

LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No 207
**September, October,
November, December 2025**

Registered Charity No 1142164

WELCOME TO THE LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH

Telephone: 01372 360508

Website: www.leatherheadca.org.uk



The Leatherhead Institute was given to the people of Leatherhead by Abraham Dixon in 1892 as a place for social, recreational and educational activity. Today the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) carries on this legacy. Our volunteers create the broad programme of activities you find in this newsletter.

We also hire rooms to local groups and organisations, for one-off events or as regular hirers.

The Office is open weekday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

LCA Coordinator, Meredith Shiers: LCA1@leatherheadca.org.uk

LCA Administrator, Luisa Ager: LCA2@leatherheadca.org.uk

LCA Chairman, Simon Ritchie: LCACHair@leatherheadca.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

LCA Membership costs £8 per person per year and is renewable annually on 1 April. New subscriptions paid after 1 January in one year run to 31 March the following year. Membership includes activities, events and visits, use of the free Kirby Lending Library, WiFi throughout the building (password from the office) and three Newsletters during the year.

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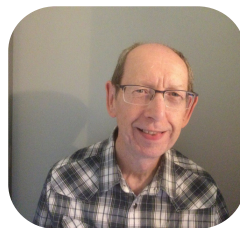
Cover images: Leatherhead Orchestra VJ 80 concert (Wednesday 17th September), Macmillan Coffee Morning (Friday 26th September), Christmas Talk on the History of Pantomime (Friday 12th December).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Simon Ritchie

July 2025

This year the Leatherhead Community Association has continued to offer a full programme to our membership while keeping our finances in good order, despite significant increases in our energy costs.



The LCA delivers the charitable objectives laid down by our Victorian benefactor, Abraham Dixon, to advance education and provide social and recreational facilities. This is achieved by hiring out rooms, leased from the Institute Trustees, together with providing a programme of events and activities for members.

All aspects of the varied programme offered to members are organised by our wonderful volunteers. Whether they are arranging visits, events or activities, working behind the scenes to offer AV support, office assistance or refreshments, the Trustees are indebted to them and they have the sincere gratitude of us all. Do consider joining our volunteer team. Meredith and Luisa in the LCA office will be there to assist you.

I am extremely grateful to your Trustees: Jo Slater as Company Secretary, James Falkner for the unenviable task of tracking our utilities and Insurance, together with overseeing the library, Kathie Oakley for all refreshments and Irene Gawne for visits. In particular, I must mention David Hanson, our Treasurer. His attention to detail is renowned, his guidance on all treasury matters, invaluable.

I would also like to thank David Hanson, Jo Slater and Fran Fleming for the help and guidance they've given me during this my first year as Chairman.

Meredith, our LCA coordinator, has also continued to organise our popular series of free films including a very successful VE day celebration, having discovered some fascinating material filmed in Leatherhead. We will show this again in our late VJ day event in September (see page 15).

Our series of Art History With a Difference talks have gone from strength to strength and was extended this year by popular demand. Many thanks to Dorothy Stapleton and Vivien Pepino for their hard work making all this happen (see pages 33 - 36).

Once again we will take part in the Heritage Open Days programme in September. This year's theme is 'Architecture' and Ian Swankie will present Underground Cathedrals which is about the magnificent underground public spaces to be found on railway networks such as the Jubilee and Elizabeth lines (see pages 6-9).

Following the elections at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 4th July, Trustees following the LCA Council are:

Mr Simon Ritchie Chairman
Mr David Hanson Treasurer
Mrs Jo Slater Company Secretary
Mr James Falkner
Mrs Irene Gawne
Mrs Kathryn Oakley

A copy of the AGM minutes is available from the LCA office.



Welcome to England's largest FREE festival of history and culture!
Throughout Mole Valley - 12th - 21st September

This year the theme is 'Architecture'. Booklets with the full Mole Valley programme are available from the Institute.

WHAT'S ON AT THE INSTITUTE

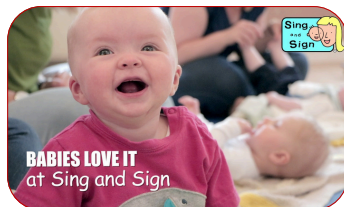
SING AND SIGN

Thursday 18th September

In the Larkin Room (G6)

Join a free 35 minute Sing and Sign taster session, suitable for babies aged 6 weeks to 2 years. Sing and Sign draws on our rich cultural musical heritage of traditional nursery rhymes, actions songs and familiar melodies to help stimulate language development in babies.

Advance booking required. Email: melissaholt@singandsign.co.uk



LEATHERHEAD ART CLUB -

Mole Valley in Art

**Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September
10am - 4pm**

Leatherhead Art Club, a well-established group of local artists, will be exhibiting a selection of paintings in a range of styles and subjects, all inspired by the lovely Mole Valley. Greetings cards will also be on sale and members of the club will be available for discussion and comment.

