

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear All,

Little did we imagine that our only contact would be via Zoom links and newsletters when we had to suspend our lecture programme last year. As we enter our tenth month of Covid- driven restrictions, here are a few links which I hope may be of interest to you in the coming weeks:

THEATRE *The Habit of Art* by Alan Bennett –The Original Theatre Company

This premiered at the National Theatre a decade ago and explores an encounter in the early 1970s between WH Auden and Benjamin Britten. A typically deft piece of writing in this stage production directed by Philip Franks, Matthew Kelly and David Yelland give fine performances as the poet and composer, respectively. www.originaltheatreonline.com until February 28th 2021.

ART

1. *Art & The Country House – The Sights and Sounds of L.S. Lowry*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-sights-and-sounds-of-L-S-lowry/KAURIFQHhr213q>

2. Raphael's life was short. He died on his 37th birthday in 1520, yet his output was prodigious, his legacy immortal. Last year, thousands of enthusiasts were looking forward to marking the 500th anniversary of his death with a visit to the National Gallery which was all set to stage one of the first large examinations of his brief but versatile career. Plans had to be cancelled because of Covid and the show has now been rescheduled to 2022, but thanks to this new digital project by the V & A, you will be able to see it now.

The Story of the Raphael Cartoons is at www.vam.ac.uk

BOOKS

If like me, you are fans of Charlotte Bronte then I think you will enjoy both *Dark Quartet* and *Path to a Silent Country* by Lynne Reid-Banks (who wrote *The L-shaped Room* in the 1960s)

I have a friend to thank for recommending *The Sea* by John Balmain. – excellent read.

Cider with Rosie, *A Moment of War* and *As I Walked out some Midsummer Morning* by Laurie Lee – all three memorable and hugely enjoyable.

Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara MacAnulty – one of my favourite Christmas presents this year, written during lockdown by a young boy in Ireland, this book's focus is on the natural world and how it impacts upon us. Superb!

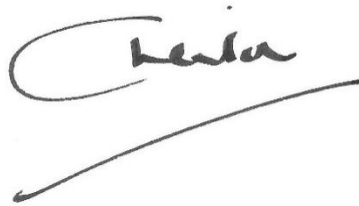
I'm currently wading through *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama, a huge tome and very interesting, but not as enjoyable as Michelle's book *Becoming* or his earlier work *Dreams of my Father*.

Limitless by Tim Peake – Tim Peake’s account of his travels to the International Space Station in 2015. One of my great delights on a summer’s evening is suddenly seeing the ISS careering across the evening sky knowing there are six people inside orbiting the Earth.....

I should like to thank again all those who have been in touch during the last few months. It is so encouraging to receive a simple one-liner containing a *thank you* message and is very much appreciated by all of us on the committee.

We miss our regular lectures very much and look forward to a time when we are able to meet up again in Stalbridge as we used to do.

With very best wishes to everyone,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila', with a long, sweeping underline stroke extending to the left.

Mrs Sheila Williams (Chairman)

ARTFEST 2021 ONLINE ART EXHIBITION

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Here's your chance to have your work shown online.

You can send in multiple submissions

**Submissions form attached to this newsletter
Deadline for submissions: 7th March (new date)**

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www.theartssocietyblackmorevale.org