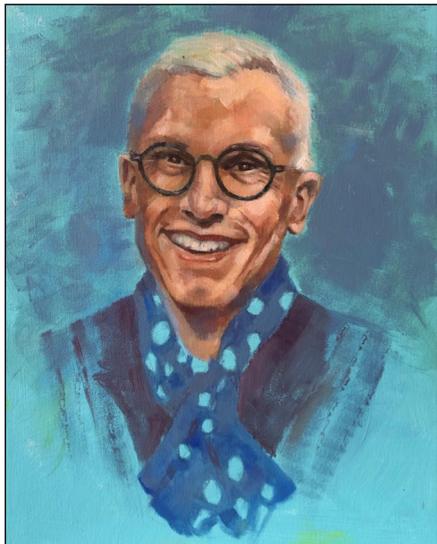


LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER NO 201

September, October,
November and December 2023

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, Amy Rieley: LCA1@leatherheadca.org.uk

LCA Administrator: LCA2@leatherheadca.org.uk

LCA Chairman, Fran Fleming: LCAChair@leatherheadca.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

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

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Cover images clockwise from top left– Mark Hill by Gay Carlisle- Heritage Open Days (pg 14-17), Macmillan Coffee Morning (pg 18), Christmas at the LCA (pg 27 and 35), Recorded music group (pg 8 Image © Catbird Seat).

CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT

Following some difficult times, experienced by us all, this year the Leatherhead Community Association has seen an upturn in both our finances and the opportunity to offer a full programme to our membership.

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

Amy (Coordinator) and Ruth (Administrator), our part-time employees, provide a very warm welcome to every visitor and are complimented for their help by hirers and members.

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

I am extremely grateful to your Trustees: Jo Slater as Company Secretary, James Faulkner for the unenviable task of tracking our utilities and Insurance, together with overseeing the library, Kathie Oakley for all refreshments, Simon Ritchie for website support, Lisbet Coulton for Health and Safety, Irene Gawne for the walks she arranges in London and locally which are very popular. In particular, I must mention David Hanson, our Treasurer. His attention to detail is renowned, his guidance on all treasury matters, invaluable.

I hope you enjoy each newsletter, published three times a year in April, August and December, either hand-delivered or via Mailchimp. Thank you to Amy, our editor.

This year as part of the Heritage Open Days programme, we will be hosting a talk by Mark Hill from the Antiques Roadshow, on Friday 15 September

entitled Undressing Antiques. To celebrate Mole Valley Arts Alive, a fascinating lecture entitled: A celebration of Ukrainian Heritage: Ilya Repin, by Cynthia Coleman Sparke, will be held in the Abraham Dixon Hall on Saturday 21 October. Many thanks to our President, June Robinson for organising these two lectures. Do look out for details of these events on pages 17 and 19.

Fran Fleming
Chairman

Following the elections at the Annual General Meeting on 7 July, Trustees forming the LCA Council are:

Mrs Fran Fleming	Chair	Mr James Falkner
Mr David Hanson	Treasurer	Mrs Irene Gawne
Mrs Jo Slater	Company Secretary	Mrs Kathie Oakley
Mrs Lisbet Coulton		Mr Simon Ritchie

LCA ADMINISTRATOR

Fran Fleming

Sadly, we say farewell to Ruth in mid September. We will all miss her cheery smile and attention to detail as part of the office team.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We would like to get some more volunteers for some specific role including:

Book keeping– Supporting the Treasurer, the book keeper would help with the day to day cashflow. Some experience would be helpful.

Proof reading – We would love to find another person to help proof read our newsletter before publication. This happens three times a year at the end of July, November and March.

Marketing– we have so many great events taking place. Can you help spread the word (and posters) about LCA events in the local community? If you think you can help, or know somebody who could, please get in touch with Amy in the office.

PAINSHILL PARK

Fran Fleming

On a perfect summer's day, 17 LCA members met at Painshill Park. Following a coffee, and each armed with a beautifully illustrated booklet, we began our tour with volunteer guides Norma and Claire.