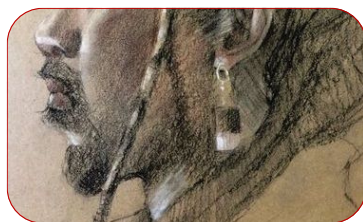


Surrey Figurative Artists

Friday 19th September: 10am - 9pm

Saturday 20th September: 10am - 4pm

Surrey Figurative Artists have been meeting to draw and paint from the live model for over 25 years. This exhibition will feature many works, including sketches, paintings, and drawings in their eclectic and individual style. The artists will be available to discuss their art and many pieces will be on sale, including framed and unframed work, and greetings cards.



Lisa Allen Dance and Arts

Saturday 20th September:

Various Times

Lisa Allen Dance & Arts would like to invite you to join us for a fun day of performing arts at the Leatherhead Institute.

Classes are available in Acro, Ballet, Musical Theatre and tap. A free trial is available in all classes as part of Heritage Open Days.





**Leatherhead Orchestra present a VJ
Day 80 themed concert
Wednesday 17th September 8pm**

As we reflect on this year's theme of 'architecture' and imagine the local buildings impacted by the 16 V-1 flying bombs which landed in the Leatherhead area during WW2 and the total loss of life including 7 civilians from Leatherhead.



The play list includes: Run Rabbit Run, It's Been A Long, Long Time, We're Going To Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line, Abide With Me, Lady Of The Lamplight, White cliffs of Dover, Nimrod, Rule Britannia, Fanfare - 'the gift' - two trumpets.

**LEATHERHEAD
ORCHESTRA PRESENT
A VJ DAY 80
HERITAGE CONCERT**

**FREE
ENTRY**

**WAR ERA
CLASSICS**

**TEA &
CAKE**

**WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2025
8PM IN THE ABRAHAM DIXON HALL**

**LIMITED CABARET STYLE
SEATING SO PLEASE BOOK VIA
LCA1@LEATHERHEADCA.ORG.UK**



heritage open days

UNDERGROUND CATHEDRALS BUT



Speaker

**IAN
SWANKIE**

*Supported by
the Kirby Bequest*

Letherhead Institute, Abraham Dixon Hall

SEPTEMBER

19th

7.30PM

doors open 7pm

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT MUST BE PREBOOKED

Please email LCA1@leatherheadca.org.uk
to book your free seats



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 26th September

10am to 12.30pm

Join us for our annual coffee morning in the Kirby Library where we raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. G6 will also be open across the hallway for extra seating so there is plenty of space to relax and chat over tea and cake.

Cake donations (home made or bought) are very welcome! Where possible please drop off the morning before to help with planning.

Santa's Sitting Room

We are pleased to report Santa and his team will be returning to the Kirby Library in December. The traditional Victorian style grotto will be open from Saturday 14th December right up until Tuesday 24th December.

We will also have the benefit of the beautiful grotto Christmas tree in the library from the beginning of December.

Please note: during the above dates there will be no access to the library.

If you would like to arrange a visit you can find out more at
santassittingroom.littleboxoffice.com



FRIDAY CHRISTMAS TALK - A VERY BRITISH ART FORM: THE STORY OF PANTOMIME

Friday 12th December at 2.30pm

Presented by Malcolm Jones

Pantomime has remained an essential part of the theatrical repertoire for over 300 years. Come along and hear Malcolm Jones trace the story of the Pantomime from the 18th century, through the 19th century when the fairy story plots we are all familiar with, were established and on to the music hall entertainers who created many of the traditions we know as the Christmas Pantomime. Following the talk tea, coffee and mince pies will be served.



Bookings open: 1st October
£4 in advance or £5 on the day



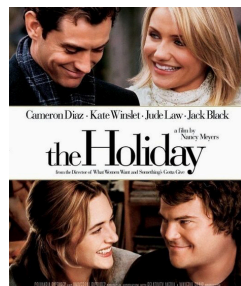
Saturday 13th December

Why not put the Christmas shopping on hold for an afternoon of festive films and refreshments in the Abraham Dixon Hall? FREE to attend but please register in advance to help with catering via lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk



Nativity will be showing
at 11am including festive
craft table.

The Holiday will be
showing at 2pm
featuring local Surrey
scenes.



MUSIC AT THE INSTITUTE returns for an Autumn Season

Hedley and Emily Kay in concert Friday 12th September 7.30pm

Father and daughter, Hedley and Emily Kay are a musical duo whose talents span genres and eras - country, folk and popular modern music. Singer-songwriter Hedley, originally from Dublin, is a Leatherhead fixture; he brings decades of musical experience. Emerging on the UK folk scene in the 1970s he has performed on shows such as BBC Radio 2's 'Country Meets Folk' and ITV's 'Seven Ages of Man' and 'Opportunity Knocks'. Some of his songs have found their way into film and television such as the film remake of Brian Friel's play 'Philadelphia Here I come'.



