

Eastbourne Arts Circle



Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2018



www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

Updates and information

Supporting the Eastbourne Arts Circle

Next year is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the new Towner Art Gallery and Eastbourne Arts Circle is very proud to have played a part in the gallery's history. Formed in 1964, and originally known as the Friends of the Towner, we were created to raise funds for the gallery. Over the years we have gifted over £300,000 but this would not have been possible without our loyal members who continue to support our fund-raising work today. There are so many ways that you can help us by joining or renewing your membership, attending our lectures, volunteering to help at events, becoming a committee member, giving us a donation, or remembering us in your will. Please help us to help the Towner.



Don't miss out....

EAC Christmas Lunch with Quiz

**Saturday 1st December
at the Lansdowne Hotel**

Please join us for a delicious three course lunch followed by a special EAC Quiz with our own Quiz Masters - Helen Rufus-Ward and Elizabeth Muir-Lewis. Details of menu choices and booking form included with this newsletter.

Come and join us for fantastic festive fun!

TICKET BOOKING FOR EVENTS IN THE TOWNER ART GALLERY

Members: £10 non-members: £12. Tickets are available by post from Sir Philip Anson, 34 Martello Road, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS.

Cheques payable to "Eastbourne Arts Circle" please include an SAE, or email address for confirmation. A postal Ticket booking form is available on our web site.

Tickets also available from the Tourist Information Centre in Cornfield Road.

Tickets at the reduced rate for members are ONLY available in advance from Sir Philip, or at the door, and are NOT available from the Council's Tourist Information Centre. Ticket Enquiries (01323) 411906

(Best before 10.30am weekdays). www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

EASTBOURNE ARTS CIRCLE Registered charity No 306339

Patron The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

President The Mayor of Eastbourne

Chairman Dr Helen Rufus-Ward

Vice Chairman Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Honorary Treasurer Sir Philip Anson

Honorary Secretary Christine Gawad

Advertising Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Editor Claire Patterson-Snell

Committee Members

Helena Birch, Roger Burrell,

Yvonne Burrell

and Derek Irving

Cover Picture: Jasper Johns *Coloured Alphabet* 1959 Paper on hardboard, 30.5 x 26.7cm
©Art Institute, Chicago. See page 9 for Lecture details.

Chairman's Letter



It is very sad to have to start my letter with bad news. On the 19th June our committee member Wendy Bishop passed away. Wendy was a wonderful lady who supported our efforts for many years and she will be greatly missed. During her illness Wendy was truly inspirational, managing to continue attending our monthly meetings despite her illness. I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to her partner Mike and her family and friends.

On Thursday 7th June the new Towner Auditorium was officially opened with a presentation followed by a film showing. I hope that you will agree that the auditorium has been a great success (and well worth our £100,000 contribution) providing a comfortable space for us to enjoy our Friday lectures and Sunday events – although it has not been without some teething troubles! At least the refreshments after our lectures are now running smoothly so please take advantage of this by stopping for a tea/coffee and a post-lecture chat.

We are excited to report that the Sussex Open Art Commission (to be known as the Eastbourne Arts Circle Art Commission) funded by us to the tune of £1,000, has its first winners. It has been shared by two talented artists James W. Murray and Sam Laughlin. Their art commissions were unveiled at the opening of the Sussex Open on the 20th July. See page 4 for more information.

As you might already know, our hard-working treasurer Philip Anson lost his father recently and has now become Sir Philip Anson. Read more on page 6.

We welcome four new members to our committee: Roger and Yvonne Burrell and Helena Birch and Derek Irving. We are delighted to have their support and fresh vision so that we can make the Eastbourne Arts Circle even more successful.

Elizabeth Muir Lewis has arranged some exciting events for the Autumn programme including our Oscar Wilde extravaganza utilising some Eastbourne Arts Circle talent: Elizabeth Muir Lewis, Robin and Anne Gregory, Chris Chisholm, myself (in minor roles) and my eldest son James Ward. I hope you will support this once in a life time performance which showcases Wilde's hilarious poetry and prose.

I am sure that you will not fail to notice the inclusion in this newsletter of a menu and booking form for our 'not to be missed' Pre-Christmas lunch and quiz to be held on Saturday 1st December at the Lansdowne Hotel. I promise it will be great fun – an opportunity to round off a fabulous year for EAC – so please book.

Many thanks for your continued support. **Helen**

Eastbourne Arts Circle Art Commission

This year we were involved in an exciting new addition to the **Towner's Annual Sussex Open – an Art Commission Award** (open across a wide range of art media including film, painting, photography, sculpture and installation.) This initiative has been sponsored by Eastbourne Arts Circle to the tune of £1,000 and aims to support the creation of new artwork.

