



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

Dear member

It was a lovely experience to read 32 very positive comments on the last lecture on aboriginal art (see below for an amazing set of marks). One comment: "most informative and delivered with sparking enthusiasm" summed it up for me.

Next Wednesday we will open the doors at 6.45pm to give you time to see David Rosier's Chinese costumes display. We will stop serving coffee at 7.15pm, start our AGM at 7.30pm and the talk should commence at 7.45pm. Come and wish John Andrews well in his last meeting as our Chairman.

We have 25 booked to go on holiday to West Sicily next September (see below for details), but can take another four people. Please contact Gilly Coombes, as soon as possible, if you are interested in joining us as flights will be booked once they are available.

The two trips we ran to Bamber Gascoigne's West Horsley Place were very popular. We have booked a third trip for after Easter next year (the house is very cold in winter).

Sarah Sheridan is taking bookings on Wednesday for our 2019 UK holiday to North Wales (see below).

The Arts Society East Surrey Area (with a lot of help from our President, June Robinson) is organising a talk by artist Mary Branson (see below) with **all** proceeds going to support Leatherhead Theatre. I hope some of you will be free on the afternoon of Sunday 28 October (see below).

As a society we do not often run special interest days, but look at the East Surrey Area one on The Forbidden City and the Arts Society Ashted one on Florence and the Medici's (see below).

All my best wishes  
Huw Jenkins, Secretary

### **This month's Talk Wednesday 10 October**

AGM 7.30pm followed by a talk at 7.45pm

**Chinese Imperial Court Costumes by David Rosier**

This talk focuses on the costume and dress accessories that would have been worn for formal occasions or informally, at the Imperial Court during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). David will have a Chinese historic costume display before the talk.



### **New member**

We welcome Lorraine Willmott as a new member.

### **The Ismaili Centre and the V&A on Thursday 25 October: three places left**

This visit is an unparalleled opportunity to be guided round a mosque. The Ismaili Centre is an award-winning piece of modern architecture in South Kensington, opposite the V&A, with traditional decorations inside and a beautiful Islamic roof garden. After lunch we can visit the V&A which always has new things to see (no charge for this).

### **North Wales holiday Sunday 19 to Friday 24 May 2019**



Sarah Sheridan will lead our tour to North Wales (and Liverpool). 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 on the iconic Mersey Ferry, which is now a "dazzle" ship. Sarah will be available on Wednesday night to discuss and take bookings.

### **Western Sicily holiday 15-22 September 2019: three or four spaces left**

We have 25 booked on this holiday and four spaces still available. Please tell Gilly Coombes as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this holiday. Western Sicily is

still unspoilt by mass tourism. We stay in one hotel for 7 nights and see the historic Arab and Norman influence on Sicily and also Ancient Greek sites.

### **Musical and historic tour of Westminster Abbey Saturday 17 November**

Former Abbey choristers will sing and narrate their way around the Abbey. We are fully booked (52 places). Tell Sarah Sheridan if you want to be a reserve for this event as people can get colds etc.

### **Bamber Gascoigne's West Horsley Place visits report**

Two groups of 20 members, led by Rona and Gilly Coombes, had excellent visits. Our guides were very enthusiastic. We did not visit the Opera House which is separate. The current Grade 1 listed building dates from 1425 and has been visited by many Kings and Queens. The dilapidated building with its 17th century facade was bequeathed to Bamber Gascoigne in 2014 by the then owner Mary, Duchess of Roxburgh. As restoration would cost £10 million everything was donated to a new charity, the Mary Roxburgh Trust.

A third trip has been booked for after Easter in 2019

### **Romania holiday report**

The reports I had suggested that most members much enjoyed their visit to Romania. The stunning scenery and amazing painted monasteries were a revelation as people had no preconceived notions of what to expect. The Romanian people we met in the streets were warm, friendly and very grateful for our visit, wishing us to promote their vast country for tourism. Their economy is much in need. Thanks to Gilly Coombes for leading the trip.

### **Talk by Mary Branson on New Dawn sculpture on Sunday 28 October at 2.30pm in The Leatherhead Theatre**

The Arts Society East Surrey Area is supporting a fascinating arts talk on creating a light sculpture in the Palace of Westminster which celebrates the efforts to fight for women's right to vote 100 years ago. Mary was the artist in residence at the Houses of Parliament in 2016. Come and listen to the talk (only £7.50); all proceeds will go to The Leatherhead Theatre. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01372 365141.

### **Review of September talk: Aboriginal Art by Rebecca Hossack**

Thank you for voting. Well over half the members who went to the meeting voted! We had an excellent talk.

### **The Forbidden City: Special Interest morning on Friday 9 November at 10am**

The Arts Society East Surrey Area's Special Interest Morning will be held at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon on The Forbidden City: The Secrets of China's Imperial Palace and Museum. For those interested in China this might work well with **Leatherhead's** October lecture.

### **Special Interest Day (SID): A Family Affair: Florence & the House of Medici on Thursday 15 November**

Members are invited to join The Arts Society Ashtead (at Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall) on their SID; speaker Jo Walton. This is a story filled with larger-than-life characters and great art alongside stirring historical events, occasional assassinations, and the eventual decline of a remarkable dynasty. The day consists of three lectures, coffee & biscuits, and a light lunch (including a glass of wine or a soft drink). Tickets are £28; doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start. In Leatherhead we have had one talk by Jo Walton on the Medici in July 2011 so some of you may have heard part of the Medici talks before. Please contact Roger Steel on 01372 272083 for tickets (tell him you are a Leatherhead member).

### **Friday 19/Saturday 20 October: Arts and Craft Exhibition**

The Arts Society Walton on the Hill is putting on an Exhibition at the Riddell Hall, Deans Lane, Walton on the Hill, KT20 7UL to celebrate 50 years of The Arts Society. All items on display have been created by members of the group. Entrance is free; some of the items will be for sale.

### **Leatherhead Theatre**

Arts highlights include:

The Importance of Being Earnest on Tuesday 9 October at 7.15pm

ROH: Mayerling on Monday 15 October at 7.15pm

ROH: Die Walkure on Sunday 28 October at 5.00pm

Leatherhead Rep will make a welcome three week return for an Autumn Season with three plays, starting with Waiting For God from 6 November.

### **LCA Art/ History lectures at The Institute Leatherhead**

A series of lectures on Wednesday afternoons 2pm – 4 pm:

10 October– Rosalind Whyte on L.S. Lowry

17 October– Jessica Saraga on Paul Gauguin

31 October- Professor Gail Cunningham on`The Pre-Raphaelites and the Victorian Woman

7 November- Jessica Saraga on Where were the Women Artists before the 20th Century?

Contact Liz Meikle for all details; [dandemeikles@btinternet.com](mailto:dandemeikles@btinternet.com)

### **Next Talk (Wednesday 14 November) at 7.45pm Collecting The Grand Tour**

BBC Antiques Roadshow specialist Marc Allum, takes you on a personal odyssey of the Grand Tour and looks at the history, the collectors and the artefacts that helped to shape the style of a nation.



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