

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY - Monday 18th March, Sedgeford Village Hall

BYZANTINE BRILLIANCE

'SHINE SOME LIGHT ON BYZANTINE ART'

With Dr Helen Rufus-Ward

Morning Lecture 1: 'GLORIOUS THINGS': *discovering Byzantium through its art.*

Helen's Byzantine Brilliance special interest day is inspired by the Royal Academy's 2008/2009 blockbuster exhibition Byzantium 330-1453 which revealed the diverse richness of Byzantine decorative arts and led to Helen's first publication on the exhibition's ivories. The aim of the first lecture is to tell the fascinating story of the Byzantine Empire through its sculpture, architecture, wall paintings, mosaics, enamels, crown jewels, stolen treasures, silverware, ivory carvings and icons.



Morning LECTURE 2: THE MOSAICS OF RAVENNA: *for the glory of Kings, Emperors and Empresses.*

In 402AD Ravenna became the capital of the Western Roman Empire and continued to prosper under Ostrogoth and then Byzantine rule. This past eminence left Ravenna with a legacy of richly decorated early Christian buildings, which has earned it UNESCO World Heritage site status. This lecture will explore some of these buildings and their magnificent mosaics: The domed church of San Vitale home of the celebrated portrait panels of the emperor Justinian I and his wife, the notorious empress Theodora; the basilica church of S. Apollinare Nuovo decorated with spectacular processions of male and female saints, and with surprising evidence of its past life as the palace chapel of Ostrogoth King Theodoric; the basilica church of S. Apollinare in Classe featuring a magical starry sky apse mosaic; and the cruciform oratory of imperial princess Galla Placidia, with its inspiring mosaics against a heavenly blue background.



Afternoon **LECTURE 3: *ICONS: Exploring their History, Power and Enduring Mystery.***



Icons are religious panel paintings developed early in the history of Christianity. The term 'icon' comes from the Greek word *eikon* meaning a likeness, image or picture. Their religious power made them amongst the most valuable objects in the medieval Christian world - icons are art, but not as we know it! This lecture will evaluate the power of the icon by exploring the origins of this type of portrait, the earliest surviving icons, their spiritual otherworldliness, the process of their creation (and why they often look the same), and the religious context in which they were displayed and used in daily worship.

TIMETABLE

10:00am	Registration
10:30 - 11:30am	<i>'GLORIOUS THINGS': discovering Byzantium through its art.</i>
11:30am	Coffee
12:00 - 1:00pm	<i>THE MOSAICS OF RAVENNA: for the glory of Kings, Emperors and Empresses.</i>
1:00 - 2:15pm	Lunch
2:15 – 3:30pm	<i>ICONS: Exploring their History, Power and Enduring Mystery.</i>

Day ends with opportunity to question lecturer.

Tickets cost £47.50pp and include an excellent lunch including a glass of wine or soft drink.

For additional information please contact Lesley Nadel
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To reserve your place you can book 'online' – go to the home page on our website and click the link. www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Please note payment deadline to confirm your booking is 12th February 2024