Painshill has a chequered history. Charles Hamilton was the 14th child of the 6th Earl of Abercorn. Following two Grand Tours and with a vast collection of sculptures and paintings and a passion for gardens, Charles purchased Painshill in 1738. The vineyards he saw on the continent inspired his own vineyards and wine making. The vines were replanted in 1992 and now produce an award winning, sparkling wine. Charles created a circuit walk with a series of scenes continually changing and was a pioneering plantsman. Charles sold Painshill in 1772 to settle his mounting debts. Passing through many owners, by 1948 a wilderness had gradually covered Painshill.

As we wandered these beautiful grounds, with a constant view of the lake, admiring the Vineyard, Amphitheatre, Gothic Temple, Ruined Abbey, Chinese Bridge, Grotto, Temple of Bacchus and Turkish Tent (this was the shorter walk!) we could only admire the dedication of the Painshill Park Trust, formed in 1981, who are dedicated to researching and restoring the buildings and landscape.



A SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR

Martin Hogg

A Schoolgirl's War was a talk given by Mary Smith on Friday 7 July following the AGM. For many years, she was the Head Teacher at the Maidstone Girls Grammar School in Kent, and as the school was soon to celebrate its 130th anniversary, she decided to look into the school's history.

After much research, she found an account of how the school survived during the war years. With the exception of a few photographs, the entire talk was based on a scrapbook which the art teacher had compiled during this period. Numerous beautiful illustrations captured the classes continuing "underground" during bombing raids on London.

Since the school was directly under the flight path of enemy bombers, the school urgently dug air raid shelters in the school grounds to accommodate girls and staff when the sirens sounded. The shelters were a series of tunnels which were used for classes and meals alike.

When covering the history of Wartime Britain, today's school pupils are taken down to the tunnels to experience the emergency conditions for themselves, making a greater impression than any book could do.

Mary Smith explained that one of the most exciting achievements in her research was to track down about a dozen of the original pupils who actually remembered having their classes and meals in these tunnels. Many of them are now in their late eighties and nineties.

Her talk was given to an almost full house, and her teaching skills became obvious in the way she interacted with her audience. A good example was her first photograph of three girls perched on branches of an old apple tree. She then asked the audience to say what clue indicated that it was wartime – everyone had to look closely to discover that the clue was the gas masks hanging on nearby branches!

A copy of Mary's book can be found in the Kirby library.

REGULAR EVENTS

RECORDED MUSIC AFTERNOONS

Diana Carr

The group meets in the Kirby Library on the third Wednesday of the month between 2pm and 4pm. There will be a break mid afternoon for refreshments so why not come along and enjoy a friendly and relaxing afternoon. £2 per session

20 September– A Musical Journey

Music enjoyed by the presenter at various stages of his life from his youth to the present time

18 October– Musical Miscellany No. 2. Another selection from all genres of the musical scene

15 November– A Double Bill Voices– Welcome to the Opera and **Barbara’s Choice–** Music for a November afternoon

20 December– It’s Christmas. A selection of festive music chosen by our members.



BOOK CLUB

Kathy Bucknall

The book club meets in the Kirby Library on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. The Book club is currently full. If you are interested, please contact the office and it may be possible to arrange a second group.

Dates for the future are;

7 September

5 October

2 November

7 December



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.



CLASSICAL GUITAR 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!

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

Hilary Porter

The Kirby Library 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.

A selection of free health books will be available at each coffee morning

2 September

7 October

4 November

2 December



WALKS

Peter Humphreys



The walks take place on **Wednesday** morning at **10am** from the specified meeting place. They are designed to be gentle and jolly; at modest pace, with few stiles, and easy gradients.

The first walk of the month is a “short” walk; 3-4 miles, lasting about 2 hours. The second walk of the month is usually a “longer” walk; 4-6 miles incorporating a lunch or picnic break, but we usually adjourn for a snack after the short walks too.

Courtesy calls, to tell the leader beforehand that you are coming, are very helpful. Lifts are often available. Telephone the WALK LEADER if you want one, or if you have any queries.

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.

6 September– Short Walk Holmwood Common / North Holmwood

Autumnal woodland walk, with interesting streams, buildings and fine views.

