

**BLYTH U3A  
ARTS  
APPRECIATION  
NEWSLETTER**



**PROGRAMME  
FOR  
MARCH 2026  
TO  
JANUARY 2027**

*The arts are the universal language and our most powerful form of communication.*  
*John F. Kennedy*

So, dive in for a rich programme of familiar themes and fresh discoveries.

We meet on:  
**The THIRD THURSDAY** of every month  
at  
St Mary's Church Wanley Street Blyth NE24 1DP  
Doors open for refreshments at 1.00pm  
The talk for the month starts at 1.30pm  
**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

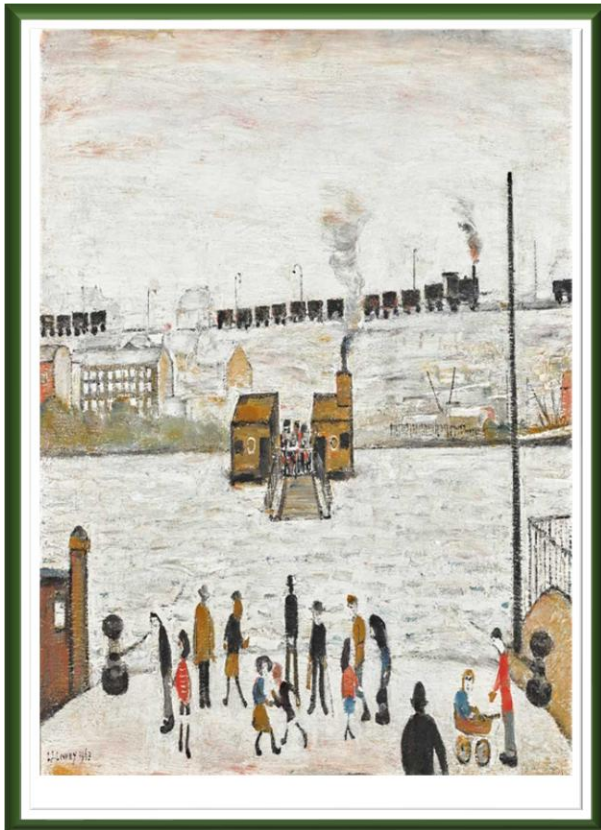
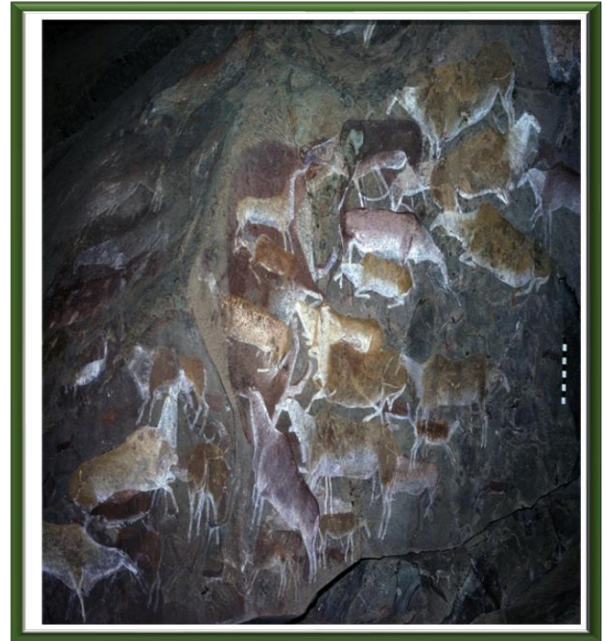
Your comments/questions/concerns/queries are always welcome  
contact me at:  
[u3amarie@gmail.com](mailto:u3amarie@gmail.com)  
Look forward to hearing from you

## THE MYSTERIOUS ROCK ART OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MARCH  
THURSDAY 19TH  
1.30PM**

**Guest Speaker: Aron Mazel**

By popular demand Aron returns to tell us more about his 40-year quest to unravel the meanings behind the images left by the ancient peoples of Southern Africa through their art



