

Date	Lecturer	Title and Synopsis
11 th September 2019	<p>Steven Desmond Published author, specialist tour leader, broadcaster and landscape consultant in historic gardens and architecture. Widely travelled as a lecturer in Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland and Britain (notably at the universities of Oxford and Bristol).</p>	<p>Historic Gardens of the Italian Lakes A lecture about illustrious gardens on Lakes Como and Maggiore in Northern Italy; a 16th century parterre and water staircase, a baroque garden in the middle of a lake, two gardens created by grandee Napoleonic rivals and a garden shared by two Edwardian romantics as a theatre for sharing their love of art and nature. Wordsworth, Liszt and Bellini found inspiration in these gardens set in an ideal climate among some of the world's noblest scenery.</p>
9 th October 2019	<p>Ian Swankie Pursuing a passion for art and architecture he is an official guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Guildhall Art Gallery and St Paul's Cathedral and an active qualified guide for tours of London corporations and organisations. He is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars.</p>	<p>Underground Cathedrals: the World-Class Art, Architecture and Design of the London Underground The world's first underground railway has a unique heritage of architecture, ingenious design, powerful advertising posters and calligraphy. This lecture plots its development, examines the legacy of Frank Pick and Charles Holden, studies its iconic posters and celebrates the award-winning architecture of the Jubilee Line extension. Some of the new Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) stations designed by top world-class architects will feature too.</p>
13 th November 2019	<p>Bertie Pearce Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, actor, writer and lecturer on cruises, at festivals and to historical societies, U3A, schools etc. He qualified in Drama at Manchester University and the École Internationale du Théâtre Jacques LeCoq and toured the world with Magic cabaret and a one-man show, <i>All Aboard</i>.</p>	<p>Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion: the History of Magic through Art A lecture tour of the history of mystery from 3000BC to 21st century, meeting Sorcerer Priests and their scientific principles creating illusions for worship and control; Jongleurs of Henry VIII's time terrified of being sentenced to death for witchcraft; Great Illusionists of the Music Hall appreciated by thousands for their extraordinary feats. What is the fascination with magic, sleight of hand, rabbits from hats and ladies sawn in half? How did the Magic Circle originate, guardian of 10,000 secrets?</p>
11 th December 2019	<p>Graham Griffiths An active musician and recorded artist as pianist, conductor and composer, he is also an author, editor and Research Fellow at City University, London. With interests ranging from the baroque repertoire to Stravinsky, he researched and performed the lost works of Leokadiya Kashperova in St Petersburg which led in 2018 to a feature in BBC Radio 3's celebration of forgotten female composers.</p>	<p>Franz Schubert : the Piano and the Power of Friendship Throughout his short life (1797-1838), the great composer Schubert surrounded himself with a brilliant circle of poets, artists and musicians whose talents and kindness fed his Romantic creativity. He rewarded them with gifts of 'divine music'. Celebrated images of Schubert – in concert, playing comic charades or travelling across Austria by horse-drawn carriage- are illustrated by Dr. Griffiths at the piano through musical postcards which immortalise the names of his devoted companions including the sweet Kupelwieser Waltz written as a wedding present. The final flourish is a performance of Impromptus (1828), masterpieces of lyrical beauty and power.</p>
8 th January 2020	<p>Tim Redmond Former Detective Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police and first police adviser to the F.C.O he is familiar with London from its underworld to its skyline. As a City Tour guide for the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben his guests included Michelle Obama and Bill Gates.</p>	<p>Big Ben: Stories and Restoration There is a lot more to this world-famous and symbolic tower than its beautiful gothic architecture. This lecture is a tour of Big Ben without the effort of climbing the 334 stairs- in fact the only way to see it at present! Stunning images will show its interior, mechanism, clock faces and Big Ben itself in the belfry. Stories of friction and controversy will chart its turbulent history from design to construction exploring the contributions of Pugin, Barry and Dennison.</p>

12th
February
2020

Susie Harries

Biographer of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner and writer and editor, specializing in 20th century culture and the arts including war art and opera, she has lectured to audiences at the Imperial War Museum, British Museum, Twentieth Century Society, RSA, Victorian Society and Literary festivals.

