

FROM VENICE TO SHEFFIELD JOHN RUSKIN'S PASSION FOR ART, CRAFT and SOCIAL JUSTICE

Inspired by the bicentenary of the birth of John Ruskin (1819 – 1900), today's lecture celebrates the extraordinary life and work of this visionary Victorian. As writer, teacher, artist, collector, patron and critic, Ruskin was perhaps the most complete polymath of the 19th century. He left behind a dazzling range of writing and collections that continue to inspire and generate debate around the world. Perhaps most famous today as a champion of Turner and admirer of Venice, Ruskin's impact ranged far and wide; his ideas inspired the Arts and Crafts Movement and the founding of the National Trust, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and the Labour Movement. George Eliot wrote 'I venerate him as one of the great teachers of the day', and he influenced the thinking of Tolstoy, Proust and Gandhi among others.



Alongside this international reach, Ruskin became deeply concerned by what he saw as the negative impacts of the industrialization of 19th century England, and as a teacher, thinker and philanthropist he set up projects that aspired to give the working man access to beauty, art, craft and the land. In 1871, he founded what became the Guild of St George, the charity for arts, crafts and the rural economy, and gave it a sizeable collection of art, books and minerals for public display and education in Sheffield. Today, cared for by Museums Sheffield, the collection continues to honour his legacy, sharing something of Ruskin's encyclopaedic European

sensibility for the benefit of a 21st century city.

On his first visit to The Arts Society Fylde, Simon Seligman offers a lecture that spans Ruskin's life and work from the timeless and global to the intimate and exquisite, to paint a portrait of a great life.



SIMON SELIGMAN

Today's speaker studied art and architectural history at Warwick University, including a semester in Venice; he is also a Graduate of the Attingham Summer school. From 1991 until 2010, Simon worked at Chatsworth, in a variety of roles, latterly as Head of Communications. He has lectured about Chatsworth, the Devonshire Collection and associated topics, throughout the UK and on several US tours (including the Metropolitan Museum and the National Gallery of Art). Simon has given presentations and interviews with the late Deborah, Dowager Duchess of Devonshire. His publications include written or edited guidebooks and articles for and about Chatsworth.



SUGGESTED FURTHER READING

To See Clearly - Why Ruskin Matters, Suzanne Fagence Cooper, Quercus, 2019

Ruskinland - How John Ruskin shapes our world, Andrew Hill, Pallas Athene, 2019

Cover: John Ruskin, 1843, George Richmond (1809-1896)

Facing Page: Loggia of St Mark's Venice, 1851, John Ruskin

Kapellbrücke, Luzern, 1862, John Ruskin, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

VOTE OF THANKS - Hugh Ellwood

Volunteers

Volunteers from the Society willingly take on a number of additional tasks, with support from the Friends of Lowther Pavilion.

If you would like to help, please speak to any of the volunteers working on an activity that you would like to support or feel free to contact Rita Calvert on 01253 735377.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who help in the work of The Arts Society Fylde.

Greeting and Reception

Marjorie Armstrong, Celia Aucott,
Bernard Davies, John Driffill,
Kirsteen McGlashan-Hansen,
Christina McHugh, John Parkinson