Hedley has been a regular on the local gig circuit as well as dedicating a great deal of his time and energy to 'Music in Hospitals and Care', a charity which is very close to his heart.



Emily is a musician and songwriter and a passionate advocate for communal music making whether through spontaneous improvised harmony or structured 'Come and Sing' days and performance of formal choral works. She enjoys building and experimenting with harmonies and performs regularly with 'Vivo', a vibrant local Acapella group and also sings with The Leatherhead Choral Society. More recently, she has set poetry to music, exploring the rich connection between words and melody.

**Tickets: £10 members
£12 non members**

contact to book your seat
lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Tononogova and Pes

Friday 10th October 7.30pm

Tononogova and Pes are a classical music duo known for their compelling performances and deep musical synergy. Blending technical mastery with expressive interpretation, they bring a fresh perspective to both traditional and contemporary repertoire. Their dynamic collaboration captivates audiences with emotional depth, precision, and refined artistry.

Tickets: £10 members

£12 non members

contact to book your seat lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk



Leather Heads hit the stage!

Friday 14th November 8.30pm

Their sound features raw guitar riffs, powerful vocals, and a hard-hitting rhythm section that channels both vintage swagger and contemporary energy. A popular fixture in bars, pubs and festival stages we are delighted to welcome something a bit different to the Abraham Dixon Hall. The Leather Heads high-octane performance will no doubt leave a lasting impression.

Tickets: £6 members

£8 non members

contact to book your seat:

lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Leather Heads is a gritty local rock band known for blending classic rock influences with modern edge.



David Hanson - celebrates 80 not out!

David Hanson, the LCA's long standing treasurer, celebrated his 80th birthday in June. He was surrounded by family and friends at the beautiful Woodlands Park Hotel, celebrating in style with his favourite meal of 'afternoon tea', followed by a delicious homemade birthday cake with plenty for all to enjoy.

David's commitment and generosity to the LCA have long been appreciated, and it was fitting that his big day was filled with summer warmth, laughter, and a touch of his favourite sport - cricket. His birthday cake, perfectly themed as a cricket green, read '80 not out' both a nod to his special new age and enduring spirit! We thank David for his many years of service and wish him continued health, happiness and many more innings to come!



David Hanson - pictured above with family and close friends at his recent 80th birthday celebration

VJ80 DAY

15th AUG 1945



VJ DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE INSTITUTE

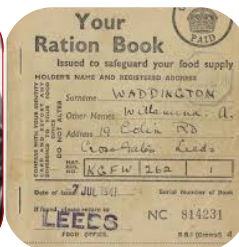
The official date for VJ Day was 15th August but we felt more members would be able to attend a commemorative event in early September. We will be showing the Leatherhead at War films again along with tea and cake for refreshments. There will also be an interval to refill your cups.

Leatherhead at War the films

Friday 5th September 2pm (refreshments served from 1.30pm)

Please join us in the Abraham Dixon Hall to enjoy a repeat of the historic black and white films 'Civilians in Uniform' and 'Leatherhead Newsreels'. The film is dedicated to the people of Leatherhead for playing their part in the battle for Southern England 1940-1944. Running time 80 minutes, including refreshments before the start of the film and during the interval.

Please note: there is no charge for this special screening but advance registration is appreciated to help with catering.

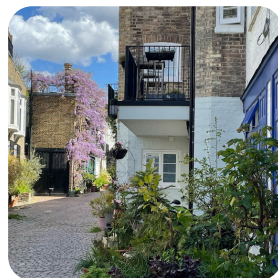
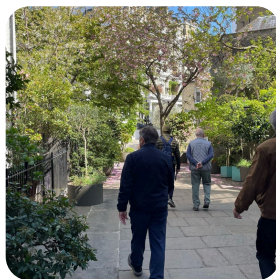


Classic London Mews Walk

by Carol Webster

On a chilly but sunny Wednesday morning, 16 April, a group of us set off to London for a guided walk exploring classic London Mews and 'hidden passageways'. We met our guides at Earl's Court tube station, after a much enjoyed coffee stop at Paul's café/patisserie.

From the hustle and bustle of the Earl's Court Road, in just a few seconds we proceeded to enter a series of beautiful and tranquil mews (the former stables and coach houses of grand houses) and hidden alleyways! It was a wonderfully interesting and informative walk with lots of photos, facts and history supplied by our guides Stephanie and Claire. For the next 2 hours we didn't encounter a single busy road or traffic noise. From decorative coal holes to the earliest Post Box, grand mansions to tiny mews apartments, manure to Thomas Crapper, the gentry to the servants. We saw it all! Many thanks to Irene Gawne for organising such a memorable day in London.



Guided Walk of Highgate Cemetery

by Mike Edwards

A chilly but dry day was forecast; a trouble free journey to Archway and a walk to the cemetery which largely skirted Highgate Hill (thanks Irene) meant we arrived in time for a liquid pit stop before the tour.

