

THE ARTS SOCIETY – BOURNEMOUTH & EAST DORSET SPECIAL DAY OF INTEREST TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB

54 PANORAMA ROAD, SANDBANKS, BH13 7RE

(Free on road parking available- limited parking at RMYC)

“Bankrolling the Renaissance” A history of the Medici Family with Douglas Skeggs



Douglas Skeggs read Fine Art at Magdalene College Cambridge and has been a lecturer on paintings since 1980. In that time, he has given over 7000 lectures to universities, colleges and art societies. He was the director of ‘The New Academy of Art Studies’ for three years and is presently a regular lecturer at ‘The Study Centre’, ‘Christie’s’ course ‘The History of Art Studies’ and other London courses. Among his more improbable venues for lectures are the bar on the QE2, MI5 headquarters, the Captain’s room at Lloyds and an aircraft hanger in a German NATO base. Overseas he has lectured in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain, and has taken numerous tours around Europe. He helped set up the Abercrombie & Kent “Private Label Tours” and is presently cultural adviser to Ultimate Travel.

He has written and presented various TV documentaries, notable the Omnibus programme on ‘Whistler’ and the exhibition video on ‘William Morris.’ Three one-man exhibitions of his paintings have been held in England and Switzerland. He has published five novels, which have been translated into 8 foreign languages, his book on Monet, ‘River of Light’, has sold 30,000 copies in England, America and France.

9:45 Coffee/Tea on arrival in the Edinburgh Suite.

10:30 – 11:30 LECTURE 1 – Bankrolling the Renaissance.

Under the guidance of Cosimo Medici, the family became the unofficial rulers of Florence and leading patrons of the arts, This inevitably aroused fierce jealousies, which boiled over in the attempted assassination of Cosimo’s grandson Lorenzo.

11:30 – 11:45 Comfort break only – Please be in your seat in good time for Lecture 2.

11:45 – 12:45 LECTURE 2 – Popes and Patrons.

With Florence gripped by the apocalyptic preaching of Savonarola, the Medici were exiled from Florence. But they re-emerged triumphantly as Popes in Rome. Here their decadent and eccentric rule led to the Sack of Rome and ultimately opened the door to Luther’s Reformation of the Church.

13:00 – 14:30 Two course Luncheon & Tea/Coffee (Pay Bar is available)

14:30 – 15:30 LECTURE 3 – From Riches to Royalty.

Although the Medici were a spent force in Italy, an ingenious marriage had put Catherine de Medici on the throne of France, to be followed, shortly afterwards, by Marie de Medici. This last talk looks at the impact these two formidable queens had on the shape of French history.



**THE COST OF THE DAY, INCLUDING ARRIVAL REFRESHMENT, 3 LECTURES AND A TWO COURSE
LUNCHEON WILL BE £60.00 PER PERSON**

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SPECIAL DAY OF INTEREST TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2025

"Bankrolling the Renaissance" A History of the Medici Family with Douglas Skeggs

I would like to reserveplace(s) for the Special Day of Interest at £60.00 per person (Guests welcome)

LUNCHEON MENU

MAINS

A

Pan Fried Chicken Supreme, Roasted New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
and a Wild Mushroom Sauce.

B

Pan Seared Fillet of Salmon, Roasted New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
and a Creamy Butter Sauce.

C

Wild Mushroom & Truffle Risotto **(Vegetarian)**

DESSERT

A

A. RMYC Apple & Blackberry Crumble with Crème Anglaise

B

Tarte au Citron with Berries

Follow by Tea/Coffee

Choices: Mains A..... B..... C..... Desert A..... B.....

 Mains A..... B..... C..... Desert A..... B.....

 Tea Coffee

Name:Telephone:

Address:

..... Email.....

Please complete the attached form and return together with a cheque to Mrs Julie Reid Flat 46 The Oasis, 45 Lindsay Road, Poole, Dorset BH13 6AP or **BACS payment** to TASBED Sort Code 51-81-18 (Natwest) Account No 84640111 (ref: DOI & name) Email reid.j.tasbed@gmail.com to confirm payment and interest.

PLEASE INDICATE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES/FOOD INTOLERANCES AT POINT OF BOOKING.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO SIT WITH PEOPLE

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