Meet at Four Wents pond, east car park on Mill Lane at the south east corner of Holmwood Common. Turn left off the A24 dual carriageway on to Mill Lane towards Newdigate.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

13 September– Long walk

Chipstead, Banstead Downs

A fine chalk downland and parkland walk with many delightful views across Chipstead Bottom. Modest gradients; few stiles. Lunch/refreshments at the delightful Well House Inn near Munstead village.

Meet at the top of the rear car park of the Ramblers Rest Inn, near Banstead Downs public car park, on the B2032 near Chipstead railway station.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347



4 October– Short walk

Leigh Circular, nr Reigate

Easy field and woodland walk, with interesting buildings and fine trees. Often deer.

Meet at St Bartholomew's church, Leigh. The church is in the centre of the village, opposite The Plough. Take the A25 to Betchworth Roundabout. Turn right there and head through the village, passing the Dolphin Inn, towards Charlwood. Leigh is about 3 miles south of Betchworth. Meet at the church's lych gate as you can park nearby on-street.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

11 October– Long walk

Denbies, Dorking

Lovely walk through the vineyard, fields and woods round Denbies, with fine views of Box Hill and the North Downs. Mostly easy walking with one short steep incline into Bagden Woods. Lunch afterwards at Denbies.

Meet at Denbies Car Park, left hand side, just north of Dorking, by their Farm Shop (RH5 6AA)

Leader Irene Gawne 07906 363729



© Paula Funnell

1 November– Short Walk

Sheepleas

An unusually varied walk, through meadows, woodland and a tunnel.

Meet at Sheepleas north car park, behind St Mary's Church, West Horsley. Take the A243 Guildford Road to East Horsley, passing Thatchers Hotel. The church is on the left, almost opposite West Horsley Place.

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

8 November– Long Walk

Little London & Shere

This is a very attractive, fairly short circular walk, approximately 4 miles, across fields and woodland on the Albury estate. A few inclines. Lunch at the William IV Inn, Little London at the end of the walk.

Meet at the car park behind the William IV pub, in the centre of tiny Little London village, near Shere (GU5 9DG) This is about 1.5m south west of Shere. It is well signed along these minor roads.

Leader Michael Davies 01372 459031



© Matt Brown

6 December– Short Walk

Headley Heath and Village Circular

Headley Heath. Meet at the main heath car park, opposite the cricket green Circular heathland & field walk, via Tot Hill, the village shop, and strange back paths .

Leader Peter Humphreys 01372 378347

There is no long walk in December



Welcome to England's largest festival of history and culture!

Throughout Mole Valley - 8 to 17 September 2023

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to discover, learn about and celebrate our fantastic history and culture, all of which are **FREE** to explore. This year the theme is 'Creativity Unwrapped'.

Booklets with the full Mole Valley programme are available from the Institute or you can [click here for a digital copy](#)

WHAT'S ON AT THE INSTITUTE

HODs events are all free but advance booking may be required.

SING AND SIGN

Thursday 14 September
In the Larkin Room (G6)

Drawing on our rich cultural music heritage of traditional nursery rhymes and action songs, these sessions help



to stimulate language development in babies so they can learn to communicate those important first words. Advance booking required. Email melissaholt@singandsign.co.uk



UNDRESSING ANTIQUES BY MARK HILL

Friday 15 September 7.30pm
Abraham Dixon Hall

Mark Hill from Antiques Roadshow will be giving a talk on collecting and displaying antiques in the modern home. This talk has been supported by the Kirby Bequest. More details can be found on page 17.



CREATIVITY UNWRAPPED BY LEATHERHEAD ART CLUB

Friday 15 September 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday 16 September 10 am to 4 pm

In the Larkin Room (G6)

Members of Leatherhead Art Club will exhibit a colourful selection of their creative artwork in a wide range

creative artwork in a wide range of styles, all depicting scenes and subjects inspired by the beautiful Mole Valley.

Greetings cards will also be on sale and members of the club will be available for discussion and comment.

