



## **The Arts Society Leatherhead April 2018 newsletter**

Dear member

Last month we had more than 160 members and guests at our meeting.

We have two summer trips which will both be sold at our April meeting. In June Sarah Sheridan will lead a 20 miles trip to Royal Holloway College in Egham and see its flamboyant architecture and some of the 19th century's most iconic works of art. In July there will be a trip to the South coast run by Gilly Coombes to see some lovely gardens and a grade one listed house in Bramber, and we will visit Lancing College. See below for details.

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

All my best wishes  
Huw Jenkins, Secretary

### **This month's Talk 7.30pm Wednesday 11 April**

#### **The Benin Bronzes, Masterpieces of African Art 16-19<sup>th</sup> Century by Claire Walsh**

When these antique bronze sculptures were first shown in Europe in the 1890s critics were astounded that such technically accomplished sculptures could be created by African artists. Dr Walsh will discuss the sophisticated production processes used by the artists, the symbolism and ritual use of the bronzes and the response of European avant-garde artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. One of the richest collections of the Benin bronzes is in the British Museum; the lecture will consider if the bronzes should be returned to Benin.



### **Visit to Royal Holloway College Egham on Monday 11 June**

A whole day visit to this little-known gem which is part of London University. The visit includes a guided tour of this special building which is based on the Chateau of Chambord on the Loire. Its flamboyant architecture makes it one of the most impressive university buildings in the world. A sandwich lunch will be provided in the famous Picture Gallery followed by a talk on the art collection. Members can then enjoy some free time in the Gallery and see some famous Victorian paintings and sculpture. Sarah Sheridan will be taking bookings at the April lecture.



### **St Mary's House, Bramber and Lancing College on Monday 16 July**

A trip to the South coast for an exclusive visit to the enchanting historic 15th century grade 1 listed timber-framed house, with five acres of magnificent gardens, in the picturesque award-winning downland village of Bramber, West Sussex ... a place of fascination and mystery. Following lunch we have a guided tour of Lancing College which is an architectural masterpiece. Gilly Coombes will be taking bookings at the April lecture.



### **City Visit: Evening tour to College of Arms on Wednesday 25 April and Thursday 14 June (one place available in June)**

It takes more than the 'Beast from the East' to disrupt the events of your Society! The visit originally planned for 28 February has been rescheduled to 14 June. We would like to thank those members who have been flexible with the dates to ensure other members can be accommodated. You will learn about the role of heralds, and see the Records room which has some interesting old books. The April visit is fully booked and one place remains available for the 14 June visit; but tell Gilly Coombes at the April meeting if you are interested as we occasionally need reserves due to colds etc.

### **Isle of Wight Holiday Monday 14 to 18 May 2018**

This is an interesting and varied tour including Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle, Nunwell House and Quarr Abbey. There are a few rooms still available. Please let Sarah Sheridan know on Wednesday evening if you are interested.

### **Eltham Palace visit on Thursday 3 May**

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the planned visit to Eltham Palace due to lack of sufficient member interest making the costs rather expensive. Full refunds will be paid to those members who have already paid and we apologise for any disappointment.

### **Helping put chairs out before lectures**

We still need a few volunteers for helping put the chairs out before our lectures. There is always a lot of repartee between the team (which includes Mary Andrews) before the lectures! If you can help out, even occasionally, please send an email to Ian Coulton ([iancoulton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:iancoulton@hotmail.co.uk)).

### **Mansion House car parking reminder**

Should you find it difficult to park for meetings please remember that you can use The Mansion house car park behind The Registry. This is only about 150 yards from the Church Hall. Parking should be free in the evening.

### **Review of March talk: The Making of Assisi by Janet Robson**

We had 74 on-line votes.

### **Choosing our lecturers**

Over 4 years ago we introduced regular on-line feedback on our lecturers. We get twice as many people giving feedback now as in 2012. We value this confidential feedback and often bring back those lecturers who get excellent feedback: for example Anthea Streeter in June (Thomas Hetherwick: the Leonardo de Vinchi of our times) and Peter Medhurst (That Pretty German Toy) in December 2018.

We are also bringing back in 2018 two other lecturers who have visited us before we had on-line feedback: Leslie Primo in May (Foreigners in London 1520-1677) and Neil Faulkner (Lawrence of Arabia –Excavating the Legend) in July.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Westminster Abbey on 16 May**

You can join The Arts Society for commemorative service which will be attended by up to 2,000 guests. The address will be given by an accredited Arts Society lecturer; former Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert (he talked at Leatherhead in early 2015). More free tickets have been released but places are limited.

## **The Arts Society magazine**

All members should have received the spring and 'new-look' edition of the Society's magazine. This edition marks a major milestone and there are some special features to mark the Society's golden jubilee year.

## **The Age of Jazz at Two Temple Place until 27 April**

Two Temple Place (the 19<sup>th</sup> century home of William Waldorf Astor) is a short walk across the river from Waterloo railway station. The exhibition **Rhythm & Reaction: The Age of Jazz in Britain** marks 100 years of jazz in the UK and will explore the reaction that jazz had on Britons from 1918. The exhibition, which is closed on Tuesday, is sponsored by The Arts Society; see here for curator's comments.

## **Investec International May Music Festival**

This classical music festival brings world class musicians to perform in intimate venues in and around the beautiful Surrey Hills. The Festival takes place over two weeks; Thursday 3 May, Friday 4 May, Friday 11 May and Saturday 12 May. Venues include the Yeheudi Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon and the Mairlot Hall, St Teresa's, Effingham. The IIMF website has full details [www.iimf.co.uk](http://www.iimf.co.uk)

## **Leatherhead Rep Season 17 April to 5 May at Leatherhead Theatre**

A new interesting venture for the Leatherhead Theatre is a Rep season. The first season comprises 3 plays including "Yes Prime Minister."

## **Music in local churches**

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

## **Next month's Talk (Wednesday 9 May)**

### **Foreigners in London 1520-1677 by Leslie Primo**

The English aristocracy of the period preferred foreign painters to English painters. This lecture will explore the reasons behind this and examine the impact of these numerous foreign artists on English art and assess their legacy.

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