

2026 Lecture Programme

Wednesday 11 February

**George Villiers,
Duke of Buckingham**

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

In his great house on the Strand Buckingham put together a collection of art works as fine as King Charles I, including works by Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese. But he was not just a collector of old masters: he was also a patron, commissioning innovative new work

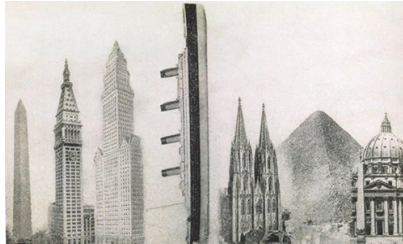


Wednesday 11 March

**Finest Ship of the Line: How
Titanic changed
the World**

Andrew Hopkins

Titanic was the floating equivalent of a World Fair: a showcase of the best of manufacturing in Britain and Ireland, another reason its tragic fate caused such utter sadness and despair. We will learn what went into the making of this triple screw sea giant with its lavish interiors



Wednesday 8 April

Inspired by Stonehenge

Julian Richards

This lecture explains why Stonehenge must be regarded as architectural in its layout and construction, embodying techniques that for centuries convinced antiquarians that it could not have been built by 'primitive' ancient Britons but must be a product of 'sophisticated' Romans



Wednesday 13 May

**A Portrait of Jewels:
Following missing treasures
through canvas**

Andrew Prince

Inspired to produce this talk after visiting the National Portrait Gallery, Andrew traces the missing jewels worn by monarchs through the ages, from Catherine de Medici to Elizabeth II



Wednesday 10 June

**Gilbert and Sullivan and the
Birth of English Operetta**

Ian Gledhill

The two men collaborated on *fourteen* comic operas between 1871 and 1896. This is the story of their successful musical partnership, illustrated with music from most of the G & S operas



Wednesday 8 July

Edward Burne-Jones - legend of the Briar Rose

Amy Lim

This lecture will explore the beautiful *Briar Rose* series of paintings in depth, and recount their creation, exhibition, and the magnificent setting that Burne-Jones designed for them at Buscot Park in Oxfordshire, where they still hang today



The June Robinson Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 9 September

**Disorder Restored : the
radical side of Agatha Christie**

Benedict Morrison

Exposing a disorder at the heart of polite society, Christie emerges as one of the twentieth century's great chroniclers of political instability



Wednesday 14 October

Paint the Town: The Story Behind the Spray

Roger Mendham

Street art has evolved from its roots in American graffiti to becoming a global art movement. From portraiture to abstract expressionism, many of the major conventional genres are included in street art. Prepare to be amazed!



The lecture will be preceded by the AGM

Wednesday 11 November

**Rembrandt's 'Night
Watch': the Anatomy of a
Masterpiece**

Hilary Williams

Who are the characters represented? Why is there a lone woman and what is meant by the dead chicken trussed up in her waistband? What does all this tell us about changing Dutch society? This talk will explore why Rembrandt's greatest painting is so special



Wednesday 9 December

**Now You See it Now You
Don't - The Art of Visual
Deception**

Bertie Pearce

There is a universal delight in being deceived and in this lecture Bertie Pearce will take us on a whistle stop tour of art which fools, surprises and amuses the viewer, including works by René Magritte, Banksy, Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Bridget Riley

