



The Arts Society Leatherhead March 2019 newsletter

Dear Member

The great majority of you really enjoyed last Wednesday's talk by Angela Findlay on the Role of the Arts in prison (see below). I am sorry there was no coffee last month; some excellent news, the hall water heater is now working!

I have heard excellent reports of Louise Schofield, an archaeologist, who will talk to us next Wednesday on the Queen of Sheba.

The 2020 overseas holiday will be to Lisbon and the Silver coast in late April (see below).

We are taking bookings for our second school visit: to Christ's Hospital in Horsham on 20 June. The School still wears their traditional blue and mustard school uniform; see below.

We already have 16 booked for a Grim's Dyke tour, cream tea and G&S operettas on Sunday 18 August. We can book more tickets and we may get a bigger coach; see below.

As I explained last month we need a successor to Carolyn Trollope as Hospitality leader in the kitchen for coffee etc. Please talk to Carolyn next week if you can help: see below.

All my best wishes

Huw Jenkins, Chairman

This month's talk on Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm

Temples, Tombs and Treasures: in search of the Queen of Sheba by Louise Schofield

Louise looks at how the Queen of Sheba has captured the imagination of great artists, inspired epic films and has led archaeologists to go in search of her land – a search that has led to discoveries of great temples, tombs and treasures in both Yemen and Ethiopia. Louise is an archaeologist, who has been on several expeditions to Ethiopia.



Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome Prudence Cuming as a new member.

2020 holidays

In a change from recent years our overseas holiday in 2020 will take place in the spring (see below) whilst the UK holiday will probably be in late September.

Lisbon and the Silver coast holiday 22 - 29 April 2020

Come and join us on this exciting visit to Portugal staying in the VILA GALÉ, CASCAIS a pretty fishing village situated on the rugged Atlantic coast and about an hour from Lisbon. We have reserved sea view bedrooms and the hotel itself boasts lovely gardens with an outdoor pool. We will visit Lisbon for a day, with an optional extra of a boat trip. In our excursions we shall see the highly ornate 15th century Jerónimos Monastery, the walled town of Óbidos, Queluz Royal Palace & Gardens and Evora - UNESCO town with an open-air museum. We have included a local wine tasting tour and a free day for you to have a relaxing time in Cascais. If you are interested please complete an interest form and return it to Gilly Coombes, if possible by the end March, so that the costings and booking forms can be finalised. Gilly will be available at Wednesday's meeting.



Christ's Hospital School Thursday 20 June

We will visit Christ's Hospital and see the School's magnificent buildings, visit the museum, watch the School Band in their traditional blue and mustard school uniform and take a full historical tour of Christ's Hospital with the pupils. The massive 86 foot long painting by Antonio Verrio situated in Dining Hall that commemorates the foundation of the Royal Mathematical School in 1673 is a highlight. This has been a dominant feature at Horsham and its two predecessor Great Halls in London for 320 years. Our tour will conclude with a full afternoon tea in the Hall. We will travel by coach. Irene Gawne will be taking bookings on Wednesday.



City Visit to Mansion House on Monday 8 April 2019

The morning tour on its architecture and history is fully booked. We have a few places left in one of the two 1.5 hour afternoon tours led by a City of London guide of 17th century Dutch and Flemish paintings.

Gilbert and Sullivan and cream tea on Sunday 18 August

Come and join a small group at a quintessentially English way to spend a Sunday afternoon. We already have a mini bus for 16 people and may be able to take a few more but we need to book now. We will have a tour of the former home of Sir W S Gilbert in Harrow (now a hotel), followed by homemade cream tea and operetta excerpts from Grim's Dyke Opera. Sarah Sheridan will be taking bookings on Wednesday.



Probable bookings in April, May and June meetings

In April we will take bookings for Great Dixter, near Rye, which was the family home of the late Christopher Lloyd, the well-known gardener (visit on Thursday 1 August). In May and June we will take bookings for a trip to Chevening (the foreign Secretary's country house) and Ightham Mote (NT) on Tuesday 1 October.

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

Fully booked

Bamber Gascoigne's West Horsley Place Friday 26 April

We are fully booked for two visits to West Horsley Place on 26 April, and we have a couple of reserves. Eighty members have now booked to see the house.

Llandudno Holiday: Sunday 19 to Friday 24 May

We now have 25 people signed up for this holiday.

Unlocking the secrets of Claremont Fan Court School and Esher February trip

This trip surpassed most people's expectations and it was only a short drive away. We drafted a press release and there is a full page spread on page 30 of Thursday's Leatherhead Advertiser, which is on the news section of our website, and the newspaper article will be on the notice board on Wednesday. Thanks to Gilly Coombes for a great trip and to Gilly, Martin Scalway and Larry Roberts for drafting a press release, liaising with the newspaper, and taking some excellent photos.

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Hospitality: Carolyn Trollope; Can you help?

As you all know coffee before our monthly talks, and our summer and December drinks and nibbles, are important to the social side of our society. As I said before last month Carolyn has done a great job for the last five years in leading our hospitality team. She would like someone else to take over this role from the summer, and she will be available to give advice to any new hospitality leader. Please contact Carolyn if you might be interested in helping the Society by taking on this role or speak to her at the March meeting and she can explain what is involved.

Review of February talk: Arts in the cycle of Crime, Prison and reoffending; Angela Findlay

We had many more feedback written comments on this (over 40) than any other lecture in the last three years. Most of you were very positive.

In 2016 Angela Findlay advised the Ministry of Justice on the importance of art and education in prisons. In 2018 The Justice Secretary, David Gauke declared in a Times interview on 25 May that "there is a role for the arts" in criminal justice. "He wants "a culture of rehabilitation" that encourages "drama, writing and painting in prisons."

Join our Committee?

We will need new Committee members in 2019. If you might be interested you might be able to sit in on a Committee meeting. Or come on Wednesday 3 April when The Arts society has a training course near the Cathedral in Guildford which will explain more, and the support and help for new and prospective committee members that is available. Please talk to me, or to any Committee member.

Ballet Central at The Hawth in Crawley on Monday 24 June for £25

What better way to spend Midsummer's Eve than a night at the ballet? Ballet Central's young and dynamic dancers showcase newly commissioned works and celebrate masterpieces by the dance industry's top choreographers. Our President June Robinson is taking a group from the LCA by coach and our members are invited to join them. A particular Arts Society connection is that Ballet Central regularly receives grants from the Patricia Fay Fund (The Arts Society founder's fund).

Leatherhead Theatre

Arts highlights include

ROH: La Forza del Destino on Monday 8 April at 2pm

Exhibitions on screen: Rembrandt on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm

Tickets from the box office 01372 365141

Next month: Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm

Klimt and the Austrian Succession: A Kiss for All the World: Douglas Skeggs

We welcome back an old friend, Douglas Skeggs. The fears and anxieties of Vienna the final years before the Great War found expression in the works of Freud and Mahler and in the haunting paintings of Klimt, Kokoschka and Schiele. Shimmering portraits flecked with gold; hypnotic landscapes of vibrant brushstrokes; erotic dreams of decadence and death reveal a society in search for salvation at a time when mankind had lost faith in its future. It was the 100th anniversary of Klimt's death in 2018. The lecture traces the course of this brief but always dazzlingly inventive period of art.

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