



# fly the flyer

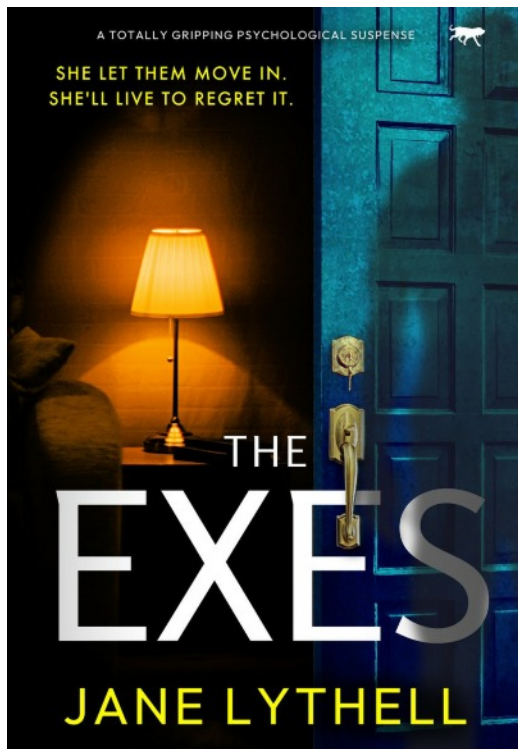
## The Literary Lunch

## Jane Lythell

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 12.00/12.30

Meet Jane Lythell, a local author whose latest book *The Exes* is a domestic noir set in Brighton. Jane lived and worked in London for 38 years; she was as a TV producer, Deputy Director of The British Film Institute and Chief Executive of BAFTA before joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

She now lives in Brighton with her husband and writes full-time. She will share stories about her interesting career and her path to becoming a novelist. Jane will also be reading from *The Exes* and have signed copies available.



### Membership reminder

Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership for 2023. If you haven't renewed and wish to do so, please contact Roger Fine [rogerrfine@gmail.com](mailto:rogerrfine@gmail.com) or David Sears [searsdj@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:searsdj@tiscali.co.uk)

# **The Great Gig in the Sky**

## **Clouds in Romantic art and beyond**

### **Alexandra Loske**

**An appreciation by Suzanne Hinton**

For a glorious hour on a dark December night, Alexandra encouraged us to look to the sky. Blue skies are fascinating. We could, Alexandra told us, take our cyanometer (c. 1789) out of doors and check against its 53 shades to see just how blue the sky was.



Matériel de recherche, Horace-Bénédict de Saussure deuxième schéma du cyanomètre, 1788 Collection Musée d'histoire des sciences, Geneva

We could consult the Beaufort scale (c. 1805) to judge the speed of the winds which were sending those clouds scudding across the sky. Or we could just glance at Luke Howard's classification of clouds (c. 1803).

But this was no talk simply about meteorology. Alexandra's talk focused largely on the significance to John Constable of scientific research and his own personal study of the new sciences in relation to his art.

Constable was born and lived his early life under the vast skies of Suffolk. The importance of the sky to his miller father was economically fundamental. But Constable was not cut out to be a miller. And yet, it was the very landscape and weather conditions of his home county that turned Constable into a painter. For him, the sky was not just a subject of scientific enquiry. It was the basis of 'sentiment' (emotions) and of 'the sublime' (the uncontrollable, the unknowable).

Constable loved Brighton. Those tumbling clouds and scudding winds are a torment to us residents but a joy to the painter.

A no less important focus of Alexandra's talk was the treatment of skylscapes through the ages, from the spiritual blue of the Renaissance religious art through the Constable-influenced Barbizon School to Caspar David Friedrich and finally to Brighton artist Fergus Hare.

Alexandra could barely conceal her excitement that the Royal Pavilion now has on display a 'new' Constable on long-term loan from the Daniel Katz Collection in London. A must-see for all of us who so enjoyed Alexandra's captivating talk.

[Image: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyanometer> Wikimedia Commons CCo]



# Wreathmaking - A Firm Family Tradition

## Katie Sears

Christmas wreath making with Simon Thompson is now a firm family tradition, or at least I hope it becomes one!

This was the second year coming to a Saturday morning workshop, a gift from my mother [Coreen Sears] who loves doing it and wanted me to have a chance to join in too. Simon is a fantastic host (prosecco, tea and quite a few mince pies) and teacher/guide. The array of flowers, foliage and dried fruit was really beautiful to see, and we could use what we wanted to create the wreath we wanted. This year it was all about the flowing pine (Simon will tell you the name!) and careful use of a few accented colours, but if you wanted big bows, holly and berries, it was all there for you. It was a lovely morning spent together with family and friends, creating something special for Christmas. Can't wait for the next one!



# The Jonathan Prichard Interview

**Flyer:** *You hold several posts within the Diocese of Chichester. Where/how did you get involved?*

**Jonathan:** After four or so years, as Director, helping to establish one of the larger arts and education charities, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, it seemed the right time to move on. In 1992 I was appointed Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Chichester (CEO). I stepped down in 2009 and took on a number of paid and pro-bono roles within the diocese, the national Church as well as the wider voluntary sector.

