

THE ARTS SOCIETY SUSSEX AREA

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Area Special Interest Days - 2018

Venue: The Ark, Mount Lane, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4RA
Dates: Monday 15 January, Monday 19 February, Monday 12 March 2018
Time: 10 am to 3pm

Cost: £28 per day (including morning coffee, a Ploughman's Lunch and a glass of wine)

Special Interest Day 1. Monday 15 January – Oliver Everett

“India: the Drama Behind the Taj Mahal and British Contributions to Indian History, Archaeology, Architecture and Languages.”

The first part of the day focuses on the Taj Mahal and is based on the Islamic manuscript, the Padshahnama, the unique official history of the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan. He ruled India from 1628 to 1658 and is best remembered for building the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Padshahnama is illustrated with forty-four of the finest Mughal paintings in the world, which vividly depict dramatic events in the Emperor's reign. The book is the finest Islamic manuscript in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle and was given to King George III in 1797 by the ruler of the north Indian state Oudh.

The second part of the day concerns Britain's historical involvement with India. While there were undeniably dark and culpable episodes, a number of British individuals made great contributions to the study of its history, languages, religions, archaeology, architecture, topography, sociology, zoology and botany. The very successful work of a number of Britons who immersed themselves in the culture and who are not often given the recognition they deserve will be described.



The Taj Mahal



*The Emperor Shah Jahan Spectates
an Elephant Fight in Agra - 1633*



Lord Curzon



Warren Hastings

Special Interest Day 2. Monday 19 February – Sian Walters

“The Golden Age of Spanish Painting: Velasquez, Zurbaran and Murillo.”

The 17th century is known as the Golden Age of Spanish art, a period in which the country was able to use its vast wealth, accumulated during the 1500s following the expansion of its territories in Europe and the Americas, to fund extravagant and ambitious programmes of building and painting.

This Special Interest Day will compare the work of three artists. The first lecture will focus on the brilliant Diego Velasquez, court painter to one of the greatest art collectors in Europe, King Philip IV. He recorded the king’s likeness and that of his family for over thirty years. The second lecture will explore the life of the lesser-known Francisco de Zurbaran. His style is characterised by a simplicity, austerity and strength, which reflected the religious zeal of the time. The final lecture will concern Andalusia’s most famous and popular painter, Bartolome Esteban Murillo, who lived in Seville for most of his life. His paintings are not only a valuable testament to the religious climate of the city following the Counter Reformation, but also tell us a great deal about society and everyday life at the time.



Las Meninas - Velasquez



The Annunciation – Zurbaran



The Little Fruit Seller - Murillo

Special Interest Day 3. Monday 12 March – Karin Fernald

“The Wit and Wisdom of Jane Austen: an Exploration of her Family Life, Letters and Early Work.”

It wasn’t until the last years of her short life that **Jane Austen** found fame. Much of her adult life was spent *“no more regarded in society than a poker or a fire-screen.”*

The first lecture will focus on Jane Austen’s family life, emphasising her sense of fun and wickedly observant mind. She was particularly close to her sister Cassandra, who was both her confidante and critic. In childhood their mother remarked *“if Cassandra were going to have her head cut off, Jane would insist on having hers cut off too!”* The second lecture examines the letters between Jane and two of her brothers, Frank and Charles, who served in the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars.

The links between them and the fictional characters William Price and Captain Wentworth in *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasion* will be discussed.

The final part of the day will consist of a costumed solo show *"We Fainted Alternately On The Sofa."* It is based on Jane's earliest writing and promises to be hugely entertaining. The Jane Austen Society wrote *"With her great sense of fun, Karin Fernald is able to deliver the hilarious antics and farce that fill the short plays and novels of the teenage Jane."*



Jane Austen



Cassandra Austen



Frank Austen



Charles Austen

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BOOKING FORM for Sussex Area Study Day Series – 2018

The cost of each Special Interest Day is £28 (including morning coffee, a Ploughman's Lunch and a glass of wine)

NB If booking after October, please contact me first to check availability, as the Special Interest Days often sell out quickly.

I/We would like to come to:

Special Interest Day 1 – Monday 15 January. tickets @ £28 each.

Special Interest Day 2 – Monday 19 February. tickets @ £28 each.

Special Interest Day 3 – Monday 12 March tickets @ £28 each.

PLEASE PRINT

Names of all those attending

Address for tickets

Telephone E-mail

Name of Applicant's Society Arts Society

Please send your cheque payable to **The Arts Society Sussex Area** with a **stamped addressed envelope** to Angela Magness, Eatons, 43 Muster Green, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4AJ. Tickets are not issued, but your booking will be confirmed and final arrangements sent to you later in your s.a.e.

Please note that refunds can be given only in exceptional circumstances. If you are unable to come, please give or sell your place to someone else, but please let me know their name. I will do my best to put you in touch with someone who would like to come, but cannot guarantee it.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST! We very much look forward to seeing you on the day.

Ready reckoner for multiple bookings: 2 = £56, 3 = £84, 4 = £112, 5 = £140, 6 = £168, 7 = £196, 8 = £224, 9 = £252, 10 = £280, 11 = £308, 12 = £336.