

VOTE OF THANKS - Tony Depledge

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

Sue Barker, Margaret Carnegie,
Gerry Corless, Sue Cornah,
John Drifill, Marion Nutall,
John Parkinson

Grand Theatre Visit

Olga Depledge

Raffle

Christine Cockburn, Lesley Jarvis

Membership and Payments

Christina McHugh, Denise Malpas,
Roland Darbysire, Jean Holland

Lecture Leaflet

Tony Depledge

Refreshments

Rita Calvert with volunteers from
the Friends of Lowther Pavilion

NEXT LECTURE

Wednesday 2 October 2019

At the Lowther Pavilion Theatre at 2pm
Lars Tharp on Chinese Porcelain -

The Gate of Heroes: Harlots and China

www.theartsocietyfylde.org.uk



FRANK MATCHAM'S MASTERPIECES - THEATRE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

SIMON REES

4 September 2019

Lowther Pavilion, Lytham St Annes, FY8 5AQ

www.theartsocietyfylde.org.uk

Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

FRANK MATCHAM'S MASTERPIECES - THEATRE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

Just as we start the 11th Season of lectures at The Arts Society Fylde, two major local buildings are celebrating their own birthdays - and in each case, it's 125 years. Both the Blackpool Tower Ballroom and the Grand Theatre are the work of Frank Matcham (1854-1920), the architect of many of Britain's well-known and well-loved theatres, including the Hackney Empire, Buxton Opera House, Belfast Grand Opera House, Bristol Hippodrome, The Gaiety Theatre in Douglas, Isle of Man, and the London Coliseum.

Today's lecturer is Simon Rees, whom we last welcomed to the Fylde Coast in November 2016 when he spoke about opera sets and costume design. This time his focus is on the architect Frank Matcham himself:

Simon Rees has worked in many of his theatres and can therefore bring an extra dimension to his presentation, giving an insider's view of Matcham's architectural legacy.



Simon has promised a lecture illustrated with present-day and period photographs, postcards from the turn of the century, and Matcham's own fascinatingly detailed architectural drawings.

We are grateful for display material for this lecture that has been kindly provided by the Grand Theatre archivists (and members of The Arts Society Fylde), Linda and Geoff Tolson.

A Study Day at the Grand Theatre is planned for 19 November 2019; details from reception at today's lecture.

Cover: Blackpool Grand Theatre (1894), 2019, courtesy Blackpool Grand Theatre
This page: Belfast Grand Opera House (1895), 2009, courtesy Albert Bridge
Facing page: Francis "Frank" Matcham, Vanity Fair "Men of the Day", 1911, courtesy National Portrait Gallery

SIMON REES

Simon Rees studied at Colchester Royal Grammar School and Trinity College, Cambridge, receiving a BA and an MA in English Literature. He has taught in Italy and Japan, exploring the art and architecture of both countries.

From 1989 to 2012, Simon was dramaturg at Welsh National Opera in Cardiff, working with set, costume and props designers and giving lectures on their work in opera production. Now a freelance writer and lecturer, he lectures widely on opera, art history and literature, travelling extensively with travel companies. He has published several novels, including the award-winning *The Devil's Looking-Glass*, poems and opera librettos.



SUGGESTED FURTHER INFORMATION

The website of the Frank Matcham Society (frankmatchamsociety.org.uk) offers information, videos, articles and anecdotes about Matcham, his work and the theatres he designed.

Both the Frank Matcham Society and the Theatres Trust (www.theatrust.org.uk) have information about theatres that are at risk from neglect or redevelopment.

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory body for theatres, offering advice about new theatres, existing theatres in need of support or funding, or for those working to bring a theatre back to life.