We are thrilled to inform our members that two young artists have been selected and will share the £1,000 (£500 per artist). The judges were Brian Cass, Head of Exhibitions at Towner, Jenny Lund, Curator of Fine Art at Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove, and Tom Hammick, painter, printmaker and guest curator of *Towards Night* (who generously agreed to supplement the award fund so that each artist received £750).

The winning artists, **James W. Murray** and **Sam Laughlin**, both produced excellent proposals for ambitious bodies of new work. The judges believe the awards will make a significant difference to their careers.

James W. Murray received his MA in photography from University of Brighton in 2015 and has since exhibited in the UK and internationally. His work is in the collection of the Hellenic Centre for Photography and private collections throughout Europe. Trained as a photographer, his studio practice has expanded into sculpture and painting. He has exhibited at Towner previously, in Sussex Open 2017 and East Sussex Open in 2016, which he said had a major influence on his development as an artist.

For the commission, he produced a large minimal diptych to be hung three metres from the floor giving an imposing architectonic presence which directs the viewer's gaze upwards. Inspired by religious paintings in Hamsey Chapel near Lewes, he hopes to show the work there in future. He is represented by Stephane Simeons Contemporary Fine Art in Knokke-Heist, Belgium. James lives and works in Brighton.



www.jameswilliammurray.com

James W. Murray (third from the right) with his winning Art Commission *Untitled (Bob & James) 2018*, Polished graphite on brass panels in braised steel frame.

Eastbourne Arts Circle Art Commission

Sam Laughlin is a photographer and visual artist whose practice is primarily concerned with natural processes which take place slowly or are easily overlooked. His projects have been exhibited extensively in Britain and Europe, including as part of the Brighton Photo Fringe, where he received the Danny Wilson Memorial Award, and most recently at Jerwood Space, Impressions Gallery, and John Hansard Gallery. In 2017, he received the Jerwood/ Photoworks Award to fund production of the series 'A Certain Movement'.

Following his debut at London's Jerwood Space, the work is now touring. For the commission, he expands on recent practice which has been concerned with the state of the natural world and our place within it, made in the context of the worsening environmental crisis.

www.samlaughlin.co.uk



Sam Laughlin (fourth from the right) and his winning Art Commission *Selected Works (Sussex) 2018*, Giclée prints and collected objects.

The Sussex Open will run until 30th September so we hope that our members will visit the Towner to view these important commissions.

REVIEW - MICHAEL CRUIKSHANK

On June 15th painter Michael Cruikshank came to do a demonstration for us. It was the first of its kind for Eastbourne Arts Circle, and the gallery. I want it to be the first of such events. But would it be a success? Would the new gadget, which showed the painter's hand and brush movements enlarged onto the big screen, work?

Well I'm glad to report that it was a huge success thanks to Michael telling the audience what he was doing and why, as he painted. Michael's charismatic personality turned the afternoon into a fascinating experience. Working in oils, he started with a blank canvas, gradually creating a beautiful work, bringing the painting to life. There were a few amateur painters in the room, so the questions were interesting and challenging. We had a good crowd in attendance, and for those unable to join us, you missed a very special experience.

Elizabeth Muir Lewis



Rear Admiral Sir Peter Anson

I am sure that all members will be aware of the debt that we owe to our treasurer Philip Anson for his part in keeping the Eastbourne Arts Circle running smoothly. It is therefore with sadness that I must report that Philip's father Rear-Admiral Sir Peter Anson died on the 17th April from heart failure, the day after he and his wife Dame Elizabeth celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. He was 93 years old. I am sure you will join me in extending our condolences to Philip and his family.

Philip's father had an extremely distinguished naval career surviving two dramatic sinkings during WWII (HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Exeter) and enduring the horrors of a Japanese POW camp. It is testament to Sir Peter Anson that despite such experiences he remained a fun-loving man who 'liked life to be humorous'. Following Peter Anson's death Philip has inherited the baronetcy to become Sir Philip Anson.



Rear-Admiral Sir Peter Anson

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Friday Art Lectures

Barbara Hepworth & Henry Moore: Modelling and Carving

with Peter Scott

Friday 14 September
2.30pm - 4.30pm

Towner, Carlisle Road
Eastbourne



Barbara Hepworth, *Pelagos*, 1946, part painted elm and strings with oak base, 43 x 46 x 38.5cm, ©Tate Britain.

Peter Scott's lecture will centre on two Yorkshire born artists: **Barbara Hepworth** (1903-1975) and **Henry Moore** (1898-1986) and the way that the moorland landscape left a lasting impression on their art, both in the sculptural forms they developed, and the materials they used. As well as discussing their sculpture, this lecture will focus on the elegant and poignant drawings and watercolours which formed a significant part of their work.

The 1930s saw both artists' international reputations grow as they followed Constantin Brancusi in espousing 'direct carving' where the sculptor chose the stone or wood, and carved it themselves, with the final form being suggested by the very process of carving. This contrasted with previous practice, for example by Rodin, where the carving was carried out by artisans from the artist's clay model.