The omens were looking good.

Our tour guide Peter (a former history teacher no less) gave us a potted history of the origins of this and the other six cemeteries (collectively known as the Magnificent Seven) built in the Victorian era beyond the boundary of the City Of London. Highgate Cemetery is the final resting place of c175,000 bodies in c 53,000 graves.

Built in 1839 the grounds were an immaculate showpiece with extensive views across London. It is now beautifully shaded and wooded and a haven for wildlife. Widely used as a film set many films including Hammer Horror were filmed here.

Our 2 hours walk followed Colonnade Path where we paused by the graves of the poisoned Russian dissident Litvinenko and the singer George Michael. Walking up Main Drive we paused at the grave of the first burial - Elizabeth Jackson, a victim of consumption. We turned into Egyptian Avenue towards the Circle Of Lebanon where we saw an interesting mix of Egyptian and Victorian Gothic architecture. In the Terrace Catacombs we were introduced to the surgeon Robert Liston, the first surgeon in Britain to use an anaesthetic when operating.



The next grave was that of Thomas Sayers the bare knuckle fighter, so famous that his funeral attracted a crowd of over 100,000. The largest funeral ever seen at Highgate. Next up a reflective pause by a small, unmarked space between two graves; the final resting place of ten forgotten young “fallen women” lured to London to escape poverty but had died while staying at a local women’s refuge. Finally down Faraday Path to pause at the very simple grave of Highgate’s most important resident, Michael Faraday, who among his many discoveries were the principles behind the electric motor.

On a lighter note our tour concluded at the grave of the cookery writer and TV chef Philip Harben who is reputed to have popularised scampi following his shows in the 1950s.

Our tour over we were free to explore at leisure the East side.

Guided Walk of Fabulous Fitzrovia

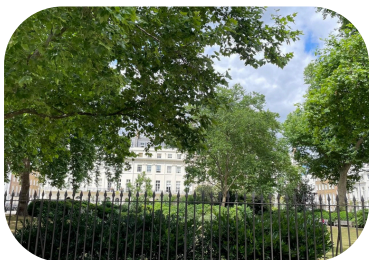
by Carol Webster

On Monday 23 June a group of LCA members made our way to Euston Square Tube Station to meet our two guides and embark on a fascinating walking tour of ‘Fabulous Fitzrovia & its Medical Marvels’.

Our first stop was to admire the cruciform shape and architecture of the original University College Hospital (UCH) building. The walk was peppered with copious blue plaques and facts about the many eminent scientists and doctors who worked in the hospital or studied or taught at University College London, and we learned about their incredible medical discoveries. We also learned that George Orwell died aged only 46 in a bed in the Hospital where he was being treated for tuberculosis. During WWII Agatha Christie volunteered in the dispensary of the hospital and it is believed a pharmacist working there inspired Christie on the possible use of poisons.

The walk meandered through University College London buildings and included a diverse architectural mix from Georgian to ultramodern. We ended the tour in an exquisite Byzantine-style chapel, The Fitzrovia Chapel, in Pearson Square. The chapel was built for the former Middlesex Hospital to serve as a place of solace, prayer and rest for staff, patients and their families, It is absolutely stunning!

Very many thanks to Irene for organising such a memorable walk (see page 19 for pictures from the visit).



OCTOBER HALF TERM FAMILY FILM

Meredith Shiers

Hotel Transylvania

Friday 31st October 10am

This October half term join us for a free spooktacular Halloween breakfast and film morning at the LCA. The film tells the story of Count Dracula, the famed vampire who is also the owner of the Hotel Transylvania, where the world's monsters can take a rest from human civilization.

Please book via lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk



VISITS WITH INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Irene Gawne

HISTORIC LEATHERHEAD - GUIDED WALK

Friday 26th September at 11.30am

A walk round the town with a guide from Leatherhead & District Local History Society talking about some of the historic buildings and features that could easily be missed. The walk will cover the main town, the theatre, the river and mill it once drove, and the museum. And also includes the personalities who have lived in the town such as Jane Austen, Michael Caine, Marie Stopes and Donald Campbell.

On this day we will also have our Macmillan Coffee morning - a great starting point before the tour! The group will meet outside the Institute at 11.30am.

£10 per member

Booking open 15th August

Booking closes 20th September

20 places available



ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE AND THE OLD BAILEY

Wednesday October 22nd at 11.30am

Legal London Tour: This is a multi award winning tour of over 25 years covering both the Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ) and the Old Bailey. It starts at the RCJ, a stunning historical building where some of the country's most significant legal judgements are made. Find out why barristers wear wigs. Learn of the huge sums earned by some lawyers and why barristers working in the criminal justice system went on strike. The good and the bad in our justice system are revealed.

