

Eastbourne Arts Circle



Formerly the Friends of the Towner

**ARTS CIRCLE NEWSLETTER ~ Issue 1
SPRING 2014**



News and Events

- The New Towner Trust
- Our AGM News
- Events at the Birley Centre
- Friday Lectures at Towner

www.eastbourneartscircle.org.uk

David Dimbleby announced as first Chair of Towner

One of the country's finest television broadcasters, David Dimbleby, has accepted an invitation to become the Towner's first Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Towner will become an independent charitable trust on 1 April 2014 and will be in a much stronger position to secure funding for new projects, commission new work from leading artists and acquire new works for its outstanding collection.



David Dimbleby said:

"I am very excited by being asked to chair the Board of Trustees of Towner when it becomes a charity in April. I have been a supporter of Towner since I turned the first sod of the new building five years ago and then cut the ribbon for its opening. Towner is a wonderful gallery space in a fine building, which has been a great boost to Eastbourne. From the many films I have made for BBC 1 on the arts in Britain I know the appeal of art to the public is growing all the time and it is a privilege to have been asked to help to nurture it.

My main focus will be to support the work of our new Executive Director, Emma Morris, who has ambitious plans to build on the work of the past few years. Art enriches our lives and we are determined to bring it to as many people as possible through our award winning work with schools and young people with special needs who otherwise may never set foot in a gallery."



Emma Morris, said:

"I am delighted that David has agreed to be the Chair of Towner when we move to an independent charitable trust. I wanted the first Chair of the trust to have a strong connection to both Towner and to Eastbourne, a passion for the arts and a national profile, so I couldn't have wished for a better appointment. I'm looking forward to working with David in developing a Board of Trustees with the necessary skills and expertise to build on the success of Towner, whilst also establishing the gallery as the cultural hub of the town.

Working closely with all the Trustees and with continued support from Eastbourne Borough Council and Arts Council England, Towner is in a strong position to become a resilient and dynamic charity, delivering a world-class programme for everybody to enjoy."



A message from the Chairman

Dear Member,

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that we have voted to change our name to "Eastbourne Arts Circle" at our AGM on 2nd March. There was plenty of discussion and when a vote was taken, the majority said yes to the name change.

The name change was necessary because of the confusion caused with Towner's own Membership scheme.

So we now have a new name, and a new attractive logo. Under the new name it will be stated "formerly known as The Friends of the Towner".

Our fund raising activities will go directly to the gallery as soon as the trust is set up. We have a gallery to be proud of, and we will strive to help it when they begin their new independent life as we always have in the past.

David Dimbleby wishes to meet with us to discuss our role. As chairman of the Towner Trust one can anticipate a real bonus from his influence and evident interest in our gallery.

You will note that we have decided to go to a 3pm start time for the Birley Centre events. This seems to be the most popular time, not only for the audience, but also for the artists. We will present a programme of all the arts. The gallery art talks flourish, something we are delighted with. We keep an eye on what you all like best... is it music? Art? Literature? Ballet? Jazz? Don't be afraid to tell us. We want to know. There seems to be a different audience for each one, apart from the faithful who come to most of them. It is that fascinating dilemma that face all who put programmes together.

So welcome to you all, new and long time members, to a new era for this distinguished organisation which has a history to be proud of, and which now moves forward to embrace an exciting future.

We hope that you like this first issue of our "Arts Circle Newsletter".
See you all soon.

Elizabeth

Email: pridmore789@tiscali.co.uk

New Arts Circle Logo by local artist Eddie Ward.

Cover picture: Eric Slater (1896-1963) Seaford Head.

See Page 6 for details on James Trollope's lecture on Eric Slater's woodcuts

A Reminder for our Friday Lecture on 28 March 2014 2.30-4.30pm at Towner

The Grand Tour with Dr Prasannajit De Silva

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?



