**For your diary, 2023/4 Programme of Friends Lectures and Events**

**Programme for 2024 spring/summer season**

**9th January 2024, 7.30 pm,** The Barbican Studio at The Higgins

Simon Carter on **The Artists of St Paul's Cathedral.**

**30th January 2024, 7.30pm,** venue TBA

Paul Middleton on **John Seymour Lindsay and the First World War**

**6th February 2024, 7.30 pm,** by Zoom

Christopher Joll on **Nelson, death, fate and a coffin**

**Thursday 15th February 2024**, **evening** at The Higgins

Private view of **Edward Bawden and Me**

Join us and the exhibition artists for an opening celebration.

Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

**20th February 2024, 7.30 pm,** venue to be confirmed.

Lucy Lewis the Army’s first female bomb disposal expert, now running the Marshals of Cambridge University on **Lighting the Fire**

**5th March 2024, 12 Noon,** venue The Bunyan Meeting, best car park, Lurke Street MCP MK40 3HZ

Victoria Partridge on **Edward Bawden and Me**

Includes a private guided visit to the exhibition

**Wednesday 13th March 2024,** **7.30 pm,** venue to be confirmed

Jonathan Foyle on **Climbing Great Buildings**

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**16th April 2024,** **7.30 pm,** venue to be confirmed

Christopher Joll on **A Bonfire of History - lost treasures of Madame Tussaud's**

**23rd April 2024, 12.00 noon,** venue to be confirmed

Victoria Partridge on **William Burges**

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**21st May, 7.30 pm,** venue to be confirmed

Hugh Belsey on **Gainsborough’s Career – from Ipswich to Bath** – on his tercentenary

**MAY VISIT** – Hopefully to **Cirencester Park** by coach – details to follow –

also a picnic at Turvey House – date to follow

**25th June 2024,** **7.30 pm,** venue to be confirmed

Generously sponsored by Lady Whitbread

Jonathan Foyle on **Old Warden Church and Anne of Cleves**

**June 2024 date to be arranged at lunchtime,** venue The Higgins

David Boyd Haycock on **his new book on Lucy Kemp Welch**.

**SUMMER BREAK AND MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS RENEWAL FOR 24/25**

**3rd September 2024,** time and venue TBA

Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, Director of the Norwich Castle Museum

on **John Crome, a Norfolk artist**

**22nd October 2024,** time and venue TBA

Boyd and Evans, on **Artists in residence at Milton Keynes**

**29th October 2024,** time and venue TBA

Michael Croker live Painting a Self-Portrait

**5th November 2024,** time and venue TBA

Helen Dawkins on **Black and White Revival - restoring old photographs.**

**Additionally, and to be announced there will be private visits and special events at the gallery.**

Friends’ website    [www.friendsofthehiggins.org](http://www.friendsofthehiggins.org)

Donations please via justgiving

<https://www.justgiving.com/onecheckout/donation/direct/charity/3086310>

**Past talks already enjoyed by Friends this season**

**5th September 7.30 pm,** venue, St Andrew’s Church Hall,Kimbolton Rd, Bedford MK40 2PF

Generously sponsored by **Sarah Flynn** [**sarahflynn.fineart@gmail.com**](mailto:sarahflynn.fineart@gmail.com)

Professor David Ekserdjian on **The Altarpiece in Renaissance Italy.**

**Voted 5\* by Friends’ Critic**

**26th September 7.30 pm,** venue, St Andrew’s Church Hall,Kimbolton Rd, Bedford MK40 2PF *Note title change*

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Dr Jane Ridley **– George V: Never a Dull Moment.**

**Voted 4.5\* by Friends’ Critic**

**24th October, 7.30 pm,** venue, St Andrew’s Church Hall,Kimbolton Rd, Bedford MK40 2PF

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Patrick Baty on the **The Artists of the Artists Rifles**

**Voted 5\* by Friends’ Critic**

**7th November, 7.30 pm,** venue, St Andrew’s Church Hall**,** Kimbolton Rd, Bedford MK40 2PF

Professor David Ekserdjian on **The work and films of Powell and Pressburger.**

**Voted 4.5\* by Friends’ Critic**

**28th November, 7.30 pm,** venue, St Andrew’s Church Hall,Kimbolton Rd, Bedford MK40 2PF

|  |  |  |
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| Generously sponsored by | A black and white drawing of a bird  Description automatically generated with low confidence | **DAVID FLETCHER VALUER** |

Dr Evelyn Silber on **BARBARIAN, REBEL, PIONEER: Jacob Epstein ‘taking the brickbats for modern art.’**

**Voted 4.5\* by Friends’ Critic**