



**FRIENDS
OF THE TOWNER**
Supporting the Arts in Eastbourne

TOWNER TIMES
WINTER 2012



News and Events

www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk

Our Cover Picture

We are very privileged to have been given permission to reproduce 'The Evening Train' for our cover. Oil on board, this was painted by Harold Mockford in 1999 when he had moved to Newhaven.

This painting was one of 70 shown during the Harold Mockford retrospective exhibition at Towner this summer. The exhibition took place this year, his 80th birthday year, and was a revelation to all who went to see it. Friends who had not previously known his work visited the exhibition up to three times; 'a major artist' was the consensus. Amazingly, Harold Mockford initially planned to train as a dental technician, with art as a hobby.

After joining the Eastbourne Group of Artists Mockford's talent was spotted by William Gear, Curator of the Towner Gallery from 1958 - 64. Towner's first purchase in 1958 of the painting entitled 'Eastbourne' was controversial. The Gallery now has its own collection of 14 Harold Mockfords, 'When the Lights Come On' receiving the highest number of votes for the People's Choice exhibition on the reopening of the Gallery in 2009 in Devonshire Park.

Don't miss: the new Towner publication on Harold Mockford. This was released on November 17 and contains an illustrative

catalogue of the exhibition with colour images, as well as information on Mockford's relationship with Towner by Julie Brown, Assistant Curator. Sara Cooper, curator of the exhibition, has written about the artist's life and art, and Matthew Rowe, Artistic Director, has written an essay on his conversation with the artist.

With thanks to Julie Brown of the Towner curatorial office.

Editor

Christmas Lunch

The Friends Christmas lunch will be held at the Lansdowne Hotel on **Thursday 20 December**.

If you have not already booked and would like to come, please call 08432 895129



We are holding our AGM on March 3rd at 3pm, in the Lansdowne Hotel. Tea will be served after the AGM business. Cost is £12 per head. **Nigel Rees** (of BBC "Quote... Unquote" and co-presenter of the Today programme on Radio 4) will talk to us. This distinguished broadcaster, author, journalist and entertainer will give his facinating talk "*My Radio Times*" his life in media and broadcasting.



A message from the Chairman

With so many interesting items in this latest Towner Times, I feel that it would be beneficial to have a look at our first year in the Birley Centre, and what it means to us all. From comments I have received, and many letters, it would seem that it has been a good move. It has taken some time to settle in, but now there is an atmosphere of enjoyment and appreciation for the environment it creates.

Acknowledging our long time members and welcoming new ones has been a priority. I believe it is working, that we are going in the right direction. I am pleased that the confusion over the Towner and the Friends of the Towner seems to have sorted itself out, although I still come across people who have joined the Towner thinking they have joined us! So may I suggest that when a friend or colleague expresses an interest in joining the Friends you tell them that the leaflet can be found in our Friends stand in the gallery foyer. The Gallery desk cannot set up membership.

Do join us for our coffee morning on Saturday January 19th at 11am in The Lansdowne Hotel. (form in the magazine)

We are sometimes asked "what do you provide for our membership?" That's easy to answer. While the Towner Gallery is the added cultural addition to the town, we offer a year long programme of varied events. You can choose from a programme of art, music, jazz, poetry, literature, talks/concerts, all given by top lecturers/performers. There are also social get-togethers (coffee mornings, Christmas lunch)

We have listened to our membership. Therefore the majority of the events are to be at 3pm, also introducing as part of the ticket, a cup of tea and biscuit.

We have, as you know, started afternoon lectures in the Junction Box, which seems to be welcomed, if the turn out is anything to go by! Yes I know that room was hopeless as a concert/events space, but for these lectures it is ideal.

Another very important matter.

We now have a "Friends" email through which I send regular messages. However it only has a relatively small representation of the membership, (which has grown wonderfully in the last year by the way). I know that many people worry about data protection etc. I would like to assure you that only individuals will receive my emails. (I would love to think that you can't wait to receive one!)

So do join this powerful means of communication so that I can reach you, send you news and reminders. You can start the ball rolling by emailing me: pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk giving me permission to add you to our list. This will not be abused or shared.

One last thing. Please give us your support and tell us what you think. We need a pat on the back (or otherwise!) occasionally.