This is followed by a wander through the secret alleys and courtyards of the nearby Inns of Court. The tour then moves on to the Old Bailey, the country's leading criminal court, for a talk outside on the fascinating history of the Old Bailey and the trials governed by the guide, which shocked the nation.

After the tour, we can try to gain entry to the public galleries and watch a trial but this is not guaranteed as it is a government building. However, it is unusual not to gain entry.



**Royal Courts of Justice
and the Old Bailey
bookings info:**

**£28.50 per member
Bookings open September 15th
Bookings Close October 15th
20 Places available**

GUIDED TOUR OF UNEXPECTED LONDON

Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 11.30am

Join this guided walk as we delve in to the secret places and hidden interiors of the Temple area.

We visit the glooms and moss of mini Eden that is the largest civil-engineering project to come London's way. We see the neo-Gothic Mansion built by William Waldorf, visit the pub frequented by Edgar Wallace and see the hotel where George Orwell once worked. We learn about the "first street in Europe", two island churches and a flying guinea pig!

**£13.50 per member
Booking open 22nd October
Bookings close 12th November
20 places available**



On page 16-19 you can read the reports from our summer visits programme. Thank you to our intrepid reporters Carol Webster and Mike Edwards and to Irene Gawne for organising the visits.

New clubs for the Autumn Term - Craft and Chat on a Wednesday afternoon

Jane Haslam

“A new LCA group is starting on Wednesday 1st October to which I hope you will come with your craft hobby. This is an opportunity to bring along your favourite hobby activity for us all to share and learn about. I will bring my beading, and I will be pleased to help anyone who wishes to learn. I hope you will enjoy a chat and the company of other crafters. See you there. “ - Jane

Starting: Wednesday 1st October

Norbury Room

1pm - 4pm (no need to stay for the full session)



Do you fancy being involved in a new LCA craft group?

If you have an interest in craft and would like to get involved please contact Meredith in the office on lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

New clubs for the Autumn Term - Drawing

Vivien Pepino

This Autumn there will a drawing techniques course starting in October

Fundamental Drawing Skills & Techniques

6-week course with Claire Harrison, for all abilities



Discover the essential skills to bring your drawings to life in this friendly and supportive course, suitable for all levels, including complete beginners. Claire will guide you through core techniques such as shading, proportion, perspective, and texture, helping you build confidence and accuracy in your work.

Each session begins with a demonstration and a focus for the lesson, followed by individual support tailored to your interests and goals. You'll be encouraged to explore your own subject matter and developing your own style while building a strong foundation in drawing.

Claire brings over 20 years of teaching experience, including being a tutor at Guildford Institute and visiting lecturer at Farnborough College of Technology. Claire is invited regularly to give demonstrations across the Southeast. Claire is an international practising artist; she has exhibited widely and has work in public and private collections worldwide.

A materials list will be provided before the course begins on Thursday 2nd October. There will be a fee for this course - **please contact:**

lca1@leatherheadca.or.uk to register your interest and to find out more.



KNITTING FOR CHARITY

Fran Fleming

This friendly group, which meets on the second Thursday of the month in the morning, continues to support the fundraising arm of various organisations including Guildford Hospital, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, Look Good Feel Better, Dorking Food Bank and Knit for Peace. If you enjoy knitting but have run out of anyone to knit for - come and join us.

DOUBLE KNITTING WOOL donations are gratefully received by the Knitting for Charity group. Please leave at the office. Unfortunately we cannot accept any other ply wool.



Social Sewing Group

Moir Dyson & Ruth Bates

The Social Sewing Group continues to grow from strength to strength and we generally have around 12 members at our Monday afternoon sessions. Members bring their own sewing to work on and there is a variety of projects underway, from coats, blouses and children's dresses to tapestries, cushions and embroidery.

The group has experienced sewers as well as beginners and all abilities are welcome. There is always someone willing to help with any challenges! We would like to thank the many people who have been so generous with donations of fabric, haberdashery and machines.

Our summer activities included a sewing tea party in the garden and a trip to a fashion exhibition at Polesden Lacey. If you would like to join us for a taster session, just phone or call into the office, or find out more by coming along on Heritage Open Day Saturday 20th September to see what we do!

LIBRARY REFRESH - DONATE YOUR RECENT READS!

Amy Rieley - library volunteer



The average UK household owns between 100–200 books in total. So around a third of those might be sitting unread — bought with good intentions, gifted, or just never quite picked up. If you have any titles printed in the last ten years, that are in good condition, the LCA would be delighted to take them off your hands!

The Kirby lending library is undergoing a refresh! To make room for new titles and improve the browsing experience, some older and outdated books have been donated to charity. This has created valuable space on our shelves—and now, we need your help to fill it.

If you have any used books in good condition that you've enjoyed and are ready to pass along, we'd love to give them a new home where others can discover them too. We are looking for non fiction, paperback books which have been published in the last 10 years.

