

Monday 25th September 2017

Mr Simon Inglis

**“GREAT LENGTHS”: THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF BRITAIN’S HISTORIC SWIMMING POOLS AND LIDOS**



Lidos conjure up nostalgic images of carefree summer family days, splashing around and larking about at packed outdoor swimming pools in the 1950s and 1960s. Architectural historian, author writer and lecturer Simon Inglis brings sporting heritage to life, tweeting of one saved pool: “Hu-bloody-rah! A victory for good sense. Plus I used to swim there as a nipper.”

Writer and historian Simon Inglis specialises in the architecture and heritage of sport and recreation. Since 2004 he has edited the *Played in Britain* series for English Heritage. Although sport and recreation might seem an unlikely subject for The Arts Society, non-sporty types need have no fear. Simon’s themes are architecture, design, heritage and popular culture. After a history degree at University College London, he freelanced for various publications, including the *Guardian*, *Observer* and *Radio Times*. He has curated exhibitions for the Building Centre and the British Council, been a regular contributor to radio and television, has travelled and lectured extensively, and written a number of books. Two were shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year, while another, on British football grounds, was chosen by journalist Frank Keating as the best sports book of the 20th century. A recent highpoint in his work for English Heritage was the listing of a 1970s skatepark in Essex, a world first that made the 10 o'clock news.

He has written for The Observer, The Guardian, The Times, Daily Telegraph, Financial Times, Mail on Sunday, the Jewish Chronicle, Radio Times, World Soccer, 4-4-2, When Saturday Comes, Business Traveller Magazine, and specialist and architectural journals. His involvement with English Heritage began in 2001 as a consultant on their pilot study of sporting heritage in Manchester (for the 2002 Commonwealth Games), which led to his launching the *Played in Britain* series in conjunction with English Heritage in 2004.

Swimming is Britain’s second favourite form of physical recreation (after walking). Almost everyone has memories of visiting their local baths. But whilst not all these memories might be positive – drooping knitted cozzies anyone? – for many swimmers the baths themselves are cherished. Some, particular those built in the late Victorian and Edwardian years, are rich with decorative tilework, stained glass, polished wood and terracotta detailing. This sense of municipal pride continued into the 1920s and ’30s, when Art Deco and Modernist lidos became the urban beaches of their day. In this lecture, Simon highlights the treasures of aquatic art that survive, and considers how the pools of today compare.

The Clifton Lido has a thriving restaurant and spa beside the heated pool.

Monday 16th October 2017

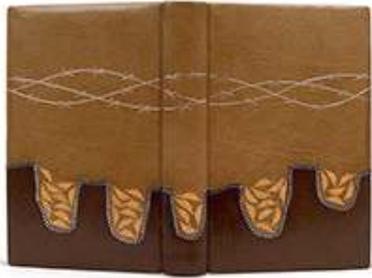
Mr Dominic Riley

### **RESTORED TO LIFE: RESTORATION OF FINE BINDINGS**

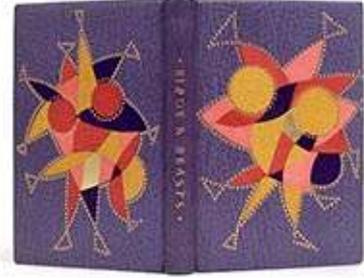
Dominic Riley is an internationally renowned bookbinder, artist and teacher. He specializes in restoring antiquarian books and creating contemporary fine bindings.

'I enjoy all aspects of bookbinding, from restoration to teaching and Design Binding.

Restoration is hugely challenging, and is surgical in its approach. Teaching is about giving back, but it also keeps the craft alive. If you have a passion, you must pass it on.' Design Binding is the way we get to be artists, but is also the most mentally taxing. I have created forty or so Design Bindings since 2001, and now make about eight a year.'



**The Somme: An Eyewitness History**



**Some Birds and Beasts and their Feasts**

His prize-winning bindings are in the British Museum and collections worldwide. Dominic is a Fellow of Designer Bookbinders and Vice President of the Society of Bookbinders.

In 2013 he won the prestigious Sir Paul Getty award in the International Bookbinding Competition, his winning binding being acquired by the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

After many years working in America, he returns to California every summer to teach and lecture.

He now lives in the Lake District, teaching at the Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal, at Burton Manor, and at home.

This lecture shows the process of restoring valuable antiquarian books. The binding is taken apart and repaired at every stage, from removing and restoring old leather covers to cleaning and washing damaged paper and reproducing missing text pages. Close-up images show in detail the intricacies of the repairs undertaken. Dominic will bring with him a display of restored bindings as well as original work which shows the range of the bookbinding art.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Mrs Pamela Halford

### **BRISTOL'S BANKSY: STREET ART?**

Pamela Halford is a Past Chairman and immediate Past President of Bristol DFAS as well as being an Arts Society accredited lecturer. She studied art history and art historical research at Bristol, Oxford and the V&A and lectures widely.



Dennis Stinchcombe, who worked at Bristol's Broad Plain Boys' Club for the past 39 years, said Banksy's Mobile Lovers painting could provide more than £2 million for its coffers.

Who is Banksy? How does one define what he does? How does he do it?

In 2014 Girl with a balloon: “There is always Hope” was projected onto Nelson’s Colum and simultaneously in venues in New York, Washington, Paris, Moscow and Jordan to draw attention to Syria’s plight.

MOMA, the Tate and other galleries and museums have found ‘Banksy’s’ on their walls. In 2009 after an exhibition in America, 30,000 people from all over Britain queued for hours to see ‘Banksy vs the Bristol Museum’ at the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Mr Philip Venning OBE

## **OLD BUILDINGS: FAKES AND FALLACIES**

Philip Venning was for 28 years Chief Executive of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, founded by William Morris, Philip Webb and others, in 1877.



A former journalist on the Times Educational Supplement he served for six years on the Expert Panel of the Heritage Lottery Fund and is a committee member for the East of England, where he lives.

He is a firm believer in the words of William Morris that **“We are only trustees of those that come after us.”** He is confident that the good work of the Heritage Lottery Fund will benefit not just people and heritage today but generations to come.

He was an adviser on the original BBC2 Restoration television series.

Historic buildings are often not what they seem, or how we confidently and wrongly believe they ought to look. Were old houses ever built with reused ships’ timbers? Are black and white ‘Tudor’ buildings mainly a 19th century fashion? Is the appearance of many familiar historic castles as much the product of the restorers? How many of the claimed ‘secret tunnels’ from the basement to the docks or church actually exist?

As well as examining some of the popular myths about old buildings the lecture will discuss the tricky philosophical issues of authenticity, and the point at which a genuine historic building is so renewed that it effectively becomes a replica. Drawing on examples from throughout the country the lecture will challenge some received wisdom, and offer some surprises.