For further information contact Jenny Harris 07919 378976

LIBRARY OF ART - AN ART EXHIBITION BY SURREY FIGURATIVE ARTISTS

Friday 15 September 10am to 8.30pm

Saturday 16 September 10am to 4pm

In the Kirby Library (G7)

An exciting exhibition of creative artwork, in the unusual setting of Leatherhead Institute Lending Library. A for Art, C is for Cards, D for Drawing, O for Oil painting, and P for Printmaking!

A lively exhibition of paintings, drawings and original prints by Surrey Figurative Artists, a local group running for over 30 years, who meet regularly at The Institute. The exhibition will showcase a wide variety of their work, many for sale at prices to suit all pockets.



Members will giving demonstrations in painting and drawing throughout the exhibition and will be there to talk to you about the work, how it is created and for those of you who are budding artists...advice!

For further information please email: sue.smith191@btinternet.com

GERTRUDE JEKYLL– BEYOND THE BOOT AN EXHIBITION BY SURREY GARDENS TRUST

Friday 15 September 10am to 4pm

Saturday 16 September 10am to 4pm

In the Norbury Room (G5)

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) is known as a garden designer and writer of books and articles on horticulture but she was also highly accomplished in painting, interior design, photography and many other skills, and a collector of just about anything.



After her death Gertrude's nephew Francis Jekyll wrote a biography and this display is based on his Memoir. It follows her life as a child in Bramley, Surrey, where her curiosity about crafts and plants was nurtured by mixing with the local artisans and tending her own garden. At 17 she enrolled for two years at the School of Art in South Kensington. Initially she practiced interior design, creating elaborate schemes for the Duke of Westminster at Eaton Hall. The family moved to Wargrave in Berkshire but, after her father's death in 1876, returned to Munstead, Surrey where she remained for the rest of her life. In 1889 she met the young architect, Edwin Lutyens, from whence sprung a partnership that resulted in many grand houses and gardens still valued today. She was involved in some 400 garden commissions and supplied plants from her own nursery. She wrote 14 books and articles in journals such as Country Life. She is buried in Busbridge churchyard where her epitaph reads 'Artist, Gardener, Craftswoman'

CREATIVITY CLASS BY LISA ALLEN DANCE AND ARTS

Saturday 16 September 8.45 am to 3pm

In the Abraham Dixon Hall



Fun filled dance classes available in tap, musical theatre, ballet, modern and street. Our focus during the day will be allowing the children's creativity to sparkle. We will also be holding a creativity competition with winners receiving certificates and medals/trophies.



Friday, 15 September 7.30 pm
Abraham Dixon Hall,
Letherhead Institute.



UNDRESSING ANTIQUES

We welcome back Mark Hill, expert from the BBC's
Antiques Roadshow and Antiques Road Trip.



Mole Valley is a treasure trove of Antiques Centres. Mark will give a persuasive introduction to buying antiques and integrating and using them in today's homes. We'll consider different meanings of the word value, take a look at what current and future generations of collectors are buying and why and how they're buying and displaying it.

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT MUST BE PRE-BOOKED
[via Eventbrite](#) or LCA Office

Booking closes on 13 September, or before if fully booked

Scan me
for tickets





Every penny we raise means Macmillan can be right there for more people living with cancer.

Friday 29 September
10.00 to 12:30

Join us for our annual Macmillan Coffee morning in the Kirby Library.

Cake donations (home made or bought are very welcome!)

Cakes, cuppas and cash at the ready!

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

LCA event as part of Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival 2023



Saturday, 21 October at 11 am
Abraham Dixon Hall



A celebration of Ukrainian heritage:

Ilya Repin

with Cynthia Coleman Sparke

Ukrainian born Ilya Repin (1844-1930) trained at the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in St Petersburg but broke early on with its foreign-inspired classicism to form a new realist school that would reflect the lives of ordinary people. Repin returned regularly to his birthplace and made it his mission to portray what he witnessed. His surviving work forms an invaluable testament to the social and political changes around him.



Having grown up in a family of Russian art collectors, Cynthia Coleman Sparke was destined to work in that field. Her international upbringing and early exposure to Russian culture fed her interest in art history at Smith College (BA) and later at the Bard Graduate Centre (MA) in America. Cynthia currently works as an independent consultant, researcher and lecturer.

