



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

Dear member

Last time we had a very good turn-out of 132 (including guests) when England were playing in the semi-finals of the World Cup at the same time. Most of you seemed to enjoy the excellent talk on Lawrence of Arabia with a glass of Pimms afterwards.

Next Wednesday we will have a talk on Aboriginal Art by Rebecca Hossack. She opened her art gallery in London over 20 years ago and since then has been keen to show her native Australian Aboriginal Art. We should learn a lot.

We still have places left in our visit to the Ismaili Centre, and the nearby V&A, on Thursday 25 October. The Ismaili Centre and its Roof Garden is one of London's best-kept secrets and is not often open to the public.

Remember that Mole Valley Heritage Open days ("HOD") will be on 13-16 September. See below for the free Friday launch lecture at Leatherhead Theatre on Mrs Greville of Polesden Lacey.

All my best wishes  
Huw Jenkins, Secretary  
01372 278738

### **This month's Talk 7.30pm Wednesday 12 September Aboriginal Art by Rebecca Hossack**

Rock, Bark, Ochre: the story of Aboriginal art in the culturally distinct communities of the north of Australia; an extraordinary story of continuous artistic endeavour from rock-paintings dating back 50,000 years, to modern work done on bark in natural ochres. Rebecca Hossack is a Director of three international galleries and has done a lot to introduce Aboriginal Art into Europe.



## **New members**

Tim and Valerie Howard hosted a New Members drinks in August. The Committee would like to thank them for an excellent event.

We welcome Anne Finn, and Richard and Carolyn Barker as new members.

## **Do you have friends interested in becoming new members?**

We have a special offer to new members; they only have to pay £15 for membership for the rest of 2018. Do you have any friends who might like to join?

## **The Ismaili Centre and the V&A on Thursday 25 October**

This visit is an unparalleled opportunity to be guided round a mosque on a group tour. 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. Our guide will answer general questions on Islam and on the Ahmadi tradition in particular. After lunch we can visit the V&A which always has new things to see (no charge for this).

## **Bamber Gascoigne's West Horsley Place on Tuesday 11 September (two tours)**

There was some confusion on booking for this visit for which I apologise. We were inundated with interest from members and will review future booking arrangements for "busy" trips. We managed to book an additional tour for another 20 people on the same day as the original tour; well done Rona. All places were taken and all those going will have been notified.

## **Romania holiday in September**

We hope that all members who are joining our trip to Romania later this month, under Gilly Coombes leadership, have a great time.

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

Former Abbey choristers will sing and narrate their way around the Abbey (including St Edward the Confessor's Shrine, Henry VII Chapel, Poets' Corner and the Unknown Warriors grave). This is a unique way to be in the Abbey at night. We are fully booked (52 places) and you should have been notified if you are going. Tell Sarah Sheridan if you want to be a reserve as people can get colds etc.

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

We will probably sell this holiday, which Sarah Sheridan will lead, in November. Hold the dates if you are interested in joining us.

## **Western Sicily holiday 15-22 September 2019**

Any members who showed an interest in this 2019 holiday have a place reserved.

### **Report on St Mary Bramber and Lancing College**

On a fantastic summer's day in July, 24 members enjoyed an exclusive visit to St Mary's House, Bramber, Sussex; an interesting house together with a guided tour of their beautiful landscape gardens. Following an excellent buffet lunch members had a guided tour of Lancing College Chapel. Thanks to Gilly Coombes for organising this visit.

### **Report on Voice and Vote exhibition at Westminster Hall**

On Wednesday a group of us, led by our President June Robinson, visited The Houses of Parliament and saw an excellent free exhibition, "Voice & Vote: Women's Place in Parliament." Women watched Parliament from "The Ventilator," then "The Cage" and even after getting the vote their office was in "The Tomb." We also saw how the fascinating recent "New Dawn" light work of art (see below for a lecture on this) celebrates votes for women, and changed colour with the tide. The free exhibition runs to 6 October: telephone 020 7219 4414.

### **Review of July talk: Lawrence of Arabia: Excavating the Legend by Dr Neil Faulkner**

We had another "excellent" talk.

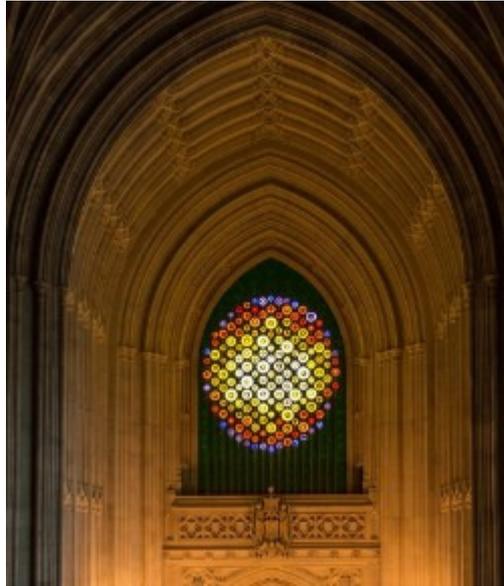
### **Friday 14 September: talk on Mrs Greville of Polesden Lacey: book your free tickets**

Mole Valley Heritage Open days ("HOD") will be on 13-16 September. At the launch event at Leatherhead Theatre Sian Evans will be talking about Mrs Greville, the extraordinary hostess of Polesden Lacey. Sian has written the definitive book on Mrs Greville: "The Society Hostess who collected King's." Tickets are free but prior booking with The Theatre (01372 365141) is needed.

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

Do you remember the film and talk on Loving Vincent in the Leatherhead Theatre on a Sunday last January?

The Arts Society is supporting (as is your Committee) 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 01372 365141.



### **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 (see below).

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

Members are invited to join The Arts Society Ashted (at Ashted 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.

### **Developments in 19<sup>th</sup> century French Art Wednesday mornings Leatherhead course**

For details of this £120 course from 19 September please contact Paul Pickering.

### **Leatherhead Theatre**

Arts highlights include:

A Night at the Musicals on Friday 7 September at 7.30pm: fundraising event

RSC Live: The Merry Wives of Windsor on Wednesday 12 September at 7.00pm (conflicts with Arts Society Leatherhead talk)

The Winter's Tale from Shakespeare's Globe on Thursday 4 October at 7.15pm

Leatherhead Rep will make a welcome three week return for an Autumn Season and three plays from 6 November.

### **Next 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 bring costumes for display so please come early to see them.



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