



The Arts Society Leatherhead September 2017 newsletter

It seems a long time ago now, but it was clear that we all enjoyed socialising after the July meeting with a glass of Pimms.

I have just sent out papers requesting nominations to the Committee at the AGM in October. We would particularly welcome members with good organisational and/or IT skills. You can even shadow an existing Committee member if you want. If you want to discuss this please telephone John Andrews or me.

There are still a number of tickets available (telephone 01372 365141 or just turn up) for the launch event talk on Friday 8 September starting at 7.30pm at The Leatherhead Theatre, which is sponsored by The Arts Society. Clive Barham Carter talks on "From Phaetons to Phantoms" (horse drawn carriages to Rolls Royce cars).

I am delighted to welcome Anne Sebba as our speaker next week. Anne was due to come to us a couple of years ago but then had to cancel due a long illness. She is the author of many books (including "Les Parisiennes" and "That woman, a life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor"). I understand that she will bring some copies of her books to sign and sell.

We have had a successful couple of months in recruiting 10 new members which is excellent for the Society. We welcome them all; can existing member please continue to talk to anyone on their own at our meetings as people like coming to a Society that is welcoming.

All my best wishes
Huw Jenkins
Secretary

This month's Talk

Wednesday 13 September: How women lived, loved and died in Paris 1939-1949

Anne Sebba

What did it feel like to be a woman living in Paris from 1939 - 1949? This is a story about women's lives during the dark years of Nazi occupation and beyond. They include British and American women caught in Paris, as well as native born resisters who were eventually sent to camps. Even at the darkest moments of the Occupation, with the Swastika flying from the Eiffel Tower and pet dogs howling on the streets, glamour was ever present. French women wore lipstick. Why? The lecture ends with Dior's lavish new look in 1947 and his perfume, Miss Dior, named after his sister, Catherine, who only just survived a prison camp.

20th Anniversary Seats sponsorship at Leatherhead Theatre

As part of the Theatre Appeal we have decided to sponsor two seats for £100 at Leatherhead Theatre.

Visits and trips

I sent a newsletter on the forthcoming trips on Wednesday 30 August.

Social lunch at Betchworth Golf Club on Sunday 15 October

Christmas by Candlelight Concert with the Brandenburg Singers and Brass Ensemble on Tuesday 19 December.

Romania holiday September 2018.

Next week's The Arts Society Leatherhead Istria tour

We hope the Croatia holiday group have a great time.

Update on the Church Recording project

Anne Thomson, who is leading the church recording project at St Mary's Church Fetcham, has given the Committee an update on the Church recording work we are doing. At the moment we have small team of members working on memorials, stonework, textiles, windows and woodwork. We don't yet have anyone doing work on such areas as metalwork, paintings, the library and the organ. They would welcome additional members to join the group. If you might be interested in what they are doing speak to Anne on 01372 373258 or join me, Huw, on Friday 27 September (pm) to see what they are doing.

Why you might want to join the team?

- St Mary's is a lovely Church
- It helps the Church, eg many churches use the work as a reference document on Heritage weekends
- You Learn more about the history of the local community
- You get to know other society members

Report on Stories in Stitch Exhibition in August

This was a special day as the Exhibition was only open to groups. Our group of 22 set off for Hampton Court Palace, where the Royal School of Needlework ("RSN") have had their workrooms for the last 30 years. We were met by the RSN Chief Executive, Dr Susan Kay-Williams. She is an excellent speaker, telling us about the history of the RSN and giving details of the intricate work and stitching carried out by the stitchers. We then saw the exhibition itself – wow – what work, we were all full of admiration for the patience and skill demonstrated – at risk of being sexist even the men in the group were impressed! The visit finished with a tour of the workrooms where we saw stitchers at work, they were happy to chat and answer questions – what a way to round off a most interesting and unusual afternoon.

We will be welcoming back Susan Kay-Williams to talk to us in early 2019 on the History of Tapestries.

