

Dear Members.

# Welcome back after the Christmas break, and to the start of the 2024 programme!

The **annual membership of £44** gives you lectures at a rate of £4.40 per lecture. Membership also includes The Arts Society magazine, and access to both the very informative Arts Society website, and to trips and visits arranged by our branch.

We have membership availability if you know someone who may be interested.

If you have forgotten to renew in the frenetic period over Christmas, then it's not too late to do so now. We would be delighted to see you return!

From February we are hoping to introduce a card payment facility to assist with payments for membership fees, guests and trips.

On the subject of membership, we will be having a **Get Together For Recent Members** after the lecture in February. If you have received an invitation and have not yet replied, please do so, so that we can plan catering.

## **The Woodlands Centre**

**Tuesday 16th January** The doors open at **9.45** hrs. The lecture starts promptly at **10.15** hrs. Guests are very welcome for a £7 entrance fee.

#### **Lecture Morning Volunteers.**

Many thanks to all our volunteers who help in the hall on lecture mornings. We could not operate without you. Offers of help are always gratefully received. Areas where you could help could be:

**Kitchen** - Please ask Maureen if she needs help. Five minutes at the end of the lecture to clear the last few cups and pack the kitchen boxes would be much appreciated.

**Check** in - Please ask Margaret at the check in if she needs any help.

**Stage set up** - for beginning of meeting and/or after meeting. Please see Denise if you could help with this. It only takes a few minutes but will release other people for other duties.

#### Raffle. Tickets £1

The raffle prize this month is a book by our lecturer Ian Keable, and has the same title as our lecture. 'The Century of Deception: The Birth of the Hoax in Eighteenth Century England'

## Lecture

The 1700's have been described as a period when the people of this country were especially gullible. Hoaxes such as women giving birth to rabbits, and a man that could climb inside a two pint bottle were believed! These hoaxes were widely written about and became subjects for great satirical artists, such as William Hogarth and James Gillray.

Our lecturer, Ian Keable, began his working life as a Chartered Accountant. A total career change followed and he became a talented Professional Magician. He is a member of The Magic Inner Circle and has won 'The Magic Circle Comedy Magic Award' and been the 'British Champion of Comedy Magic'.

He is an acclaimed magician, lecturer, comedian and author. His lecture promises to be informative and entertaining in equal measure. A great way to lighten the winter mood and begin our 2024 programme.

# **Volunteering in the Community**

£250 Community Grant: Following a contact from one of our members we are hoping to help a children's charity in Littlehampton and will keep you up to date with developments.

The grant is given for any purpose which is arts or heritage based in the local community.

# **The Arts Society Website**

There is currently an opportunity on the website for members to vote on the A-Level Art Competition shortlist. The winner of this competition wins a £500 award. It is well worth taking a look at the fantastic work of these very talented young people. Personally, I found it almost impossible to vote for a favourite, and thoroughly enjoyed looking at the entries.

Please use the following link:

https://theartssociety.org/arts-news-features/level-art-competition-202324-shortlist-announced-vote-now-open

## **Future TASA Visits**

## Friday 23rd February 'BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE'

Meet in the theatre foyer at 2:45 for a 3pm start.

Tickets £11 on sale at our January & February lecture meetings.

Booking form and more details in the 'Visits' tab of the TASA website.

### **Other Societies' Events**

The Arts Society Mid Sussex are holding a Special Interest Day.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE & IMPERIAL INDIA IMAGES, ARCHITECTURE & ART

Ditchling Village Hall on 7th February.

More details in the 'Events' tab of the TASA website

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Denise Arthur.

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