

## Membership

The Arts Society Bath is a stimulating and active society, and provides a wonderful way of making new friends while pursuing a love of the Arts. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Annual Membership of The Arts Society Bath includes 9 lectures on the fine and decorative arts in the broadest sense, a monthly local newsletter and quarterly national magazine. We also support local projects promoting arts in the community.

Additionally, we run Special Interest Days and visits, together with access to many other arts activities via our nationwide membership of The Arts Society.

This year, our Special Interest Days are:

**18 Nov 2025 at 10:30** - Widcombe Social Club

Stella Lyons will give 3 talks on **20th Century American Art**, featuring the work of Grant Wood and the Regionalists, the Realist Edward Hopper and the mesmerising work of Andrew Wyeth, all artists reflecting life in the changing America.

**17 March 2026 at 10:30** - Widcombe Social Club

**Jewellery:** its history, how to read a painting: jewellery in art, and the secret language and symbolism in art. The day will be led by Rachel Church.

The Arts Society Bath is run by volunteers. Please contact us if you can spare just a few hours a month, either on the committee or in other ways, to ensure we continue to deliver a vibrant programme.

*For information, assistance and membership details please contact us:*

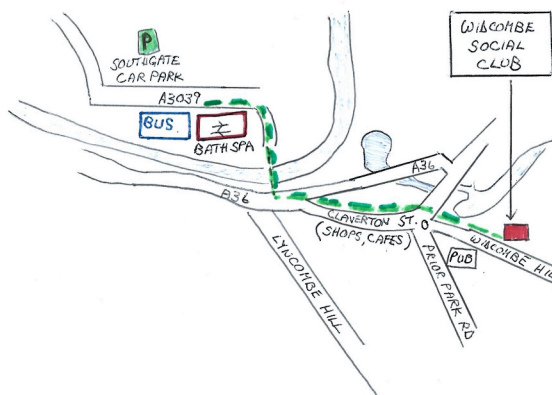
**email:** [bath@theartsociety.org](mailto:bath@theartsociety.org)

Or visit

[www.theartsocietybath.com](http://www.theartsocietybath.com)

The Arts Society Bath is affiliated to The Arts Society

Lectures are held at Widcombe Social Club, Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA and on Zoom.



The venue is situated at the bottom of Widcombe Hill and is a 10 minute stroll from the bus and railway stations.

The best route on foot is shown in green dots on the map: via the footbridge at the rear of Bath Spa rail station, across the A36 at the pedestrian lights and turn left along Widcombe Parade to Claverton St. Widcombe Social Club is on the left on Widcombe Hill (behind the Co-op) at the junction with Prior Park Road.

Further information is available from [www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk](http://www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk).

The number 2 bus, from bus stop BK across the road from the train station, will take you the one stop to Widcombe.

Please note: there is very little local parking.

The closest carpark is in Southgate, near the bus and train stations. For details:

[www.southgatebath.com/facilities#car-park](http://www.southgatebath.com/facilities#car-park)

Members accessing lectures online will be sent a link a few days in advance. Non-members and guests of members are welcome for a £10 entry fee and must book ahead.

**email:** [bath@theartsociety.org](mailto:bath@theartsociety.org)



## The Lecture Programme October 2025 to June 2026

**A warm welcome to  
The Arts Society Bath**

All lectures begin promptly at 11.30 and last about an hour. They are online via Zoom as well as in the venue

## The Arts Society Bath Lecture Programme

6th October 2025

Alice Foster

### Giotto: Founder of Modern Art

Giotto, the first Italian master to achieve universal recognition in his own life time, initiated a new style of painting in the early 1300s which revolutionised art in western Europe. His work has a sense of drama through body language and facial expression, and clarity in terms of storytelling - so much so that his images are still easily readable 700 years on.



3rd November 2025  
Jane Gardiner

### Masquerades, Music Lessons & Monkeys: 18<sup>th</sup> C Figurines

The fashion for porcelain figure sculpture in the eighteenth century reflected that society in miniature. There are characters

from the Commedia del'Arte and the English stage, beggars and pedlars, exotic figures from distant lands, lovers and musicians, shepherds and shepherdesses, the gods of Olympus – even the odd monkey!

1st December 2025  
John Ericson

### The Art of Illusion

What are illusions, and why and how do they deceive us? With examples from artists such as Hogarth, Magritte and the extraordinary sculptures of Catalano, we will examine how illusions have been used both 'in art' and 'as art'.



5th January 2026  
Sandy Burnett

### The Age of Jazz

Jazz - a fascinating blend of rigorous structure, free-wheeling creativity, close-knit ensembles and imaginative improvisation. We hear of jazz from the early years up to the Second World War, and the influences on its emergence. Musical illustrations range from the blues and ragtime and the very first jazz recordings through to classics by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and the dawn of the Swing Era.



2nd February 2026  
Richard Whincop

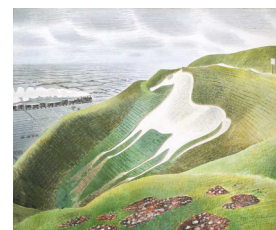
### Pomp and Feast and Revelry: The Medieval Year in Art

The art of the late Middle Ages gives us a vivid picture of life at the time, with detail and striking realism. Many recreate the atmosphere of the popular festivals, religious processions and mystery plays that were regular events in the lives of ordinary people. A typical year is illustrated with rare manuscripts and artists such as Bruegel, Dürer and Botticelli.



2nd March 2026  
James Russell

### Art of the Chalk Landscapes



Between the world wars a group of British artists explored the downland of southern England, finding in the ancient landscapes of Sussex and Wessex inspiration for new work. Eric Ravilious and fellow artists Peggy Angus and Tirzah Garwood, William Nicholson, and John and Paul Nash led the way. These artists created paintings and prints that were defiantly modern, yet rooted in the past.

13th April 2026  
Jon Conlin

### The Nation's Mantlepiece:

#### A History of the National Gallery in 10 Paintings

Founded by Parliament in 1824, the National Gallery houses one of the world's finest collections of European paintings, including Van Eyck's "Arnolfini Marriage", Botticelli's "Venus and Mars", Constable's "Cornfield" and Van Gogh's "Sunflowers". This lecture uses highlights from the collection to show how our vision of the "ideal" art collection has evolved over time.



11th May 2026  
Lucia Gahlin

### The Fairer Sex: Women in Ancient Egyptian Art

Ancient Egyptian society was male-dominated, with the pharaoh at the apex of the social pyramid; but some of the most stunning images in ancient Egyptian art are of women. It is fascinating to examine these representations to gain an understanding of ancient attitudes towards women of all social classes.

1st June 2026  
James Vaux

### Viking Gods and Valkyries: The Art of Norse Mythology

Why do we always see depictions of Greek and Roman deities in museums, but never the Viking ones? And yet they are ubiquitous in popular culture such as cartoons and video games. We will explore 1,500 years of Norse Mythology in the fine and decorative arts, from Viking-age artefacts to 20th Century installations to find answers...many surprising and some even sinister.

