

The Lecture Programme 2010

Wednesday 27 January

The London Architecture of John Nash Hilary Williams

The appointment of John Nash (1752-1835) as architect to the Department of Woods and Forests in 1806, led to the related Metropolitan Improvements, including Regent's Street, All Souls Langham Place, Waterloo Place and the Theatre Royal. How was so much accomplished in such a short time?

Wednesday 24 February

Fakes & Forgeries: The Art of Deception Malcolm Kenwood

Forgers go to amazing lengths to pass off works as legitimate and this is demonstrated by actual case studies. Skilled forgers capable of imitating well known artists have provided the ability to dupe many at the highest level within the art market.

Wednesday 24 March

Journey Across the Himalayas Zara Fleming

The lecture will focus on the Buddhist area of the Himalayas, the once spiritual domain of Tibetan culture and religion. It is an important centre of Buddhist art and culture, housing vast repositories of sacred art in remote monasteries and temples.

Wednesday 28 April

The Cistercians & Their English Abbeys Geoffrey Toms

The impact of the new order of the Cistercians in Europe in the 12th Century was astonishing. The lecture will explain the architecture of the Cistercian Abbey and how each sector was designed for the daily and nightly routine of the monks. There will be references to Waverley Abbey.

Wednesday 26 May

A Personal Heaven – The Paintings of Stanley Spencer Valerie Woodgate

One of the most original British artists of his generation, Spencer's art was dominated by his personal life and his profound religious faith. Cookham, his birthplace, was for him an earthly paradise whose people and surroundings possessed a mystical quality. This was the setting for many of his great religious works and he spoke of "the rich religious significance of the place I live in."

Wednesday 23 June

AGM at 7.30 followed by lecture. Buckingham Palace – Its History, Occupants and Contents Oliver Everett

The building has developed from a modest house bought by George III as a family home. The Palace contains hundreds of art treasures from the Royal Collection, including world famous paintings, furniture, sculpture, porcelain, clocks and other objects.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture

Wednesday 22 September

William Hogarth Linda Smith

Hogarth is mostly remembered as a talented satirist, but there is much more to him than that. It is his unparalleled eye for absurdity and human weakness which not only tells us so much about his own times, but gives us food for thought about our own.

Wednesday 27 October

Omega and Charleston: Bloomsbury Decorative Arts Sandra Pollard

An integral part of the lives of Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and Roger Fry was an interest in the decorative arts, fully demonstrated in the formation of the Omega Workshops in 1913. This is also seen in the decoration of Charleston, the Sussex home Bell and Grant shared for fifty years and which is a wonderful embodiment of their style and way of life.

Subscriptions due by 31 October

Wednesday 24 November

Skin Deep - The Beastly Art of Beauty: Reality and Ridicule Amanda Herries

Beautiful in the society portraits, haggard in the merciless lampoon. The artifice pursued by 18th and 19th century 'fashion victims' was, quite literally, hair-raising and often fatal. The dream, the joke, the reality – it is all explored, with portraits, prints and some extraordinary surviving objects.

Wednesday 15 December at 7.30

**This lecture will now take place at
Farnham College**

I am the Very Model – Parodies of Victorian Society in Gilbert & Sullivan Peter Medhurst

This lecture tells how each of the 14 operas on which the partners collaborated, drew inspiration from the world in which they lived. Celebrities, politicians, social mores, manners, artistic taste, the class system – even Queen Victoria's red drawing room are poked fun at. The lecture is illustrated with live arias accompanied on the piano.

Followed by seasonal refreshments