

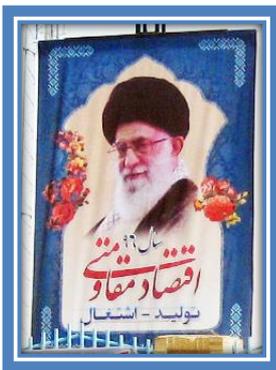
## The Arts Society Oakham

**Study Day to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
At the Victoria Hall, High Street, Oakham, Rutland  
10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

### **'Iran - Land of Great Kings, Shahs and Ayatollahs'**

**John Osborne**, an Arts Society lecturer who knows the country well, will be our guide. He has lived and worked in Iran, speaks Farsi and has led travel groups there for many years. There can be few people better able to reveal the secrets of this fascinating country.

#### *Content*



The geographical, political and religious background. Zoroastrianism, the official religion of the Iranians before the Islamic conquest. How the Shi'a form of Islam originated and became the ruling creed in the late 20th century Iran of Ayatollah Khomeini. How visible aspects of traditional Persian culture have been changing over the last half-century.



The rich and mighty Persian Empire founded by Cyrus the Great, contemporary with Classical Greece and ruled by Great Kings such as Darius and Xerxes. Their royal palace at Persepolis, destroyed (allegedly deliberately) by Alexander the Great: its monumental architectural remains and wealth of relief sculpture revealing the ethos of the Persian Empire and the symbolism of kingship.

The development of architecture in the mosques and palaces of Iran, with an emphasis on their brilliant tile-work and painting, through the Islamic period until the end of the 19th century. The splendid buildings of Shah Abbas' early 17th century Isfahan, the subject of a 2009 British Museum exhibition. A look at Persia's classic gardens, as well as the art of book illustration, with examples from the classic period of Persian miniature painting and literature.



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### **'Iran - Land of Great Kings, Shahs and Ayatollahs'**

Timetable:

10 am arrival and coffee/tea (to be included in the charge for the day)

Session 1 10.30 am – 12 midday

12 –1pm Lunch break (participants can either bring their own lunch, or visit one of Oakham's many cafes.)

Session 2 1 pm – 2.15 pm when there will be a brief break

Session 3 2.30pm – 3.30pm the final session

The cost for the day, including coffee/tea on arrival, will be £25.

Members and guests are welcome.

Application forms will be available at the January meeting and circulated with the January newsletter and on the website [www.TheArtsSocietyOakham.org.uk](http://www.TheArtsSocietyOakham.org.uk)

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