

Out of the Wardrobe

Monthly Newsletter of the Costume Society Scotland

April 2021

Full CSS Programme for 20/21

We are happy to announce that due to the hard work of Judith we have managed to organise a complete programme for our 2020/21 season. Although as yet we have no information from St Augustines about what arrangements will be in place for our first meeting in October we hope that by that time arrangements for public gatherings will be in place.

All our speakers scheduled for last season will join us so please put the following dates in your diary. We have all missed our meetings over the past year and our members merry quip and jest!

Dates for 2020/21 Mondays: 4th October, 1st November, 6th December (party), 10th January, 7th February, 7th March, 4th April and 9th May (after May weekend).

We know that some members did and some didn't pay subscriptions for 2020/21, the committee has agreed to cancel subscriptions for this session and transfer payments paid to 2021/2.

Museums Opening Up Again, Huzzah!

If like me you have been watching Catherine (the Great) and her fabulous costumes you will agree that the opening of museums next month deserves a loud huzzah!

Here is a brief outline of when openings will be happening but as many museums and galleries are staggering their openings to assess covid safety procedures, please check with venues either online or by telephone. Most indoor spaces will require prior booking.

Please note that travel outwith Edinburgh is currently not permitted until Monday 25th April

National Trust Scotland: outdoor venues from 2nd April, indoor from 26th April.

National Museums Scotland: The National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Flight and the National Museum of Rural Life will all reopen to visitors from 26th April.

The National War Museum, which is located inside Edinburgh Castle, will reopen on 1st May.

Scottish National Galleries, mound reopening 6 May, **Modern One:** reopening 16 May

Modern Two: reopening 26th April, **Portrait Gallery** reopening 30th April

Historic Scotland: open air sites from Friday 30th April as well as a selection of indoor sites.

The Dovecot: reopens 26th April with Archie Brennan: Tapestry Goes Pop!

City Arts Centre and other CEC venues: no dates for reopening have been announced as yet.

V&A: Saturday 1st May with 'Night Fever: Designing Club Culture'

Wish You Were Here

Over the past few months I have been working with the Coastal Communities Museum in North Berwick providing swimwear for their summer exhibition 'Wish You Were here'. Covid has delayed the exhibition but I am booked to start setting up at the end of this month with an estimated opening early in May. The exhibition will run until October. I will post a full report in the May edition of Out of the Wardrobe.

Online Talk - Bathing Beauties: Vintage swimwear

Based on her book of the same name, join Jill Salen for this online session on the history of English swimwear focusing on the individual garments of both men and women, and their clothing-historical context. Sea bathing outfits were being designed as early as the 1780s. By the 1880s the general population was becoming more enthusiastic about healthy pursuits, cycling, walking, golf and swimming. To allow these pastimes to be pursued appropriate clothes were required, however, by today's standards these elaborate garments are rarely appropriate.

Jill Salen is a retired lecturer in costume. As a freelance costume maker she has made costumes for many clients, including Shakespeare's Globe, Cosprop, and the Welsh National Opera. She is



also the author of a number of successful publications on corsetry, costume history and construction.

This event will take place online as a Zoom session. Details will be emailed to you in advance of the date.

**Royal Albert Memorial Museum,
Exeter**

Wednesday 12 May 2021, 10am to 12pm

£15, book @ [exeterramm.admissionone.eu](https://www.exeterramm.admissionone.eu)

Up Close with the Normans

As a child you could track my interest in history by the pieces of needlework I produced. Small hands made dolls of historic figures, collages of Henry V and his wives plus copies of the Bayeux Tapestry. How much better would they have been if I had had access to this wonderful source from the Bayeux Museum. The whole tapestry (or should I say embroidery) has been photographed and can be enlarged frame by frame giving amazing detail. It means that the knights and their ladies no longer appear to be wearing the same clothes but a wide variety of styles influenced by fashion, status and choice. The site is in several languages and very much



worth a look for embroiderers or just those of us who enjoy a good story!

<https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/discover-the-bayeux-tapestry/explore-online/#>

Online talk - Escape to the Roaring Twenties

A talk to complement the current fashion exhibition at Chertsey Museum by Keeper of Costume, Grace Evans.

Enjoy a guided virtual tour of the exhibition alongside a fully illustrated talk covering many aspects of 1920s fashion.

Using examples of stylish day wear, glittering evening wear, underwear and sportswear, Grace will share her knowledge of how fashions evolved during the decade and why the dress styles of the 1920s were so dramatically innovative and striking.

Book online by 16 April. The tour and talk will be given via Zoom. Meeting ID and passcode will be emailed to booked participants 48 hours before the event.

Chertsey Museum

Tuesday 20 April 2021, 7 - 8pm

£3, book @ [chertseymuseum.org](https://www.chertseymuseum.org)



Also by Andrew Lear

Fashion and Passion in the Belle Epoque

Discover the high point of Paris' domination of world fashion, the Belle Epoque, with its many innovations and amazing fashion queens!

Learn about the fashion for bustles and Gigot sleeves. Hear about the invention of many key aspects of the fashion world: the department store, prêt-à-porter styles, brands (including the first branded perfume!), hair dye and sporting clothes, see fashions change, from Worth's voluminous gowns to Poiret's elimination of the corset. Explore the increasing role of women in the fashion industry with designers like Callot Soeurs and the first woman editor of a major fashion magazine. Meet the seductive fashion queens of la Belle Époque: Geneviève Lantelme, the sexy actress, Polaire, the extravagant artist with a tiny waist, and the Comtesse de Grefuhle—one of Proust's models for the Duchesse de Guermantes and an astonishing fashion innovator.

Saturday 24th April, 7:00 PM – 8:15 pm. Again if you can't make the live event buy a ticket for the recording and watch the talk in your own time!

\$12, booking on Eventbrite

London Hat Week Podcasts

Like many events London Hat Week has had to go online this year due to the pandemic, but underdressed they have been working with Morely Radio to produce a variety of podcasts with some very interesting topics. Series 2 includes interviews with the owner of Angels, theatrical costumier, Jean Shrimpton talking about how she uses costume to assist genealogists to date family photographs and a discussion on the cultural appropriation of vintage items. The talks are free and last approximately 30 mins. Great to listen to with coffee and choco biscuit!

Available @ morleyradio.co.uk

We are always happy to report any exhibitions/collections/events that members come across.

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