TICKETS - £5

**From Eventbrite online or LCA Office any
weekday morning**

Scan me
for tickets



ART LECTURES WITH A DIFFERENCE

Dorothy Stapleton and Vivien Pepino

BACK WITH NEW VOLUNTEERS

Held in the Abraham Dixon Hall on Fridays 2pm-4pm with a break for refreshments about 2.55pm. All lectures will commence at 2.00pm.

Individual lectures £7.50 each.

Block book all seven in advance via the office for £35.00

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

Booking forms are available from the Leatherhead Institute
or from the LCA website

6 October – *Botticelli*

Ronnie Ireland

Sandro Botticelli created some of the most memorable images in western art including “The Birth Of Venus” and “La Primavera”. A central figure of the early Renaissance, he was a favourite artist of the Medici family in the late 15th century but was then virtually forgotten until the 19th century. His work reflects the debates on reconciling Christianity with the Neoplatonism and Humanism derived from the rediscovery of Classical art. Throughout a period of turbulent spiritual battles, Botticelli created allegories of astonishing beauty and perfection.



13 October – *Women Artists*

Melanie Taylor

We recognise the work of the Great Masters, but why are there so few Great Mistresses? This talk will look at the work of women artists from Catherine de Vigri, painting in the 15th century, Levlina Teerlinc in the 16th - first woman artist to be appointed to an official post as an artist at any court in Europe - the Dutch artists, Judith Leyster and Merian Sybilla Merian in the 17th, and through to the Frenchwoman, Rosa Bonheur, in the 19th, who had to get permission from the local police chief to wear trousers! Plus others.

We shall explore why it has taken until the late 20th century for women artists to be recognised as having talent and what difficulties face women artists today?



20 October – *After Cezanne and Cubism*

Daphne Jefferis



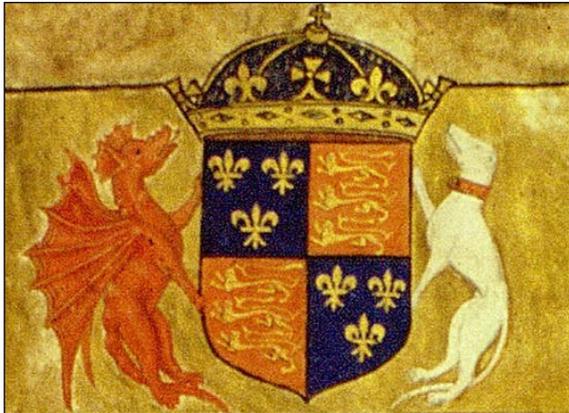
The Late works of Cezanne were to inspire Picasso and Braque to develop a new and ground breaking style of painting which was to bring about one of the most radical changes in Western Art. Cubism led to artists finding new means of expression as seen in the works of Matisse, Mondrian and the Italian Futurists.

© Likchemen Tong

27 October– *Art of the Inn Signs*

Janet Pennington

We rather take inn signs for granted. They are part of our urban street scene and we can direct strangers by using their names. They are a welcome flash of colour amongst the rural landscapes at the end of a country walk. However, inn signs were, and still are, much more than external advertising for food, drink and often accommodation. The signs, and their wrought iron brackets, reveal patronage, land ownership, social status and much more, opening a window to the past. Inn signs, pub signs, call them what you will, are a colourful addition to our urban and rural surroundings and are still full of meaning in the 21st century. This talk, using examples from Sussex, Surrey and Kent, will open your eyes to the art of the inn sign.



3 November – *Tissot*

Tammy Ellis

Jacques Joseph Tissot (as he was known before his name was anglicised to James) was a French artist whose works became synonymous with the society and culture of Paris and, subsequently, London. Tissot's portrayal of elegantly dressed women shown in scenes of fashionable life and of biblical scenes, which reflect his Catholicism, create an eclectic mix of charming, realistic and spiritual images.