EASTBOURNE ANCESTORS

Now until 16 November 2014

*Find out what secrets have been dug up
about our Ancestors at this Free Exhibition*
at The Pavilion, Royal Parade, Eastbourne
(adjacent to the Redoubt)

Opening times: March: Thurs-Sun 10am-4pm

From 1st April 7 days a week 10am-5pm

www.eastbournemuseums.co.uk

TICKET BOOKING

Friday Art Lectures - cost per talk: Members: £8 non-members: £10.
Other events: prices as stated.

Tickets are available by post from 34 Martello Rd, Eastbourne, BN22 7SS
cheques payable to **“The Eastbourne Arts Circle”**, please include an SAE.
Enquiries 08432 895129, or from the Tourist Information Centre,
or via the link on the 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.



Opera, Operetta and Show Songs with Christina Gansch **Sunday 18 May, 3.00pm** **Birley Centre, Carlisle Road**

Admission £12 (Members £10)
Refreshments available

An exciting young soprano with a huge future.

Christina Gansch is an Austrian soprano. She studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg under Gutrun Volkert, graduating with Distinction. The young soprano is currently studying a Master of Arts at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she was awarded the ABRSM Scholarship and the San Martino Scholarship. She is studying there with Lillian Watson and Jonathan Papp.

She won the prestigious Richard Lewis singing prize during that year. Recently she also won the 19th international competition for opera singers "Ferruccio Tagliavini" in Austria, and the Dame Joan Sutherland prize for the best soprano, plus the Karl Bohm prize for the best Mozart interpretation.

Christina will present a popular programme of show and operetta songs and arias, as well as operatic arias. Her accompanist is Thomas Primrose, winner of the Webb piano award in the Richard Lewis competition.

This concert is sponsored by the Richard Lewis Trust and the Josephine Baker Trust.

Georgia O'Keeffe with Richard Cupidi

**Friday 25th April
at Junction Box, Towner, Carlisle Road**



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.



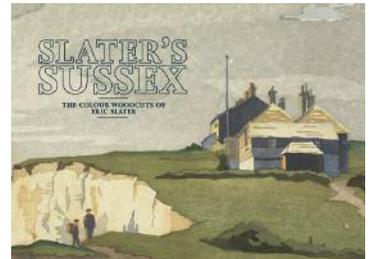
Slater's Sussex

A talk on the colour woodcuts of
Eric Slater (1896-1963)

with James Trollope

Friday 23rd May

at Junction Box, Towner, Carlisle Road



The colour woodcuts of Eric Slater are enjoying a revival after decades of neglect. An exhibition at the Towner in 2012 was followed by a book called 'Slater's Sussex' which has re-awakened interest in the Seaford based artist who used Japanese print-making techniques to capture the beauty of his adopted county. Slater won international acclaim in the 1930s but died in complete obscurity. Author James Trollope will describe how he researched Slater's life revealing his connections with a small group of British colour woodcut artists who prospered between the wars. James Trollope will discuss Slater's life and work and sign copies of his book. Giclée prints and cards will also be available.

Birley Centre Event



Edward Hopper with Richard Cupidi Sunday 15 June, 3.00pm Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

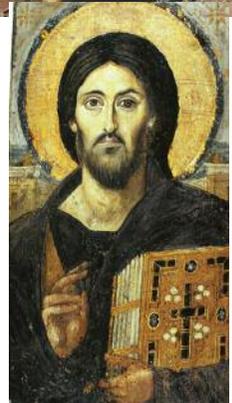
Admission £12 (Members £10)