Report on Hampstead July walk (led by Rona Roach)

Hampstead has been home to the rich and famous for generations. We enjoyed Fenton House (NT) which is filled with collections of ceramics, paintings and musical instruments – but its finest feature is the orchard and gardens to the rear. After lunch we crossed the Heath; the mixed bathing pools were crowded with swimmers and sunbathers enjoying the fine weather. We visited 2 Willow Road, a late 1930s house conceived and built by architect Erno Goldfinger against the opposition of the local community; Ian Fleming, was so against the project he named one of the villains in his books after the architect. We then briefly visited John Keats House where the poet lived for 14 months and wrote "Ode to a Nightingale" before leaving for Italy in 1821 where he died of consumption aged only 25. After an excellent day, we returned to Hampstead for ice creams and the tube back home.

New members social

We had to postpone our new members' social in August by one day as we had it planned on the one day when it poured with rain all day. Luckily the sun shone the next day and a good number of new members and some of the Committee had an enjoyable evening in Tim and Valerie Howard's lovely garden. We thank Tim and Valerie for their hospitality.

Review of July talk: The Huguenot Silk Weavers of Spitalfields by Sue Jackson

Most of you found the topic interesting. My favourite comment was, "I didn't stay awake for all of the lecture as I tasted all the jugs of Pimms."

The Arts Society Constitution

A copy of our Constitution with our new name is in the documents section of the website in June in the "About us" section.

Please sign in to lectures

As our Chairman said at our last meeting it is important to sign in before the lecture.

Mansion House car parking reminder

Remember you can use the car park behind the Registry, which is only about 150 yards from the Church Hall. On Wednesday evenings you can ignore the sign "Private Car Park for users of the Mansion only." Parking is free.

Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival

We are putting our November lecture (What really happened on Easter Island?) in The Arts Alive Festival. We will take a limited number of guests. We hope to have a number of copies of the programme at the September meeting.

Special Interest Morning: Tyrants and Martyrs of Imperial Russia by Douglas Skeggs on 10 November at The Menuhin Hall

Two talks on turbulent reign of Catherine The Great, and the generations that followed, from her paranoid son, Paul, through the lavish courts of Nicholas I and Alexander III to the poignant figure of Nicholas II whose assassination brought the Romanov dynasty to a tragic end. I think this will be a popular Special Interest morning and over 60 tickets have already been sold. Click here for a booking form.

For interest your Committee has booked Douglass Skeggs in early 2019 to talk on "Klimt and the Viennese Secession."

The Golden Age of Song on Wednesday 22 November at 7.30pm

In Conjunction with the Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church, Pip Burley pays tribute to the lives, words and music of Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin 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 at info@jackiehampton.com.

University challenge: Bamber Gascoigne's new challenge 17 November

The Leatherhead & District Local History Society is hosting a Special Meeting at the Leatherhead Theatre with Bamber Gascoigne, who will give a talk about **West Horsley Place and the Grange Park Opera**. Mr Gascoigne inherited West Horsley Place a few years ago.

Contact The Theatre Box Office on 01372 365141. My intelligence is that tickets are going rapidly so please do not delay.

Some Leatherhead Theatre Event screenings Art highlights:

Carmen on Lake Constance on Thursday 14 September at 7.15pm
Royal Opera House: **The Magic Flute** on Wednesday 20 September at 7.15pm
Shakespeare's Globe: **King Lear** on Thursday 21 September at 7.30pm
Royal Opera House: **La Boheme** on Tuesday 3 October at 7.15pm
Contact the theatre box office on 01372 365132 for tickets

Oxshott and Cobham Music Society 7.30pm for 8.00pm Saturday 30 September

A Concert will be held at Holy Trinity, Claygate starring Sheku Kanneh-Mason (cello) with Isata Kanneh-Mason (piano).

Music in local churches

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

Next month's lecture

Wednesday 11 October: The Whole Art of the Book by Dominic Riley

Why was the best paper made from the worn out clothes of peasants? Why did leather have to be tanned outside the city walls? Why is gold leaf so thin that it is measured in atoms and cannot be touched with the hands? Why do printers have to do everything upside down and backwards? Why did gold finishers get paid more than other bookbinders despite not washing their hair? And why is the art of bookbinding itself, surely the most complex of all hand crafts, as beguiling and enchanting today as it was when it was invented on the banks of the Nile 2,000 years ago. This lecture is a 'Through the Round Window' for grown-ups, and tells the fascinating story of everything that makes a traditional hand bound book.