As Hepworth and Moore were recognised internationally as two of the greatest contemporary sculptors, demand for their work dramatically increased and larger scale works in bronze were commissioned for outdoor public spaces. This necessitated casting to be contracted out to commercial foundries or workshops, thereby changing the character of their work.

Peter Scott is a Lecturer and Guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Dulwich Picture Gallery and the Bristol Art Gallery. He also lectures for the Art Fund, Arts Societies and the National Trust and is a Tutor for the WEA.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

Full ticket details are on page 2.

Art Circle talent presents...

**Eastbourne
Arts Circle**



The Brilliance of Oscar Wilde

**Eastbourne Arts
Circle Talent**

**Sunday 7 October
Starts at 2.00pm**

**Towner, Carlisle Road
Eastbourne**



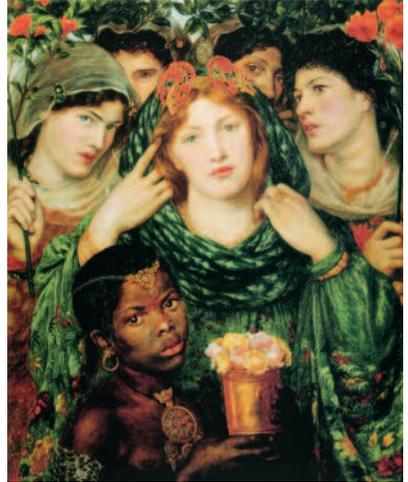
Eastbourne Art Circle Talent present a tribute to Oscar Wilde, participants include Elizabeth Muir Lewis, Robin and Anne Gregory and Nicolas Chisholm.

This master of the English language, Oscar Wilde, with his dazzling wit, explored so many different avenues in which to express his love of words. His sense of humour can be seen in his superbly crafted short stories as well as his brilliant plays. Wilde's social conscience was also wound into his writing revealing a profound understanding of the vanities of human life. The tragedy was that he fell from grace so swiftly, but yet a hundred years later is still eulogised and admired across the world. No playwright except Shakespeare is so widely quoted. He remains an elemental figure in English literature.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

The Pre-Raphaelites **with** **Dr Alexander Loske**

Friday 19 October
2.30pm - 4.30pm
Towner, Carlisle Road
Eastbourne



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, (1828-1882),
The Beloved, 1865/6. ©Tate Britain.

In 1848 a group of English artists, including William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millias and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, formed the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

The aim of this artistic alliance was to produce works of art in the spirit of Italian artists before the great Renaissance artist Raphael. This movement was a mixture of romantic medievalism and realistic depictions of nature and was also to influence Victorian decorative arts through painted furniture, glass, ceramics, textiles and tapestries.

Dr Alexandra Loske is a German-born published art historian and curator at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. She specialises in late 18th and early 19th century European art and architecture.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

Sunday Film Event at Towner

Rossini's La Cenerentola

(Rossini's Musical Fairy Tale at La Scala)

Starring Frederica von Stade, Francisco Araiza and Claudio Desderi
La Scala Theatre Orchestra conducted by Claudio Abbado

Introduction by Robert Ascott

Please note: This opera is sung in the original Italian with English subtitles

Sunday
28 October
Starts at 2pm

**Towner, Carlisle
Road, Eastbourne**



Join us for an enchanting afternoon in the Auditorium to watch a film of Gioachino Rossini's opera *La Cenerentola*. Based on the classic fairy tale Cinderella, it will offer a feast to the ears and eyes. The role of Cenerentola is sung by the outstanding mezzo Frederica von Stade, star of Glyndebourne, the Metropolitan and La Scala. Other main roles are sung by Francisco Araiza and Claudio Desderi.

La Cenerentola, which premiered on the 25th January 1817 at the Teatro Valle in Rome, is considered to be one of Rossini's greatest operatic achievements following on from the success of *The Barber of Seville*. It is amazing to learn that Rossini wrote it when he was just 25 years old!

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

Please join us for what is sure to be a captivating afternoon of opera at its most enthralling.

Jasper Johns

with
John Perrin

Friday 23 November
2.30pm - 4.30pm

Towner, Carlisle Road
Eastbourne



Jasper Johns *Coloured Alphabet* 1959
Paper on hardboard, 30.5 x 26.7cm
© Art Institute, Chicago.

Jasper Johns is regarded as one of the most important influences on American Pop Art using the rich painterly style of Abstract Expressionism. Born in 1930 he is still a leading US painter, sculptor and print maker.

His paintings are often made in encaustic (paint and wax) and are built up in relief choosing subject matter such as flags, numbers, targets and maps. Popular lecturer John Perrin will introduce us to many different elements of Johns' work and the influences that inspired him.

John Perrin is a very experienced lecturer who runs regular WEA courses throughout Sussex on the Appreciation of Modern Art.

Tickets £12 (EAC members £10)

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