I send everyone good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

**Norah Sande
Winner's Concert
Mishka Rushdie
Momen**

Saturday 26 January, 3pm
Birley Centre, Carlisle Road
Admission £12 (members £10)
Tickets include refreshments

Born in London in 1992, Mishka was described as "an extraordinarily gifted young artist and a recitalist of distinction. Audiences have been both enchanted by her performance and that a young player should bring such maturity and depth to her interpretations"



She is the youngest pupil ever admitted to the Purcell School; aged six on a full scholarship where she was a pupil of LLana Davids. She is now a postgraduate scholar and student of Joan Havill at the Guildall School of Music. Previously Mishka studied with Imogen Cooper for five years as her only student, and has studied periodically with Alfred Brendal.

She now has a busy performing schedule in major world venues.

Mishka's programme:

Bach - Partita no 2 in C minor BWV 826

Schubert -Sonata in C minor D 895

Chopin - Nocturne in B major , op 9, no 3

Chopin - Sonata no 3 in B minor

Augustus & Gwen John

Linda Smith BA MA

Thursday 21 February, 3pm

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Tickets include refreshments



His work has been called brash and shallow, hers dismissed as fussy and spinsterish. These assessments are not really fair to either artist, and this talk takes a careful look at their lives, in parallel, up to the point of Gwen's death in 1939. At that time Gwen had no public reputation whatsoever, whereas her brother was enjoying enormous professional and critical success.

By the time he died, however, the positions had been reversed, and the talk will consider the reasons why.

Linda is a distinguished art historian, with a special interest in British art, and art of the twentieth century. She is an accredited NADFAS lecturer, as well as an experienced gallery guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern.



A portrait of Gwen John by Hogret



Thomas "Spats"
Langham

Jazz with... The Andy Woon All Stars

Wednesday 6 March, 2.15pm

Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

Admission £12.50 (Members £11.50)



Keith Nichols

Following the success of our first jazz matinee at the Hydro Hotel we shall be returning for another afternoon of classic jazz featuring the Andy Woon All Stars.

Andy has established himself as a cornet player of national repute and he will be joined by Keith Nichols (piano), Malcolm Sked (bass) and the inimitable Thomas "Spats" Langham on banjo and guitar.

Keith has appeared on a number of Friends' jazz events over the years. His reputation as a leading exponent of classic jazz piano has spread throughout Europe and he has made numerous recordings. Spats Langham is a top musician and entertainer, his mellow crooning is reminiscent of Al Bowlly. He has toured extensively, including two trips to Australia.

Members are urged to book as soon as possible as our last jazz event was sold out well in advance and we had to disappoint many people.



Gareth Thomas: An Afternoon with John Betjeman

Thursday 28 March, 3.00pm

Birley Centre

Admission £12 (Members £10)

Tickets include refreshments

John Betjeman, self-styled 'poet and hack', was born in 1906. With an abiding passion for Victorian architecture, he was a founding member of the Victorian Society, and led the fight to preserve St.Pancras Station among other iconic buildings and churches. He was knighted in 1969, and followed Cecil Day Lewis as Poet Laureate in 1972, a post he held until his death in 1984. Gareth Thomas will read poems that illustrate memorable moments in John Betjeman's life.

Gareth Thomas is immediately recognisable from his numerous films and stage appearances over many years. His range is impressively varied, from King Lear to Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Cassio in Othello to Sir Toby Belch, Bergerac, Taggart, Sherlock Holmes, and How Green was my Valley. As a regular on television, he is maybe best remembered for playing Blake in "Blakes 7". Other major parts include Sutherlands Law, By the Sword Divided, London's Burning, Heartbeat, Midsomer Murders.

His numerous Shakesperean roles include, Twelfth Night, Henry IVth, Henry Vth, and King Lear. Other plays include The Crucible, Equus and Deja Vu, fellow thespians being John Gielgud, Alec Guinness, and Michael Gambon amongst others.

Friday Art Lectures at Towner

All talks 2.30-4.30pm

Friday 25 January

Illustrated Lecture on Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson with John Perrin MA

Hepworth's sculptures between 1930 and 1975. We learn how her work communicates ideas and influences such as her visit to Brancusi's studio in Paris in 1932, her visit to Greece in 1954 and her inspiration from nature and the Cornish seascape; how her work achieves her aims in terms of abstraction and purity of form.



Nicholson's paintings between 1924 and 1969. John Perrin will describe how his work developed from his influences such as Alfred Wallis, Piet Mondrian, Cubism and the natural Cornish landscape.



Friday 22 February

Pipers and Tune with Janet Canetty-Clarke

A lecture to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Britten on Feb 22nd 1913. John Piper's stage designs and costumes and his wife Myfanwy's three librettos were integral to the development of Benjamin Britten's operas

Janet's use of material featuring the works of John and Myfanwy Piper is made possible by the kind permission of the Towner, Eastbourne.