10 November – *Millais*

Jessica Saraga



As a very young man, Millais found notoriety as a founder of the self-consciously rebellious pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, but he ended his career at the pinnacle of the art establishment as President of the Royal Academy. In a parallel arc Queen Victoria first viewed him with fierce disapproval when he married Effie Gray after the annulment of her marriage to John Ruskin, but eventually made him a baronet. His marriage was a happy one and its eight children kept Millais productive, with a flow of literary and narrative painting, and stunning society portraits, admired for their impact, insight and likeness. In contrast, the annual visit to his wife's family in Scotland enabled him to indulge his great love of landscape painting. This lecture will look at the whole range of his art and career.

17 November – *Eardley and Redpath- For the Love of Paint* Ronnie Ireland

Two 20th century Scottish painters whose contrasting lives highlighted different female experiences. Both were deeply engaged with their immediate world, the people, the places, the objects around them. From these, they translated their worlds through their love of paint and what it can do to evoke and distil experience.

CONCERTS

David Hanson



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

Booking will be open when the newsletter is published. Forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up from the entrance hall.

Saturday 30 September at 7.30 pm

“Tchaikovsky’s Fourth”

London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted Edward Gardner

Beethoven

Bartok

Tchaikovsky

Egmont Overture

Violin Concerto No 2

Symphony No 4

Tickets £18

Bookings will be open when the newsletter is published and will close on 30 August

[Download the booking form here](#)



Festival Hall © Ungry Young Man

Sunday 29 October at 7.30 pm

“Icons Rediscovered”

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko
Piano Nikolai Lugansky**

**Lera Auerbach
Rachmaninov
Elgar**

***Icarus
Piano Concerto No 2
Symphony No 1***

Tickets £16

[Download the booking form here](#)



Wednesday 29 November at 7.30 pm

“Beethoven’s Fifth”

**London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kristina Poska
Violin Peter Schoeman**

**Beethoven
Florence Price
Beethoven**

***Leonore Overture No 3
Violin Concerto No 2
Symphony No 5***

Tickets £18

[Download the booking form here](#)

FRIDAY TALK

2.30 pm in the Abraham Dixon Hall
£3 per person booked in advance via the LCA Office
£5 per person paid on the door
(includes tea/coffee and biscuits after the Talk)

1 December – Westminster Detectives: Fact and Fiction

Dr. Helen Naylor

Whodunnit? 1 in 3 books sold today are crime novels – we'll investigate why the crime genre is so successful by unlocking the secrets and inspiration behind global superstar fictitious detectives, from Sherlock Holmes to Hercule Poirot. We'll track the clues into the inner world of detectives and their chilling cases, a world of ruthlessness, brutality and forensic expertise.

Meet the real and fictional detectives who've lived and worked in Westminster over the past 200 years! The cases and personalities of the Met's detectives at Scotland Yard have inspired generations of crime writers from Charles Dickens to J.K. Rowling.



Christmas Event

The Downsmen Barbershop Chorus

Friday, 15 December at 2.30 pm
in the Abraham Dixon Hall

For our Christmas celebration this year, we are delighted to welcome the Downsmen Barbershop Chorus.



The Downsmen are an *a cappella* Male Voice group who sing together in close harmony. Barbershop songs are typically 'old favourites' but they also like to sing specially arranged show stopper songs.

The cost will be £3 per head for pre-booked places, £5 on the day (subject to availability) which includes coffee/tea and a mince-pie.

Booking opens on 1 October – forms will be available on the website and at the Institute. Book early as places will be limited and when they're gone, they're gone.

VISITS WITH INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Irene Gawne

LCA trips are exclusive to members. If there are any spaces available close to the booking end date, we welcome guests.

A RANGER LED WALK ON ASHTEAD COMMON

Monday 25 September 11.00am

Learn about the history of the Common - how it was bought by The City of London Corporation in the 1870's due to concerns that the countryside around London was being threatened. Also for the benefit of its citizens giving them access to green fields and clean air.



It now comprises 495 acres including a National Nature Reserve and it has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is home to over 2,300 ancient oaks which are full of character and provide shelter for rare wild life and fungi.

We will hear about the work Rangers do to manage and conserve this precious habitat.

We shall also see the remains of a Roman tile factory and a Roman villa on the Common - scheduled ancient monuments.