11th
March
2020

Toby Faber

Grandson of the founders of Faber and Faber, his anecdotes and current personal involvement enliven his lectures with unique insights, knowledge and passion. He is non-executive Chairman of Faber Music, director of Liverpool University Press and the Copyright Licensing Agency. As a writer he has lectured at the V and A, The Library of Congress and the Huntingdon Library.

8th
April
2020

Leslie Primo

With degrees in Art History and Renaissance Studies and experience as visiting Art History lecturer at Reading University, he is a versatile lecturer and guide including work for the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, City Literary Institute, National Maritime Museum and Courtauld Institute

13th
May
2020

Imogen Corrigan

After a long career in the British Army graduated with Honours in Anglo-Saxon and Mediaeval History and now lectures in Britain and Europe, including on cruise ships.

10th
June
2020

James Butterwick

A London gallery owner, leading world expert in Russian Art and fluent Russian speaker he has lived in Moscow, taking part in exhibitions and lecturing at the Tretyakov Gallery and Museum of Russian Impressionism. He acts as a source of museum quality paintings with flawless provenance of the Russian and European School, travelling regularly in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. He is the only foreign member of International Confederation of Antique and Art Dealers of Russia and the CIS.

‘Saving a Century’: Pevsner, Conservation and the Victorians

Unbeautiful but of value, rampant individualism, historical fancy dress, hamfisted, distressing, noisy; such phrases exemplify some of Pevsner’s views of Victorian buildings yet he considered such architecture indispensable as a vivid record of a time when Britain led the civilized world. The conservation work of the Victorian Society under his leadership could be credited with having saved a whole century. The lecture will examine Pevsner’s views, battles lost and won.

Ninety Years of Excellence in Cover Design

Faber and Faber, the last of the great publishing houses to remain independent is known for an illustrious reputation built on strong editorial teams, innovation and artistic insight since 1925. The lecture traces its history through its illustrations, covers and designs including innovations like the Ariel Poems- single poems, beautifully illustrated, sold in their own envelopes. The Albertus font designed by typographer Berthold Wolpe is still used on City of London road signs. TS Eliot, Rex Whistler, Peter Blake, Damien Hirst have all been associated with Faber.

Foreigners Influencing Art In London 1520-1677

Why were foreign painters preferred by the aristocracy in London to native English painters? Why did they come and what was their impact on English art and art practice throughout the Tudor, Renaissance and Baroque eras? This lecture will examine the contributions of Holbein, Rubens, Gheeraerts, Susanna Horenbout, Paulus van Somer and others and assess their legacy of influence on the British School of painting.

Signs and Symbols in Mediaeval Art and Buildings

The lecture considers art of the period 1100 -1500 interpreting forms and characteristics including graffiti, sculpture, shapes, body language etc. to uncover meaning. Why, for example are baptismal fonts typically octagonal, how to spot a saint, what is the significance of a hedgehog in Mediaeval art? What significance is carried by images in manuscripts?

Russian Avant-Garde Art – Provenance Matters

Glasnost stimulated a huge surge of interest in the Russian Avant Garde, a new buying public and industrial-scale faking of pictures, often with the connivance, unwitting or otherwise, of Western and Russian experts. Previously -unknown artists –including Malevich, Popova, Filonov, Kliun and Lissitsky-became famous. This lecture will examine attempts to ‘sneak under the radar’ the reputedly 95% of paintings without provenance or exhibition history and present the evidence for and against them, exposing the role of ‘fake news’ and judicial systems used to ‘legalise’ them. It will reveal the strategies used by specialists to cleanse the market exemplified by the 2017 exhibition of Russian Avant-Garde at the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts, closed by the Belgian Police.

NB. June 10th Lecture is preceded by the 2020 AGM