

Monday 15th January 2018

Peter Medhurst

**”I am the very model” parodies of Victorian Society in Gilbert and Sullivan**

Peter Medhurst appears in the UK and abroad as musician and scholar, giving recitals and delivering illustrated lectures on music and the arts. He studied singing and early keyboard instruments at the Royal College of Music and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.



The operas of G&S are rich in contemporary satire and witty allusions. In his lecture Peter Medhurst will show how the partners collaborated and drew inspiration from their contemporary world. They used politicians, celebrities manners and artistic taste to inspire their work. Peter is a popular Arts Society lecturer who uses musical instruments to enhance the history of chosen composers.

Monday 19th February 2018

Dr. Nicholas Watkins

**The Horse, Modernity and Modern Art**

Nicholas Watkins, B.A. Hons., M.Phil., Ph.D., Emeritus Reader in The School of Arts at the University of Leicester, is an acknowledged international authority on Matisse and modern art.



As the current production of “War Horse” demonstrates, the image of the horse is rooted deep into our Western imagination and psyche. Dr. Watkins, a writer and lecturer from the Courtauld Institute, will trace the history of the equestrian image. Taking several different themes, he will illustrate his talk with examples from works that include Stubbs, Munnings, Degas and Picasso as well as very contemporary artists.

Monday 19th March 2018

Toby Faber

### **Faber and Faber – its history and designs**

Toby Faber is the grandson of the founder of the publishing house, Faber and Faber, and sits on the board of the company



Faber and Faber has published works by William Golding and T.S.Eliot and recently, the winner of this year's Nobel prize for literature, Kazuo Ishiguro! His talk will illustrate the development of this pre-eminent literary publisher from its foundation in 1925, through presentations of Ariel poems in the 1920's, book covers and including modern day "apps" for the ipad!

Monday 16th April 2018

Mr James Russell

### **Lover, Teacher, Muse .... Or Rival? Couples in modern British Art**

James is a writer and lecturer on art, illustration and design, particularly 20th century British. He has curated a number of exhibitions including 'Ravilious', an exhibition of watercolours by Eric Ravilious. He also "blogs" and is the author of books on Paul Nash, Edward Seago, Peggy Angus and Edward Bawden.



Successful artists tend to be driven and (dare one say it?) egotistical.

What happens when two of them set up home together? James Russell will focus on 20th century British art, and his lecture will explore the lives of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson and Mary Fedden and Julian Trevelyan. Private lives of artist couples are often startling and never dull, the paintings and sculptures used to illustrate the talk are colourful and glorious.

Monday 21st May 2018

Anthea Streeter

**Thomas Heatherwick “ the Leonardo da Vinci of our times”**

Anthea studied the Fine and Decorative Arts in London and continued her studies at Harvard University. It was while at Harvard, where there was great enthusiasm for American design, that she became interested in 20th century architecture.



Heatherwick’s work received worldwide acclaim in 2012 when, with his studio team, he designed the Olympic Cauldron for the London Olympics. The Heatherwick studio has also designed the new red London bus, the first redesign of such an iconic symbol of London for 50 years! Anthea Streeter’s talk will illustrate how Thomas Heatherwick’s innovative (and sometimes controversial) approach is in demand all over the world, from China to Cape Town, from expanding tables to gin distilleries.