

The Arts Society Blackmore Vale April 2021 newsletter



Spring is finally here – or so I thought until we went walking at Westonbirt Arboretum in a snow shower with our grandchildren yesterday! But as we all emerge from hibernation – and lockdown- it was lovely to see some of you, both at the practice Zoom session, then at our first Zoom lecture last week. I was amazed how well it went - we have obviously all had a lot of Zoom practice over the past 12 months! Many thanks to Annie Tasker and Peter Williams particularly for organising it so well. We can look forward to our next lecture on 6th May, and hopefully seeing even more familiar faces. But nothing is quite like meeting in person, and we hope to be able to get back to meetings in person by this October. The current plan is possibly to offer a hybrid of live/Zoom meetings as I am aware some of you will be a bit uneasy about meeting in person.

I know that with the longer evenings and warmer days many of you will be forsaking the computer for the garden, so I am limiting suggestions for online talks etc. But I do want to put in another plug for Virtual Trips, now known as [Heygo.com](https://www.heygo.com). This online tour company is free at the point of watching (don't be fooled by other sites which ask for a credit card eg Virtual Tours), and has enabled tour guides from all over the world to take us (virtually) around their cities/country. There is a facility for leaving a tip, and this has enabled these poor guides who have lost all their income with lockdown to recoup some of their losses. Over the past couple of weeks I have managed to walk around Machu Picchu, Rome, New York and, most exciting of all, walk up to the new volcano in Iceland. Even more exciting, last night our guide was not allowed to walk near the volcano, so actually took us up in a small plane over the top of it. I was delighted to meet up with Liz Pocock (virtually, of course) in a tour of Canmore in Canada, so the word is gradually spreading!

My other recent discovery was Google Arts and Culture, which I found by mistake one day. In addition to providing tours of some of the world's famous Museums and Art Collections, there are weekly highlights of exhibitions available online, and many other items of interest.

I do hope that we will all be able to meet up in person before very long, but in the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at the next lecture in May. Meanwhile, stay safe and well

With all good wishes

Jill Harris