

January 12th 2026

THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY AND EAST-WEST TRADE: CHINTZ, CHINESE EXPORT AND CHINOISERIE, 1600–1800

Vivienne Lawes

The East India Company was a pioneer of global trade leading to cross-cultural exchange between East and West. Looking at textiles, wallpaper, porcelain and furniture, we examine the company's strategy of sending Western patterns to India and China for replication, paving the way for chintz, for example. The talk also contrasts authentic Chinese exports with Chinoiserie, a Western interpretation blending Chinese motifs with Baroque and Rococo design.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

February 9th 2026

MUSIC AND ART IN THE AGE OF VERMEER

Adam Busiakiewicz

This lecture unravels the deep meaning and significance of music in 17th century Dutch art. Although musical instruments frequently appear in Dutch Golden Age paintings, their sound and symbolic meaning may remain a mystery. In this talk, we discover how music evoked themes of love and intimacy, providing insight into scenes portrayed by Vermeer, Jan Steen, and Pieter de Hooch.

With live music played on the lute.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

March 9th 2026

A SHORT HISTORY OF FAKES AND FORGERIES

Tom Flynn

Delving into some of the most notorious art forgeries of the past 150 years, we explore the motivations of forgers - often failed artists seeking revenge on an exclusive art world. We question whether fakes are taken seriously enough, look at their cultural impact, and challenge our emotional responses to forged art. Does a painting's value lie primarily in its beauty, or in who painted it?



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

April 13th 2026

CARNATIONS, TULIPS AND HYACINTHS: THE STORY OF TURKEY'S IZNIK CERAMICS

Antonia Gatward Cevizli

Immerse yourself in a world of tulips, carnations and roses as the rich history of Turkish Iznik ceramics is explained. From early imitations of Chinese porcelain to its heyday in the 16th century and subsequent decline, this talk traces the evolution of Iznik design into a distinctive Ottoman art form and reveals how these striking ceramics found their way into British collections and inspired top designers.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

May 11th 2026

THE MEDICI: BANKROLLING THE RENAISSANCE

Douglas Skeggs

The Medici were a ruthless and ambitious banking dynasty, driven by profit and power and ridden with vicious family conflict. We consider how their legacy is inseparable from the wonders of the Renaissance as their patronage enabled some of history's greatest art including Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Fra Angelico's frescoes, Donatello's David, and Michelangelo's Medici chapel sculptures - works which may never have existed without their influence.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

June 8th 2026

WHEN BRITAIN CLICKED: PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SWINGING SIXTIES

Brian Stater

Take a trip back to the 1960s and explore British photography from its golden age. Young, talented newcomers broke the rules of conventional studio-based photography to revolutionise perceptions of fashion, portraiture and popular culture. This lecture promises a visual feast with images from the finest photographers of the age, showcasing work by the likes of David Bailey, Terence Donovan, Lewis Morley, Tony Ray-Jones and Jane Bown.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

July 13th 2026

SCANDINAVIAN MODERN: BEHIND THE SCENES

James Vaux

Why and how did Scandinavian Modern design rise to international fame in the 1950s creating many modern classics? This talk considers its roots in social reform, its use as a tool of Nordic social democracy, and the tension between state ideals and consumer tastes. Featuring iconic designers and key exhibitions, it reveals the movement's hidden agendas, surprising variations, and how to spot true Scandinavian Modern—even in IKEA.



Image credit: interior4.com

September 14th 2026

BLOOMSBURY GROUP: THE ART OF VANESSA BELL

Julia Musgrave

Vanessa Bell – avant-garde painter, designer and colourist - was central to the Bloomsbury Group and navigated the artistic and social revolutions of the day with wit and warmth. Sister to Virginia Woolf and muse to several key figures, she exerted a strong influence on the group while remaining refreshingly apolitical. This lecture considers Bell's creativity and asks if she was as radical in paint as Woolf was in words.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

**OCTOBER 12th 2026
RESURGAM - THE MUSIC OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

Patrick Craig

This lecture looks at the music of St Paul's Cathedral before and after the Great Fire of London which caused its closure in 1696. Just one year later, its rebirth was celebrated in Wren's 'Resurgam'. Moving forwards, the speaker highlights the finest repertoire from the Cathedral's liturgical year as he shares music, photographs, and videos from 25 years of singing in the Cathedral.

