

M.A.S T E R P I E C E

The Molesey Art Society Newsletter



JANUARY 2020

In the first newsletter of the new year we take a look at a couple of exhibitions in the local area and a little beyond which might be of some interest to members.

TURNER'S HOUSE – TWICKENHAM

Sandycombe Lodge, 40 Sandycombe Road, Twickenham TW1 2LR

Telephone: 020 8892 5485 E-mail: info@turnershouse.org

Website: www.turnershouse.org

Open: Wednesday – Sunday 12 noon – 3pm self-guided visits

It is essential to book in advance by phone or online because only a small number (12) visitors can be admitted at a time.

Hidden away in a suburban street between Twickenham and Richmond is to be found a modest but elegant Regency villa which was once home to J M W Turner. He is undoubtedly one of Britain's most respected artists with an international reputation but he was also a gifted amateur architect and this is evident in the design of this charming residence. He purchased the land in 1807 when he was a young painter on the up and had achieved considerable success and recognition by becoming Professor of Perspective at the Royal Academy. He then set about drawing up plans for a country retreat and the building was completed before 1813. He lived here with his father – 'the old-un' – until 1826 and from here he could make painting expeditions into the local countryside and to the River Thames which remained a source of inspiration all his life. Although the river is no longer visible from the house because of subsequent development there is a telescope set up in the artist's bedroom which has been adapted to show the view that Turner would have seen from the window. The house remained in private hands until 2010 when it was acquired by a Trust set up by the last owner, Professor Harold Livermore, and then a period of fundraising and restoration followed with the house finally opening to the public in 2017. The restoration has been completed in a very sympathetic manner and the whole experience gives the visitor an intriguing insight into the life of this unique figure in the history of British art.



Turner and the Thames – Five Paintings

Until March 29th 2020 the house is hosting a small exhibition of Turner's oil sketches on loan from the Tate. There are five



paintings and although they were all painted before he lived in the house, they give a fascinating glimpse of the riverine world of two centuries ago which Turner found so compelling. The paintings are, perhaps, not of the first order but it is a treat to see them displayed in a room that we know the artist would have stood in – even though it is his father's tiny bedroom. The paintings were all made in 1805 and those shown here are *Walton Reach* (?), *Windsor Castle from the River* and *Sunset on the River* and they are all from the Turner Bequest held by the Tate.

... while you are in the area ...

ORLEANS HOUSE GALLERY AND STABLE GALLERY

Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DJ

Telephone: 020 8831 6000

Website: www.orleanshousegallery.org

E-mail: info@orleanshousegallery.org

Only a short walk from Turner's House you will find an architectural gem in the newly and beautifully restored Octagon Room which forms part of Orleans House. This baroque masterpiece is part of a larger complex of buildings which now houses the art collection of Richmond Borough Council. The

name of the house refers to the time when it was occupied Louis Philippe the Duc d'Orleans who lived here in exile from 1815–17 and during that time he and Turner became acquainted. Louis Philippe became King of France in 1830 and revisited his former home in 1844 accompanied by Queen Victoria. Interestingly this visit to England is celebrated in several paintings by Turner. There is also the Stables Gallery which presents a programme of temporary exhibitions. In addition there is an education centre, a cafe and the Artist in Residence Studio. So, certainly worth a visit. The galleries are open Tuesday to Sunday 10am–5pm and admission is free.



RICHMOND HILL GALLERY

26 Richmond Hill, Richmond TW10 6QX

Telephone: 07540 222 603

Website: www.therichmondhillgallery.com

E-mail: info@therichmondhillgallery.com

This is a commercial gallery which hosts several shows a year by leading contemporary painters including Ken Howard, Barbara Rae and Philip Sutton and also work by artists from the recent past including John Bellany and Frederick Gore. Always worth checking what they have on and the gallery is usually open every day of the week.

... and a little further afield ...

THE LIGHTBOX

Chobham Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4AA

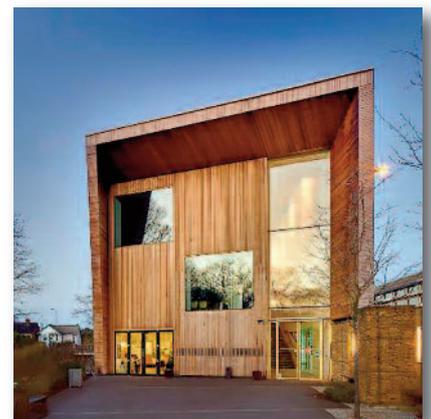
Telephone: 01483 737800

Website:

E-mail: info@thelightbox.org.uk

This purpose-built art and cultural centre was opened in 2007 and has an impressive programme of exhibitions, workshops, talks, poetry events and much more. Running until April 19th the gallery is hosting **DAVID HOCKNEY: WAYS OF WORKING**. This exhibition takes an in-depth look at Hockney's ingenious exploration of a diverse range of media, spanning six decades of creative output. In addition the gallery is presenting several talks about the artist and his work. Sounds like a must see if you are interested in the work of this pivotal figure in modern British art. The gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday 10.30am–5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am–4.00pm. On the last Thursday of the month the opening time is extended to 8.30pm.

There is an admission charge. There is also a cafe and small gift shop.



... and don't miss this hidden gem ...

DORICH HOUSE MUSEUM

67 Kingston Vale SW15 3RN

Telephone: 020 8417 5515

Website: www.dorichhousemuseum.org.uk

E-mail: dorichhousemuseum@kingston.ac.uk

Step into the world of the charismatic sculptor and artist Dora Gordine in this fantastic Art Deco house and studio overlooking Richmond Park. Dora was a Russian emigré, born in 1895 who trained in Tallin and Paris and spent several years in the Far East. In 1936 she married her second husband, Richard Gilbert Hare, who was a well-connected academic with a particular interest in Russian art and culture. They moved to Kingston and the house was built to Dora's specifications and became their home and the showcase for her artistic endeavours. Richard died in 1966 but Dora remained in the house until her death in 1991. The property was then acquired by Kingston University and has been renovated to a very high standard and is now open to the public. Many original sculptures are on show and the couple's apartment on the top floor is a faithful recreation of their domestic life. The views from the roof terrace overlooking Richmond Park are stunning. There is a small cafe in the ground floor plaster studio with a video presentation about the artist's life. There are also guided tours of the house by arrangement.

The house is open Thursday–Saturday 11.00am–5.00pm (last entry 4.30pm).

There is an admission charge.

