

**OUR SPEAKER** on **Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 1:30pm**

will be

## Susan Kay-Williams

who will talk to us about:

### The History of The Royal School of Needlework



Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Chartered Institute of Marketing and in 2015 was made a Fellow of the Society of Dyers and Colourists in recognition of her work on the history of dyes. Susan has a longstanding interest in textiles, especially colour, and published her first book, *The Story of Colour in Textiles* (Bloomsbury) in 2013. She has extensive lecturing experience and has been invited to lecture in the USA, Canada, China, Japan and Taiwan as well as for the V&A and across the UK. In 2022 she published *An Unbroken Thread: the 150 year history of the Royal School of Needlework*. She is currently the President elect of the Society of Dyers and Colourists worked as a consultant valuer for the BBC television programme *Flog It*.

In 2022 the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) will celebrate its 150th anniversary. It was founded to keep hand embroidery alive and to offer suitable occupation to educated women who would otherwise have been destitute. Today it is a thriving centre of hand embroidery education to the highest level. This lecture, goes behind the scenes to tell the story of the last 150 years and the School's changing fortunes including: being part of the 'Kensington set'; the links with the Arts and Crafts and Aestheticism movements; the connection with the SAS; the move to Hampton Court Palace and the variety of commissions the RSN has undertaken from wedding dresses to Oscar gowns and from runway garments to ecclesiastical vestments.

**Want to find out more?** For further information visit the Society's website

at [www.theartssocietywindsor.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywindsor.org.uk), or email us at [info@theartssocietywindsor.org.uk](mailto: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.