

LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No 208
January, February, March,
April 2026

Registered Charity No 1142164

WELCOME TO THE LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

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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 now costs £10 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.

CONTENTS

Membership	pg 2
Contents	pg 3
Chairman's Report	pg 4-5
Road Trippers Coach Tours	pg 6
What's on in January	pg 7
What's on in February	pg 8-9
What's on in March	pg 10-11
What's on in April	pg 12-13
Unexpected London visit report	pg 14-15
Music at the Institute Spring Concert	pg 15
Knitting group update	pg 16
Sewing group update	pg 16
Craft group update	pg 17
Library refresh	pg 17
LCA Visits and Coach Tours	pg 18-19
Regular Activities	pg 20-21
Social Sewing	pg 20
Craft & Chat Group	pg 20
Tuesday Games	pg 20
Classical Guitar Lessons	pg 21
Saturday Coffee Mornings	pg 21
Book Club	pg 21
External Concerts	pg 22
Films	pg 23
Leatherhead Orchestra	pg 23
Art History	pg 24-27
Walks	pg 28-31
Activities from our hirers	pg 32-33
Diary Dates	pg 34-35
Music at the Institute photo highlights	pg 36

Cover images: Michael Caine pictured as Alfie, Leatherhead Bowls Club visit in April and Peter Rabbit to hit the big screen over the Easter holidays!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Simon Ritchie

January 2026

In 2025 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 energy and other costs.

The LCA delivers the charitable objectives laid down by our Victorian benefactor, Abraham Dixon, to advance education and provide social and recreational facilities, and a year-round programme of events and activities for members and others. We achieve this by hiring out rooms, leased from our sister charity and landlord The Leatherhead Institute. We use some of the money we raise to support the Institute in return. Over this year they have spent significantly on improving the electrical system and making it safer, refurbishing the outside of the building and, as many of you have seen, organising a complete refit of the downstairs kitchen. The LCA made substantial donations of cash to The Institute to support all of those projects.

We've run an excellent programme of activities. Meredith Shiers has continued to organise our free films for adults and children and special events for VE and VJ 80. Peter Humphreys ran a series of short and long local walks, David Hanson ran trips to concerts, Irene Gawne ran visits of all sorts, Fran Fleming ran the Friday talks and Hilary Porter ran coffee mornings on a Saturday morning. All popular and well attended.



There was also a successful MacMillan coffee morning in September. Our popular series of Art History With a Difference talks goes from strength to strength and Vivien Pepino is continuing her new initiative, a series of drawing classes. The autumn Music at the Institute programme was a great success artistically and made a small profit. We plan a spring 2026 programme but dates were not yet finalised at the time of going to print.

We are getting together with a local firm Road Trippers who run coach trips. We have agreed to promote their trips starting early in 2026 alongside our Independent Travel visits.

Following Ian Swankie's 2025 sell out talk Underground Cathedrals we will be contributing to the 2026 Heritage Open days. Ian will be returning to the Institute on Friday 30 January to give an Art History lecture on the most expensive art in the world.

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 with the great support of Amy Rieley. In particular, I must mention David Hanson, our Treasurer. His attention to detail is renowned, his guidance on all treasury matters, invaluable. I must also thank our office coordinator Meredith Shiers and our office administrator Luisa Ager for the hard work that they have done this year, some of it well beyond the call of duty.

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. Our office staff Meredith and Luisa will be there to assist you.

LOOKING AHEAD TO COACH TOURS IN 2026
provided by Road Trippers

Exbury Gardens and train ride on Friday 13 March

£55.00pp 20 spaces available

A 200-acre informal woodland garden located in the New Forest. Enjoy Spring displays and a 20 minute ride on the narrow-gauge steam railway.



Friday
13th
Mar

£55.00pp (train ride included)

Kent and Sussex Railway Adventure on Tuesday 19 May

£73.00pp 20 places available

All aboard for a glorious ride through over 10 miles of Wealden countryside between Tenterden and Bodiam. Our journey includes a ploughman's lunch.



Tuesday
19th
May

£73.00pp

Broadstairs Seaside Day on Friday 12 June

£35.00 per person 20 places available

Broadstairs is a traditional seaside town in Kent located on Viking Bay, a picturesque, crescent-shaped sandy beach with harbour, beach huts and eateries. Enjoy the Charles Dickens Festival too.



Friday
12th
June

£35.00pp

Lymington Market Mayhem on Saturday 25 July

£35.00 per person 20 places available

Sitting on the west bank of the Lymington River, the Georgian market town of Lymington is a firm favourite with market, high street, eateries, boat rides and ice creams!



Saturday
25th
July

£35.00pp

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY



Saturday 3 January - The LCA opens its doors to 2026 with a **New Year Coffee morning**. Everyone welcome from 10am - 12pm.

Thursday 8 January - the **Knitting for Charity** group are meeting in the library today. This friendly group meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10am - 12pm.



Friday 9 January - Simon Ritchie will be leading a repeat of the **guided walk of Leatherhead** for those who missed it. A chance to burn off some of those festive calories and learn about the history of our town. The visit will start in the Institute library at 10am.

£10 per person (20 places available)

Friday 16 January - **Friday Talk - Life in Britain as seen in 1960s Films presented by Colin Shindler**

Colin has had a wide-ranging career as a writer and producer in television, radio and film. He lectured on film at Cambridge University for over 20 years. Come and join Colin for this talk through some of the iconic movies of the 1960s. The talk begins at 2.30pm followed by tea and biscuit refreshments at the end.

£4 in advance or £5 on the day

Friday 23 January - **Friday Film Afternoon - Alfie**

Following on from Colin Shindler's talk we are showing the 1960s classic Alfie featuring once local resident Michael Caine. Please see page 23 for further details.

Friday 30 January - Art History starts again with a talk by **Ian Swankie on the world's most expensive artwork**. Please visit page 24 for further details.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY



Wednesday 4 February - LCA short walk to Reigate Hill

The first walk of 2026 begins with a simple meander through fields, woods and downland, to Colley Hill, with wonderful views, but also many heritage features including a flying fortress memorial. Please visit page 29 for more details.



Thursday 5 February - book club (pre-registering via office required)

The Book Club meets in the Kirby Room on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. There is not currently space for new members but please register your interest with the office.

Art History Lecture - 6 February - The Story of Cedric Morris

The story of Cedric Morris (1889 - 1982) told in three phases. First as a boy gifted with freedom by wealthy parents who appreciated the arts and nature, second building his life as an artist and third, bringing together his two obsessions of painting and horticulture. Please visit page 24 - to find out more.



Saturday 7 February - LCA coffee morning in the library

A great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones in the warmth of the Institute Library. Everyone welcome from 10am - 12pm.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY



Wednesday 11 February - LCA long walk to Effingham, Polesden Lacey

A circular route starting at 10am for about 5 miles, enjoying lovely scenery alongside Effingham Golf Club, then through woodland and fields to Polesden Lacey. Please visit page 29 for more details.

Thursday 12 February - Knitting for charity (informal meet up 26 February)

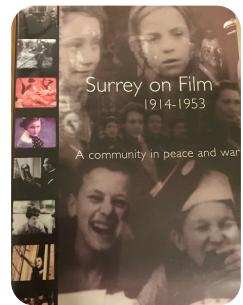
In addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday 10am - 12pm

Friday 13 February Art History Lecture - Van Eyck and Velazquez presented by Ronnie Ireland

Ronnie compares pairs of artworks that share themes but differ sharply due to each artist's character, aims, and historical context Find out more on page 24.

Saturday 14 February - Surrey on Film in the Kirby Library

Following on from the guided historic walk of Leatherhead we have another visit close to home. The Kirby Room will become a cinema for the morning as we watch Surrey on Film (1914 - 1953). Refreshments will be served from 10.30am for an 11am film start.



Friday 20 February - Gnomeo & Juliet

February Half Term film in the Abraham Dixon Hall. Please visit page 23 for further details.

Friday 27 February - Art History Lecture - Antoni Gaudi presented by Anne Anderson

To find out more about Antoni Gaudi's unique and instantly recognisable style please visit page 26.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH



Wednesday 4 March - short walk exploring Mickleham

At 10am this morning an easy circular walk around the village perimeter across fields and woodland, with lovely views across the valley and the grounds of Box Hill school (now RGS Surrey Hills). For further info please visit page 30.



Thursday 5 March - Book Club (pre-registering required)

The Book Club meet in the Kirby Room on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. There is not currently space for new members but please register your interest with the office.

Friday 6 March - Art History Lecture - Berthe Morisot presented by Tammy Ellis

Berthe Morisot (1841 - 1895) was an artist whose work was influenced by eighteenth century artists. To find out more visit page 26.

Saturday 7 March - LCA Coffee morning in the Kirby Library

A great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones in the warmth of the Institute Library. Everyone welcome from 10am - 12pm.

Wednesday 11 March - Long Walk - Reigate Heath Eight

At 10am this morning a lovely figure of eight walk through the woods and Heathland and then on to Priory Park after lunch at the Skimmington Castle. Find out more on page 30.

Thursday 12 March - Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 26 March)

In addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday 10am - 12pm

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH



Friday 13 March - Art History Lecture - William Blake presented by Jessica Saraga

Blake spent his life expressing his visions, inventing new techniques, and producing work with remarkable energy. To find out more please visit page 27.

Friday 13 March - Coach visit to Exbury Gardens plus Train Ride

A 200-acre informal woodland garden located in the New Forest, Exbury, was created by Lionel de Rothschild in 1919. We will enjoy the Spring displays and ride the narrow-gauge steam railway on a 20-minute journey.



£55 per person (20 places available) visit page 19 to find out more.

Saturday 14 March - Easter Wreath making workshop

Angela Young will return to help create Easter or Mother's Day door wreaths. A morning and afternoon session will be available. Further details to follow nearer to the date.

Friday 20 March - Art History lecture - Watteau and Hopper presented by Ronnie Ireland

Although seemingly worlds apart, learn the fascinating correspondences and contrasts between these two artists. Further details on page 27.

Friday 27 March - Art History - Bauhaus presented by Anne Anderson

After the First World War, the Bahaus set out to create modern, functional design for a new society, visit page 27 to find out more.



WHAT'S ON IN APRIL



Wednesday 1 April - Easter Parade film

Easter Parade (1948) is a vibrant MGM musical starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire set in early 20th Century New York. Showing on the big screen in the Abraham Dixon Hall. Find out more on page 23.



Wednesday 1 April - Short Walk The Nower, Westcott Circular

A fine, largely field walk from Milton Heath to Westcott via the Nower and Bury Hill fish ponds. Returning alongside the Pipbrook, passing the Unum mansion and watermill.

Thursday 2 April - Book Club (pre-registering required)

The Book Club meet in the Kirby Room on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. There is not currently space for new members but please register your interest with the office.

Saturday 4 April - Coffee Morning in the Kirby Library

A great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones in the warmth of the Institute Library. Everyone welcome from 10am - 12pm.

Wednesday 8 April - Long Walk Godstone Lakes

An easy walk along the Greensand Way, past a chain of lakes and interesting Arts & Crafts almshouses. Lunch planned at the White Hart Pub.

Thursday 9 April - Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 23 April)

in addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday 10am - 12pm

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL



10 April - Peter Rabbit film

A free film for the whole family to enjoy during the Easter Holidays. Please visit page 23 to find out more.



Friday 24 April - Friday Talk on Working with the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace

A new season of Friday talks begins with a return visit from Hampton Court Guide Sarah Slater. She will explore the history and sightings of some of the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace that have been reported over the last few hundred years. 2.30pm start, one hour talk, followed by tea and coffee refreshments.

£4 in advance or £5 on the door

Thursday 30 April - Visit to Leatherhead Bowls Club

Join us for a relaxed and enjoyable visit to Leatherhead Bowls Club located at Fortyfoot Recreation Ground. Try your hand at bowls on the club's lovely outdoor lawns, whether you are a complete beginner, or already a fan of the game. After some friendly fun on the green we'll round off the morning with tea and biscuits in the clubhouse. Limited parking available in the park or on Fortyfoot Road.

£10 per person (20 spaces available)



Guided Walk of Unexpected London

by Fran Fleming

An unexpected start to our day on Wednesday 19 November were the snow showers and bitter wind as we left Leatherhead; however, all was forgotten as we met our guide, Alison, at Temple Station who treated us to a wonderfully informative two hours.

As we left Temple Station, the quietest underground station in London as it is packed with bark to reduce noise, we stopped first at the statue of the liberal philanthropist William Edward Forster noted for his Education Act of 1870 which established the first elements of the primary school system. We then heard about wealthy Isabella, married to the titled but poor Lord Henry Somerset, who had hidden his sexuality. Women in this era were expected to turn a blind eye, however, Lady Henry took her husband to court over the custody of their son and won, though she was ostracised by society. In later life she became associated with the Temperance Movement and was elected president of the Women's Temperance Movement in 1890.

Moving on we stopped at Two Temple Place, built by William Waldorf Astor, whose immense wealth provided the building with the earliest forms of electricity and telephone. His daughter Nancy Astor (American-born) became the first woman in Parliament and was known to have a tempestuous relationship with Winston Churchill.



This walk was full of interesting facts: We passed St Clement Danes Church where the bells peal Oranges and Lemons each day. We heard about the disused Aldwych underground station, closed to the public but used to store the Elgin Marbles in the war and used in films and pop videos. As we passed King's College Alison mentioned Dr Rosalind Franklin whose enormous contribution to DNA was never acknowledged by Crick and Watson. We visited the Stamp Stair at Somerset House and finally we learned about Richard D'Oyly Carte who built both the Savoy Theatre and Savoy Hotel which allowed the audience to enjoy the Gilbert and Sullivan performances and then wine and dine and stay. Very many thanks to Irene for arranging such a memorable walk and to our guide, Alison, whose talk was both entertaining and instructive. The report is just a snapshot of the information she imparted and the buildings we visited!

LCA Drawing Group continues in Spring 2026

Due to the popularity and success of the first series of LCA drawing classes, tutor and International Fine Artist, Claire Harrison will be returning with two more courses:

Fundamental Skills and Techniques

Drawing Course

Thursdays 2-4pm

8 January - 12 February (six week course £120)



Fundamental Skills and Techniques

Colour Drawing Course

Thursdays 2-4pm

26 February - 9 April (six week course £120)



Spaces are limited, so to find out more, please contact Meredith in the office at lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Knitting for Charity

Fran Fleming

The knitting group meet on the second Thursday of the month, 10-12, with an informal 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday. Anyone is welcome to join this friendly group of knitters, all levels welcome. Have you got a project you started in lockdown and never finished - bring it along! We are continuing to receive more requests so please do keep us in mind if you have any double ply wool to donate to help us continue to support these many worthy causes.



LCA Social Sewing Group

Ruth, Moira and Wendy

Thank you to everyone who called in to find out more about our sewing group, and to purchase some beautiful handmade gifts on Heritage Open Day back in September. We were delighted to be able to display a range of projects from tapestry and textile art to quilting and dressmaking, all of which have been worked on by our group of friendly and enthusiastic sewers.

We meet weekly on Monday afternoons to work on our own projects and help each other with any challenges along the way. Its a great place to share creative ideas and news of textile exhibitions, shows and workshops.



The Craft and Chat Group

Jane Haslam

The Craft and Chat Group started at the beginning of September, as an off-shoot from Monday's sewing group. We bring our own crafts, but Jane also brings beading projects for anyone to enjoy. So far, we have made snowflakes, bracelets and earrings. Some members have brought items which needed mending.



The group is friendly and inclusive and welcomes new ideas and projects. We would welcome crocheters, knitters and soon we will have a demonstration of lace making with an opportunity to have a go ourselves. For the artists amongst us there is plenty of room to bring all your equipment. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm - 4pm in the Norbury Room. It would be great to see you - a cup of tea and a biscuit await you!



The Library refresh continues

Amy Rieley

Looking ahead to those 2026 clear outs and spring cleans we are still seeking book donations for the library. New books are at the top of our wish lists with titles being less than five years old and in good condition. Donations can be dropped off on weekday mornings or to the LCA coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month.

LCA visits and coach tours

Irene Gawne's visits will return later in 2026

Irene will be taking a break from organising the independent travel visits to focus on family commitments, but she hopes to return later this year. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Irene for all the wonderful trips she has organised over the years. We look forward to welcoming her back later in the year. This term we will be exploring some more local attractions plus offering the opportunity of joining a coach tour with Road Trippers to the New Forest.

Historic Leatherhead Guided Walk

Friday 9 January at 10.30am

A repeat of the walk around the town back in September. Our guide will be Simon Ritchie, both LCA Chairman and member of Leatherhead & District Local History Society. Simon will be talking about a number of 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 includes the personalities who have lived in the town such as Jane Austen, Michael Caine, Marie Stopes and Donald Campbell.

£10 per person

20 places available

Surrey on Film coffee morning

Saturday 14 February at 10.30am

Following on from the Guided Walk of Leatherhead we have another visit close to home. The Kirby Library will become a cinema for the morning as we watch a film looking at various Surrey locations between 1914-1953. The Leatherhead Institute was opened on 14 February in 1893. Spaces are limited to 20 people due to the cosy size of the room.

£5 per person

20 places available





RoadTrippers •

Exbury Gardens & Train - Friday 13 March via Road Trippers Coach Excursion

A 200-acre informal woodland garden located in the New Forest, Exbury was created by Lionel de Rothschild in 1919. We will enjoy the Spring displays and ride the narrow-gauge steam railway on a 20-minute journey. Pick up from Leatherhead.

£55 per person (train ride included)

20 places available



Visit to Leatherhead Bowls Club

Thursday 30 April 10.30am

Join us for a relaxed and enjoyable visit to Leatherhead Bowls Club located at Fortyfoot Recreation Ground. Try your hand at bowls on the club's lovely outdoor lawns, whether you are a complete beginner, or already a fan of the game. After some friendly fun on the green we will round off the morning with tea and biscuits in the clubhouse. Limited parking available in the park or on Fortyfoot Road. Start time 10.30am.

£10 per person

20 places available



**To find out more about the visits, and to book, please contact Meredith
at lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk or via the LCA office**

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. We have patterns, magazines, fabric and haberdashery, all generously donated, for members to use.

Sessions run from 1.30pm – 4.30pm so come for as little or as long as you like. Tea and biscuits are included. Admission is just £2 per session for members and £3 for non members.

CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP

Jane Haslam



A new group for a variety of craft interests, skills and abilities. Meeting weekly in the Norbury Room from 1pm - 4pm. Admission £2 for members and £3 for non members. Tea and biscuits and friendly conversation included!



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.

3 January
7 February
7 March
4 April



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:
January - no meeting
5th February
5th March
2nd April 21

CONCERTS

David Hanson

Three on offer starting with a local outing:

The Menuhin Hall - Tuesday 27 January at 7.30 pm
"Mozartiana"

A magical evening to celebrate Mozart's 270th birthday. YMS Professor of Piano, Andreas Frölich and Pupils of the Menuhin School

Ticket Price £16



Royal Festival Hall - Tuesday 3 February at 7.30 pm

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor Vasily Petrenko

Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor

Ustvol'skaya The Dream of Stepan Razin

Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1

Shostakovich Symphony No 10

Ticket Price £20



Royal Festival Hall - Thursday 5 March at 7.30 pm

Philharmonia Orchestra

"A (mostly) American Adventure"

Conductor Santu-Matias Rouvali

Pianist Frank Dupree

Clarinetist Mark van de Wiel

Bernstein On the Waterfront Suite

Dove Clarinet Concerto – world premiere

Copland Clarinet Concerto

Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue

Ticket Price £18



**For a booking form please
contact Meredith at**

**lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk or via
the LCA office weekday mornings**

FREE FILMS

Meredith Shiers

Alfie - Friday 23 January

Alfie (Michael Caine) is a sharp, stylish, charming yet self-centered womaniser whose carefree life unravels as he's forced to confront the consequences of his choices.

2pm for refreshments followed by 2.30pm start



Gnomeo & Juliet - Friday 20 February

Gnomeo & Juliet is a playful, garden-gnome-themed parody of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, blending colorful animation with comedy and star-crossed romance in a suburban backyard.

2pm for refreshments followed by 2.30pm start



Easter Parade - Wednesday 1 April

Easter Parade is a classic musical romance where a dancer vows to turn a new protégé into a star, leading to charming songs, missteps, and unexpected love along the way.

2pm for refreshments followed by 2.30pm



Peter Rabbit - Friday 10 April

Peter Rabbit is a lively family comedy where the mischievous rabbit battles with a new neighbour for control of a cherished garden—and for the affection of the woman they both adore.

2pm for refreshments followed by 2.30pm start



To find out more, and to book for the films, please contact Meredith at lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk or via the LCA office



Leatherhead Orchestra Concerts

The Leatherhead Orchestra rehearse in the Abraham Dixon Hall every Wednesday evening. Their next free community concert is on:

Wednesday 25 March at 8pm

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 or by emailing lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk. Tickets can be purchased on the day (card payment preferred).

Friday 30 January - The most expensive art in the world

Ian Swankie

Where Leonardo meets Picasso. In the last few years the top end of the art market has flourished, and collectors have been prepared to pay astonishing amounts to own a modern masterpiece. This lecture is about the works that have sold for over \$100 million and is an excuse to examine some beautiful and varied art. These works would not achieve such sky-high prices if they were no good. So, we'll see some wonderful paintings including those by Picasso, Cezanne, Leonardo, Rembrandt, Modigliani, Klimt, Bacon and Pollock, all held together by the common thread of their extraordinary commercial value. But we will also look at the buyers and sellers, the stories behind the works, the reasons for changing hands and I will try to answer the question "Are they really worth hundreds of millions of pounds?"



Friday 6 February

Cedric Morris - Julie Verity - Cedric Morris – Artist First

This is the story of Cedric Morris' life [1889-1982], told in three phases. First as a boy gifted with freedom by wealthy parents who appreciated the arts and nature. Second, building his life as an artist and third, bringing together his two obsessions of painting and horticulture –and especially, Irises.



Friday 13 February

“GAME OF PAIRS : Looking real - with Van Eyck and Velazquez. presented by Ronnie Ireland

A new series of talks where Ronnie compares two main works which overlap in theme but with highly contrasted results due to differences in temperament, ambition and the society in which the artists lived.

“Looking Real” compares Van Eyck (Virgin And Child With Canon van Der Paele) and Velazquez (Las Hilanderas). Two very different approaches to presenting us with “reality”. How do they go about it and why are they so different? Does one seem “more real” than the other? Come and see what you think!



Friday 20 February - Half Term - no lecture.

Friday 27 February

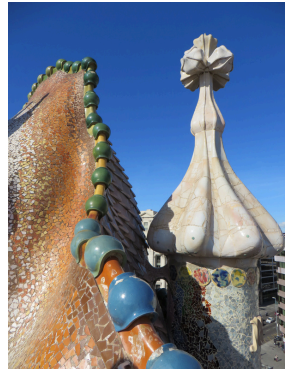
Gaudí – “God’s Architect” by Anne Anderson

Antoni Gaudí created a unique, instantly recognisable style, from the colourful Casa Batlló to the sweeping curves of Casa Milà and the iconic Sagrada Família.

Mocked after WWII, the Sagrada Família regained attention in the 1950s thanks to Salvador Dalí.

Today it is world-famous, its unfinished state part of its appeal.

Gaudí’s long-awaited masterpiece is set for completion in 2026, marking 100 years since the death of “God’s Architect.”



Friday 6 March

Berthe Morisot by Tammy Ellis

Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) was an artist whose work was influenced by eighteenth century artists such as Jean-Honoré Fragonard and François Boucher. However, in 1874 she found herself firmly rooted in the French avant-garde when she exhibited with the Impressionist group of artists.

Acquainted with Manet and married to his brother Eugène, Berthe Morisot managed to achieve that rare combination of artist, wife and mother – her daughter Julie was born in 1878 and was often the subject of her work.



Friday 13 March

William Blake – Jessica Saraga – “Romantic, Radical, Visionary”

William Blake fiercely criticised the social problems of his age, which he saw as the result of industrialisation’s materialism and pursuit of profit. While his poetry exposed poverty and exploitation, his art turned toward the mystical, using a personal mythology and distinctive visual language. Though often an outsider, Blake’s creativity never waned. He spent his life expressing his visions, inventing new techniques, and producing work with remarkable energy.



Friday 20 March

Watteau and Hopper - Ronnie Ireland - GAME OF PAIRS DREAMWORKS

This compares and contrasts two seemingly very different paintings - “Embarkation For Cythera” (1717) by Antoine Watteau and “New York Movie” (1939) by Edward Hopper. Seemingly worlds apart, there are fascinating correspondences and contrasts when you look more deeply. In turn we learn more about the artists and the societies in which they worked.

Friday 27 March

Anne Anderson – Bauhaus

After the First World War, the Bauhaus set out to create modern, functional design for a new society. Inspired by the clean lines of modern industry, it promoted light-filled, uncluttered buildings and everyday objects free from unnecessary decoration. Artists like Kandinsky and Klee developed colour theory, while Marcel Breuer pioneered tubular-steel furniture and mass-production ideas.

With the rise of fascism, many Bauhaus teachers emigrated to the US, where their ideas shaped the International Style that dominated architecture until the 1970s.

LCA WALKS

Peter Humphreys

2026 LCA Walks Programme

Non-members of the LCA are welcome to all these events. Your first walk is free—of-charge. There will be a £3 charge for each subsequent walk.

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.

All 2026 walks will commence at 10.00 from the specified meeting point.

Lifts are often available. Telephone the WALK LEADER if you want one, or if you have any queries, but do so at least 24 hours beforehand.

Courtesy calls, to tell the leader beforehand that you are coming, are very helpful



February - Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY
Reigate Hill

Meet at the car park cafe at the top of Reigate Hill, just off the A217 Reigate to Sutton road and close to the M25 intersection. Coming off the M25, heading to Reigate, take the first turning left, then a sharp fork right to the car park. There are spectacular views here and an exceptional café (with amenities).



A simple walk through fields, woods and downland, to Colley Hill, with wonderful views, but also many interesting heritage features, including a flying fortress memorial. Few stiles.

Teas at the hillside café.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

February - Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY
Effingham, Polesden Lacey

Circular walk of about 5 miles, initially alongside Effingham Golf Club, then through woodland and fields to Polesden Lacey, many fine views.



Meet in the car park of King George V playing fields, Effingham. Park free-of-charge. The entrance is a short distance down Brown's Lane on the right.

Snacks/lunch at Polesden Lacey NT café.

Leader Michael Davies 01372 459031

March Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH
Explore Mickleham



An easy circular walk around the village perimeter across fields and woodland, with lovely views across the valley and the grounds of Box Hill school[now RGS Surrey Hills]

Meet outside the Running Horses Inn, opposite the church and 465 bus stop
Snack or lunch at the Inn.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

March Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH
Reigate Heath Eight



Meet at the first Heath car park, 1 mile west of the town centre, just past the cricket ground. It is on the minor road from Reigate to Leigh, just south of the A25, on the west side of Reigate.

Lovely figure of eight walk through the woods and heathland; then to Priory Park after lunch.

Lunch at the Skimmington Castle, Reigate Heath.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

April Short Walk

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

The Nower, Westcott circular

A fine, largely field walk from Milton Heath to Westcott via the Nower & Bury Hill fish ponds using back routes wherever practical

Return along side the Pippbrook, passing the Unum mansion & watermill

Leader Peter Humphreys

01372 378347



April Long Walk

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL

Godstone Lakes

Meet at Godstone Village Green car park, by the pond, opposite the White Hart. Take either the M25, [or A25 from Dorking, through Redhill] to the centre of Godstone, using the short one way system to get close to the pond. Take the B 2236 Blindley Heath road, also signed for Godstone Farm, till you reach the small pond in the corner of the green, opposite the White Hart.

Easy walking along the Greensand Way, past a chain of lakes and interesting Arts & Crafts almshouses.

Lunch at the White Hart pub (provisional)

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347



ACTIVITIES FROM OUR HIRERS

Listed below are just some of the hirers who have activities planned for the winter and spring 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 (25 March). 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 (all levels welcome). For more information see www.surreyhillsmeditation.co.uk

Thursday

Sing and Sign Leatherhead is a local group offering fun and engaging music and sign language classes for babies and toddlers. Find out more via www.singandsign.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

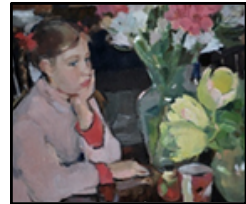


Friday

Leatherhead and District Local History Society hold a talk on the third Friday of each month at 7:30pm (excluding January). Talks this term will be held on 16 February, 20 March (AGM) and 17 April. 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. Contact Julia on 07796 897846 for details (classes subject to availability).



Saturday

Lisa Allen Dance Arts offers a range of dance and performing art classes from ballet to contemporary, the team provides a welcoming environment for dancers 3-18 years. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced dancer visit ladancearts.co.uk for further info.

Sunday

We have three church groups who regularly meet at the Institute. The Dorking Quakers gather here every second Sunday of the month at 6.30pm. Christ Church Embassy meet in the library each Sunday morning and Disciples Church also meet weekly in the Abraham Dixon Hall. Please visit their websites for further details or drop in to worship.



DIARY DATES

JAN	EVENT	PAGE
3	LCA New Year Coffee Morning in the Kirby Library	21
8	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 22 January)	16
9	LCA Visit - Guided Walk of Leatherhead (repeat)	18
16	Friday Talk - Life in 1960s Britain	7
23	Friday Film - Alfie featuring Michael Caine	7
27	Concert - 'Mozartiana' at the Menhuin Hall	22
30	Art History Lecture - the most expensive art in the world	24
FEB	EVENT	PAGE
3	Concert - Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall	22
4	Short Walk - Reigate Hill	28
5	Book Club	21
6	Art History Lecture - the story of Cedric Morris	25
7	Coffee Morning	21
11	Long Walk - Effingham, Polesden Lacey	29
12	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 26 February)	16
13	Art History Lecture - Van Eyck and Velazquez	25
14	Surrey on Film in Kirby Library	18
20	Half Term Family Film - Gnomeo & Juliet	23
27	Art History Lecture - Antoni Gaudi	26

MAR	EVENT	PAGE
4	Short Walk - Explore Mickleham	30
5	Philharmonia Concert at the Royal Festival Hall	22
6	Art History - Bertha Morisot	26
7	Coffee Morning	21
11	Long Walk - Reigate Heath Eight	30
12	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 25 March)	16
13	Coach Visit - Exbury Gardens and Train Ride	19
13	Art History - William Blake	27
14	Easter Wreath Making Workshop	11
20	Art History - Watteau and Hopper	27
27	Art History - Bauhaus	27
APR	EVENT	PAGE
1	Short Walk - The Nower, Westcott circular	31
1	Film - Easter Parade	23
2	Book Club	21
4	Coffee Morning	21
8	Long Walk - Godstone Lakes	31
9	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 23 April)	16
10	Easter Holidays Family Film - Peter Rabbit	23
24	Friday Talk - The Ghosts of Hampton Court	13
30	LCA visit to Leatherhead Bowls Club	19



Simon and the LCA Trustees, together with Luisa and Meredith, send best wishes to all members for 2026. Please note: the LCA office closes on Tuesday 23 December at midday and re-opens on Monday 5 January.



Copy Deadline

Issue 209 - May, June, July, August 2026

Copy 13 March 2026

Publication week commencing 13 April 2026

Issue 210 - September, October, November, December 2026

Copy 1 July 2026

Publication week commencing 3 August 2026

(earlier dates due to staff holidays)