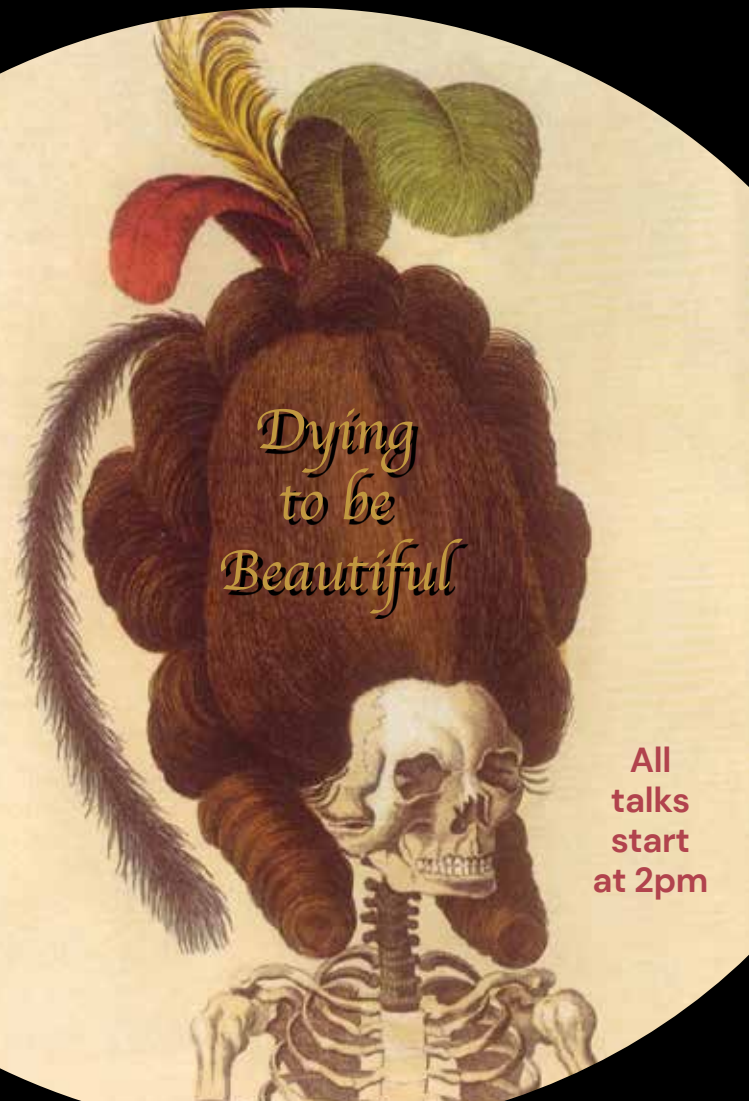
u3a
Henley on Thames

talks programme 2024



All talks start at 2pm

monthly talks programme

Selected by Stewart Redman
Stewart had a career in retail, cable television and telecoms, working for many years in Canada.
This is the 3rd year Stewart has organised an eclectic range of speakers designed to both inform and challenge.



January Wednesday 10th - Becoming a published author by Susanna Beard
The trials & tribulations of a novelist from start to publication - inspiration, origins of stories & how they evolve into full length novels, and success.

February Wednesday 14th - Dying to be beautiful by Dr Kathryn Harkup
A former chemist and author, Kathryn completed a doctorate in her favourite chemicals, phosphines, did post-doctoral research and is fascinated by the dark side of science. She will examine the extreme risks taken in the past to look glamorous.



March Wednesday 13th - The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan by Bernard Lockhart



Bernard will endeavour to explain the heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan with an historical background, their theatrical genre and the social and political satire within the shows.

April Wednesday 10th - The Rhythm of Life using Poetry by Jean Hill
Increasingly important for our well-being, poetry has the power to remove us from daily issues. Jean has composed a piece about us in the Henley u3a.



