

## THE ARTS SOCIETY RUTLAND CHAIRMANS REPORT 2023

### WELCOME

Welcome to the 2023 Chairman's report. I cannot believe how quickly the first year has gone. It has been most enjoyable and I hope you all agree the lectures, visits and study day a great success.

### LECTURES

The quality of the lecturers, all of whom have been vetted by the Arts Society, is excellent and they present so well, are passionate about their subject and the hour whizzes by leaving you thirsting for more. There was no particular highlight as I am sure we all have a favourite. John Benjamin and the history of jewellery from Elizabeth 1 to Elizabeth Taylor and Anthony Penrose talking very personally about his mother Lee Miller were my favourites. The same quality will continue next year.

We need more members. Please help

Two very successful fully booked visits to Coal Drops Yard at St Pancras and to Milton Hall in Peterborough were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It is fabulous that with the Arts Society you can visit otherwise hidden private treasures such as Milton.

### STUDY DAY

An excellent study day at Egleton by James Lindow on "Home Is Where The Art Is", the Renaissance Palace interior was enjoyed by all who attended.

### VENUE

We continue to meet at the Raven Corby for several reasons. Parking is easy, Disabled access is good compared to most, there is a nearby railway station a lecturer can come to, and many members live within a reasonable distance of Corby..

### FINANCES

That is all the good news! As I have said when introducing the lectures recently we do, as you will see from the accounts, sadly currently run at a loss mainly because of increased costs of lecturers, IT, and venue. We are raising the annual fee but this cannot continue indefinitely. We need more members. Please help

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I cannot thank the wonderful hardworking committee enough for helping so assiduously and being so supportive to a new chairman. Heartfelt thanks to Mary, Della, Hugh, Sandra, Marilyn Rita Jacqui and Gay and to Pip before Sandra.

### HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS

The Heritage Volunteers have been working at Boughton House at Geddington for a number of years.

Initially they were conserving ie. cleaning and repairing, the books in the Library. Mostly 18th and 18th century leather bound volumes. They then moved into the North Passage, a passageway between the medieval and 17th century House, reputed to be haunted, working on the less valuable books and Estate archives They didn't see any ghosts!

They have had a number of training days from Caroline Bendix, learning various techniques and improving skills.

They have been working under the Buccleuch archivist, Crispin Powell and when they had finished the books project they were then asked to conserve the Music Archive. This is an internationally renowned archive of early, mainly English and Scottish music, under the protection of Paul Bucher, the Buccleuch Music Archivist.

They have now moved on to a new project, under Crispin, transcribing the letters of Duchess Charlotte Ann, who lived through most of the 19th century. This lady had the most awful handwriting which they have really struggled to transcribe, a very slow but interesting process. However, they are now coming towards the end of that project and Crispin has mentioned other projects that he would like them to attempt.

All the people who work at Boughton have been very friendly, welcoming and encouraging and they enjoy their time there.

#### PLEA

The greatest plea I can make to you is get involved. Whether joining the committee to keep the society going and ensure we put on what interests you, making suggestions for lectures/ events, recruitment of new members. For the amount of the annual subscription, where else would you get a great monthly e mail from the arts society, 9 fantastic lectures at only £7 a lecture and a couple of fabulous trips organised.

Best wishes

Kate Blank

Chairman