
Royston Pike Lecture Series

Autumn 2024



at Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2PF
elmbridge.gov.uk/culture

The Art of the Steal: Nazi looting during World War II



Shauna Isaacs



Thursday, September 12



7.30pm



The Nazis looted over 20% of Western Art during World War II, confiscating art from Jewish families and emptying museums throughout Europe.

This lecture will provide an overview of Nazi looting by setting the scene in Nazi Germany, discussing Hitler's obsession with art and how the Monuments Men recovered art after the war. Several landmark cases will be discussed in detail, including Gustav Klimt's celebrated Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer and the stash of over 1200 artworks found in possession of the son of a notorious Nazi dealer.

Shauna Isaac is a freelance art historian who has lectured throughout Europe, the United States and Australia. She is passionate about art and how its history is a reflection of society. She loves to share her knowledge via lectures and publications.

She is an Arts Society accredited lecturer, a contributor to numerous cultural publications and a regular speaker at the Sotheby's Institute of Art.



A Path to the Past: An Intimate View of Traditional Romanian Culture



Daryl and Judy Ford



Wednesday 9 October



7.30pm



Step back in time with photographers Daryl and Judy Ford to explore Romania's last remaining peasant communities. For five years, Daryl and Judy have travelled thousands of kilometres by car and foot, searching for people still following a traditional lifestyle.

In this talk, they share pictures and experiences to give an intimate view of this fascinating culture. They take you inside homes and share moving life stories with which they are still connected. The images present rural life as it may have been in the UK over 100 years ago.

Daryl is an ex-racehorse jockey who became a blacksmith. He has been a keen photographer since 1990. His work often includes animals and action, usually in black and white.

Judy is an ex-technical author and project manager. She became passionate about photography nine years ago. Judy is drawn to quieter moments and detailed observations and mainly uses colour.



Plant Hunter and Gardener with Passion



Tom Hart Dyke



Thursday 7 November



7.30pm



Tom Hart Dyke and his travelling companion were kidnapped in March 2000 while trekking through 'The Darien Gap', a dangerous place between Colombia and Panama, abandoned by all to warring guerrilla factions. During his nine months in captivity, the British Embassy gave the boys up for dead, but Tom's parents never gave up hope.

To cope with the stress, Tom kept a diary and sketches for a 'World Garden', containing the plants he'd collected from across the globe, planted out in their respective countries of origin. Tom's jungle antics - building gardens in the mountains, much to the annoyance of his captors - cemented his reputation as a 'plant nut'. After his release and return home to his ancestral home of Lullingstone Castle, near Sevenoaks, in Kent, Tom and his travelling companion penned the best-selling book *The Cloud Garden*, detailing their experiences in the jungle.

In 2001, Tom travelled to Southeast Asia with KEO films to make *A Dangerous Obsession* - the story of Tom's search for an orchid to name after his beloved gran Mary Hart Dyke. Tom's search for an unnamed species was fruitless but the subsequent programme brought him to the attention of many.



For all talks: tickets £3 per person available at the door or via box office at riverhousebarn.co.uk