



The Arts Society Leatherhead November 2017 newsletter

Dear member

Wow! Our October speaker on The Art of the Book, Dominic Riley, was "A real expert who explained a complex topic brilliantly" and four of you used the word "fascinating" (feedback comments)." We will investigate if he does lectures that are sufficiently different to the one we heard, so we can bring him back sometime.

Interestingly the 2018 Isle of Wight holiday will visit a bookbindery at Quarr Abbey as part of a five day cultural tour which Sarah Sheridan will lead. Have a look at the itinerary below and talk to Sarah on Wednesday if you are interested.

Come a little early to Wednesday's talk and you can visit the charity Christmas card shop, which will be open from 6pm (and will open early before our December meeting).

We are having a carol concert (we will make a donation to the parish church) on 19 December: see below. This will be the last year the church has pews so I would encourage you to join us.

Hopefully you all read the newsletter on The Loving Vincent film on Friday 7 January, together with a lecture on Van Gogh by an experienced The Arts Society accredited lecturer which the Arts Society has sponsored. All the film proceeds will go to the Leatherhead Theatre, which has no local authority support. Since the newsletter 130 tickets have already been sold.

And please renew your membership as soon as possible as it makes our lives easier.
All my best wishes

Huw Jenkins,
Secretary 01372 278738

This month's Talk

Wednesday 8 November: What really happened on Easter Island? By Paul Bahn

Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, is the most isolated piece of permanently inhabited land on the planet, and yet it produces a most extraordinary Stone Age culture: hundreds of sophisticated coastal stone platforms, more than a thousand enormous stone statues, the richest rock art in the Pacific and a unique writing system. This talk will provide an introduction to the history of the discovery of this culture; to its principal features; and to what archaeology, oral traditions and, more recent evidence have combined to teach us about the island's cultural rise and decline, its environmental crisis and the lessons all this can teach us about how we look after the Earth as a whole. This lecture will be part of the **Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival** and we could have a few guests.



Committee and The AGM highlights

After the AGM your Committee will be unchanged for 2018. The Chairman confirmed that the name change would not impact what we do on a day to day basis. Membership numbers had risen from 238 (31 July 2016) to 273 at the date of the AGM.

Membership 2018

Membership fees are being held at £40 for next year. We have sent out a membership renewal notice.

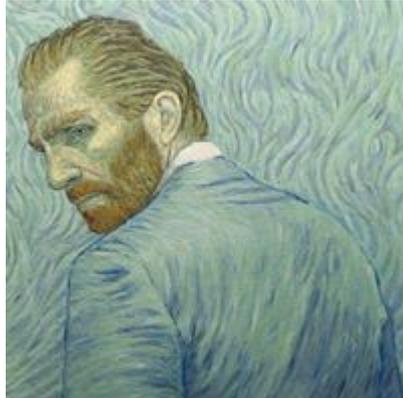
Christmas by Candlelight on 19 December in the medieval Parish Church

We have had a very good start to booking for this event. The November meeting is a good chance to book your ticket; we will be selling them at the back of the hall. The concert will feature music by the Brandenburg Singers and Brass Ensemble, and will include some readings and many old favourites, and some newer carols. Following the concert we will, in the Parish Church Hall, have wine, soft drinks and mince pies. Tickets are **£15 each**, which includes a donation to the Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church.



Loving Vincent film at Leatherhead Theatre on Sunday 7 January

Help Leatherhead Theatre and see an iconic film and an interesting lecture on Van Gogh. Telephone 01372 365141 or www.theleatherheadtheatre.com



Visits and programme for 2018

The first 6 months lectures are on the website and the rest of the 2018 lectures will be there soon. Four visits and two holidays have been booked so far and more are planned. I would encourage you to look at the visits on the website.

College of Arms (28 February): a City visit is now a tradition, originally fostered by ex-Chairman Michael Bramwell. Learn about heraldry in an evening tour and see many old records in the library and have supper with the Heralds in a unique and old fashioned organisation.

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.