Whether it's contemporary fiction and non fiction, thrillers, romance, or literary gems, your donations can help us build a more vibrant and up-to-date collection for the community.

Books can be dropped off at the LCA office weekday mornings. Thank you for your support.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Weekly Groups

SOCIAL SEWING

Ruth Bates and Moira Dyson

Meeting weekly on Monday afternoons in the Abraham Dixon Hall, we are a group of enthusiastic sewers who enjoy getting together to work on our own projects and help each other with any challenges.

Whether your sewing preference is for dressmaking, soft furnishings, embroidery or patchwork, you are extremely welcome to come. In need of ideas and inspiration? We have patterns, magazines, fabric and haberdashery, all generously donated, for members to use.

Admission is just £2 per session for members and £3 for non members.

Sessions run from 1.30pm – 4.30pm so come for as little or as long as you like. Tea and biscuits are included.

If you would like to find out more please register your interest to join our group, please contact Meredith or Luisa in the LCA office.



TUESDAY GAMES

David Lamb

Come down to the Abraham Dixon Hall each Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm for some friendly, non-competitive table tennis.

£2 admission for members and £3 for non members. Tea and biscuits are included.

Alternate Weeks

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

Terry Parfett

The sessions are aimed at beginners who have a classical guitar, but do not quite know what to do with it- all you need is a guitar and some enthusiasm!

Informal and friendly sessions make it fun while learning to play - a great way to learn finger style and to read music! Lessons take place on Tuesday evenings fortnightly. For more information contact Meredith in the office.



Monthly Groups

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

Hilary Porter

The Kirby Room is open to everyone for free tea and coffee on the first Saturday morning of each month from 10am to 11.30am. The lending library will be available for members and application forms on hand for any newcomers who would like to join the LCA.

6th September

4th October

1st November

6th December



BOOK CLUB

Kathy Bucknall



The book club meets in the Kirby Room on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. They are not currently accepting new members but you can register your interest with the LCA office.

Dates for the future are:

4th September

2nd October

6th November

4th December

CONCERTS

Seats have been reserved for two concerts at The Royal Festival Hall, with independent travel on each occasion.

Saturday 27 September at 7.30pm

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Edward Gardner

Pianist: Yefim Bronfman

Ticket price £22



Benjamin Ringed by the Flat Horizon

Beethoven Piano Concerto No 5 'The Emperor'

Tchaikovsky Symphony No 5 in E Minor

Wednesday 29th October at 7.30pm

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Kalchun Wong

Soloist: Himari

Ticket price £22



Chinary Ung. Water Rings

Sibelius. Violin Concerto

Dvorak. Symphony No 9 in E Minor

Ticket Price £22

Footnote: The orchestra's prices have risen slightly and the Southbank Centre has introduced a £2 'Restoration Levy'.

WE PLAY FOR PLEASURE.



LEARNERS · RETURNERS
ENTHUSIASTIC AMATEURS

Leatherhead Orchestra Concerts

The Leatherhead Orchestra rehearse in the Abraham Dixon Hall every Wednesday evening.

Each term they host a free concert for the community to enjoy.

The next concerts are on:

Wednesday 17th September 8pm

Wednesday 10th December at 8pm

We are continuing our regular monthly walks on the first and second Wednesday of each month through countryside, riverside, & parkland. The walks are designed to be gentle and jolly; at modest pace, with few stiles, and easy gradients.

The morning, 3-4 mile ("Short") walks, lasting about 2 hours, usually alternate with 4-7 mile ("Longer") walks. The latter normally incorporate a lunch or picnic break, but we often adjourn for a snack after the short walks too.

We shall also undertake some "Shorter" local walks, lasting about 1-1.5 hours (approx 1.2 – 2.0 miles) but with easy gradients and few stiles. These are shown in italics.

If you would like further information on the walks please contact Meredith in the LCA office on lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk or alternatively please let the guide know in advance if you're planning to attend.

September - Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 3rd September
Betchworth and Brockham
Capel circular route

Meet at the St Michael's Churchyard entrance in Betchworth. Easy 4 mile circular field walk. Some stiles.

Take the A24 south of Dorking. Just after the petrol station, you come to Beare Green roundabout. Take the 2nd left to Capel.

Park on street or in the Crown Inn forecourt next to the church.

