

## The Arts Society Blackmore Vale December 2020 Newsletter



Guido Reni, 'Adoration of the shepherds', about 1640. Image courtesy National Gallery.

*A Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all members of the Arts  
Society Blackmore Vale*

*From the Chairman and Committee*

Dear Member,

In these unprecedented times, I have tried to find suitably festive suggestions to help you pass the time whilst we all remain in Tier 2!! Unfortunately, the Christmas television schedules have not yet been announced, but I understand that amongst all the films and repeats, there are two programmes recorded in the Royal Opera House during lockdown we can watch out for. In addition, there will be the usual Carols from Kings (without a congregation and with the choir suitably socially distanced!) Our British cathedrals don't seem to have signed up to YouTube, unlike our American cousins, but there is a recording from St. Paul's called 'Christmas at St. Paul's', and a traditional Advent Service from Trinity College Chapel. Most of the Cathedrals and large churches seem to be streaming services live including Salisbury Cathedral, which has a 'Service for Christmas' with carols sung by the cathedral choir on Tuesday 22 December at 7pm. Wells Cathedral are streaming some services which can be accessed via Facebook and YouTube.

Whilst initially looking for a suitable picture to serve as our Christmas card, I stumbled over two offerings from the National Gallery which seem festive: -

National Gallery Nativities A trail exploring the Christmas Story through exceptional works in the National Gallery's collection

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/media/15355/trail\\_nativities.pdf](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/media/15355/trail_nativities.pdf)

Exploring Nativity pictures in the National Gallery Collection:

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/stories/the-nativity>

The Arts Society continues to provide a variety of online offerings, including Zoom wine tastings, with the opportunity to order the featured wines at a discount. So far, we have done two of the wine tastings hosted by accredited Arts Society lecturer David Wright

<https://wine.theartsociety.org/latest-news-and-events>

Upcoming Zoom tastings:

Meet the winemaker – Peter Bright of Terra d'Alter Wine Estate, Alentejo, Portugal      Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

The Craft of Great Fortified Wine      18 December 2020

In addition, there are "Lectures at Home" on the Arts Society Get Connected website, with past lectures accessible on the Arts Society You Tube channel.

The Arts Society Sherborne continue to extend their kind invitation to join their Zoom lectures each month. I know one or two members are already watching but if you are interested contact [sherborne@theartsociety.org](mailto:sherborne@theartsociety.org). Details on the upcoming Zoom lectures can be found at <https://theartsocietysherborne.org/> Individual lectures cost £5.

One final piece of seasonal interest:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-mechanical-weihnachtsberg/dQLChZ1UTVfILw?hl=en>

Having lived in Germany for a good few years, the tradition of crib scenes is something that sums up Christmas for me and this Nativity scene within brings some seasonal cheer.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, and altogether more sociable, New Year.

*Jill Harris*