



The Arts Society Leatherhead January 2018 newsletter

Dear member

First of all, we would like to wish you all happiness and prosperity in 2018.

The December meeting ended our 20th anniversary year in style with our highest attendance in over five years; and our now traditional post lecture drinks, food and a return of carols were a wonderful start to the festive season.

The New Year is likely to hold many uncertainties especially politically but against this background there is the certainty that your society will continue to provide you with stimulating lectures on diverse arts related topics and also arrange visits and tours to places of interest.

I would like to thank Chris Heath for helping in putting together this newsletter.

Please tell me if you need any copies of anything.

All my best wishes
Huw Jenkins, Secretary
01372 278738

Membership Renewal

If you have renewed your membership but not yet collected your membership package please remember to do so from the reception desk at the next meeting. If you have not yet renewed, please bring your cheque for £40 made payable to 'The Arts Society Leatherhead' to next week's meeting. Please bring completed copies of the forms to the January meeting and give them to Pam Overend. Tell Jackie Hampton if you do not plan to renew.

This month's Talk 7.30pm Wednesday

Pots and Frocks: The world of Grayson Perry by Ian Swankie

Well known for his regular appearances on BBC Question Time dressed as his feminine *alter ego* Claire, Grayson Perry is able to tackle difficult subjects in a poignant yet witty way. Artistically he has become a core part of the art establishment and his ceramics textiles tapestries and prints are highly sought after. Examples of his work are shown below and we can look forward to an interesting lecture that will cover both his art and character.



Volunteers

When we recently asked you to renew your membership we asked for help in certain key areas (like the audio-visual equipment). Thanks to a number of you who responded. The Committee has decided we should also refresh the old lists we have of volunteers for the registration desk, greeting new members and visitors, and preparing and serving refreshments at lectures. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jackie Hampton or me.

Film and lecture on Sunday

The year's activities start with the iconic 'Loving Vincent' film at Leatherhead Theatre on Sunday 7 January commencing at 2pm with tea followed by a talk on Van Goch by an Arts Society sponsored speaker. A handful of tickets are still available from the Box Office. I hope to see some of you on Sunday: we will have a stand there. This is the first event in the UK to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Arts Society.

Leatherhead Theatre "Name your Seat"

About the time we opened our Society, Leatherhead Theatre closed for a few years. We believe it is vital for the health of the arts locally. As well as helping to organise, and sponsoring the Loving Vincent film, we have donated £100 to Name two seats (for three years) to mark our 2017 anniversary year. If any member wants to mark any event or remember anyone they can do the same.

City Visit: Evening tours to College of Arms (28 February & 25 April)

Founded in the reign of Richard III, The College of Arms is housed in a beautiful 1670 era mansion in Queen Victoria Street near to St Paul's. Due to anticipated high demand we have arranged two separate 3-hour evening tours commencing at 6.30pm for Wednesday 28 February and Wednesday 25 April (**25 April is a new date not on the programme**), each of which will be led by two of the College's Officers of Arms. With a glass of wine in our hand we will learn about the architecture of the building and the medieval role of heralds, and their role today. A highlight of the tour is a one hour visit to the Records room which has some interesting registers and notebooks, intricately beautiful artwork and famous signatures. The evening will finish with supper and wine in the College with our hosts. The maximum number for each tour is 20. Huw Jenkins will be selling tickets at the back of the hall on Wednesday.



Some other visit dates for your diary

Eltham Palace (1 May); an English Heritage treasure

Royal Holloway College (11 June): explore this fascinating building and see its art collection.

Lancing College and Bramber Gardens (16 July): a day on the south Coast including a guided tour of Lancing College Chapel and a chance to see a 15th century timber framed house in beautiful gardens.

Crossness Pumping Station (16 October): amazing Victorian cast iron work

Musical and historic tour of Westminster Abbey (17 November): possibly the highlight of the year! Follow the Choristers singing pieces from the 16th to 21st century around the Abbey.

