



The Arts Society Leatherhead January 2019 newsletter

Dear Member

Happy New Year! Your committee believes we have a number of exciting talks and visits in the 2019 programme.

The hall was full for the Christmas meeting and Peter Medhurst gave us a very interesting and polished talk. Carolyn Trollope and her team gave us some excellent Christmas nibbles afterwards and I locked up the hall the latest I can remember doing so, which shows the conversation flowed.

Next Wednesday, Susan Rumfitt (an Antiques Road Show presenter) is with us for a talk on 20th century jewellery (see below).

We are also taking bookings for our City Tour (always a highlight), an exclusive trip to Mansion House on Monday 8 April (two guided tours) which we booked 18 months ago: see below.

We still have places for our golf club lunch on Sunday 10 February which both Sarah Sheridan and I are going to. This will give members a chance to meet other members; see below.

Membership Renewals: If you have already paid your 2019 subscription thank you; your new membership card should be available at the meeting on Wednesday if you do not already have it. If you have not yet renewed your membership, and plan to do so, please pay The Arts Society Leatherhead next Wednesday, or soon afterwards.

All my best wishes

Huw Jenkins, Chairman

This month's talk on Wednesday 9 January) at 7.30pm Design for Wearing: Jewellery in the 20th century Susan Rumfitt (Antiques Road Show)

From the 'Little Black Dress' created by Chanel to the 'Chain Mail' fabrics of Mary Quant and the colour explosions of Versace, fashion has had an exciting journey through the twentieth century. Throughout this lecture we will discover how jewellery design incorporated the delicacy of the Edwardian period, the dramatic contrasts of the Deco period, and the sculptural creations of the 1930s, the cocktail style of the 40s and 50s, the 'new age' influence of the 60s and 70s, and the 'bling' culture of the 80s to produce a truly unforgettable period of jewellery design.



Introduction for anyone wondering if they want to be a committee member

We will need new Committee members in 2019! A helpful and informative day on an introduction to The Arts Society, and the support and help for new and prospective committee members is now available. There are two days planned (Wednesday 13 March in Reigate and Wednesday 3 April in Guildford) for Surrey Arts Societies (10am until 3pm) which includes a light buffet lunch. There is no charge for the day. If you might be interested please speak to me or to any Committee member.

City Visit to Mansion House on Monday 8 April 2019



Our City visit this year is an exclusive visit to The Mansion House which has been the official residence and office of the Lord Mayor of the City of London for over 250 years. We will travel by train to London led by Huw Jenkins. In the morning over 30 of us will have a 1 hour Tour of Mansion House which will give us an insight into the architecture and history of this Grade 1 building. After an independent lunch 20 of us will take a Mansion House Arts Tour led by a City of London guide. We will look at a remarkable collection of 17th century Dutch and Flemish paintings (the Harold Samuel Art Collection), including works by Frank Hals and Nicolaes Maes. You can do both tours or just a morning or just an afternoon tour. Gilly Coombes will be taking bookings on Wednesday evening.

If either tour is oversubscribed a ballot will be drawn after the January lecture.



Betchworth Park Golf Club Sunday lunch at 12.30pm on 10 February 2019

We have a few places for lunch at Betchworth Park to meet other Arts Society members and have fun - no culture involved! We will be taking bookings on Wednesday.

Claremont Fan Court School on Wednesday 20 February

This trip is **fully booked**. If anyone is interested in going they should tell Gilly Coombes as one or two people may have to cancel their booking.

A walk in the Shadow of the Shard with Ian Swankie on Tuesday 19 March

Fully booked and we will consider running it again as a number of members were disappointed in the ballot for places as we could only take 25.

North Wales holiday Sunday 19 to Friday 24 May 2019; a few places left

We have 21 people signed up for this holiday which Sarah Sheridan will lead. We can still take a few more people; please talk to Sarah Sheridan if you are interested in going. We will stay in Llandudno. The highlights include Caernarfon Castle, Plas Newydd (NT) on the Menai Straits, Portmeirion and a lot more. We will experience a ride on the Festiniog Railway in Snowdonia and take a boat trip for a day in Liverpool on the iconic Mersey Ferry, which is now a "dazzle" ship.

Gilbert and Sullivan: Matinee Tea and Tour 29 September 2019 expressions of interest

Over 10 of you expressed interest in this last month and we will probably take bookings in February and take a small coach to Harrow. Grim's Dyke Hotel is the former home of Sir W S Gilbert in North West London. We would have a tour of the house and grounds, a homemade cream tea, light hearted Gilbert & Sullivan excerpts from G&S operetta's in the famous Music Room and coach transport (the cost is likely to be between £50 and £55). Please tell Sarah Sheridan if you want to provisionally reserve a place.

West Horsley Place (3rd visit) on Friday 26 April

We will take bookings for this visit in the February meeting.

Review of December talk: That pretty German toy by Peter Medhurst

We had feedback from 72 members on Peter's talk. The Committee looks at all comments and uses them to rate the lecturer and help it to decide on re-booking any speakers, and helping it decide its future programme. Thank you for so many of you taking the time to comment.

Hans Christian Andersen on Friday 08 March 2019 at The Menuhin Hall

This is an Arts Society East Surrey Area Special interest morning (10am for 10.30am, until 1pm) led by Karen Fernald (who will be speaking at Leatherhead in June). Hans Christian Andersen was not only an artist with words but a real artist. Two of his major works were the The Tinder Box and The Emperors' New Clothes. Illustrations by artists from all over the world and paintings by artists from early 19th century Denmark will be presented as well as his lesser-known short story of THE TEAPOT, illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Andersen drew on many sources - from THE ARABIAN NIGHTS and AESOP'S FABLES to events in his own life.

Leatherhead Theatre

Arts highlights include;

ROH: The Queen of Spades on Tuesday 22 January at 6.45pm

ROH: La Traviata on Wednesday 30 January at 6.45pm

Exhibition on Screen: Young Picasso on 5 February at 7.30pm

Next month

February Talk (Wednesday 13 February) at 7.30pm

The Role of the Arts in Prison and Re-offending by Angela Findlay

Years of working as an artist within the Criminal Justice System in England and Germany have given Angela unique insights into the destructive and costly cycle of crime, prisons and re-offending. With extraordinary slides of art projects and prisoner's art, she demonstrates how within the process of creating art of any discipline, there are vital opportunities for offenders to confront their crimes and develop the key life skills so essential in leading a positive and productive life. This talk is moving, informative and very original.



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