

THE ARTS SOCIETY STAFFORD

LECTURE PROGRAMME APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026



April 15th 2025

Greek Myths and Legends In Art

Val Woodgate

In every age there have been artists whose fascination with these ancient stories has produced some beautiful and memorable works of art, ever created in the Western world.



May 20th 2025

Paint Brushes at Dawn: The World's Greatest Artistic Feuds, Rows and Quarrels

Barry Venning

The history of art is peppered with first rate bust ups: between the early Renaissance artists, Brunelleschi and Ghiberti. Later between Dali and Breton and many more throughout history



June 24th 2025

The Age of Jazz in Britain

Catherine Tackley

What was the public reaction to jazz when it first appeared in Britain? How did British musicians learn to play the style? The lecture is illustrated with pieces of visual art and recorded music examples.



July 22nd 2025

Mad Bad and Dangerous to know. The Colourful Ancestors of the Dukes of Bedford.

Geri Parlby

Wine merchants, poisoners, mine owners and creators of afternoon tea - the colourful history of one of England's oldest aristocratic families and the fascinating art that surrounds them.



September 16th 2025

An English Idyll. Arts and Crafts gardens from Allingham to Lutyens

Anne Anderson

Helen Allingham painted idyllic images of cottage gardens using mothers and children to add scale and sentiment. During the Edwardian period interest shifted away to the restoration garden and the arts and crafts garden. Lutyens and Jekyll blended aspects of both.

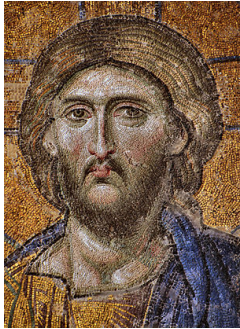


October 14th 2025

**Gender and 20th Century British Sculpture:
The Lives and Times of Hepworth and Frink**

Raymond Warburton

This lecture explores gender in modern British Sculpture through the lives and times of Barbara Hepworth and Elizabeth Frink. Hepworth is often overshadowed by Henry Moore. Born a generation later, Frink ranks alongside Hepworth as a great British sculptor of the 20th Century.



November 11th 2025

All About Icons

Brian Healey

Why is it that so many icons appear so similar, so dark, so primitive even? It takes a trained eye to reveal the fascinating language of icons. This lecture will help de-mysticise these intriguing art works.

January 20th 2026

The Royal Academy - Guardians of British artistic taste? Ian Swankie



Famous for its annual open Summer Exhibition the Royal Academy has been a pillar of British art over 250 years. This lecture deals with its history from its modest beginnings to its current home in Burlington House and explores the world of the Royal Academicians.



February 17th 2026

A Bit of a Carry On

Tyler Butterworth

The remarkable untold story of Carry On actor Peter Butterworth and his wife Janet Brown. Using classic film and TV clips, personal momentos, rare photos and letters from his family's unseen collection, Tyler reveals the private story behind his parents' public lives.



March 17th 2026

**Queens, Consorts and Courtiers:
Female Art Patrons in late Stuart England**

Amy Lim

In an era when married women's property automatically belonged to their husbands, could women still play a role as patrons of the arts? Female patronage has often been hidden within historical record but new research has shown the underestimation of their patronage.