Friday 22 March

Early Renaissance with Richard Cupidi

Exploring important works by Donatello and Brunelleschi during that magical period, the Italian Renaissance. See how their innovations in painting, architecture, and sculpture dramatically influenced Renaissance thinking, and continue to affect us today.

Friday 26 April Pre-Raphaelites with Prasannajit Da Silva

The Pre-Raphaelites are now an established part of the British artistic canon, but just how radical were they in their time? What was their impact on the Victorian art world? How did the work of members of the movement develop subsequently, and how has their popularity fluctuated since the 19th. Century?



Prasannajit da Silva has a D.Phil in Art History. His interests include British art of the 18th and 19th centuries. He is an Associate Tutor at the University of Sussex, a Sessional Lecturer at Birkbeck, and a Tutor for the WEA.

Ticket cost per talk:

Members: £8 non-members: £10

For 4 talks members: £30

non-members: £38 (a saving of £2)

To book call 08432 895129 and send a SAE for your tickets to: 34 Martello Road, Eastbourne BN22 7SS.

EXHIBITIONS AT TOWNER

Collective Observations: Folklore and Photography - from Benjamin Stone to Flickr

13 Oct 12-13 Jan 13 (free)

Curated by the Museum of British Folklore in conjunction with Towner

Since 1897, when Sir Benjamin Stone established the National Photographic Record Association (NPR), photographers have had a fascination with the rites and rituals of Britain. This exhibition explores the complimentary relationship between photography and folklore practice – featuring

contributions from Faye Claridge, Matthew Cowan, Doc Rowe, Sir Benjamin Stone Collection, Homer Sykes, Brian Shuel, Sara Hannant, Tom Chick, David Ellison, Henry Bourne and Flickr.



*Antrobus Horse
Doc Rowe*

Bon Hiver

1 Dec 12-Spring 13 (free)

This Towner Collection display takes you on a journey through the winter landscape – from the forest to the ice cap. The exhibition features iconic works such as Eric Ravilious's *Downs in Winter* and *The Forked Forest Path* by Olafur Eliasson, whose artwork *The Weather Project* remains one of Tate's most popular Turbine Hall installations.

Towner acquired *The Forked Forest Path* through the Contemporary Art Society in 2004 and this is the first time this striking forest installation has been shown in our new building. The display also features

works by Christopher Wood, William Gear, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Duncan Grant, Joachim Koester, Edward Stott and more.



*Eric Ravilious (1903–1942)
Downs in Winter, 1934
Watercolour and pencil on paper*

We are very pleased that Kelly Richardson, the artist behind our upcoming solo exhibition *Legion*, has lent a series of photographs to the show. *Bon hiver* is a traditional French greeting. Directly translated, it means “good winter”. It is often used on the first day of snowfall in the year.

Kelly Richardson: Legion

2 Feb-14 Apr
(free)



Kelly Richardson is known for her stunning large scale video installations of hyper-real landscapes. Combining the real and the imagined to powerful effect, she starts by filming real landscapes and then uses digital technology to distort them until they appear unfamiliar and foreboding.

*Image above: The Erudition,
Kelly Richardson, 3 screen HD video
installation, 2010. Image courtesy of the artist
and Birch Libralato. Photo: Colin Davison*

UNDER GROUND THEATRE PROGRAMME



under ground theatre

GROVE ROAD EASTBOURNE



The Under Ground Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm for Coffee and cakes. On Saturday morning there is music in the auditorium, admission free. Website: www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk Tel: 0845 680 1926

