

Meadow Gate,
Sandilands Close,
East Stour,
SP8 5LG

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well and that you've all enjoyed the lovely hot weather we've had this summer (A distant memory already). Hopefully we still have more sunshine ahead and an Autumn of beautiful colours to keep our spirits up.

Your committee have been keeping in touch with Zoom meetings every other month, but we very much look forward to restarting our monthly lectures and especially seeing you all again in April. It's hard to imagine that earlier in the year some of us were looking forward to getting together at Cucklington Village Hall for another Day of Special Interest later this month, but at least we still have the talks on St. Petersburg to look forward to next October 2021. In the meantime I hope you are getting out and about safely and enjoying some online talks.

You've already received quite a few links to exhibitions, galleries and museums, but here are a couple of local museums you might not have explored yet:

Lyme Regis Museum is open Wednesday – Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm and holds Literary Collections, Earth Science, Local history, pictures and paintings. Visitor numbers are limited so booking ahead is advised via the website: www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk

Etches Museum of Jurassic Marine Life, situated in Kimmeridge houses amazing marine fossils and is open daily 10.00am-5.00pm, for more information and tickets go to the website: www.theetchescollection.org

For places to visit:

Pallington Lakes near Dorchester are described as one of the most beautiful sculpture parks in the UK and amazing sculptures can be enjoyed in a wild garden landscape. For further information and tickets which must be pre-booked online visit the website: www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk or Tel No. 01305 849333

The National Trust has many gardens open and some houses have now also been opened, for further information and to book tickets go to the website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Stourhead's wonderful gardens are open and will of course be enjoying the beautiful colours of Autumn with the added bonus of the reflections in the lake which are particularly spectacular on sunny days. Booking your timed entry in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment. The restaurant, shop and house are also open, but visitors wishing to see the house are asked to book on arrival as numbers are very limited and admittance is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Kingston Lacy garden, café and shop are open and the house is open daily 11.00am-3.30pm. Visitor numbers are limited in the house so booking ahead is recommended.

For something different, the Newt, situated between Bruton and Castle Cary, Somerset is a privately owned country estate formerly the seat of the Hobhouse family for more than two centuries, now owned by South Africans Karen Roos and her husband Koos Bekker, who have spent six years having the Palladian fronted house, gardens and wider working estate re-designed. The house has been described as one of the most exceptional country house hotels in the UK. The centrepiece of the estate is the Parabola walled garden planted with 460 trained British apple trees of 267 varieties. There is a History of Gardening Museum, farm shop, treetop walk, thatched ice cream parlour for light refreshments and a restaurant. To visit the gardens which are open daily, tickets have to be booked in advance. For more information and booking visit the website: www.thenewtinsomerset.com

There are some excellent Arts Society talks on You Tube. Once on You Tube, search under 'The Arts Society' and click on it at the top of the list, then choose the lecture you are interested in and don't forget the 'Lectures at Home' also on the Arts Society's You Tube channel being broadcast live on Friday 23rd October 2020 at 1.00pm when Peter Ross will be talking about 'The English Cookbook': youtube.com/c/theartssociety (This can only be viewed at the time).

I hope this gives you some ideas for things to do and places to visit or revisit. Enjoy the Autumn season, keep well and stay safe. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Very best wishes,

Penny Brentnall