THE ARTS SOCIETY EBOR

November Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

The days seem to have shortened since we set the clocks back, though, of course that's rather an illusion since the day length isn't really affected by the alteration of clocks. Perhaps we just don't notice that the morning light comes earlier - and there have been some glorious sunrises recently. By now we are assailed by adverts, shop displays, concert notices and all that goes with the run-up to the Christmas season. Beyond the florid commercialism lies the origin of the Nativity story, so beautifully depicted in art forms over the centuries.

November Lecture



From Cradle to Cave:
The Iconography of the Nativity
in Late Medieval Italian Art

with

Helen Dejean

What does the ancient Nativity icon from the Orthodox East actually mean and why does late Trecento art show something different? We track the fascinating development of the Nativity image over 1,700 years, from its Byzantine roots to the more familiar but very different devotional images from late 14th century Italy. What happened to change things? Our guide this evening, Helen Dejean, is an art history lecturer and tutor specialising in Byzantine and Late Medieval Italian art. She holds many qualifications in her subject areas and has worked in the museum and further education sectors. For many years, Helen combined this with her specialist art practice of icon and medieval panel painting to deliver art commissions and art history and painting courses in the UK and abroad. Helen is the founder and owner of 'Elenis Icons' - through which she continues to undertake commissions for churches, cathedrals and clients worldwide.

Join us on **Wednesday 11th November** for a chat, a glass of wine or soft drink from 6pm. The lecture begins at 6.30pm.

Please take a moment to give us your feedback on the lecture. *You can do this from the 'Feedback' icon on the home page of our website:* https://www.theartssocietyebor.org.uk/Home.aspx The password is '**Nativity**'

We meet in The Merchant Taylors' Hall, Aldwark. **Note that there is No Parking at the Merchant Taylors' Hall.** If you have a particular mobility problem then please contact Peter Burnett: drpburnett@btinternet.com

Social Events

Several members look forward **to** a 'fish, chip and mushy peas' supper in the Black Swan, Peasholme Green after this lecture**.**

Our popular **Christmas Party** will be in the Belfry Hall, Stonegate on **Wednesday 16th Dece**mber from 3-6pm. Cost £16pp to include mulled wine, nibbles and, of course, our usual challenging prize quiz! To book your place, contact Joanna: joannaheywoodleeds@yahoo.co.uk and make payment (online if possible) using your surname and party as identifier. A flyer is attached.

Visits and Trips



Our rail trip to Cornwall in October was thoroughly enjoyed. We packed in a lot and saw some great art. There are more photographs on the Gallery page of our website



Plans are afoot for a trip to **Barcelona,** provisionally from **15th – 19th March 2027**: so mark your calendars and look out for details in due course.

Another date for your diary is **Saturday 17th April 2027** when we have a study day on Medieval Stained Glass.This will be in the Belfry Hall, Stonegate Further details to follow.

AGM

We hold our Annual General Meeting before this month's lecture. This is a brief, but important opportunity to report on our activities in the 2025/26 season, to present the accounts, to appoint or re-appoint the officers and committee members and to raise any other matters of interest to members. The Agenda and associated papers are attached with this Newsletter. We aim to begin at 6.15pm so that the lecture can begin on time at 6.30pm. Our constitution requires that at least 25% of members be present at an AGM. Some committee members will be standing down over the next year and we need to recruit replacements – so, step forward please!

The Arts Society – and our charitable status

Our parent organisation, The Arts Society, will no longer support the use of Google Workspace for local societies from next month. We currently use this facility to maintain our membership list, email postings and spreadsheets for events and trips. Google Workspace is free for charitable organisations but otherwise entails significant cost. Many local Arts Societies are already charities in their own right or are applying to become so. It would make sense for us to pursue the same path and we are grateful to Toby Bainton who has taken a lead on this. It will, in any case, be necessary for us to have our own internet domain name and this means that you may notice, over the next 2-3 months a slightly different heading on emails from The Arts Society Ebor. We will update members on progress. As members of our own local group you remain members of The Arts Society, our 'parent' organization. and can subscribe (free) to their newsletters and other occasional mailings: https://theartssociety.org/

Membership Offer

As usual, we offer a half-price fee for anyone joining the society from 1 October for the remainder of our 2026-27 season of lectures and events. This is an ideal opportunity to introduce new people to our society, so do please spread the word among friends – and remember that the £10 fee for guests attending lectures is refundable if they join as members within a month.

Website: Our Newsletters, a printable copy of our programme, flyers for trips, photographs of previous visits, membership forms, - and much more can be found on our website. Go to www.theartssocietyebor.org.uk .

With best wishes from your Arts Society Ebor Committee.