

2026/2027

LECTURE SCHEDULE





THE ARTS
SOCIETY
GADE VALLEY

2026/2027

16th September 2026

Picturing the City

CINDY POLEMIS

Since the 19th century, the City has embodied modern life - alive with drama, desire and electric energy. Join us for a visual urban journey as we discover how artists captured the City's excitement and endless inspiration.

21st October 2026

A Picture a Day: Peggy Guggenheim and the birth of mid-century Modernism

JACKY KLEIN

Discover how socialite Peggy Guggenheim became one of the twentieth century's greatest art collectors. Moving between New York, Paris, and Venice, her daring eye, legendary friendships and influential galleries helped shape the rise of mid-century Modernism.

18th November 2026

Gardens of the Restoration: garden design and garden-themed embroidery 1660-1720

LUCY HUGHES-HALLET

Celebrate the Restoration and explore grand Stuart gardens inspired by Royalists returning from exile. Revel in Dutch-Flemish paintings and dazzling 17th-century embroidery - where vibrant blooms and whimsical animals reveal politics, harmony and humanity in nature's glory.

16th December 2026

The Curious History of Christmas Food

PETER ROSS

Discover the rich visual history of the British Christmas feast: from the medieval boar's head to ornate seventeenth-century mince pies and the forgotten Twelfth Night Cake. All is revealed through manuscripts, paintings, prints and historic cookery book illustrations.

20th January 2027

Notre Dame de Paris: its iconic status in French history

CAROLE PETIPHER

After the devastating 2019 fire, Notre Dame reopened in 2024 following an extraordinary national effort. This lecture explores why the cathedral, "the soul of Paris", holds such enduring symbolic power in French history and identity today.

WHAT OUR SOCIETY OFFERS

- ♥ Top quality lecturers
- ♥ Interesting and imaginative day visits
- ♥ Special Interest Days exploring topics in detail
- ♥ Monthly e-bulletins on Society and general arts-related news
- ♥ Social activities
- ♥ Opportunities to meet new and like-minded friends
- ♥ Free taster lectures

LECTURE SCHEDULE

17th February 2027

The Incomparable Empress Joséphine: collector, gardener, icon

STEPHEN DUFFY

Explore Empress Joséphine, Napoleon's incomparable muse, gardener and art collector. Her charm, generosity and cultural vision brought a vital human influence to his brutalist regime. She also gathered a distinguished collection of art including key troubadour paintings.

17th March 2027

The Overshadowed

CHANTAL BROTHERTON-RATCLIFFE

This morning we are going to spotlight overlooked painters whose brilliance was eclipsed by fame, misfortune, or short lives. Enjoy an hour of hidden treasures: stunning, often forgotten masterpieces that will captivate, surprise, and reveal art's lost wonders to you.

21st April 2027

Carnations, Tulips and Hyacinths: the story of Turkey's Iznik ceramics

ANTONIA GATWARD CEVIZI

Immerse yourself in a world of carnations, tulips, hyacinths and roses. Iznik ceramics from Chinese-inspired origins to its 16th-century peak and later decline. A talk designed to put Spring into your step!

19th May 2027

Antony Gormley: a body of work

ROSALIND WHYTE

Dive into nearly 40 years of Antony Gormley's art. See how this gifted Liverpoolian creator of the Angel of the North maps the human body in space, transforming galleries and public sites worldwide in the process.

16th June 2027

At the sign of the Falcon: the life and works of Harry Murphy - goldsmith, silversmith and unique Englishman

JOHN BENJAMIN

Apprenticed to Arts and Crafts master Henry Wilson, H.G. Murphy created extraordinary pre-war gold and silver works. Overlooked after WW2's modernist surge, the brilliance of his craftsmanship now enjoys a unique place in the history of English design.

BECOME A MEMBER

Do apply to join this friendly, local society by contacting our Membership Secretary.

You can also come and sample a lecture of your choice at no cost to see how you like it before committing yourself.

✉ membersgadev@gmail.com



Potten End Village Hall
10 Common Gardens
Potten End
Berkhamsted
HP4 2RH



membersgadev@gmail.com



theartsocietygadev.org.uk

