



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

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**TOWNER TIMES**  
**WINTER 2013**



### ***News and Events***

- Donation to St. Wilfrid's
- Events at the Birley Centre
- Friday Lectures at Towner

**[www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk)**

## Event Reminder

### **American Originals: Jacob Lawrence with Richard Cupidi Friday 22 November**

**2.30-4.30pm at Towner,  
College Road, Eastbourne**

Richard Cupidi's entertaining and engaging talk will bring the 'rags to riches' story of black American artist Jacob Lawrence to life.

**Chairman's Note** - Our Friday lectures are becoming so popular that we really need more people to book in advance. It is a problem for seating arrangements when we have an influx of people



turning up on the day, and if we become oversubscribed we will have to turn people away due to health and safety issues.

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### **Latest News**

The Friends of the Towner are pleased to tell you that we have donated an Eric Ravilious print to the new St Wilfrid's Hospice, which will be seen in the foyer entrance. This was a limited edition reproduction of the watercolour: Lombardy Poplars, the hospice feel that it creates a mood of tranquility.

Kara Bishop, Chief Executive wrote: *"Thank you so much to the Friends of the Towner for the very generous donation of the Ravilious. It is such a beautiful piece and absolutely perfect for our wonderful new hospice. I am sure it will give everyone a great deal of pleasure."*



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**Cover picture:** Henri Gaudi-Brzeska, *Sleeping Fawn*, 1913. Towner Collection.

**Henri Gaudier-Brzeska** was born near Orléans, France in 1891. He Died a few months before his twenty-fourth birthday fighting for his native land. Henri Gaudier came to London in 1911 where he met Sophie Brzeska, almost twice his age. He added her name to his. In London he was taken under the wing of major figures in British art like Wyndham-Lewis and Ezra Pound who kept him supplied with marble. His rough-hewn primitive style of sculpture found favour with the Vorticists. *Sleeping Fawn* formed a centre piece in the Towner exhibition "Winter Landscapes" in 2012. He was one of the three sculptors with Eric Gill and Jacob Epstein at the Royal Academy exhibition of 2009/2010 "Wild Things". More of his work can be found at Kettles Yard, Cambridge.



## A message from the Chairman

Dear Friends

I and the committee hope you have enjoyed our summer (at last a real one!) and that you look forward to the delights we are offering when the New Year begins!

The Gallery (Friday) lectures are proving to be a great success, and we intend to build upon this, as you will see from what is on offer in 2014. I feel that we are so lucky to have found such first class lecturers. Please book ahead.

But on another very important matter. The Towner Gallery will become a trust in April 2014. This will change our relationship inevitably, although we will wait to see what they are planning of course. Our history with the Towner has had its ups and downs since we left the old Manor House, the main one being the confusion with the names. I have heard people say "I thought I had joined the *Friends* and found I had joined the *Towner* or the other way round.

After talking with the new Director Emma Morris (who is a super new breath of fresh air may I say) it is in the wind (no pun!) that we will consider a name change, with the directors' wishes in mind. The FOTT has to grow, adapt and find new vigour, adding energy and fresh thinking to what we do. We have suggestions about a possible new name. We would still help the gallery if

asked, and our relationship will stay as it is, while at the same time finding new ways to use our funds. We would seek to be a beneficial organisation for our town and Sussex in general, stimulating the arts, encouraging young people to join or attend, and presenting first class events so everyone can enjoy them. **In many ways we are a year long festival of the arts.** We cover art, music, literature and ballet.

You will find the new subscription leaflets included in this issue. We would be delighted if you would re-join us for 2014. Just fill in the form and send to our secretary Christine Gawad. On the other hand you could attend our coffee morning on January 18th at 10.30 am in the Lansdowne Hotel, when you will have the opportunity to join and to meet other members. Invite a friend if you would like to. I and the committee look forward very much to seeing you.

As this is the last Towner Times before Christmas, may we all wish you a very happy one, and look forward to seeing you for our Christmas lunch when the Melody Magpies will entertain us.

**Elizabeth**

Email: [pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk)

# Birley Centre Event



## **Norah Sande Winner's Concert** **Riyad Nicolas**

**Sunday 26 January, 3pm**  
**Birley Centre, Carlisle Road**

Admission £12 (Members £10)  
Refreshments available

This prestigious award, held annually in Eastbourne, was won by Syria's leading young pianist **Riyad Nicolas**. Riyad graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 2011 and has been delighting audiences and competition adjudicators ever since.