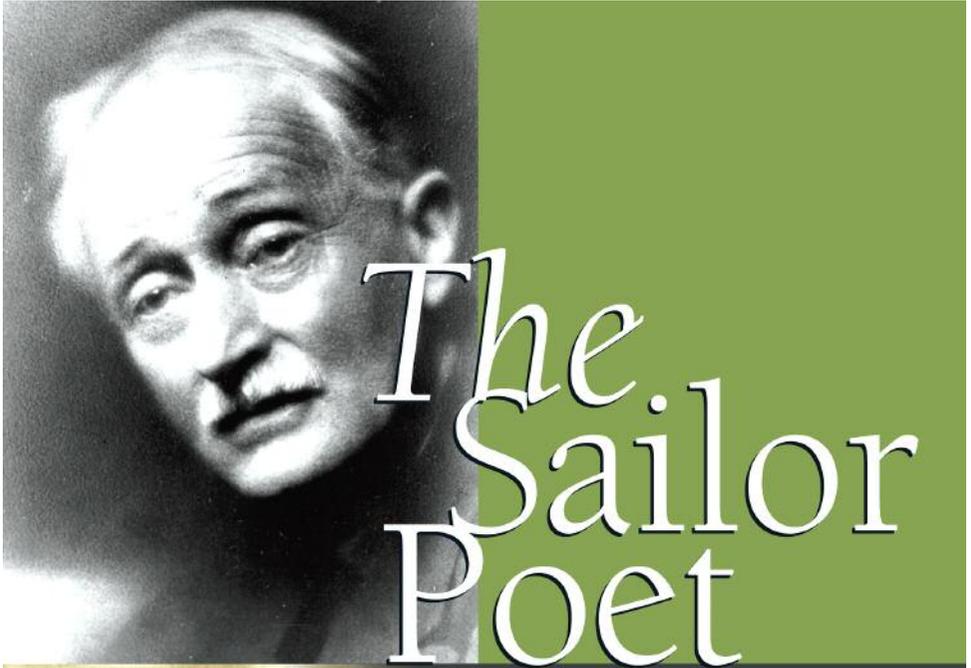
Edward Hopper's paintings have been described as studies in urban isolation and uncertainty - taut, lonely and controlled. However, because he did manage to capture those urban moods so brilliantly, many of his images, such as Nighthawks and House by the Railroad, have become international icons.

Friday Art Lecture

Pilgrimage to St Catherine's Monastery with Dr Helen Rufus-Ward Friday 27th June at 2.30pm Junction Box, Towner, Carlisle Road



St Catherine's monastery, at the foot of Mount Sinai, Egypt, was founded in the 6th century by Byzantine emperor Justinian I, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The place where Moses received the 10 Commandments from God and the location of the burning bush. Explore the monastery's treasures with Helen - a splendid basilica with exquisite little chapels, breath-taking mosaics and an amazing collection of the rarest early icons to survive, as well as a library of rare and beautiful religious manuscripts.



John Masefield Poet Laureate (1878-1967) was born in Ledbury, Herefordshire and died at Clifton Hampden near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

At an early age he was orphaned and entrusted to the guardianship of an aunt and uncle. The aunt viewed his love of reading with suspicion and, after a brief period at the King's School Warwick, it was thought that the school-ship *HMS Conway* would both prepare

the youth for a career at sea and dispel his addiction to books.

John Masefield is chiefly remembered for his poems *Sea Fever*, *Salt Water Ballads* and *Reynard the Fox*. Also for his theatrical works and several books for children.

Many of his most famous poems are included in this Presentation.



We would like to thank the John Masefield Society and also The Friends of *HMS Conway* for their valuable assistance.

Broadcaster Richard Baker **A portrait of** **John Masefield in Words**



with Baritone Jim Mitchell & Accompanist Grahame O'Connor
Sunday 27 July 3.00pm, Birley Centre, Carlisle Road

Tickets £12 (Members £10). Refreshments available

2014 marks the Centenary of the birth of Richard Lewis CBE

Richard Lewis, born in Manchester where he studied music, was one of our greatest British tenors. His long career encompassed classical music in all its forms; he gave recitals, sang in oratorios, as well as taking on major operatic roles both at home and abroad.

The last years of his life were spent in Willingdon, Eastbourne where he lived with Elizabeth and his son, Nigel. Richard was always ready to lend his name to charitable projects such as the new building at his son's school where he sang 'The Dream of Gerontius'.

