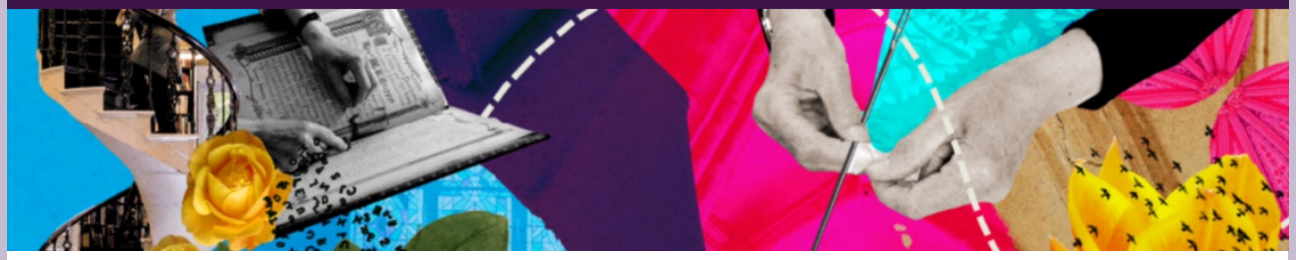
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THE ARTS SOCIETY RIBBLE & CRAVEN



NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

Dear Member

I hope you had a most pleasant Easter and are looking forward to the summer. I am looking forward to seeing you at this month's lecture on **Wednesday May 13 at 10:30 in the Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall.**

As usual in May, it will be preceded by the Society's **Annual General Meeting.** Our President, Andrew Penny, will chair this with his usual *elan* so the lecture will not be too long delayed!

However, it is an important part of our Society's life, and I hope you found the April Newsletter was helpful in explaining the context.

We shall be joined that day by the Chairman of the Arts Society's North-West Area Support Team Chair, Sue Brake. Sue has wanted to visit us for quite some time, so I am delighted that she will be able to join us as our guest on this important day.

I do hope that despite the vagaries of the postal system you have received the information regarding **membership renewal for 2026-2027**, including the Programme Card. These came on the **mailing which went out on April 7th** with the AGM papers. Please do let us know if you have any questions or difficulties.

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Immediately after the AGM our lecture will be **'Inspired by Stonehenge'** and

Immediately after the AGM our lecture will be **'Inspired by Stonehenge'** and explores the inspirational impact of this most famous and iconic prehistoric structure on artists, potters and poets. This will be a very different view from the archaeological or mystical and standpoints we tend to see.

Our lecturer is **Julian Richards** who returns by popular demand. Many will remember his immensely well-received lecture 'Passionate Potters from De Morgan to Leach'. It will be good to welcome him back.

Julian studied archaeology at Reading University and has since worked as a professional archaeologist in numerous ways; in commercial archaeology, as a specialist for English Heritage and for the BBC and as an independent expert.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1992 and is being awarded an honorary doctorate.

Like all excellent professionals he sees teaching as a core duty. He has been involved in teaching and outreach projects, lecturing widely in continuing education, to groups and societies and to special interest tour companies. A career in broadcasting involved researching and presenting *Meet the Ancestors* and *Blood of the Vikings* for BBC2, and *Mapping the Town* for Radio 4.

He is the author of a number of English Heritage publications on Stonehenge, including the previous and current guide books to the monument and landscape. An exhibition of his own extensive collection of 'Stonehengiana' is currently on display at the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre.

Julian's book, "Stonehenge – The Story So Far", will be the raffle prize. He has kindly donated one copy and will have others with him, available to buy on the day.

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Please do remember that if you would like to bring a **guest** to this lecture, please contact Anne Kershaw in advance.

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After the lecture, the committee and wider team will be having the traditional 'AGM' celebratory lunch in the Coach and Horses, marking the departure of those leaving the team and welcoming those who are newly elected. The lower area of the dining room as been reserved for this. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. All will be back to normal in June.

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Save the date! On **Tuesday June 16th** there will be a visit to the wonderful **Hepworth Gallery**. The cost, including transport, a choice of two guided tours and buffet lunch in a private dining area is £56. Anne Kershaw and Margaret Breakell will be sending full details shortly. Do look out for the emailed flier.

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And before I forget, may I give you a brief reminder of the increasing range of art-based programmes run on the TAS You-Tube channels, including **"Artfully Said"** podcasts. **You can watch / listen via :** YouTube.com/@TheArtsSociety You can subscribe to The Arts Society's YouTube channel so you don't miss an episode. You can follow The Arts Society on Instagram for excerpts and new episode announcements: instagram.com/theartssociety and Facebook: The Arts Society

If you pick up BOOM Radio you can catch items there, too. I hope you enjoy exploring.

~

I'll look forward to seeing you soon. In the meantime, thank you once again for all your support over the last three years.

Yours Sincerely

Iain

Website: www.ribblecraven.theartssociety.org.

The Arts Society Ribble & Craven cannot be held responsible for any personal accident, loss, damage or theft of members' personal property. Members are covered against proven liability to third parties.





Lecture: ‘Inspired by Stonehenge’ with Julian Richards

THE ARTS SOCIETY RIBBLE & CRAVEN

Membership Renewal Reminder

from our Membership Secretary

Please be sure to re-new your membership by **June 30th**
You should have received the form for **membership renewal 2026-27,** mailed out on April 7th with the AGM papers. Please do let me know if you have any questions or difficulties. We are fortunate to have a healthy waiting list and we would like to invite potential new members as soon as possible. ***Thanks to all of you who have paid already, your support is greatly appreciated.***



Save the date! On **Tuesday June 16th** there will be day trip to the **Hepworth Gallery**. Booking includes transport, a choice of two guided tours and buffet lunch in a private dining area. Details available at the lecture.

Keep in touch!

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