



**THE ARTS SOCIETY OAKHAM OUTING**

**TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026 at 11.30am**

**Private Guided Tour with**

**IAN SWANKIE**

**A Walk in London's King's Cross Quarter**

**£20 per person**

**See more details overleaf**



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Please cut off and complete this application form and return to TASO either **by hand at a lecture, by email ([oakham@theartsociety.org](mailto:oakham@theartsociety.org))** or **by post to 2 Chapel Close, Empingham, Rutland LE15 8BX** **by Tuesday 15 September LATEST**

NAME of MEMBER .....

NAME of GUEST(s) (if applicable) .....

TELEPHONE ..... EMAIL.....

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES ..... TOTAL PAYMENT DUE £.....

PLEASE TICK CHOICE OF PAYMENT:

ONLINE with ref. **OCTOBER outing The Arts Society Oakham Sort code 30 – 98 – 97**

**Account 55677268** (We will acknowledge online receipts by email).

BY CHEQUE, enclosed, payable to 'The Arts Society Oakham'

Thank you

# **A Walk in London's King's Cross Quarter with Ian Swankie 27 October 2026**

Ian Swankie is a charismatic speaker whom we are sure everyone will recall from when he recently delivered an inspirational and very engaging lecture on Battersea Power Station. We are delighted that he has agreed to give TASO Members a guided tour of London's King's Cross Quarter which will include both King's Cross and St Pancras Stations and the King's Cross Quarter to the north.

This is a walking tour exploring the art and architecture of a rapidly changing area which has seen some of the most dramatic urban redevelopments anywhere in Europe. Until just over 10 years ago the stations were neglected, and the adjacent land was a scruffy wasteland full of disused railway buildings, gasworks, noisy industry, off-beat nightclubs and a notorious red-light district.

## **History**

King's Cross Station was opened in 1852 and quickly grew to cater to suburban lines with expansion several times in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The station was re-developed in in the 1970's and is well-known for its association with the Harry Potter books and films, particularly Platform Nine and Three Quarters.

St Pancras, a grade 1 listed building was opened in 1868. Wrought iron pillars support a single span roof over the largest enclosed space in the world. The Midland Grand Hotel was built on its façade at that time. The station was damaged in both World Wars. In the 1960's plans to demolish the station were strongly appealed and successfully opposed. The Grade 1 listed status was awarded 10 days before it was due to be demolished.

The area referred to as the Quarter is a large urban mixed-use development north of King's Cross and St Pancras Stations consisting of 67 acres of former railway lands. It is a busy vibrant area these days including 50 buildings, 1,700 homes, 30 bars and restaurants, public parks and squares and office space providing 30,000 jobs. It includes a host of other architectural successes with sustainability being an important aspect of the carefully planned developments which have a backdrop of the Regents Canal.

## **Ian Swankie**

Ian Swankie is an art and architecture historian. He has delivered over 600 lectures in the UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and on cruises. He has a wide repertoire of creative enrichment subjects mainly on art, architecture, and engineering. They range from Old Masters to Modern Art, architecture from around the world along with railways and ocean liners. Ian is based in London where, as well as being an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, he is an official guide at Tate Modern and Tate Britain and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars.

## **Arrangements for the day**

We shall meet in St Pancras Station at 11.30am. Members will make their own arrangements to travel to London in time for the tour. The walk is at a gentle pace and will last about two hours. Members are completely free to plan their day around the tour as they wish, both in terms of travel plans, refreshments and meals.

Full details of the tour arrangements will be advised around the time of the September TASO lecture, so that members can securely make their travel arrangements and any other bookings they wish.

## **What we need now**

All we need from you at this time is for you to book your place on the tour by paying the tour cost of £20 if you would like to join us. The tour cost includes individual audio equipment.

The application form and instructions for payment are overleaf.