## LS LOWRY IN THE NORTH EAST

**APRIL  
THURSDAY 16TH  
1.30PM**

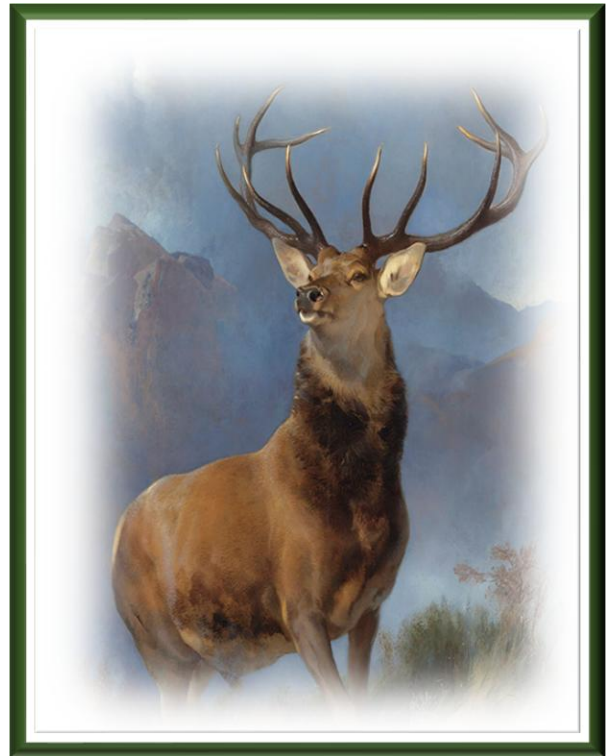
**Guest Speaker:  
Michael Gatherar**

We welcome a brand-new guest speaker who is going to explore L. S. Lowry's deep and often surprising relationship with the North East of England. This talk uncovers the places that captured his imagination, the people he met, and the quieter, more contemplative works inspired by our region's light, landscape, and shorelines.

**SCOTLAND IN 7 IMAGES:  
IDENTITY, INFLUENCE AND THE  
ART OF A NATION**

**MAY  
THURSDAY 21st  
1.30PM  
Speaker: Marie**

A journey through seven iconic images that capture the spirit of Scottish art – its landscapes, its innovators, and its evolving identity. A lively look at how influence, place, and imagination shaped the art of a nation.



**JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
THE BIG REVEAL**



**PAXTON HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER TWEED**

Includes:

- ✓ a guided tour of the house and the paintings (on loan from the National Gallery of Scotland)
- ✓ A buffet lunch
- ✓ Access to extensive grounds
- ✓ A boat trip on the river (TBC)

**DETAILS NEARER THE TIME**



**THERE WILL BE NO ARTS APPRECIATION SESSIONS  
IN  
JULY AND AUGUST**

**BACK AGAIN IN  
SEPTEMBER...**



...and after the summer break, a programme that brings you familiar favourites, new perspectives, and a wide mix of arts that includes guest speakers and special visits. Looking forward to another engaging and enjoyable year together.

## DESIGN AS ART?

SEPTEMBER  
THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
1.30PM

**Speaker: Marie**

Is design simply about function, or can it stand alongside painting and sculpture as an art form in its own right?  
This talk explores 150 years of industrial design through its most influential and recognisable objects.



## A VISIT TO THE SHIPLEY ART GALLERY

OCTOBER  
THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup>  
1.30PM

A guided tour of the Gallery -  
but there's more...  
an opportunity to actually  
handle selected objects from  
its vast collection with insights  
provided by a member of  
staff.  
Refreshments will be  
provided.



**THE MUSIC OF THE  
'THE MASTER'  
NOEL COWARD**

**NOVEMBER  
THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
1.30PM**

**Guest Speaker: David Faulkner**

Witty, urbane, and effortlessly stylish, this talk explores Noël Coward's music – from his razor-sharp comic numbers to the unexpectedly tender songs that reveal the man behind the persona.



**A CHRISTMAS TREAT?  
KEEPING IT UNDER WRAPS FOR NOW....**

**JOHN MARTIN: PAINTER OF THE SUBLIME**

**JANUARY  
THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
1.30PM**

**Guest Speaker: Chris Tipple**

Discover John Martin, the Northumberland artist whose explosive, cinematic paintings made him one of the most unforgettable figures of his age.