£6 per person

Booking now open. [Download the form here](#)

Booking closes Thursday 21 September

20 places

UNKNOWN LONDON - BERMONDSEY

Thursday 26 October at 11.30am

People are always surprised by this walk – often they have no idea of just how fascinating this part of London is. Bermondsey in its heyday was at the heart of the port of London. Its river banks were crowded with docks and shipping, its lanes with warehouses storing goods brought into the port.

The riverside in Bermondsey is now peaceful, with great views across to the City. The narrow street of Shad Thames seems unchanged since the dockers unloaded sacks of grain, and the magnificent warehouses of Butler’s Wharf stored tea, instead of restaurants.

There’s plenty of history to interest foodies – many household names manufactured jam, biscuits and canned food here. But the early industry was leather tanning, a process guaranteed to turn your stomach. And we’ll tell you all about it.

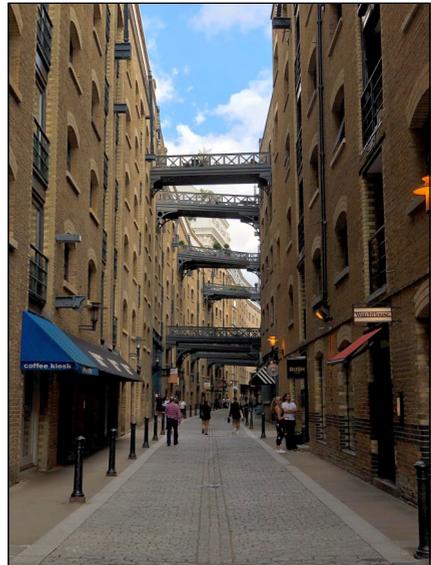
Dig a little deeper and find out how what was a country village became a slum, over which hung a ‘graveyard smell’. How it was transformed by industry, and how local pressure transformed it yet again – bringing in radical housing policies and pioneering health care long before the days of the NHS. And to end there is a really good Victorian murder.

£12 per person

Booking opens Tuesday 5 September

Booking closes Monday 16 October

20 places



LEIGHTON HOUSE, HOLLAND PARK

Thursday 16 November 11.30am

Leighton House was the London home of painter Frederick Leighton, later Lord Leighton. He had a combined home and studio built which is remarkable for the beautiful oriental and aesthetic interiors. His home creates an enchanting journey into a world of art, culture, and history.

He recorded in magnificent style all the most loved places he had visited - Turkish tiles, Syrian and Iranian pottery, Florentine sketches, The Arab Hall with its fountain is breathtaking, the Moorish rooms are spectacular.

The grandeur of Leighton House's architecture, the splendour of its artwork, and the immersive experience it offers make it a true gem amongst London's historic buildings. It re-opened in October 2022 following a £9.8 million investment.

The garden is a haven of peace.

£21 per person

Booking opens Monday 11 September

Booking closes Friday 27 October

30 places



LCA COACH TRIP

Janet Stokoe



For this coach trip there are 25 spaces. The coach will pick up from either Leatherhead Leisure Centre (9am) or Leret Way (9.15am). Cars can be parked at the Leisure Centre free of charge for the day.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Thursday 12 October



© Amateur with a camera

Hughenden Manor in Buckinghamshire was the country home of Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli . As prospective leader of the Conservative Party, Disraeli needed a suitable country seat, so in 1848 he bought the Hughenden estate and had it re-modelled by architect Edward Buckton Lamb .

Only recently did Hughenden's role in WWII become known. Requisitioned by the Air Ministry, Hughenden became a top-secret map-making base, codenamed 'Hillside'. This operation was so secret it only came to light 60 years later after a chance encounter one of Hughenden's house volunteers had with a visitor.

On this trip will have a talk discussing more of the history of the manor, garden and Hughenden's wartime story followed by plenty of time to explore.