With live song.



Image credit: Flickr.com

November 9th 2026

STONE ON STONE: THE MEN WHO BUILT THE CATHEDRALS

Imogen Corrigan

Just how did ordinary people manage to build cathedrals many centuries ago? They are towering buildings where even the higher reaches are intricately decorated. And why and for whom were they built? For God, personal redemption and livelihood are the answers. But the 'how' is far more complicated. This lecture explores the role of Master Masons who both designed the buildings and managed construction.



Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org

MILLICENT HONEYWOOD LECTURE

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

7:00pm for 7:45pm

THE ROOTS OF JAZZ

Emma Johnson

In the late 19th century, New Orleans was a vibrant port where diverse musical traditions from around the world converged, creating a cultural melting pot where the music of the slave population was openly enjoyed by both black and white communities. Hear the story of how this rich blend of influences sparked the birth of jazz, a revolutionary and democratising force in music and culture.



Image credit: Flickr.com/mreival

Ticket prices and booking details will be announced in the Spring

This lecture is the fourth in an annual series remembering our founder Millicent Honeywood.

OTHER DATES AND EVENTS IN 2026

June 8th 2026

The **AGM** will be held at **10.30am, immediately prior to the lecture.**

December 2026

We hope to hold a Christmas event. Further details will be announced during the year.

VISITS AND TRIPS THROUGHOUT 2026

In addition to our monthly lecture programme we will be arranging visits and trips during 2026. The details and costs of these events will be announced at our monthly lectures, on our website and in our newsletters.

Tickets for these events will be sold on a first-come first-served basis.

Honorary President Ann Blakelock

Chairman Gerard Bagley

As a member you will receive our monthly email newsletter containing up-to-date information on all our lectures and activities including any variations to our programme, or unavoidable last-minute changes.

Please ensure we have your current email address

You can unsubscribe at any time should you no longer wish to receive our emails and newsletters

Email: steyning@theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk

The Arts Society is a leading arts education charity with a global network of over 300 affiliated local societies bringing people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.

The Arts Society provides a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge about the arts, and its over 64,000 members contribute to and preserve our artistic heritage through volunteering and grants.

The Arts Society Steyning (TASS), your local affiliated society, has around 200 members and welcomes all with an interest in the arts. Our core activities are monthly lectures from experts in their field and a programme of visits to museums and galleries.

You are very welcome to join us either as a member or a visitor at any of our events.

Through our Arts Volunteering programme, we support a range of local arts initiatives.

Arts Volunteering

The TASS Arts Volunteering initiative provides funding for projects within the local community.

In recent years TASS has developed a close working relationship with local primary and secondary schools funding teacher workshops, whole school Arts projects and helping individual students progress their careers in the Creative and Performing Arts.

TASS is able to offer support by collaborating with local museums, youth and senior groups, and any organisation seeking to develop community-based Arts projects.

A core purpose for TASS is to inspire and encourage a lasting enthusiasm for the Arts and raise greater awareness of our Arts Heritage.

The TASS committee welcomes applications from schools, individuals and community groups seeking support for their Creative and Performing Arts projects.

**For further information please contact,
steyning@theartsociety.org**

Membership 2026

The membership fees for 2026 are:

**Jan 2026 to Dec 2026 £55
(10 lectures)**

The fees include membership of The Arts Society and copies of its quarterly magazine.

Membership forms are available on our website or can be collected at one of our lectures. Payment methods are detailed on the forms.

Meetings take place at

**The Steyning Centre
Fletchers Croft, Church Street,
Steyning
BN44 3XZ**

9:45am Coffee 10:30am Meeting

Visitors are welcome

Visitors are asked to make a recommended donation of £10 per meeting though a refund for up to two donations can be given if you later decide to join us.

There is a pay and display car park adjacent to The Steyning Centre.

Email: steyning@theartsociety.org

Tel: 07787 243836

All information is available on our website

www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk



A member society of The Arts Society

2026 Programme



Detail of Iznik tiles, Selimiye Mosque, Edirne

www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk

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