He was born in Aleppo, Syria. His exceptional talent was recognised and at nine years old won the best Student Prize of the Syrian Republic in 1998 and again in 1999. In 2005 he was selected to take part in the London International Piano Competition where he won the Educational Award, later going on to study at The Royal Academy of Music. In June 2007 his performance of the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No 3 at St John Smith's Square, London, prompted critics to comment on the exceptional brilliance of the young artist.

After graduating, Riyad won 1st prize in the Christopher Duke Piano Recital Competition. He has played in the Brighton Festival and London's Cadogan and Wigmore Halls.

His passion is in promoting Arabic contemporary compositions, and he has performed at the Brunel Institute for contemporary Middle Eastern Music and the Arab British Centre.

***Riyad will be playing pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Ravel and Chopin.***

## Duo Diez

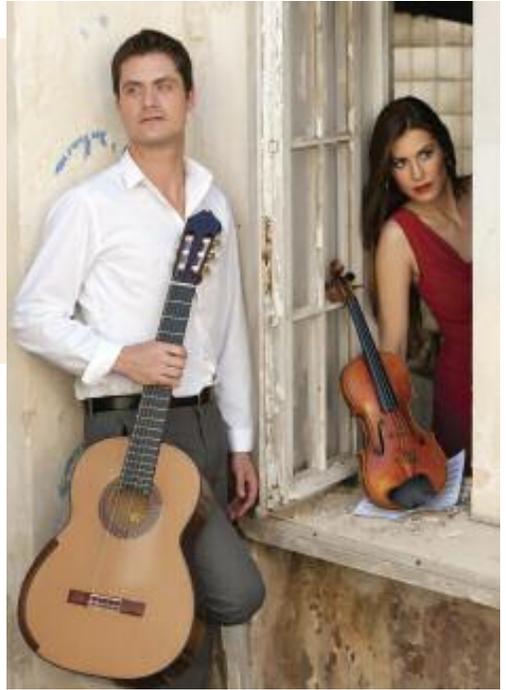
**Sunday 23 February**

**7.30pm**

**Birley Centre, Carlisle Rd**

Tickets £12 (Members £10)

Refreshments available



Duo Diez is an exciting new musical collaboration between guitarist **Dimitris Dekavallas** and violinist **Violeta Barrena**. The chosen name for the Duo originates from the Spanish word "Diez" which means ten, the number of their combined strings.

Since meeting at the Royal Academy of Music as students, they have both developed interesting and varied international solo careers. A shared interest in playing and promoting Spanish and Latin American classical music signaled the start of Duo Diez in 2012. Their repertoire encompasses a wide range of styles from Bach, Mozart, Schubert to Sarasate, Piazzolla and Villa Lobos.

They have performed at venues such as the Wigmore Hall, National Portrait Gallery, Bolivar Hall, the Forge Theatre, and travelled all over the world including the USA, Spain and Greece. Upcoming engagements include performances at the Royal Albert Hall concert, St. James's Piccadilly and Ronnie Scotts.

Dimitris is remembered as the superb guitarist who opened our first event in the (then) new Birley Centre. This programme is an exciting event with passionate and incredible use of guitar and violin, an unusual combination.

# Martin Litton's Incomparables

**Wednesday 5 March, 2.15pm**  
**Hydro Hotel**

Tickets £13 (Members £12)



Four of the best known names in British jazz feature in this programme when pianist **Martin Litton** brings his quartet to the Hydro. A master of stride and ragtime, Martin has established a world wide reputation and was for several years a member of the band led by the late Kenny Ball.

Trumpeter **Enrico Tomasso** comes from a well known jazz family; his father Ernie and uncle Freddie were both members of *Harry Gold's Pieces of Eight* in the 1950s . At the age of seven Enrico met and played for Louis Armstrong during his his visits to England in 1968 and 1969. This led to a friendship which lasted for the remainder of Louis' life. A recent winner of the best trumpet category in the British Jazz Awards, Enrico's latest CD has received rave reviews.



**Trevor Whiting** on clarinet and saxophone was initially influenced by the great Sidney Bechet. For several years he led his own Swingtet and in the eighties he worked with Ken Colyer. For some time he was a member of Chris Barber's band.