Tea stop en-route at the Tanhurst Farm Café.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347



September - Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 10th September
Ham – Richmond Riverside



Meet at the R. Thames car park, just before Ham House, halfway between Kingston & Richmond.
Walk along both banks of the river, including a ferry ride (£1). Explore various parts of old Twickenham, including the Orleans Gallery and York House.
Lunch at the riverside pub, the Ferry Inn, on the outskirts of Twickenham

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

October - Short Walk

WEDNESDAY 1st OCTOBER
Downside Circular



Meet at Downside Village Green, approx. 1.5 mile south from Cobham on the road to Effingham. On-street parking is free alongside the green.
Meet opposite the cricket pavilion.
Easy, flat field and riverside walk, including Downside Mill and weir. Few stiles. Explore the delightful village of Downside and the countryside around Cobham Park.
There are kingfishers on this stretch of the R. Mole.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

October - Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 8th October



Gomshall – Shere Circular

Meet on the road called “Highview” in Gomshall, a small village on the A25 about 5 miles west of Dorking. There is on-street parking here. Take the A25 west from Dorking, pass Abinger Hatch, then into Gomshall village. Turn left at the Watermill Inn and head south to the railway bridge. Turn right just before the bridge into “Highview” road and park on-street. A lovely circular heath and field walk. Snacks/Lunch at the White Horse Inn at Shere.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

November - Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 5th November
Capel circular



Hogsmill Nature Reserve West Ewell

Meet at Bourne Hall Car Park Spring Street West Ewell KT17 1UF

Please note this is a Pay & Display Car Park

A flat and easy walk along the banks of the Hogsmill River and nature reserve. Can be muddy if, prior to the walk, the weather has been wet.

Refreshments at either Ewell Court Café or Bourne Hall if open.

Leader Michael Davies 01372 459031

November - Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 12th November

Norbury Park and Westhumble

Meet at the car park of The Stepping Stones Pub, West Humble RH5 6BS
This is a lovely walk with views across the Mole Valley and into quiet woodland, up to Norbury House, then past the former saw mill and across the fields back to West Humble.
There are no stiles, but a little road walking and one steepish ascent.
Refreshments at The Stepping Stones pub.

Leader: Irene Gawne 07906 363729



December - Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER

Polesden Lacey Estate.

Meet by the main NT car park, near the café/toilet block entrance. This is not free-of-charge but we do not pay to enter NT grounds, only the car park.

Easy circular walk through the estate of Polesden Lacey and the associated Ranmore estate. Lovely views and few stiles.

Refreshments at the NT Café.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

Please note: no long walk in December.



Art History with a Difference

Dorothy Stapleton and Vivien Pepino

Held in the Abraham Dixon Hall on Fridays 2pm - 4pm with a break for refreshments approx 2.55pm. All lectures will commence at 2pm.

Individual lectures £7.50 each

Block book all eight in advance via the office for £40

Tickets can be purchased on the day (card payment preferred)

Booking forms are available from the Leatherhead Institute, or from the LCA website, or email lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

3rd Oct - Lowry

Jessica Saraga

L S Lowry claimed he wasn't an artist, 'just someone who paints'. He painted the industrial landscape he knew again and again. But although his subjects were repetitive, his approach was unique. We can immediately identify his signature scenes of urban life. In this lecture, we look for the origins of his distinctive personal style. How did this full time rent collector so singularly encapsulate the essence of the last century's manufacturing north?

10th Oct - Weimar

Ronnie Ireland

The "Weimar" period in Germany (1919 - 1933), was one of extremes - social, political, economic, played out before a ravishingly decadent nightlife. Out of this chaos rose very powerful, socially engaged art, which encompassed elements of Expressionism, Cubism and Dadaism, before developing "New Objectivity" and film as means of commenting on the turbulent metropolis of Berlin.





17th Oct - Genius of Women Artists.

Tammy Ellis

Following on from the exhibition 'Now You See Us. Women Artists in Britain 1520–1920'- at Tate Britain (May-October 2024), we shall chart the course of women artists over the span of 4 centuries in their bid to become professional artists. Defying the expectations of society, the works of artists such as Artemisia Gentileschi, Angelica Kauffman and Laura Knight will reveal how these women celebrated their genius.



24th Oct - Gardens in Paintings

David Marsh

This talk looks at a series of paintings from the 16th to 18th centuries which feature gardens, and helps the audience see beyond the obvious. Are the pictures useful evidence for the history gardens? Are they “accurate” depictions? What else might they be telling us?

31st Oct - No lecture - half term week.



7th Nov - Joaquín Sorolla: Spanish Master of Light

Anne Anderson

In his day the Valencian painter Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (1863-1923) was acclaimed for capturing the bright sunlight of his native land. Thanks to recent exhibitions, his stunning images of sun-drenched beaches have once again enraptured the public.

An advocate of pictorial realism, inevitably Sorolla's reputation was eclipsed by Cubism and Abstraction. But now Sorolla has been recuperated and ranked alongside John Singer Sargent: both artists brought the practise of painting quickly outdoors to a triumphant conclusion.



14th Nov - The Game of Pairs: Fantastic Reality

Ronnie Ireland

The GAME OF PAIRS series of lectures take two images from different times and places, comparing and contrasting them to discover connections and differences of attitude and intent between the two. This first one looks at "The Birth Of Venus" by Botticelli and "Woman Bathing In A Stream" by Rembrandt. It places them in the context of their time and society, showing how their very different aims and techniques were both able to deliver masterpieces for their own time and for ours.