Isle of Wight Holiday Monday 14 to 18 May 2018

A number of you have already booked for our trip to the Isle of Wight next May. Sarah Sheridan has put together an interesting and varied programme, including some old favourites – Osborne and Carisbrooke Castle, some hidden gems such as Nunwell House and Quarr Abbey, and some pure fun – Butterfly World and the Steam Railway. We have a very limited number of rooms left so apply soon! Sarah Sheridan will be at the January meeting.

Brandenburg Brass Carol Concert

The pre-Christmas carol concert was a success with more than 200 tickets sold. The highlight of the evening was the brass, which did a number of humorous pieces without the choir. We also were able to make a sizeable donation to the Friends of the parish church.



Review of December talk: Norman Rockwell's Christmas Wish by Charles Harris

62 members voted on this talk. Most of you really enjoyed Christmas as portrayed by a leading American artist.

The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration by Mark Cottle on Friday 9 March (East Surrey Area Special interest morning)

Lecture 1: The early Expeditions by Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton (1902-12) with remarkable photographs by Herbert Ponting and water colours by Edward Wilson provide a visual and evocative record of this unknown frozen world and these early pioneering expeditions. **Lecture 2:** Frank Hurley's Photographic Odyssey - Shackleton's Endurance Expedition (1914) Captured on Camera; one of the great survival stories of polar history.

Golden Anniversary Lunch 20 April 2018

A Special Surrey Golden Anniversary lunch is to be held at Epsom Racecourse to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Arts Society (NADFAS). The lunch is to raise funds for the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund (tickets are £55 each). The Fund gives grants to Area and Society projects which promote arts education and heritage conservation. A post lunch talk will be given by our national chairman Lloyd Grossman, noted for his witty and occasional saucy comments! If interested in attending please send an email to John Andrews by 20 January.

50th The Arts Society Anniversary celebration at Westminster Abbey 16 May at 12pm

The AGM will be the final event of our president, June Robinson's three years as Chairman of The Arts Society. You can come to Westminster Abbey before The Arts Society 2pm AGM on 16 May even if you do not want to come to the AGM. Book now if you want to reserve a place. <https://theartssociety.digitickets.co.uk/tickets>

Leatherhead Theatre highlights:

Royal Opera House: Rigoletto on Tuesday 16 January at 7.15 pm
Cezanne exhibition on screen on Tuesday 23 January at 7.30 pm
Contact the theatre box office on 01372 365132 for tickets.

The Golden Age of Song (part 2) on Wednesday 31 January at 7.30pm

The Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church, with the help of Pip Burley, pay tribute to the lives, words and music of Cole Porter and George Gershwin at the Parish Church Hall Leatherhead. Wine or soft drinks are included in the ticket price of £15. Further details and tickets are available from Jackie Hampton on 01372 376640.

Sir John Soane and Thomas Hope: Rival or Disciple on Thursday 1 February at 18.30

A talk on Thomas Hope (1769–1831) in the magnificent Fetcham Park House with drinks before in the Great Hall. Born into one of the richest banking dynasties in Europe Thomas Hope used his great wealth to shape the arts in Regency England in his London town house and country estate in Deepdene, Dorking. The lecturer is Tim Cox who is Curator of the Cambridge Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, and was previously Director of the Sir John Soane Museum in London. Tickets can be obtained from Dorking Halls (01306 881717).

Oxshott and Cobham Music Society 5.00pm for 5.30pm Saturday 13 January

A Concert will be held at Holy Trinity, Claygate starring The Njord Wind Trio. Please telephone 07766 884991 to get tickets.

Music in local churches

There is monthly music on Wednesdays (**Christ Church**) and weekly on Thursdays (**Leatherhead Methodist Church**).

Next month's Talk (Wednesday 14 February)

The Silver Thread: Silver filigree and traditional art in Kosovo by Elizabeth Gowing

Our February talk traces the history of Kosovan silver: its mining and craftwork including boxes, buttons, jewellery, religious ornamentation and the talismans of superstition. Elizabeth is a very knowledgeable about her subject having spent 10 years in Kosovo.

Our Mailing address is info@theartssocietyleatherhead.org.uk
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