Completing the group will be the versatile guitarist and banjoist **Martin Wheatley**. A consummate jazz musician he performs with countless jazz bands including his own Wheatley's Arcadians.

# Birley Centre Event

## Vincent Van Gogh The True Story

with

**Professor Anthony Slinn**

**Sunday 30 March, 7.30pm**

**Birley Centre, Carlisle Road**

Tickets £12 (Members £10)

Professor Slinn is a very well known speaker on art. He has been to Eastbourne many times, giving his talk on Picasso's "Guernica" for the Friends, and at another time a talk on Salvador Dalí.

His talk about Vincent Van Gogh is a particularly interesting one. The professor not only illuminates his subject, but is also hugely entertaining, bringing his subjects alive with humour and backed up by fascinating research. He has read all the letters from the painter, which shed light on the workings of a great artist. Has gone to where Van Gogh lived, particularly in Arles in Provence, where he found many of the painting sites.

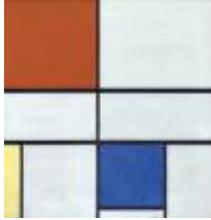
He will talk about and show the landscapes and how Van Gogh brought "Things to life". He visited St Remy where Van Gogh painted "Starry Night". We will see the room where the painter died, and his graveside at Auvers, which lies next to his brother Theo. The talk will end with a surprise!



**31 January**  
**John Perrin**

## **Mondrian and Kandinsky**

John Perrin's stimulating and entertaining talk will explore the ideas and influences behind the exciting abstract art of Dutch artist Piet Mondrian (1872-1944) and Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944). Discover how Mondrian's work developed into his mature Constructivist paintings with their use of colour and grids. Also find out how Kandinsky's work was influenced by music using colour, forms, lines and marks.



**28 February**  
**Bernard Allan**

## **Édouard Manet:**

### **Painter of Modern Life**

Although Parisian artist Manet's work was often rejected or ridiculed by critics during his lifetime he proved to be the perfect flaneur aloof, immaculately dressed and a detached observer of late nineteenth-century society: the boulevard, the café and the theatre. Bernard's talk will give us a fascinating glimpse into the paintings that scandalised yet earned Manet the epithet 'the man who invented modernity'.

Bernard Allen has a BA (Hons) in history and an MA in the History of Art. He is also a tutor for the WEA and lectures widely for NADFAS.



**28 March**  
**Dr Prasannajit De Silva**  
**The Grand Tour**

During the eighteenth century, many wealthy young Britons visited continental Europe, and Italy in particular, as an important part of their cultural education. So too did many British artists and architects, including Joshua Reynolds, Richard Wilson and Robert Adam. What was the impact of what they found - in some cases, brought back - on art, architecture and design in Britain?



**25 April**  
**Richard Cupidi**  
**Georgia O'Keeffe**

Georgia O'Keeffe was, in every sense, a pioneering artist in the world of American art— female, talented, independent and willing to look beyond an object's outward appearance. With her unique visions of both city and desert, she transformed the infinitely small and large into landscapes of exuberant colour and unexpected forms.



**Cost per talk:** Members: £8  
non-members: £10.

*Tickets available by post from: 34 Martello Road, Eastbourne BN22 7SS. (Cheques payable to "Friends of the Towner") Enquiries 08432 895129*

# Exhibitions at Towner

## Wonderland

**2 November 2013 - 26 January 2014**  
**Collection Gallery**

This exhibition will draw on works in the collection that explore themes of space and architecture. Many of the pieces contain elements of surprise or subversion within them, or explore the way in which people try to control or simplify natural and physical environments. The display will include Ceal Floyer's *Door*, 1995, Derek Boshier's *Vista City*, 1964, and *Test of Courage*, 2000 by Rut Blees Luxemburg.



John Skoog, *Förår* 2012, HD digital film 16 minutes and 32 seconds. Courtesy of the artist and Pilar Corrias.

## John Skoog Redoubt

**18 January - 30 March 2014**  
**Exhibition Gallery**

John Skoog works with film and video. He follows in the tradition of Scandinavian film through the use of stark landscapes and slow-pacing. The poetic use of the Swedish landscape and powerful studies of character and emotion evoke memories of film works by cinema greats such as Victor Sjöström and Mauritz Stiller.