May Wednesday 8th –
The Mau Mau and the Fall of Empire by Anthony Benn
The Mau Mau were a significant and controversial rebel force at a time of Britain's changing role in the world; their insurgence played a key role in determining the future shape of the Commonwealth.





June Wednesday 12th – Harold MacMillan by Dr Martin Holmes Martin.
Wth his wealth of knowledge of previous Prime Ministers, looks at Harold MacMillan's 'never had it so good' reference to economic outlook and low unemployment whilst dealing with UK's loss of colonial power and influence.

September Wednesday 11th – Where do Novelists get their ideas from by Bobbie Derbyshire
A winner of the 2008 National Academy of Writing fiction prize, Bobbie will talk of her own experience as well as other writers, throwing light on how building characters, location, plot and sub-plots arrive in a novelist's mind.



October Wednesday 9th – Life & Death in the Thames Valley by Chris Whitehead



A long-standing resident of South Oxfordshire, Chris will look at the implications of war in this rural part of England, from the English Civil War to the two world wars, and the personal repercussions on families.

November Wednesday 13th – The Murder of Alexander Litvinenko by Paul Barwick
What was the motivation of a vengeful Russian President to approve the shocking murder, by 2 Russian agents, of Litvinenko using the radio-active nerve agent Polonium 210.



art history talks

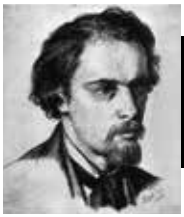
learn with friends

by Keith Appleby

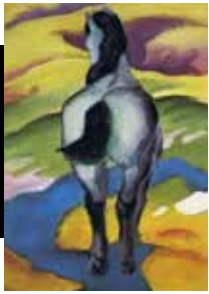
Keith will present a personal view of art, photography and sculpture drawn from his experience of teaching the subject for over 30 years. He will be exploring various aspects of 19th and 20th century art and aiming to inform and introduce different perspectives. The aim is to open minds, not persuade you to like a particular artist or work.



January Tuesday 2nd *(ON ZOOM)* - Humour in Art. A look at both the way artists employ humour and the way that art has been used to make you smile. An uplifting start to the New Year.



February Tuesday 6th - Dante Gabriel Rossetti. A key member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.



March Tuesday 5th - Der Blaue Reiter & Die Brücke. An exploration of two significant German art movements at the beginning of the 20th Century, and their influence on contemporary art



April Tuesday 2nd - Post Impressionism & the birth of Modern Art. A look at the way post impressionism paved the way for abstraction and new movements in modern art.

May Tuesday 7th - Shock of the New. Grayson Perry, Damian Hirst, Tracey Emin, Rachel Whiteread, Jenny Saville, Gavin Turk; Art of the 1990's and the influence of Young British Artists.





June Tuesday 4th - Figurative Art. An exploration of the way that the figure has been depicted in 19th & 20th century art.

July Tuesday 2nd - Desert Island Art. An opportunity for members to talk briefly about what would be their favourite painting to take with them if they were castaway on a desert island.





September Tuesday 3rd - Printmaking. An explanation of the various forms of printmaking that artists use and why; Wood Block, Lino, Screen, Intaglio, Etching, Dry point , Lithography, Engraving.

October Tuesday 1st - Symbolism in Art. How artists have used symbols in art to represent an array of emotions and meanings.





November Tuesday 5th - Sebastião Salgado and other documentary photographers. An exploration of the way in which photography has documented issues and how it has become a change agent.

laugh with friends

December Tuesday 3rd - 10 paintings. My personal choice of paintings that I admire and why.





open your mind

If you would like further information, would like to join or start a new group, please contact one of the committee members:

Chairman:	Charles Whittaker
Membership Secretary:	Ros Whittaker
Secretary & Marketing:	Lynette Hawkins

E: henu3amsec@gmail.com or go to our website www.u3asites.org.uk/henley-on-thames

Venue: Sacred Heart Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Henley
Start: 1.45 for 2pm
Membership: £15.00 per year
Talks: Members £2. Guests £4.

Please check newsletters and website for changes & updates.