hrs.** The lecture will start at **10.20 hrs.** Guests welcome - £7 entrance fee.

The AGM will start at 10.00 hrs.

We may need volunteers for the raffle and kitchen. If you have time and feel like giving a helping hand, please ask one of the committee members or send me an email.

(chairman@theartssocietyarun.org)

Raffle: £1 per ticket. The book this month covers the work of a well-loved artist:

The making of a Master – John Constable by Mark Evans.

Who knows, one of our members may well have a long-lost work by Constable in his loft, that only needs authenticating. Today is the day to find out how to go about it and this book will be an invaluable aid.

Lecture: Our lecture this month is by Sarah Cove, entitled 'Fakes and Fortunes (or, have I discovered a Constable in my attic?)'. Sarah has examined over 250 works from collections worldwide, from tiny oil sketches on fragments of canvas, paper supports and boards to the 'six footers'. She has worked on the BBC's Fake and Fortune? series. Sarah looks at how decisions are made and will describe some extraordinary successes but also crashing disappointments.

Sarah Cove is an Accredited Paintings Conservator-Restorer, Technical Art Historian and Lecturer. As a conservator she specialises in British Art. She is now the recognised authority on John Constable's oil painting materials and techniques. She has made a number of TV appearances including two episodes of BBC's 'Fake or Fortune?' where she was instrumental in the discovery of three newly discovered works.

Festive Drinks and Mince Pies/Stollen – This will take place on 21 November 2023 after our lecture on *The Magic of Pantomime*. Tickets will go on sale this coming Tuesday (17 October 23) and a booking form will be placed on the website. The cost is unchanged from last year at **£3 only**. We aim to sell tickets before the day itself so we know how many mince pies and stollen pieces to get and avoid running short.

Future Visits:

The Houses of Parliament – Friday 20 October 2023 - 16.00 hrs and 16.10 hrs @ £1

Tickets for this tour have now sold out. However, we have received three cancellations so, if you are interested, get in touch. (miekb@hotmail.co.uk)

Your Visits Team has been busy setting up a series of interesting trips for 2024. These will be shown in the new programme, out later in October 23, and on the website after that. Prices and times of going on sale will be announced nearer the time of each visit.

Visits/events organised by other Societies

We have circulated the details of our last two trips to London to other Societies in Sussex and received a very good response, enabling us to fill our quota of available places rather than having to cancel a visit. We are keen to return the favour (unless their event clashes with one of ours i.e. Day of Special Interest). It is an opportunity to meet other TAS members.

Our Webmaster is now in the process of setting up a new web page entitled **Area Events** where we will advertise their events. Once set up (this will happen shortly) you can find details of a coach trip to Dorset from 19-23 February 2023, £559 pp, organised by the East Sussex Arts Society.

Vacancies on the Committee

(None of these roles require you to attend all committee meetings):

- Hall Secretary to liaise with the Council (also in Woodlands) for the set-up of the room.
- Our Treasurer and Secretary would also welcome someone to shadow the, with the aim to take over eventually.
- Male as well as female members are welcome on our committee!

All roles have a 'job' description, are not onerous but necessary.

Volunteering in the community

We welcome suggestions for a recipient of our £250 volunteering donation. We can apply for £250 from 'Head Office' for a worthwhile cause. This year we had the cartoonist Harry Venning entertaining the older children at Chestnut Tree House. However, this donation for a particular purpose (materials, tutor etc) can be for any age range, any cause from the disabled, choirs, schools or elderly people.

AGM – I will be standing down as Chair at the AGM and pass the baton on to Denise Arthur. It was most enjoyable being your Chair for three years, although I could have done without lock-down and zoom. Without such an excellent committee, a real team!, it would have been harder. But you, our lovely members, make our work so worthwhile. 'Thank you' to all.

I look forward to see many of you next week.

Miek Bell

Chair