He sang frequently at Glyndebourne, and was awarded the CBE in 1963 for services to music. Nigel Lewis has posted a delightful video of Glyndebourne scenes on Youtube taken by his father in the 50s.

To celebrate Richard's centenary The Hallé Orchestra and chorus will dedicate a Mozart Requiem to his memory on June 14th, and The Royal Academy of Music will present a special concert to celebrate his life.

To learn more go to
www.richardlewis-tenor.co.uk



EASTBOURNE ARTS CIRCLE - Formerly 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

Vice Chairman Dr Helen Rufus-Ward

Honorary Treasurer Philip Anson

Honorary Secretary Christine Gawad

EBC Representative

Councillor Carolyn Heaps

Editor Sheila Yates

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Design and Printing Claire Patterson-Snell
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Exhibitions at Towner



The Big Art Secret

8 March - 23 March 2014

Towner and St Wilfrid's Hospice are staging The Big Art Secret 2, a fundraising effort to support the local hospice and Towner. Postcard-sized art will be exhibited at Towner for two weeks. They will be auctioned on eBay from 14 to 23 March.

Each piece of art work will have a QR code alongside so that visitors can place bids from their phones or tables, at the exhibition or from home.

Last year, we received postcards from David Hockney, David Cameron and Tracey Emin, as well as local people, hospice patients and regional artists.

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.



East Sussex Open 2013, install shot by Alison Bettles

United Visual Artists

18 April - 22 June (free)

United Visual Artists (UVA) is an art practice that use design processes to combine a wide range of disciplines including sculpture, installation, live performance, and architecture.

Drawing upon their studies in programmable architecture, they will be developing a body of work for Towner using light, installation, print and screen.

To create these temporal installations, they employ strategies devoid of traditional architectural materials to multiply, fill and divide spaces, constructing volumes and deforming them dynamically.



Under Ground Theatre Programme

The Under Ground Theatre

below the central library

1 Grove Road, Eastbourne. BN21 4TL.

The Under Ground Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm for Coffee and homemade cakes. Free music on Saturday mornings.

Art exhibitions in the foyer change every 2 months. For further details on events visit our website: www.undergroundtheatre.co.uk. Ticket Hotline 0845 680 1926

Stage/Music:

26th - 28th March - Before It Rains by Katherine Chandler

17th/18th April - Just Joyce, A tribute to Joyce Grenfell

23rd - 26th April - Lend Me A Tenor, comedy by Ken Ludwig

26th April - The Evergreen Singers

2nd May - Secret Honour

10th May - Tom Fitzpatrick and his Swing Trio

24th May - Nicholas Nickleby (matinee). Great Expectations (7.30pm)
(with Dickens' great-great grandson)

4-6th June - The Last Train

13/14th June - Romeo and Juliet

20th June - The Best Comedy Songs in the World

22nd June - Worbey & Farrell (piano duo)

27th/28th June - The Time Machine - Family Drama

Films - Sunday afternoon films (see details on website) includes tea and cake

Jazz Concerts: 11th April - Ian Shaw and Barry Green.

9th May - Andy Panayi Quartet. 4th July - Alan Barnes/Art Themen Quintet.

Chamber Concerts: 13th April - Irina Lyakhovskaya.

18th May - Lycydas Trio. 15th June - Duo.

Open Stage Nights: 10th April, 8th May, 12th June & 10th July

Art Exhibitions at the Under Ground Theatre

4-26th April **David Armitage, Alan Everard, Colin Say and Mike Tann** -
Maritime Photography and art, drama and beauty of our
coastline

2 May - 28 June **Andrew G. Forrest**

July/August **WW1 Photos and Art**

Events Reminder

The Grand Tour **with** **Prasannajit De Silva** **Friday 28 March**



2.30-4.30pm - Towner College Road, Eastbourne

Tickets £10 (Members £8)

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?

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's talk on Vincent Van Gogh is a particularly interesting one. He not only illuminates his subject, but is also hugely entertaining, bringing his subjects alive with humour and backed up by fascinating research. 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!