



## THE ARTS SOCIETY BLACKMORE VALE

### Christmas Newsletter December 2025

I'm writing this in late afternoon on a very soggy autumn day, but my thoughts are certainly beginning to veer towards Christmas.

2024-25 has certainly been an interesting year for TASBV – in both senses. Margaret yet again delivered a wonderful season of lectures. My own highlight was Caroline Levisse on *Scandinavian Landscape Painting*, though I know I missed another wonderful lecture on Miniatures in June. The rescheduled January lecture was finally held in September, and Rupert Dickens on *Hogarth at the Hustings* was another personal favourite. Well worth the wait. At our Day of Special Interest (DOSI) in October, Caroline Holmes looked at The Impressionists and their Gardens, while the Summer Party was held on a glorious June evening. Jeremy Mainwaring-Burton lectured on the Queen Mother's jewels.

We have worked hard to renew our marketing efforts – most notably with a brand-new style of brochure, which has been distributed widely (mostly by Sheila Williams. Special thanks to Sheila). We are now beginning to see some results, so are increasingly optimistic about TASBV's future, though we urgently need to replace retiring Team members.

The 2025-26 programme is now well under way, with lectures on Jewels, on The Conservation of Paintings, while we have Christmas Ghosts to look forward to in December and I, for one, am looking forward to chatting to you all over drinks and mince pies after the December lecture on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>.

Next year will bring lectures on topics as varied as Collecting, The Black Death, the posters of the Belle Epoque, Hieronymus Bosch, Gaudi, Elizabeth Frink and Vermeer. Please remember that we are holding our January lecture on Thursday 8 (we thought you would not be keen on a lecture on New Year's Day). Later in the year there will be our Summer Party and, in the autumn, a DOSI. More information on both in the New Year with tickets on sale from the spring.

Meanwhile, the Team join me in wishing you all the very best for Christmas 2025, and a happy and prosperous 2026.

With very best wishes,  
Ann Tasker  
Chair  
The Arts Society Blackmore Vale