

Review of **Ashmolean sculpture visit.** April 24th.

There was an excellent turnout for this visit, which had to break into two groups for a tour of some of the sculptures on show. To the surprise and delight of more than a few of us the museum has a surprising and excellent selection of casts made from some of the most iconic sculptures of antiquity.

Works such as The Discus Thrower, The Seated Boxer, and Laocoön and His Sons are highlights, along with part of the relief from Trajan's Column. A painted cast of Emperor Augustus reminded us that classical sculptures were usually coloured.



The visit was a great opportunity to explore a side of the museum that is sometimes overlooked. Many thanks to Julie Evans for organising the event.

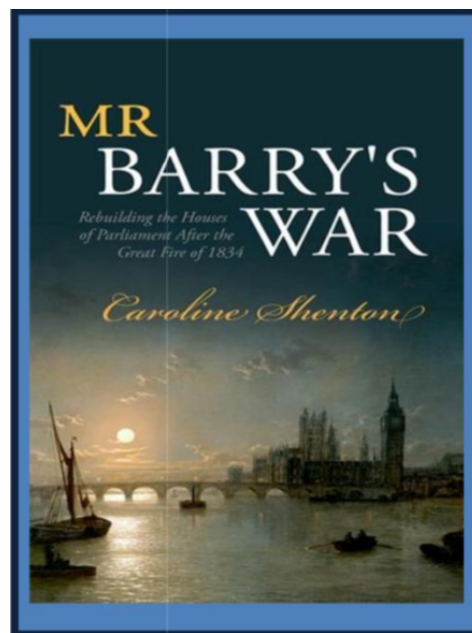
Upcoming

May 21st.

7:00pm. **AGM.**

7:30pm **"Mr Barry's War".**

Charles Barry was a 19th century architect. One of his most notable achievements was the design of the Palace of Westminster after the original building was destroyed by fire in 1834. Collaborating with Augustus Pugin, and after many challenges, Barry created a Gothic Revival masterpiece that has become an iconic symbol of British governance. **Caroline Shenton** will tell his story.



An
illustrated
talk by
**Caroline
Shenton**
Historian
archivist
and writer

Corn Exchange Market Square Witney OX28 6AB
Thursday 21st May 2026
AGM 7pm Lecture 7.30pm

May 29th.

Film Club

The Girl with the Pearl Earring and other Treasures from the Mauritshuis



Seats are still available.

This is our first showing of a documentary from the **Exhibition on Screen** series. This excellent film about Vermeer focuses on "the unsolved riddles" around one of his most famous paintings, **"The Girl With a Pearl Earring"**. The painting is housed in Holland's **Mauritshuis gallery**, and this documentary offers the viewer exclusive access to some of the main works housed here. It includes interpretation of his paintings, "behind the scenes footage" and insights into Vermeer's work and life story.

Running time: 91 minutes.

Cost to TASWOX Members and Guests £8.

Payable in advance please. Deadline 22nd May.

- Please book by email to juliaevans.drovers@hotmail.com and pay online (BACS) if possible.
- Bank details: Sort Code: 30-99-50; Account number 45744960; please use your surname as reference.
- If unavoidable, you can pay by cheque made out to "TASWOX"; please send your cheque to arrive before 22nd May to: Hugh Elford, 15 Dawes Close, Southrop, Lechlade, GL73 PR.
- Payments are not refundable if a cancellation is made less than a week prior to the event.

June 18th

7:30pm. “**Grace Darling and the Fine Art of Saving Lives at Sea.**”



At the age of 22 **Grace Darling's** daring rescue of a passenger steamship off the Northumberland coast in 1838 brought her international fame. **Dr James Taylor** will tell the story of her bravery and short life and the artistic contribution that has helped to keep her in the public eye.

June 11th.

A visit to **North Leigh Roman Villa. (NLRV)**

This will include a bespoke tour, a short film and the handling of some artefacts.



July 10th.

Summer Social at Burwell Hall.

Matthew Lee has agreed to talk to us about the **NLRV**. Kerry will accompany him and explain about the **Stitch in Time** project and the embroidery should be available to see.

July

(Date to be finalised.) **Visit to Dorchester Abbey.**

Charles Chadwick has kindly arranged a visit to the Abbey. To include afternoon tea.