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| 12 Jan | Comedy - Lewis Schaffer |
| 17 Jan | Open Stage Night |
| 18 Jan | Jazz – Sarah Moule Trio & Andy Panayi |
| 20 Jan | Chamber Concert – Musicians to be arranged |
| 25 Jan | Drama - “Larry” |
| | |
| 7 Feb | Open Stage Night |
| 8 Feb | Jazz – Buster Birch Quartet |
| 9 Feb | Music – Pink Floyd Tribute Band |
| 10 Feb | Film – The Blue Dahlia |
| 14 Feb | Drama My Gay Best Friend |
| 17 Feb | Chamber Concert – The Gibbs Quartet |
| 21 Feb | Film – Cape Fear |
| 23 Feb | Music – Matt Cooper Fret Guitarist |
| | |
| 1 March | Jazz - Alan Barnes Clarinet Trio |
| 8 March | Drama – The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band |
| 14 March | Open Stage Night |
| 16 March | Music – City of Ashes & Support Bands |
| 17 March | Film – Dishonored |
| 22 March | Jazz – Stan Tracey Trio |
| 24 March | Chamber Concert – The Lycydas Trio |
| 28 March | Film - Cul-de-Sac |
| 30 March | Live piano music & High Tea |
| 30 March | Music – Thorntree & Support |
| | |
| 11 April | Open Stage Night |
| 12 April | Drama – Ashes to Ashes |
| 13 April | Society Talks – The Eastbourne Story |
| 14 April | Chamber Concert - Duo |
| 19 April | Jazz – Sue Richardson Quartet |
| 20 April | Society Talks – The Early Days of Orchestral Music |
| 21 April | Film – The Tarnished Angels |
| 25 April | Film – Jubilee |
| 27 April | Society Talks – Eastbourne Can! |
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| Art at the Under Ground Theatre | |
| 4-26 January | Andrew Forrest |
| 1-23 February | Rupert Denyer |
| 1-30 March | Chris Liddiart |
| 5-27 April | Cool Sixties Photo Exhibition |

ADVANCE NOTICE



*Sunday 21 April 2013
at the Birley Centre*

Robin Gregory

The Great American Songwriters: "Smoke gets in your eyes"
"When they begin the Beguine".

Following the success of his talk on The Great Musicals, Robin Gregory plans to share his love of many superb American songs. He has a large collection of classic recordings which he will bring along for your delight to illustrate his choices.

*Sunday 16 June 2013
at the Birley Centre*

Hilary Kay

Hilary is one of the best known faces of BBC TV's long running Antiques Roadshow, having joined the programme in 1979. She has a particular love of toys, and renowned for her enthusiasm and charm, she will take us behind the scenes of this popular TV show.



THE NORA SANDE AWARD

Now in its eighth year, this award is open to musicians between the ages of 18-25. The award has been enabled by a substantial bequest by the late Nora Sande, in memory of her grandmother, Alice Mary Caffin, a keen amateur musician. The competitors must be residents of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and London, and the trust is administered by the Trustees of Eastbourne Music and Arts Festival.

The finalists perform a full programme, incorporating classical, romantic, and contemporary pieces. The first prize is £3000, the second £1000, and the third £500. This year's winner is **Mishka Rushdie Momen**. See page 4.

TICKET BOOKING

All tickets are available on
08432 895129.

See the enclosed Friends' Events Order form, or purchase from the Tourist Information Centre in Cornfield Road.

Tickets at the reduced rate for members are ONLY available in advance from Philip, or on the door, and are NOT available from the Council's Tourist Information Centre or website.

FRIENDS OF THE TOWNER

Patron The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

President The Mayor of Eastbourne

Vice President Geoffrey Williams

Chairman Elizabeth Muir-Lewis

Honorary Treasurer Rodney Browne

Honorary Secretary Christine Gawad

Committee Members

Rodney Browne, Christine Gawad, Ann Gregory, Geoffrey Mantle, Sylvia Tye, Geoffrey Williams, Sheila Yates

Co-opted Member Philip Anson

EBC Representative Councillor Neil Stanley

The Friends of the Towner Newsletter

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We would love to hear your comments and views on our events. Let our Chairman Elizabeth know. Email: pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk

Forthcoming Events 2013



Friday 25 January, 3pm
**Barbara Hepworth
and Ben Nicholson**
John Perrin
Junction Box, Towner



Saturday 26 January, 3pm
Piano Recital
Mishka Rushdie Momen
The Birley Centre



Thurs 21 February, 3pm
**Augustus and
Gwen John**
Linda Smith
The Birley Centre



Weds 6 March, 2.15pm
Afternoon Jazz
**The Andy Woon
All Stars**
The Hydro Hotel



Thurs 28 March, 3pm
**An Afternoon with
John Betjeman**
Gareth Thomas
The Birley Centre

Friday Lectures at the Junction Box

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| 25 January | Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson with John Perrin |
| 22 February | John Piper/Benjamin Britten with Janet Canetty-Clarke |
| 22 March | Early Renaissance with Richard Cupidi |
| 26 April | Pre-Raphaelites with Prasannajit Da Silva |
| 24 May | David Hockney with Bryan Davies |

For tickets, please complete the ticket order form. Ticket hotline:
08432 895129 also available from the Tourist Information Centre.