21st Nov - The London Impressionists - Camden Town & Fitzrovia

Anne Anderson

German-born Walter Sickert was the central figure in the Camden Town Group, named after the seedy district of north London. Though he was the son and grandson of painters, he first sought a career as an actor. After less than a year's attendance at the Slade School, Sickert left to become a pupil of and assistant to the infamous American-British painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

Influenced by Edgar Degas, he developed a personal version of Impressionism, favouring sombre colours and working in the studio to escape the 'tyranny of nature'. Joining the New English Art Club, he came into contact with other progressive British painters: William Orpen, Philip Wilson Steer, George Clausen and Stanhope Forbes. His portrayal of scenes in London music halls were criticised as scandalous. Seeking cheap places to rent Sickert found studios in Cumberland Market and Camden. Artists gathered around Sickert, the Camden Town Group officially coalescing in 1911: Harold Gilman, Spencer Frederick Gore, Lucien Pissarro, Robert Bevan, Augustus John, and Charles Ginner. Never more than 16 men, no women were admitted into this bohemian circle!



28th Nov - Cathy Brett - Turner.

Young Mr. Turner in Surrey

Cathy Brett, artist, author and curator, offers a perspective on the early years of JMW Turner and why his visits to the Surrey Hills were so important to his development as an artist and a young man.

ACTIVITIES FROM OUR HIRERS

Listed below are just some of the hirers who have activities planned for the spring and summer here at the Institute. Do look at the notice board in the entrance hall for all activities.

Monday

The Leatherhead Bridge Club meets at 7.15pm on Monday and Friday evenings and welcomes new players. If you are interested in joining them, please make contact via their website:
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/leatherhead/>

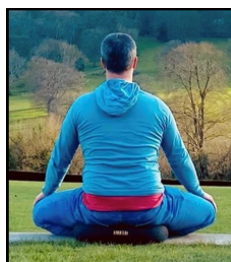
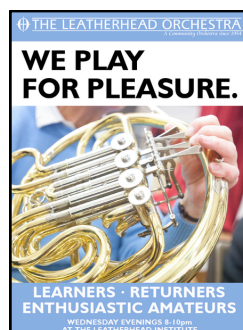


Tuesday

Leatherhead Art Club welcomes anyone who has a passion for art. The club contains a mix of beginners and professionals. Meeting on a Tuesday for a varied programme of lectures, demonstrations, workshops and critique evenings. For more information contact leatherheadartclub@outlook.com

Wednesday

The Leatherhead Orchestra rehearse in the Abraham Dixon Hall every Wednesday evening and perform a free concert at the end of each term. This term there will be two concerts, the first in Heritage Week on Wednesday 17th September and Wednesday 10th December both at 8pm. They are currently looking for more players especially string but have room for all other instruments as well. For more information, contact membership@leatherheadorchestra.co.uk



Thursday

Surrey Hills Meditation is a friendly and informal group who meet at 7:30pm to try different meditation techniques to find one that suits you. Everyone welcome- whether you are a complete beginner or have an established practice that you want to build on. For more information see www.surreyhillsmeditation.co.uk

Thursday

Trumps Bridge Club is a small friendly club suitable for newcomers to duplicate bridge but also catering for more experienced players.

They meet in the Abraham Dixon Hall on Thursday evenings. For more information contact Alan Jarrett on 01372 379248 or at jarrett238@btinternet.com

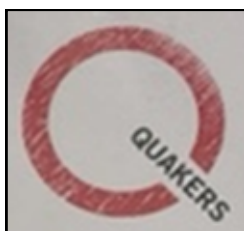
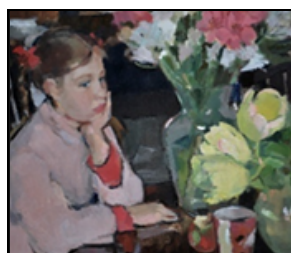


Friday

Leatherhead and District Local History Society hold a talk on the third Friday of each month at 7:30pm. To find out more visit their website leatherheadhistory.org.

Saturday

Explore oil painting with Julia Hawkins ROI NEAC on Saturday mornings. Perfect for both beginners and improvers, students will learn about colour mixing, tone, texture and form, working on still life, landscape and portrait painting. Classes include tutor's demonstrations and one-to-one teaching. Contact Julia on 07796 897846 for details.



Sunday

Dorking Quakers meet here every second Sunday of the month at 6.30pm. You are welcome to join them for an hour of silent worship followed by refreshments. If you would like to know more, please call 01372 229125.

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Snapshots from the walk to Wisley and Wey Canalside back in June- see pages 29-32 to find out more about LCA walks



Copy Deadline

Issue 208- January, February, March, April 2026

Copy 8 November 2025

Publication week commencing 8 December 2025

Issue 209 - May, June, July, August 2026

Copy 13 March 2026

Publication week commencing 13 April 2026