



**April 15th 2020**

**Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson - Life and Loves.**

*Dr James Taylor, FRSA*

Discover through striking artworks more about Britain's greatest admiral who loved his country, the Royal Navy and Lady Emma Hamilton.



**May 20th 2020**

**Selfies, self expression, celebrity and the Victorian Carte de visite.**

*Mark Hill*

From the late 1850s to the mid-1870s a new craze gripped the world. Photography had just begun to be popularised, and suddenly nearly everyone could afford a portrait of themselves to share with others. These small photographic portraits mounted on card were shot professionally in studios and handed out like business or greetings cards – just like we share ‘selfies’ on today’s social media. Across nearly two decades, over 400 million cards were estimated to have been printed and shared with friends, family, and fans. We think we invented the ‘selfie’, but we didn’t – welcome to the Victorian carte de visite.

In this highly visual and relevant lecture, we’ll look at the rise and fall of the fashion, learn how these cards were used, and find ways of dating cards from clothing and hairstyles. We’ll examine in detail the hidden meanings behind the poses, facial expressions, backgrounds, and choice of clothes to reveal the fascinating histories behind these cards that were used by everyone from royalty to the man in the street.”



**June 24th 2020**

**Beethoven**

*Peter Medhurst*

Peter Medhurst examines Beethoven’s genius as a composer and shows that no matter what impacted on him in his daily life his music was always crafted to the highest level.

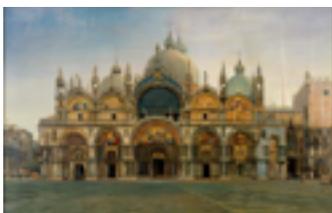


**July 22nd 2020**

**Great Lengths**

*Simon Inglis*

The art and architecture of Britain's historic swimming pools and lidos 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 survived and considers how the pools of today compare.



**September 16th 2020**

**From Venice to Sheffield -**

*Simon Seligman*

**John Ruskin’s passion for art, craft and social justice**

Over the course of a long and multifaceted life, John Ruskin took the skills and passions he first devoted to art and architecture - to see clearly and say what he saw plainly - and applied them to the analysis and condemnation of the ills of contemporary industrial capitalist society. In so doing, as a way of improving the lives of the working poor, he formed an art collection for the people of Sheffield that continues to inspire and instruct in equal measure. This lecture explains and celebrates that gift.



**October 28th 2020**

**Fiction, Fallacy & Fake News.**

*Dr Geri Parlby MA, PhD*

*Spin and propaganda in art throughout the ages.*

Fake news has been around since the time of the Egyptian pharaohs and art has always been one of its favourite media.

In this talk our speaker will be uncovering the subtle art of spin and propaganda in art from the glories of Ancient Mesopotamia to the Norman Conquest and then onto Elizabethan England and the dark days of Nazi Germany. Every picture tells a story, whether it is true or not is an entirely different matter.



**November 18th 2020**

**Journey of the Magi: Origins, Myth and Meaning.  
Two Millennia of Art & Belief**

*Leslie Primo*

This lecture will attempt to unravel the myth and the iconography behind the proliferation of the Christian story of the adoration of the magi. To aid his examination of this story, and to trace the changes in iconography and depictions of the kings themselves, he will be illustrating it with many references to the story as depicted in examples from Western European art spanning the Byzantine period (330 – 1453) through to and including the Renaissance period (ending approximately 1590's).



**January 20th 2021**

**Healing Stitches:**

*Jacqueline Hyman MA ACR*

*Therapeutic Needlecrafts at Times of Conflict*

This lecture demonstrates that at times of conflict, needlecrafts have become important as a means of 'therapy' not just for servicemen returning disabled/ injured from war but also as a means of therapy for family and loved ones at home with the need to occupy themselves with something of worth on the home front. Conflict also cover areas where there is any restriction of movement of the human form, prisons, workhouses, internment camps, hospitals and asylums. There has been a longstanding affiliation between confinement and creativity.



**February 17th 2021**

**London Underground by Design**

*Mark Ovenden*

"The last thing most passengers notice when they use the Tube is what it looks like. But every aspect from the famous diagram of lines to the lettering of the signs...is the product of intense thought. Our speaker is fascinated by the effort that has been made to produce stunning station architecture, easy-to-use wayfinding, beautiful ceramic tiling, durable seat covers (moquette), and clever marketing... all of which are so fit for its purpose they work almost effortlessly. You'll never see the London Underground in the same light after this surprisingly gripping lecture"



**March 17th 2021**

**Memorial for the Women's Suffrage Movement**

*Mary Branson Clark*

In 2014 our speaker was awarded an artistic residency in the Houses of Parliament in order to create a memorial for the women's suffrage movement. This talk is the story of her research, the people she met (and had to win over), how the sculpture was built and hopes for its legacy.