

THE ARTS SOCIETY WINDSOR

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 1:30pm**

will be

Barbara Askew

who will talk to us about:

Charles I King and Collector

Historian and London Blue Badge Guide since 1988. Lecturer, Examiner and Course Director on Blue Badge Guide Training Courses and an acknowledged expert on Royalty and Windsor Castle. The only Blue Badge Guide accredited to guide the Albert Memorial. Offers guided visits and walking tours linked to her lectures.



This lecture celebrates the 400th Anniversary of Charles I's accession to the throne in 1625. Charles I's obsession for collecting works of art began when as a 22-year-old prince he travelled to Spain and saw the magnificent collection of the Spanish king, Philip IV. On becoming King in 1625 Charles purchased the fabulous collection of the Gonzaga Dukes of Mantua which included works by Titian, Raphael and Andrea Mantegna's astonishing series of paintings "The Triumphs of Caesar". Charles engaged Peter Paul Rubens to paint the ceiling of the Banqueting House in Whitehall and he appointed Anthony van Dyck as his Court Artist. By the end of his reign Charles had amassed over 2000 works of art but in doing so he had bankrupted England and alienated his people. His life ended on the scaffold in 1649 and most of the collection was sold in what was known as "The Commonwealth Sale" in 1650. While many works were retrieved by Charles 2nd during the Restoration others now hang in the great Art Galleries of Europe.

Want to find out more? For further information visit the Society's website at www.theartssocietywindsor.org.uk, or email us at info@theartssocietywindsor.org.uk We meet live on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN N.B. Please consult our website re each lecture which we will update regularly.