For his first solo show in a UK public gallery, Skoog will make a new film set in the flat farmlands of the southern provinces of Sweden.

## East Sussex Open 2014

**4 July - 14 September**

Now in its fifth year and with growing popularity, the 2014 exhibition moves to the summer.

This is a fantastic opportunity for artists from the East Sussex region to exhibit in Towner's vast gallery space. East Sussex Open 2014 is open to artists and makers working in any media who live or work in the East Sussex region, including Brighton and Hove.

For more information on eligibility or to enter the East Sussex Open download an application form from [www.townereastbourne.org.uk](http://www.townereastbourne.org.uk) or contact 01323 434670 (Submissions must be received by 4pm on Sunday 2 February 2014).



East Sussex Open 2013, install shot by

*Christmas greetings from the staff at Towner.*

# Under Ground Theatre Programme



under ground theatre

GROVE ROAD EASTBOURNE



The Under Ground Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm (from January 2014 Friday will be 10 - 12.30pm) for Coffee and homemade cakes. On Saturday morning there is music in the auditorium which is free. There is also an art exhibition in the foyer which changes every month. For further details on all our events visit our website: [www.undergroundtheatre.com](http://www.undergroundtheatre.com) Ticket Hotline 0845 680 1926

Sunday December 1st 2.45pm Live Chamber Music with the Bastille Trio

Thursday December 19th 7.30pm Film Lord of the Flies

Saturday January 4th 7-10pm Song Writers Circle

Sunday January 12th 2.30pm Classical American Musical 42nd Street

Sunday January 19th 2.45pm Pianist Leo Nicholson

Saturday February 1st 7.45pm Jimmy Lee and Edge of Chaos Orchestra

Sunday February 9th 2.30pm Film - Gilda with Glen Ford and Rita Hayworth

Saturday March 1st 1.30-3.30pm Songwriters Circle

Friday March 7th 7.30pm Wilde without the Boy Oscar Wilde

Sunday March 9th 2.30pm Film - Written on the Wind with Lauren Bacall, Rock Hudson and Dorothy Malone

Sunday March 16th 2.45pm Pianist Aleksander Szram

**Jazz Concerts:** 17th January, 14th February, 14th March

**Open Stage Nights:** 9th January, 13th February, 13th March

## Art Exhibitions at the Under Ground Theatre

6 to 28 Dec **Sonya Tatham & Susan Gregory**

Susan is captivated by colour and shape, Sonya paints enjoys painting the seasons and surroundings.

10 Jan to 1 Feb **Teresa Currie**, mediums include watercolour, pen & wash, soft pastel, graphite, charcoal and photography.

7 Feb to 29 March **Valerie Maclean** art includes bold colourful acrylics and mixed media art.



QUILTER CHEVIOT  
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



## GOLD STANDARD AWARD WINNERS FOR DISCRETIONARY PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT 2012

For more information, please contact Nick Britnell, Julian Harper or Nigel Olliff on +44 (0)20 7662 6200 or visit [quiltercheviot.com](http://quiltercheviot.com)

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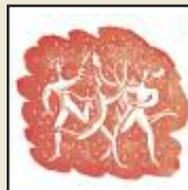
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## Christmas All Wrapped Up at Towner

Tuesday 3 December, 5.30pm - 7pm. Free entry.

Towner would like to welcome you to a late night Christmas shopping evening complete with mulled wine and mince pies. You'll find some unique Christmas gifts and stocking fillers, with a free gift wrapping service. There's a behind the scenes tour around the Wonderland exhibition as well.

The Eric Ravilious design (right) *Dancing Figures with Holly Wreaths*, 1933, Towner Collection, is part of an exclusive 6 pack of Christmas available for you to purchase.



## TICKET BOOKING

Tickets are available by post from 34 Martello Rd, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS  
cheques payable to "The Friends of the Towner", please include an SAE.

Enquiries 08432 895129, or from the Tourist Information Centre,  
or via the link in the Friends web site.

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 on their web site.

### 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** Philip Anson

**Honorary Secretary** Christine Gawad

#### Committee Members

Christine Gawad, Dr Helen Rufus-Ward,  
Geoffrey Williams, Sheila Yates

#### EBC Representative

Councillor Carolyn Heaps

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