Cruise

Denise Fagge

Raffle

Christine Cockburn,
Lesley Jarvis

Study Day Tickets

Sandra Hallergard,
Constance Holland

New Membership

Rowland Darbyshire,
Denise Malpas

Lecture Leaflet

Tony Depledge

Refreshments

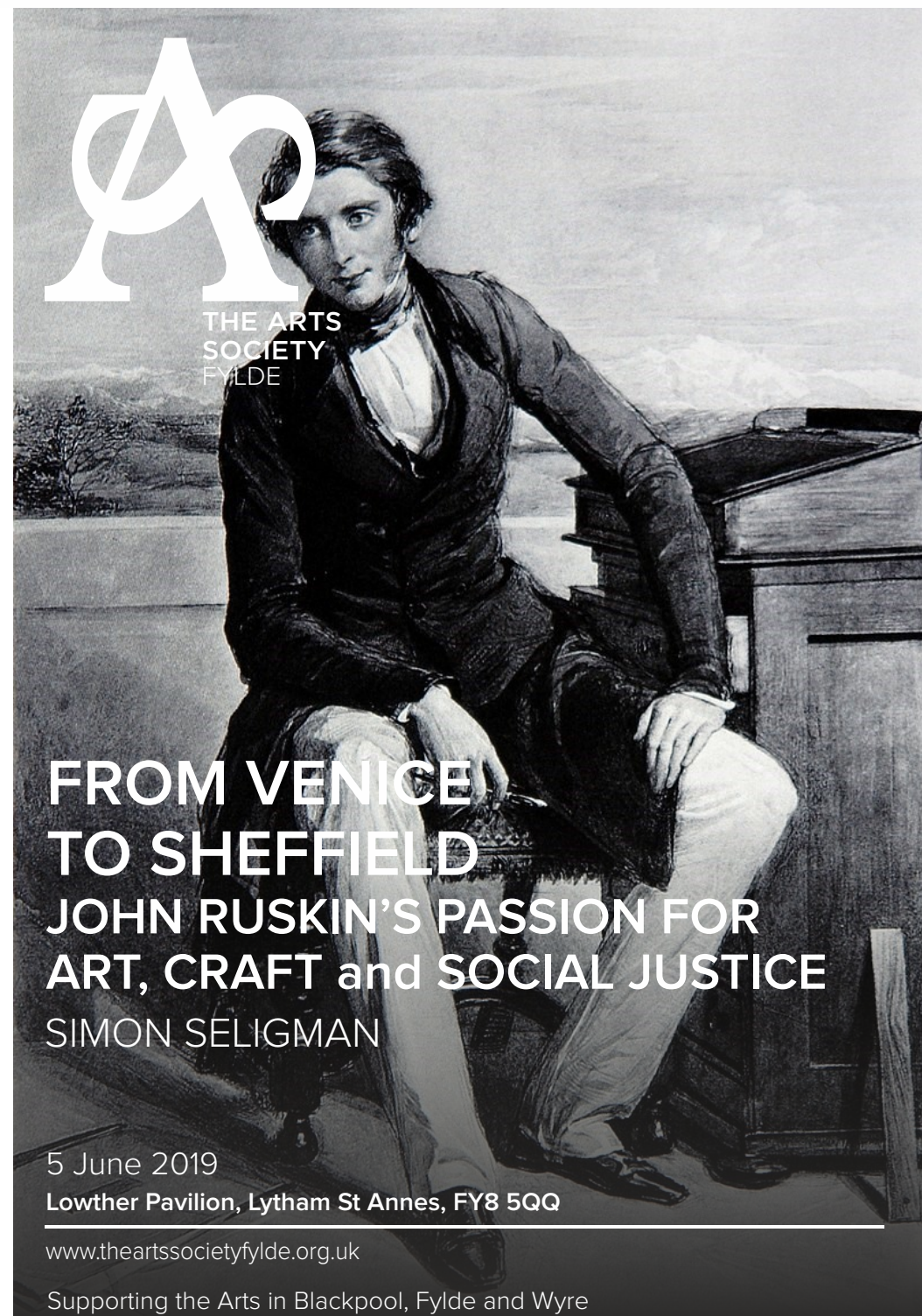
Rita Calvert
with volunteers from the
Friends of Lowther Pavilion

NEXT LECTURE

Wednesday 3 July 2019

At the Lowther Pavilion Theatre at 2pm
Ian Swankie on *The World's Most Expensive Art*

www.theartssocietyfylde.org.uk



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
FYLDE

FROM VENICE TO SHEFFIELD

JOHN RUSKIN'S PASSION FOR ART, CRAFT and SOCIAL JUSTICE

SIMON SELIGMAN

5 June 2019
Lowther Pavilion, Lytham St Annes, FY8 5QQ

www.theartssocietyfylde.org.uk

Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre