

LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No 210
September, October,
November and December 2026

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: LCChair@leatherheadca.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

LCA Membership 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, Wi-Fi throughout the building (password from the office) and three Newsletters during the year.

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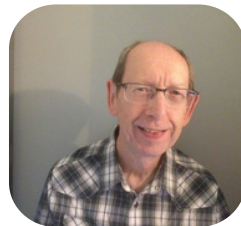
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Cover images: Behind the Headlines with Faye Barker, The Christmas Candle and Enid Blyton film

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Simon Ritchie

July 2026



The Leatherhead Community Association delivers the charitable objectives laid down by our Victorian benefactor, Abraham Dixon, to advance education and provide social and recreational facilities to the local community. This year we have continued to offer a full programme to our membership while keeping our finances in good order, despite significant increases in energy and other costs.

Our sister charity, The Leatherhead Institute, 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. We made substantial donations of cash to them to support all of those projects.

We continued to run a wide variety of events this year: 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, Vivien Pepino ran a series of art technique workshops and, with Dorothy Stapleton, the Art History With a Difference talks, Meredith Shiers organised a series of free films for adults and children, Hilary Porter ran coffee mornings on a Saturday morning and I ran the Music At The Institute concerts, along with a town walk taking in the art and architecture of the locality.

All aspects of this programme 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 team Meredith Shiers and Luisa Ager will be there to assist you.

My latest initiative to recruit more members is to create a Contemporary Music Group which aims to appeal to musicians of all ages. If you know of any potential members, please put them in touch with me.

We haven't been able to find anybody willing to organise coach trips, so we've got together with a local firm that runs them commercially. Reports from the members so far have been good.

Many of our events have refreshments which are organised by a team of volunteers led by Kathie Oakley. As a hopeless caffeine addict myself, very many thanks to them.

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. In particular, I must mention David Hanson, our Treasurer. His attention to detail is renowned, his guidance on all treasury matters, invaluable.

I think the most important lesson I've learned this year is how much work is needed to take an idea and make it into a real event that runs without any hitches. So I will end by once again thanking all of our volunteers for the hard work they do behind the scenes and you, our members, who make it all worthwhile.

Following the elections at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 3rd July the LCA council consists of the following Trustees:

Mr Simon Ritchie - **Chairman**

Mr David Hanson - **Treasurer**

Mrs Jo Slater - **Company Secretary**

Mr James Falkner - **Utilities**

Mrs Irene Gawne - **Visits**

Mrs Kathryn Oakley - **Refreshments**

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER



Wednesday 2 September - Short Walk: Wotton Hatch to Friday Street

The meeting place for today's walk is the village hall car park at 10am behind the Wotton Hatch Pub. More details on page 37.



Saturday 5 September - LCA Coffee Morning

A great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones in the comfort of the Institute library. Everyone welcome from 10am - 12pm. Find out more page 31.



Wednesday 9 September - Long Walk: Newland's Corner/St Martha's Church

The meeting place for today's walk is the Newlands Corner Car park at 10am. More details on page 37.



Thursday 10 September - Knitting for Charity

In addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month in the library, the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday (10am - 12pm). See page 21.



Wednesday 16 September - LCA London Walk: History of Tea

This London visit was originally planned for June but was postponed due to the heatwave. Further details on page 27.



WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

Friday 18 September - Heritage Talk: Behind the headlines with Faye Barker

ITV News Presenter and Reporter Faye Barker will be providing a behind the scenes insight into broadcast journalism over the decades. Find out more on page 18.



Sunday 20 September - Grade II listed Stansted Park Estate

Join Road Trippers as they visit this 1,800 acre park which boasts a fine stately home. Pre-booking required, see page 14.



Thursday 24 September - The Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall at 7.30pm

Pre-booking is required for this external concert visit. Please see page 26 to find out more.



Friday 25 September - Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am - 12pm

Please join us for our annual coffee morning in the Kirby Library, as we enjoy the cake, and help fundraise along the way. Further info page 22.



Fundraising for
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Saturday 26 September - Music at the Institute: Ellen Baumring-Gledhill (cello) and Dafydd Chapman (piano) 7.30pm

Our next classical performance in the Abraham Dixon Hall. Find out more on page 24.



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER



Friday 2 October - Art History: Claude Monet Centenary - along the Seine from Paris to Normandy by Anne Anderson

Tickets available on the door or via the LCA website. Find out more on page 32.



Friday 2 October - Music at the Institute : Kate Plumtree

Kate is a singer, guitarist and songwriter and is usually seen busking on local high streets. See page 24 for details.



Saturday 3 October - LCA coffee morning

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



Wednesday 7 October Short Walk - Gatton Park, Reigate

The meeting point this morning is Reigate Hill car park café at 10am. To find out more see page 38.



Thursday 8 October - Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 22 October)

In addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month in the library the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday (10am - 12pm). See page 21.



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER



Friday 9 October - Art History: Leonardo - Drawing Thought by Ronnie Ireland

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 33.



Wednesday 14 October - Long Walk - Ockley/Forest Green

The meeting point today is the car park by the cricket club pavilion at the south end of the village green. More details on page 38.



Friday 16 October - Art History: Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant by Jessica Saraga

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit 33.



Friday 16 October - Road Trippers coach visit to the D-Day Story and Gunwharf Quay

The trip will begin with Portsmouth's audio-visual presentation on The D-DAY Story plus a visit to the shops and eateries of Gunwharf Quay. Find out more on page 14.



Friday 23 October - Nuances of Night Time by Tammy Ellis

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 34.



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER



Sunday 1 November - The Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall

Pre-booking is required for this external concert visit. Please see page 26 to find out more.

Wednesday 4 November Short Walk - Denbies Circular

The meeting point is the area of car park near the farm shop. Find out more on page 39.



Friday 6 November - Grayson Perry by Ian Swankie

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 34.



Saturday 7 November - coffee morning and card making

Find out more by visiting page 31.

Saturday 7 November - Music at the Institute: Luke Edney

Luke is a Surrey born-and-bred artist fusing rock, blues, soul and country influences into his own unique style. See page 25 for details.



Wednesday 11 November - Long Walk Richmond Park

The meeting point is inside Richmond Park at the Pembroke Lodge car park at 10am. To find out more visit page 39.

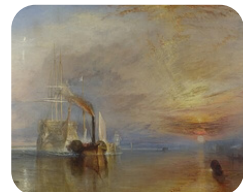


Thursday 12 November - Knitting for Charity

In addition to meeting on the second Thursday of the month in the library, the group also have a 'drop in' on the fourth Thursday (10am - 12pm). See page 21.

Friday 13 November - Mr Turner & Mr Constable: A Tale of Two Temperaments by Ronnie Ireland

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 36.



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER



Wednesday 18 November - Tour of the Natural History Museum

Tickets are subject to availability. Please visit 27 to find out more.



Friday 20 November - Art History: Finlandia - the art and architecture of Helsinki by Anne Anderson

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 35.



Friday 27 November - Art History: Empowered or Imprisoned? Women in Portraiture by Tammy Ellis

To find out more about the Autumn line up of Art History lectures please visit page 35.



Friday 27 November - Music at the Institute: Don't Look Now

Don't Look Now are a four piece Indie Pop/Rock band from East Berkshire playing Rock 'n' Roll, Pop & Soul from 60's right up to modern stuff. See page 25 for details.



Saturday 28 November - Enid Blyton Documentary Film morning in the library

A documentary film about author Enid Blyton who spent a period of time living in neighbouring Chessington. Visit page 27.



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER



Wednesday 2 December - Short Walk Leith Hill

The meeting place for today's walk is the big south car park on Abinger Lane. See page 40 to find out more.



Friday 4 December - The Christmas Candle at 2pm

Our first Christmas event of 2026! The film will show on the big screen in the Abraham Dixon Hall. See page 29.



Saturday 5 December - Christmas Coffee Morning

Hot drinks and mince pies around the Christmas Tree in the Kirby library. Everyone is welcome from 10am - 12pm. See page 31 to find out more details.



Saturday 5 December - Vivo Christmas Show

We are delighted to welcome Vivo back to the Abraham Dixon Hall stage this December. See page 29.



Sunday 6 December - Road Trippers - Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival

See page 15 to find out more details.



£38.00pp

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER



Wednesday 9 December - Long Walk Downside/Cobham

The meeting place today is Downside Village Green at 10am opposite the cricket pavilion. See page 40.



Wednesday 9 December - Leatherhead Orchestra Christmas Concert

A free community concert in the Abraham Dixon Hall. See page 29.



Thursday 10 December - Knitting for Charity

The knitters meet on the second Thursday of the month. See page 21 to find out more details.



Friday 11 December - Christmas Talk: The Amazing World of Magic by John Field

Come along and enjoy this entertaining talk by John Field, an Associate Member of the Inner Magic Circle. There will also be practical demonstrations followed by tea and mince pies at the end. Visit page 28 to find out more.



Road Trippers Coach Visits



Grade II listed Stansted Park Estate on Sunday 20 September

£50.00pp - 12 spaces available

This gem is set in a 1,800 acre park and boasts a fine stately home including servants' quarters, a private chapel, Victorian walled garden, wonderful conservatory tea room, garden centre and farm shop.



Sunday
20th
Sept

£50.00pp

You can find out more, or book your seats, by contacting the **LCA office on**
lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Please book early as the closing date for bookings is four weeks before the date of the trip. Any unsold tickets are returned to Road Trippers for passengers on their waiting lists.

The D-Day Story and Gunwharf Quay on Friday 16 October

£52.00pp - 12 spaces available

Portsmouth's The D-Day Story is our first stop to discover personal accounts of the Normandy landings, brought to life through audio-visual presentations. Then, stepping forward in time, we head to the eateries and shops of Gunwharf Quay.



Friday
16th
Oct

£52.00pp

You can find out more, or book your seats, by contacting the **LCA office on**
lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk
Please book early as the closing date for bookings is four weeks before the date of the trip. Any unsold tickets are returned to Road Trippers for passengers on their waiting lists.

Stratford-Upon-Avon Christmas Market on Saturday 28 November **£40pp - 12 spaces available**

A market town with over 800 years of history, Stratford-Upon-Avon is one of our favourite spots. Explore the Christmas market and discover atmospheric streets full of shops, restaurants and attractions.



Saturday
28th
Nov

£40.00pp

You can find out more, or book your seats, by contacting the **LCA office on**
lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Please book early as the closing date for bookings is four weeks before the date of the trip. Any unsold tickets are returned to Road Trippers for passengers on their waiting lists.

Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival on Sunday 6 December **£38pp - 12 spaces available**

Alongside a christmas market of over 100 stalls, the Dickensian Festival features parades and characters from the novels of Charles Dickens.

Sunday
6th
Dec



£38.00pp

You can find out more, or book your seats, by contacting the **LCA office on**
lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Please book early as the closing date for bookings is four weeks before the date of the trip. Any unsold tickets are returned to Road Trippers for passengers on their waiting lists.



Welcome to England's largest FREE festival of history and culture!
Throughout Mole Valley - 11 - 20 September.

This year the theme is 'Everyday Histories - Exploring daily working lives through the ages'. We have lots of events taking place during this time including a talk by ITV News Broadcaster Faye Barker. See page 18.

WHAT'S ON AT THE INSTITUTE

Lisa Allen Dance and Arts

Saturday 12 September: various times

Lisa Allen Dance & Arts (LADA) 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. **Contact: info@ladadancearts.co.uk**



Leatherhead Art Club

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September

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.

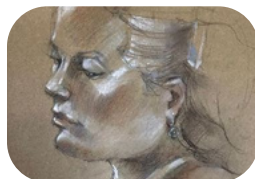
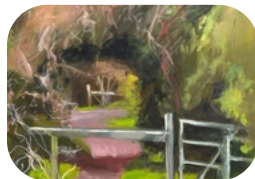
leatherheadartclub.com

Surrey Figurative Artists

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September

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, unframed work, and greetings cards.

surreyfigurativeartists.co.uk



SING AND SIGN

THURSDAY 17 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, action songs and familiar melodies to help stimulate language development in babies.

Advance booking required via email
melissaholt@singandsign.co.uk



Introducing Heritage Open Day speaker Faye Barker

Friday 18 September - 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Abraham Dixon Hall

Join ITV News Presenter and Reporter Faye Barker for a behind the scenes insight into broadcast journalism over the decades. With 30 years' experience in TV news, Faye will bring exclusive insights into how newsrooms operate, and how journalists are adapting to a world where people get their news from various parts of the digital landscape, not just traditional TV, radio and newspapers.

As well as reflecting on her own career - from a news assistant on a cable TV channel to a mainstream presenter and reporter - she will bring insights into the foundations of TV news, and how it all started, more than 70 years ago. Audience members will also get to hear some behind the scenes stories and be able to ask questions for a truly interactive experience.

FREE tickets are available now for our Heritage Talk presented by Faye Barker. Please visit the LCA website to book or use the QR code on page 19.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Meredith on lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk





heritage open days

BEHIND THE HEADLINES WITH FAYE BARKER



*ITV news
broadcaster*

**FAYE
BARKER**

*Supported by
the Kirby Bequest*

Letherhead Institute, Abraham Dixon Hall

SEPTEMBER

18th

7.30PM

doors open 7pm

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT MUST BE PREBOOKED

Please email LCA1@leatherheadca.org.uk to
book your free seats or scan the QR code

LCA Drawing Class with professional artist Claire Harrison, returns this Autumn, starting in October for six weeks

Fundamental Drawing Skills & Techniques

A course for all abilities covering new and interesting subjects not yet featured in the previous courses. A great opportunity for beginners or existing students wishing to further develop their skills.

A materials list will be provided before the course begins on Thursday 8 October. There will be three consecutive classes, followed by a half term break w/c Monday 26 October., and the final class is on Thursday 19 November.



The course fee will be £120 (£20 per class) but commitment is needed for all six classes to secure a space (12 places available).

It may be possible to book ad-hoc dates, subject to availability, nearer to the start date. Please book online via the LCA website or contact Meredith in the office for more details via lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk

Knitting for Charity

Fran Fleming

The Poppy Project: The group have been busily knitting poppies for a garland which will be displayed on the fireplace in the Kirby Room in November.

The knitting group continues to thrive, there are knitters of all levels, do come along and join this friendly group. Most items are forwarded via our list of charities where they are very gratefully received or if you prefer come along with your own project or knitting dilemma!

Contact Meredith in the office for further information or email lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk



Card and Bookmark Making Workshop

Saturday 7 November

G6 - opposite the November coffee morning

£10 per person



What can be better than receiving a card that someone has taken the time to make especially for you? Why not give yourself or a friend a homemade bookmark. Materials to make 3 cards and 3 bookmarks will be provided including pens, pencils, sequins, hole punches and embossing tools will be available.

Additional materials will be available to purchase. Proceeds from the event will go to local charity Combat Stress. Further details and advertising to follow closer to the date.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 25 September

10am to 12pm

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 brought) are very welcome.

Please drop off the day before if possible, so we can plan expected quantities, and buy any additional items required.

Strum and Sing classes starting in September

Debbie Edge

This new Thursday morning group is aimed at absolute beginners who would be interested in learning to play the guitar to accompany their singing in a fun and informal setting. You do not need to be able to read music as you would be learning chord patterns for strumming and some finger picking as you progress.

You will need to have your own guitar but song sheets with chords would be provided. It is strongly advisable to start in September as this is a progressive course starting with basics, then building on skills as you go through the year. So if you think this is for you, bring your enthusiasm, your singing voice and, of course, your guitar! Please contact Meredith on

lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk to find out more.



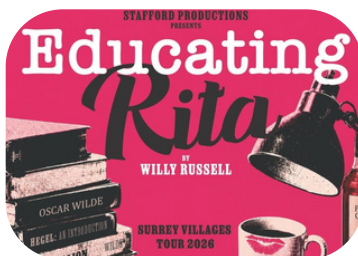
‘Educating Rita’ play comes to Leatherhead and our very own Abraham Dixon Hall

The 1980s classic play *Educating Rita* is coming to Leatherhead this September. Don’t miss an exciting opportunity to see Willy Russell’s bittersweet comedy. The Stafford Productions Team, who also stage the wonderful *Santa’s Sitting Room* experience at the Institute, are now branching out into live theatre, bringing high quality drama to the towns and villages of Surrey at affordable prices. A great opportunity for a night out with friends or family this autumn.

Their debut production, *Educating Rita*, will take audiences back to the 1980s, an unforgettable decade defined by its changing politics, economy, fashions and music. The play explores the poignant, funny, and unlikely relationship between working-class Liverpool hairdresser, Rita, and jaded university professor Frank. Both are looking for a way out from lives that, in different ways, inhibit them. Through their relationship, and the transformative power of education, they begin a process of self-discovery that may eventually set them free.

**Tickets cost £14 online, or £15 on the door, subject to availability.
Friday 11, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September at 7.30pm
(doors open 7pm).**

**For tickets and information, visit:
<https://www.ticketsource.com/staffordproductions>**



Music at the Institute

To book visit [leatherheadca.org.uk](https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk)



Ellen Baumring-Gledhill
and Dafydd Chapman
Saturday 26 September
7.30pm (doors 7pm)

The Leatherhead Community
Association presents an evening of
music from Ellen Baumring-Gledhill
(cello) and Dafydd Chapman (piano).



Tickets for members of the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) or Music on Thursdays (MoT) booked in advance are **£13** up to the 12 September, **£15** after that.

Tickets for non-members booked in advance are **£15** up to the 12 September, **£17** after that.

Concessions: people in receipt of means-tested benefits and young people (under 26 years) **£5** if booked in advance.

All tickets bought on the day and at the door are **£19**.

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/ellenanddafydd>

Kate Plumtree - singer and guitarist

Friday 2 October

7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Kate Plumtree is a dynamic singer/guitarist,
performing popular rock and pop classics from all
eras as well as her own material.



Tickets for members of the LCA booked in advance are £7 up to the 18 September, £9 after that.

Tickets for non-members booked in advance are £9 up to the 18 September, £11 after that.

Concessions: people in receipt of means-tested benefits and young people (under 26 years) £5 if booked in advance.

All tickets bought on the day and at the door are £15.

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/plumtree>

Music at the Institute
To book visit leatherheadca.org.uk



Luke Edney

Saturday 7 November

7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Luke is a Surrey born-and-bred artist fusing rock, blues, soul and country influences into his own unique style.



Tickets for members of the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) booked in advance are **£13** up to the 12th September, **£15** after that. Tickets for non-members booked in advance are **£15** up to the 12th September, **£17** after that.

Concessions: people in receipt of means-tested benefits and young people (under 26 years) **£5** if booked in advance.

All tickets bought on the day and at the door are **£19**.

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/edney>

Don't Look Now

Friday 27 November

7.30pm (doors 7pm)



Don't Look Now are a four piece Indie Pop/Rock band from East Berkshire playing Rock 'n' Roll, Pop & Soul from 60's right up to modern stuff.

Tickets for members of the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) booked in advance are **£13** up to the 13th November, **£15** after that. Tickets for non-members booked in advance are **£15** up to the 13th November, **£17** after that.

Concessions: people in receipt of means-tested benefits and young people (under 26 years) **£5** if booked in advance.

All tickets bought on the day and at the door are **£19**.

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/dontlooknow>

Vivo Christmas Show

Saturday 5 December

7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Vivo is a vibrant *a cappella* ensemble, blending rich musical harmonies and entertaining audiences across the South East.



Tickets for members of the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) or Music on Thursdays (MoT) booked in advance are **£13** up to the 21st November, **£15** after that.

Tickets for non-members booked in advance are **£15** up to the 21st November, **£17** after that.

Concessions: people in receipt of means-tested benefits and young people (under 26 years) **£5** if booked in advance.

All tickets bought on the day and at the door are **£19**.

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/vivochristmas>

External concerts at the Royal Festival Hall

David Hanson

Thursday 24 September at 7.30 pm

The Philharmonia Orchestra

Conductor Santu-Matias Rouvali

Cellist Sol Gabetta

Brahms Academic Festival Overture

Elgar Cello Concerto

Dvorak Symphony No 9, 'From the New World'



Ticket price £21

Sunday 1 November at 3.30 pm

The Philharmonia Orchestra Smetana

Conductor Jakub Hrůša Mendelssohn

Violinist Nicola Benedetti Schumann

Ticket price £25

Overture, The Two Widows

Violin Concerto

Symphony No 3, 'Rhenish'

Bookings will be made for one or two concerts at The Menuhin Hall as soon as their autumn programme is published.

Visits with Independent Travel

Irene Gawne

EMPIRE IN A CUP - A HISTORY OF TEA

New date - Wednesday 16 September at 11.30am

This trip was rescheduled due to the summer heatwave - fully booked.



Whitehall Dissected - London Walk

New date - Wednesday 21 October at 11.30am

This trip was rescheduled due to the summer heatwave - fully booked.



Natural History Museum Tour

Wednesday November 18 at 11.30am

This fascinating tour will be led by scientist Dr Stephen King who knows the museum exceptionally well. Most visitors just see the dinosaurs, but this walk shows you all the interesting things that they miss!

£20 per member (20 places available)

Booking open 1 October

Booking closes 13 November



Films & Documentaries this Autumn

Meredith Shiers

Halloween Family Film and crafts -

Saturday 31 October 3pm - 5pm

Spooky stories from the Scared Shrekless series will be playing in the library with crafts in G6.



Documentary film about Enid Blyton - 'Enid'

Saturday 28 November - Kirby Library 11am

A documentary film about author Enid Blyton who spent a period of time living in neighbouring Chessington.



Christmas Events

Santa's Sitting Room

The traditional Victorian style grotto is returning to the Kirby library from Saturday 12 to Thursday 24 December. Bookings open from the end of August.
<https://santasittingroom.littleboxoffice.com>



The Christmas Candle - Friday 4 December

Friday 4th December - Abraham Dixon Hall 2pm

Set in 1890, at the dawn of the electric age, and just before the Institute was built! The movie centres on life in a village in the English countryside. Find out more on page 29.



Christmas Coffee Morning - Saturday 5 December

Our regular coffee morning with a festive twist. Hot drinks and mince pies served between 10am - 12pm.



Christmas Friday Talk on Magic - Friday 11 December

The Amazing World of Magic by John Field

John is an Associate Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star, one of the highest degrees in the Magic Circle.

Come along and enjoy this entertaining talk, with a practical demonstration and perhaps a trick you can use at your Christmas lunch!

Tea and mince pies will be served at the end of the talk.

Friday Talks: 50-60 minutes

Tickets £4 in advance

£5 on the day

Includes refreshments

Non members welcome



Christmas Concerts & Festive Film

Vivo Christmas Show

Saturday 5 December

We are delighted to welcome Vivo back to the Abraham Dixon Hall stage this December. Vivo is a vibrant *a cappella* ensemble, blending rich musical harmonies and entertaining audiences across the South East. With a diverse and engaging repertoire spanning folk, pop, rock, gospel, medieval and madrigal pieces, the group brings both versatility and energy to their performance. This evening they will perform their special Christmas set.

Tickets available via the LCA website. You can also email lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk to find out more or see page 26.



Leatherhead Orchestra Candlelit Christmas Concert

Wednesday 9 December

This free concert will be held in the Abraham Dixon Hall and will include traditional sing-along carols plus an interactive 'name that film tune' second half. Plus refreshments. 8pm (doors 7.30pm).

Please contact: lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk to book your free seat.



The Christmas Candle

Friday 4 December - Abraham Dixon Hall 2pm

Set in 1890, at the dawn of the electric age, the movie centres on a village in the English countryside. Town legend has it that every 25 years an angel grants a miracle to the villager who finds themselves with the so-called 'Christmas Candle'. **Please contact:**

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



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Weekly Groups

SOCIAL SEWING

Ruth Bates, Moira Dyson and Wendy Hall



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.

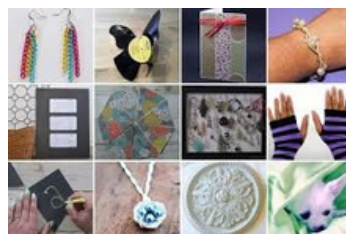
Whatever your sewing project, you are most welcome to join us. The group's interests include dressmaking, embroidery, quilting, bag making, cushions and soft furnishings, tapestry, hand sewing and more.

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. Beginners are welcome so do come and give us a try!

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

STRUM AND SING FOR BEGINNERS

Debbie Edge

We have a new beginners' guitar group starting this September. The Thursday morning group is aimed at absolute beginners who are interested in learning chord patterns, and some finger picking as you progress, to accompany their singing in a small group setting. The classes will not involve reading music. Dates/time TBC.

A very big thank you to Terry Parfett for running the classical guitar classes for the past few years. Terry has decided to step back from music teaching, to focus more time on his other retirement plans, whilst staying in touch as an LCA member.



Monthly Groups

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

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 midday. The lending library will be available for members and application forms on hand for any newcomers who would like to join the LCA.

5 September
3 October
7 November
5 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:

3 September
1 October
5 November
3 December 31

ART HISTORY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Vivien Pepino and Dorothy Stapleton

To book please contact Meredith at lca1@leatherheadca.org.uk, or via the LCA office weekday mornings, you can also book online via leatherheadca.org.uk

£8.50 for each talk or £55 for all eight

2 October - Claude Monet Centenary by Anne Anderson

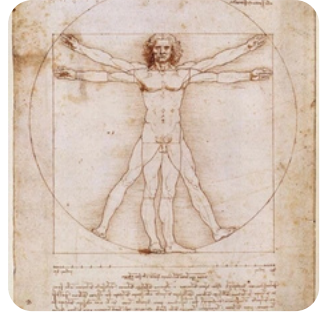
Living in the Parisian suburbs, firstly at Argenteuil and then Vetheuil, Monet would return to Normandy to paint over the summer months. A favourite spot was Etretat, a fishing village and resort on the Normandy coast. In 1883 Monet painted twenty views of the extraordinary cliff formations: the Porte d'Aval, the Porte d'Amont, and the Manneporte. During the same year Monet discovered Giverny, where he lived and painted for 43 years. Able to purchase the property in 1890, he began to develop the gardens creating the Japanese pond, with its iconic bridge, a motif that came to dominate his later paintings. His famous series, the Haystacks, Poplars and Rouen Cathedral were all painted in Normandy during the 1890s. While the young Monet experimented with painting directly from nature, the mature artist tried to catch both light and atmosphere by painting the same motif at dawn through to dusk.



ART HISTORY WITH A DIFFERENCE

9 October - Leonardo: Drawing Thought by Ronnie Ireland

Often cited as the epitome of wide ranging genius. Leonardo was fascinated by many aspects of the world around him. The beautiful, the ugly, the unique, water, flight, the human body are some of the obsessions. Drawing was central to his singular mind. He used it to observe, understand and develop the subjects that caught his powerful imagination.



16 October - Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant by Jessica Saraga

This lecture anticipates an exhibition showcasing the art of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant that will open at the Tate Britain in November. Key to literary and artistic circle celebrated as the Bloomsbury Group, the two artists were inspired by the London post-impressionist exhibitions organised by their close friend Roger Fry, and were in the vanguard of British responses to Cubism and other modernist European movements. Their creative partnership lasted throughout their artistic lives, centring on Charleston, the Sussex house they shared. Charleston became a focus for their commitment to fresh approaches, experimentation and creating beauty in all areas of life through art and design.

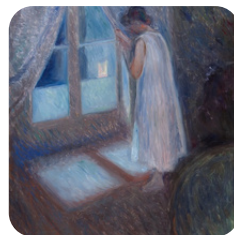


ART HISTORY WITH A DIFFERENCE

23 October - Nuances of Night Time

by Tammy Ellis

For many artists, the ethereal nature of nightfall provides the perfect scene for the atmosphere they are trying to create. Artists such as Whistler, Munch, Bellows, Van Gogh, Paula Rego and many more found themselves drawn to this time of day. We shall also consider some nighttime photography alongside the paintings featured.



30 October - Half Term - no lecture

5 November - Grayson Perry by Ian Swankie

Widely known for his outlandish appearances dressed as his feminine alter ego, Claire, Grayson Perry is now a core part of the art establishment. A Turner Prize winner, Royal Academician, popular broadcaster and colourful character, he's possibly one of the world's best known contemporary artists. His works of ceramics, textiles, tapestries and prints are highly sought after. Often controversial, he tackles difficult subjects in a poignant yet witty way and holds a mirror up to society. This talk will examine Grayson Perry's work, his exciting and thought-provoking exhibitions, and the unique character inside the flamboyant frocks.



13 November - Mr Turner and Mr Constable: A Tale of Two Temperaments by Ronnie Ireland

Two giants of 19th century painting; two geniuses; two very different people and very different artists although though they were both inspired by Nature and trying to interpret its mysteries. Their significance was underlined by the recent large scale exhibition at Tate Britain.



ART HISTORY WITH A DIFFERENCE

20 November - Finlandia: the art and architecture of Helsinki

by Anne Anderson

Visitors to Helsinki inevitably head to Senate Square to admire a unified ensemble of Neoclassical buildings created by Carl Ludvig Engel: the Lutheran Cathedral, Government Palace, University of Helsinki and National Library of Finland. The centre of the square is dominated by a statue to Czar Alexander II who envisioned a stylish modern capital along the lines of St. Petersburg. A grand duchy of the Russian Empire, until December 1917, Finland suffered Russification, an attempt, through the suppression of language and customs, of national identity. In response local architects developed a National Romantic style that expressed the unique spirit of the North. Dating to the turn of the 20th century, these buildings are also classified as Jugendstil, a northern manifestation of Art Nouveau. The fantastic Pohjola Insurance Building (1901) resembles a gigantic castle. The building is amusingly covered with dangerous beasts - wolves, bears and trolls - that it would be wise to insure against!



27 November - Empowered or Imprisoned?

Women in Portraits by Tammy Ellis

This lecture will consider portraits of women by artists as diverse as Da Vinci, Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt and Picasso as well as self-portraits by women artists. We will then consider whether these portraits have 'empowered' the sitters or whether the images created are both problematic and negative as far as the subjects are concerned - thereby 'imprisoning' them.



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.

INTRODUCTION

We are continuing our regular monthly walks on the first and second Wednesday of each month through countryside, riverside, and 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.

All 2026 walks will commence at 10am from the specified meeting point. Lifts are often available. Telephone the WALK LEADER if you want one, or if you have any queries. Non-members welcome
Courtesy calls, to tell the leader beforehand that you are coming, are very helpful

September - Short Walk

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Wotton Hatch to Friday Street

Meet at the village hall car park, behind the Wotton Hatch pub, on the A25, 1 mile west of Westcott. Circular woodland and field walk alongside the brook up to the beautiful lake at Friday Street. Refreshments at the Wotton Hatch pub.



Leader: Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

September - Long Walk

WEDNESDAY 9 September

Newlands Corner/St Martha's Church

A lovely circular walk of 4 miles (give or take) through fields and woodland with nice views from Newlands Corner and St Martha's Church. Descending into the valley and then climbing up to St Martha's Church, dropping down again into the valley before climbing back up to Newlands Corner to take in the views. Hills but no stiles.

Lunch at the Plucky Pheasant café on the opposite side of the A25. Meet at Newlands Corner car park, off the A25, about 1 mile south of the Clandon Cross Roads traffic lights.



Leader: Michael Davies 01372 459031

October Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER
Gatton Park, Reigate

Gatton Park, Reigate, formerly and infamous “Rotten Borough”. The site was landscaped by Capability Brown. Meet at Reigate Hill car park café. This is the top car park, near the brow of the hill, close to the intersection with the A217. Winter woodland and field walk, about 4 miles long, with wonderful views, especially of the lakes. Modest walking, with slack gradients. Good footwear needed. Teas and toilets at the car park café.



Leader: Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

October Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER
Ockley Forest Green

Meet at the car park by the cricket club pavillion at the south end of the extensive village green, on the west side of the A27. It is near the school, in the centre of Ockley village. A simple circular walk through woods and fields, passing several interesting historic farms (and pheasants), with lovely views of the North Downs. Lunch at the Parrot Inn, Forest Green.

Leader: Peter Humprey's 01372 378347



November Short Walk
WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER
Denbies Circular

Circular walk round Denbies Vineyard. Meet at the car park on the left of the path to the main building close to the farm shop. This is a lovely walk with panoramic views of the South Downs and Dorking. There are no stiles but one or two modest climbs. Generally an easy walk. Refreshments at Denbies café.

Leader: Irene Gawne 07906 363729



November Long Walk
WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER
Richmond Park

Meet inside Richmond Park, at Pembroke Lodge car park. It is free of charge, on the west side of the park, about 1 mile from Petersham and the Richmond Hill gates. It has amenities. Simple circular walk through the park and woods, without stiles. Deer are numerous. Refreshments at Pembroke Lodge, with marvellous views of the River Thames.

Leader: Peter Humphreys 01372 378347



December Short Walk

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER

Leith Hill

A modest woodland walk with easy gradients and no stiles. About 3 miles long. Fabulous views of the Weald and Downs. Meet at the big south car park on Abinger Lane, about 0.5m from Leith Hill Place. Largely sandy ground but be prepared for muddy areas. Teas at the Tower.



Leader: Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

December Long Walk

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

Downside, Cobham

Meet at the Downside Village Green, approx 1.5 miles south from Cobham on the road to Effingham. Meet opposite the cricket pavillion. On-street parking is free alongside the green or use the car park of the Cricketers Inn.



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 River Mole.



Leader: Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

Fundamental Skills & Techniques

Sign Up
TODAY

Core Drawing Course

With Claire Harrison FRSA, International Fine Artist

A 6 week Course For All Abilities With a Calm, Friendly Atmosphere

**Draw with
Confidence
this Autumn**

Thursdays 2-4pm
Starting in October
2026 at the
Leatherhead Institute

No prior experience need & no
subjects repeated from
previous courses



Discover how to use the humble pencil to bring depth and life to your drawings, develop your understanding of shading, proportion, and texture.



Book Now

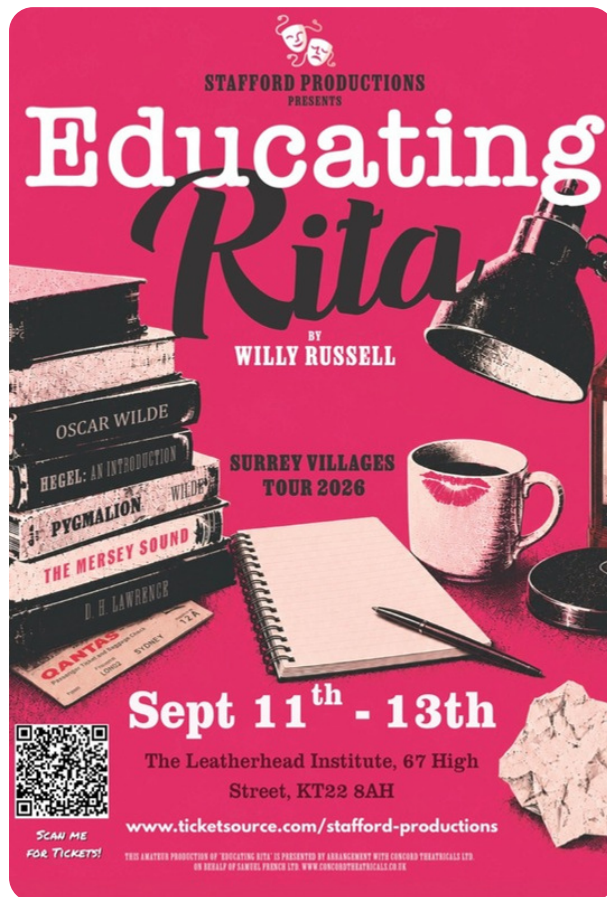
Contact LCA on

01372 360 508

lcal@leatherheadca.org.uk



Course fee: six classes for £120



Hedgehog found during groundworks in the LCA carpark

In July the Victorian drainage system beneath the Institute car park underwent some much needed modernisation. During the excavation works and unexpected visitor was found in one of the trenches! The hedgehog was thankfully unharmed and was relocated to nearby woodland.



And finally...



From The Times Archive July 1926 - 'The Parochial Church Council of Leatherhead has adopted this week the popular spelling of the town's name in the place of the spelling "Letherhead", which the church almost alone has maintained for over a century. The spelling "Leatherhead" has been used by the local authorities, the post office, the railway and the general public, and the Rev GHB Coleridge, who was instituted as vicar of Leatherhead recently, told the Parochial Church Council that he considered the maintenance of the old spelling was pedantic and created the impression that the church held itself aloof from people outside. Some protests were raised by old residents, but the resolution to adopt the popular spelling was carried by a large majority. The first known spelling of the name is Leodride, at which it is recorded as a bequest from King Alfred to his son Edward. In the Domesday Book the name is Leret. Later names have been Lered, Ledred and Ledered'.



ACTIVITIES FROM OUR HIRERS

Listed below are just some of the hirers who have activities planned for the Autumn and Winter 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 (9 December 8pm). For more information, contact membership@leatherheadorchestra.co.uk

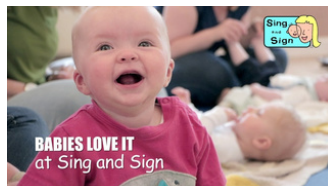


Thursday

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 email jarrett238@btinternet.com**

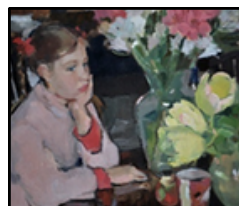


Friday

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** or look at the LCA noticeboard for the latest event poster.

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 1.5-18 years. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced dancer visit **ladancearts.co.uk** for further info.

Sunday

The **Disciples Church** meet weekly in the Abraham Dixon Hall for their services including activities for all ages. Please visit their website for further details **disciplechurch.co.uk** or drop in to worship.



DIARY DATES

SEP	EVENT	PAGE
2	Short Walk - Wotton Hatch to Friday Street	37
5	LCA Coffee Morning in the Kirby Library	6
9	Long Walk - Newlands Corner/St Martha's Church	37
10	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 23 Sep)	21
16	LCA London Walk - Empire in a Cup: History of Tea	27
18	Heritage Talk - Behind the headlines with Faye Barker	18
20	Road Trippers - coach trip to Stansted Park Estate	14
24	The Philharmonia Orchestra - Royal Festival Hall	26
25	Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Kirby Library	22
26	Music at the Institute - Ellen Baumring-Gledhill & Daffyd Chapman	24
OCT	EVENT	PAGE
Friday 2pm	Art History Talks in October - 2, 9, 18 & 23 (not 30)	32
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8	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 22 October)	21
14	Long Walk - Ockley, Forest Green	38
16	Road Trippers - The D-Day Story & Gunwharf Quay	14
21	LCA London Walk - Whitehall Disected	27

NOV	EVENT	PAGE
Friday 2pm	Art History talks in November - 6, 13, 20 & 27	32
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7	Music at the Institute - Luke Edney	25
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12	Knitting for Charity (informal meeting 26 Nov)	21
18	Guided tour of the Natural History Museum	27
27	Music at the Institute - Don't Look Now	25
28	Road Trippers - Stratford-Upon-Avon Christmas Market	14
28	Enid Blyton documetary film morning in the library	27
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5	Festive Coffee Morning in the Kirby Library	28
5	Music at the Institute - Vivo Christmas Show	29
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9	Long Walk - Downside, Cobham	40
9	Leatherhead Orchestra Christmas Concert	29
10	Knitting for Charity (no second meeting this month)	21
11	Christmas Talk - The Amazing World of Magic	28

Music at the Institute this Autumn introducing:

Ellen Baumring-Gledhill and Daffyd Chapman

Saturday 26 September 7.30pm

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/>



Kate Plumtree

Friday 2 October 7.30pm

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/plumtree>



Luke Edney

Saturday 7 November 7.30pm

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/edney>



Don't Look Now

Friday 27 November 7.30pm

<https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/dontlooknow>

Vivo

Saturday 5 December 7.30pm

[https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/](https://www.leatherheadca.org.uk/events/vivo)

vivo



Copy Deadline

Issue 211 - January, February, March, April 2027

Copy 6 November 2026

Publication week commencing 7 December 2027
(earlier dates due to staff holidays)

Issue 212 - May, June, July, August 2027

Copy 5 March 2027

Publication week commencing 5 April 2027