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

Why not join us on our trip to the Isle of Wight next May? We have 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. Because of the high fare price for the ferry and the good standard of the hotel this holiday appears a bit expensive but hopefully it is well worth the cost. We have a limited number of rooms so apply soon! The holiday will be led by Sarah Sheridan.



The Treasures of Romania holiday in September 2018

A number of you will pay your deposits in November for the Romania holiday next year. Tell Gilly Coombes if you might want to go in case there are a few places left.

Report on members' social lunch at Betchworth Park Golf Club

I have heard good reports of the lunch at Betchworth Park Golf Club on Sunday 15 October. 23 members turned up; we will book another social lunch in the first quarter of 2018. If you have any good ideas for a lunch venue for a group please tell Sarah Sheridan.

Report on Trip to Dover Castle

You might have seen a report on this popular trip, prepared by Martin ..., in the Leatherhead Advertiser. King Henry II commissioned the construction of the castle, and many of its rooms reflect the formal occasions for which it was used. Courtiers, for example, were allowed to sleep on folding beds that were put away in the daytime to allow the rooms to be used for entertaining. The tunnels were particularly important in the Second World War, both for a field hospital and for the Navy headquarters from which the evacuation of Dunkirk was planned and coordinated. Film, photographs and sound were used to evoke the wartime atmosphere; it was a very moving experience.



Church Recording project: we need your help

We need more support on this project. The small team of members are presently working on memorials, stonework, textiles, windows and woodwork. Please talk to Anne Thomson or me.

Review of October talk: The Whole Art of the Book by Dominic Riley

We had 55 votes on this lecture.

Mansion House car parking reminder

As we enter the winter months, when our talks are often better attended, remember you can use the car park for free behind the Registry Office, 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."

Loving Vincent film at Leatherhead Theatre on Sunday 7 January

Help Leatherhead Theatre and see an iconic film and an interesting lecture on Van Goch. Click here for how to book tickets and the Arts Society film poster. Telephone 01372 365141 or www.theleatherheadtheatre.com

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. If you want to book after Saturday I would first email Anne Holly (see booking form) to see if you can pay at the door and there are tickets left.

A talk on Thomas Hope of Deepdene on Friday 10 November at 18.30

There will be a talk on "Thomas Hope, his Life and Collection," in the magnificent Fetcham Park House preceded by drinks in the Great Hall. The lecturer is Philip Hewat-Jaboor, who has curated a number of exhibitions, including the V&A's Thomas Hope Regency Designer Exhibition.

Autumn Concert (Bookham Choral Society) on Saturday 25th November

The Choral Society will perform Faure's "Requiem" and Paul Carr's "Requiem for an Angel" at 7.30pm at Manor House School (Manor House Lane, Little Bookham). The tickets are £15 from 01372 375644 or bcsboxoffice@gmail.com or from Cascade in the High Street.

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 on 01372 376640 (she will be busy on Wednesday evening).

Some Leatherhead Theatre Art highlights:

Hockney Exhibition at the Royal Academy on Tuesday 21 November at 7.30pm
Oscar Wilde "A Woman of No Importance" on Monday 4 December at 7.15pm
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker on Tuesday 5 December at 7.15pm
Contact the theatre box office on 01372 365132 for tickets.

Oxshott and Cobham Music Society 7.30pm for 8.00pm Saturday 4 November and Saturday 2 December

A Concert will be held at Holy Trinity, Claygate starring the Atrium Quartet (4 November) and Ensemble Mirage (2 December).

Music in local churches

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

Next month's lecture (13 December)

Norman Rockwell's Christmas Wish by Charles Harris

Norman Rockwell was the most beloved American illustrator of the 20th century. He was most at home portraying the ideal family Christmas, often with direct connections to Dickens and the English Yuletide Tradition. A bounty of Christmas posters, magazine covers, cards and even Norman Rockwell Christmas gifts will keep you entertained throughout. Your American-born lecturer shares his own experiences of the ideal American Christmas from sleigh rides and ice-skating in the woods to trimming the tree and wondering how Santa got down the chimney. Light and lively Christmas fair!