**F:** *How did you start your career?*

**JP:** Originally I studied law at the lawyers' college Trinity Hall Cambridge, but my first job was as a research assistant to some MPs and All Party Committees in the House of Commons. Yet I knew my real interest lay in the voluntary sector or serving the Church. That led to working with The Children's Society and then taking an MBA at business school.

**F:** *When and how did you get involved in St M's and with the Friends?*

**JP:** In 2010, Fthr Robert Fayers nobbled me when he and John Cox re-established the Friends as he knew I had experience in how the legal and administrative structures of the Church worked.

**F:** *What is your role in your current post as Vice Chair of the Friends of St M's?*

**JP:** In many ways my role is to support the chair, first John Cox and now Chris Dawes. I also convene the events group and am active in helping at events, talks, lectures in any way that might help make them even more successful.

**F:** *What does that involve?*

**JP:** I suppose my participation ranges from helping to think up the annual programme of events, to contacting people to persuade them to offer their time and talents to the Friends as well as staffing the bar or washing the glasses and putting up the decorations for the *Icicles* party!

**F:** *What are the challenges of that role?*

**JP:** We have a wonderful set of volunteers within the Friends and seem to attract people who just want to be involved. I think I probably see my main challenge is to feed that enthusiasm and encourage people to contribute in any way they can and want.

**F:** *How do you balance your role at St M's with your other roles?*

**JP:** As I am stepping down from many of the other voluntary positions I have held as well as retiring from working at the Diocese of Chichester, I



will have a little more time and energy to give to the Friends – whether that will be seen as a good thing others will have to decide!!

**F:** *What have been your highlights at St M's and in particular with the Friends?*

**JP:** We have had so many fun events: the annual dinners, the lec-

tures and talks – the conversazione between Sir Roy Strong and Charles Saumarez Smith and the Ladies Lunch where we men served and then the little known Flamenco dancing expertise of the vicar was exposed for all to enjoy.

But most of all, I just wallow in the beauty of the building and its exquisite decoration and atmosphere both artistically and spiritually. The Friends' help in restoring the windows and paper murals is such a glorious achievement and I am pleased to have contributed in a small way to our successes.

**F:** *Any disasters you're brave enough to share with us?*

**JP:** That would be telling! But I can assure people that there have been a number of occasions when what all seemed calm on the surface hid panic beneath. But all in all we have managed to make everything turn out well even in the recent horrors of the Covid times.

**F:** *If you had a magic wand, what would you change at St M's or with the Friends?*

**JP:** Make the church warm!!! Even if that meant we could no longer justify holding *Icicles parties* at the end of each January.

**F:** *Anything else you'd like to share with us?*

**JP:** Just to thank all who have been involved in making the Friends such a wonderful forum for meeting up with people, hearing interesting talks, learning so much about the extraordinary city in which we live. Without so many people willing to join us, we would not be able to be the great friendly success we are and at the same time help preserve and enhance the stunning building that St Michael's is, both as a place of Christian worship and as a centre for the community in which we live.



# The Annual Icicles Party

**Sarie Foster**

In a week that began with the Chinese New Year and included Burns Night, the Annual Icicles Party was undoubtedly the highlight. Who thought January was the duller month? Fairy lights and elaborate, handmade decorations made the Bodley Church a magical setting amidst the darkness of the rest of the church. Everyone looked very pleased to be there, sipping wine and chatting away, wrapped in their winter coats. I don't know where the idea of an Icicles Party came from, but it is genius. In addition to red and white wine, mulled wine was also available and very soon a variety of canapés were offered around. Delicious hot soup in tiny cups and refills of mulled wine from a thermos flask kept us happy and well insulated. Midway through the evening the conversation was paused to hear some important announcements from Chris Dawes, Chair of the Friends, about events planned for the forthcoming year. This included the date of 2024's Icicle Party and the news that we might by then have underfloor heating in the church. This raised a small cheer. In fact, I found my concerns about freezing in the unheated church on a chilly winter night to be unfounded. Although I kept my coat on, fairly early on I felt the need to unbutton it – but that might be the effect of the mulled wine!



# Repairs to Storm Damage

## Tommy Cosgrove Church Warden

Following Storm Eunice last year the lead covering of the slender flèche atop the Bodley church was partly dislodged and several slates torn from the roof by the exceptional high winds. Temporary repairs were effected until such time as a contractor was available to carry out full repairs. In the interim another storm caused further damage. Work started on site in December 2022 with substantial scaffolding in place up to the ridge of the Bodley roof, and to the top of the flèche. The work was completed satisfactorily by mid March and was funded by our building insurance. Taking the opportunity of having scaffolding to this height which is very expensive we had the lightning conductor and cables checked and certificated. We also had the iron cross atop the flèche which has been out of vertical for many years repaired and straightened so that in adversity we gained advantage.

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## Why not visit The Tate?

### *The Rossettis Exhibition is on now*

Running from 6 April to 24 September, this exhibition follows the romance and radicalism of the Rossetti generation and will take a fresh look at the fascinating myths surrounding the unconventional relationships between Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Elizabeth Siddal, Fanny Cornforth and Jane Morris.



La Ghirlandata 1873  
Guildhall



Proserpine 1874  
Tate Gallery London