Cost: £30 per person for National Trust members, £43 for non members

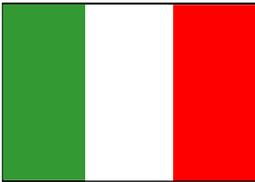
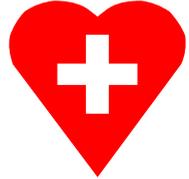
Booking now open. [Download the booking form here](#)

Booking closes Monday 9 October

OPPORTUNITIES FROM OUR HIRERS

At the time of going to press, we are delighted to announce that the following activities are planned for the Autumn, here at the Institute. Do contact our hirers if you'd like to join one of these groups.

Do you want to find out about more ways to support your health? Harmonies is holding a drop in event on 26 October in the Abraham Dixon Hall. For more information, contact Hilary at hm.porter@ntlworld.com



Learn to speak Italian with experienced tutor, Elisabetta Pellegrini of the Parola d'Oro Italian School. Conversation classes take place on Thursday mornings for all levels. For more information, contact Elisabetta on 07904 434339 or at elisabetta@paroladoro.co.uk

Lisa Allen Dance and Arts (previously Starmakerz but now extended and re-branded) offer Acro, Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Street Dance, singing and musical theatre skills. The Autumn term culminates in a Christmas extravaganza showcasing local young talent. Contact Lisa on 07403 362714 or see her website www.ladancearts.co.uk for class details.



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

Curious about Bridge? Interested in learning to play? 3 Counties Bridge welcomes both complete beginners and those looking to improve their play. Contact Douglas on 07801 989630 or at douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com to register your interest.





Sing and Sign classes for babies and toddlers encourage amazing early communication between parents, grandparents or carers and their babies. These joyful and engaging classes are now enrolling for the new term. Contact Melissa Holt on 07817 689486 or via the website <https://www.singandsign.co.uk>

Exercise classes include Pilates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with Julia Leivers (07759 005551 or www.Pilates4all.net) and Flexercise - Keep Fit for the Active Retired on Tuesday mornings. Flexercise is taught by Julia Hopkins (01932 848763 / 07845524128 or juliafit@hotmail.com). Please contact either Julia for prices and availability.

Pilates4all



The Leatherhead Orchestra rehearse in the Abraham Dixon Hall from 8pm every Wednesday evening during term time. Catering mostly for adult players, they welcome younger ones, including those with little or no orchestral experience. Former players, those learning second instruments and recent learners are all encouraged to come and give the Orchestra a try. Contact membership@leatherheadorchestra.co.uk

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



DIARY DATES

SEPT	EVENT	PAGE
2	Coffee Morning	9
6	Short Walk- Holmwood Common / North Holmwood	10
7	Book Club	8
13	Long Walk- Chipstead, Banstead Downs	11
14 – 16	Heritage Open Day events- including Mark Hill, Art Exhibitions, Sing and Sign, LADA and SGT	14 - 17
20	Recorded Music- A Musical Journey	8
25	LCA Visit- Ashtead Common Ranger Walk	28
29	Macmillan Coffee Morning	18
30	Concert- “Tchaikovsky’s Fourth” at the Royal Festival Hall	24

OCT	EVENT	PAGE
4	Short Walk- Leigh Circular, nr Reigate	11
5	Book Club	8
6	Art History- Botticelli by Ronnie Ireland	20
7	Coffee Morning	9
11	Long walk- Denbies, Dorking	12
12	LCA Coach Trip- Hughenden Manor NT	31
13	Art History- Women Artists by Melanie Taylor	21
18	Recorded Music- Musical Miscellany No. 2	8
20	Art History- After Cezanne and Cubism by Daphne Jefferis	21
21	Arts Alive talk- A Celebration of Ukrainian Heritage: Ilya Repin by Cynthia Coleman Sparke	19
26	LCA Visit- Undiscovered London– Bermondsey	29
27	Art History- Art of the Inn Signs by Janet Pennington	22
29	Concert- “Icons Rediscovered” at the Royal Festival Hall	25

NOV	EVENT	PAGE
1	Short Walk- Sheepleas	12
2	Book Club	8
3	Art History- Tissot by Tammy Ellis	22
4	Coffee Morning	9
8	Long Walk- Little London and Shere	13
10	Art History- Millais by Jessica Saraga	23
15	Recorded Music- Voices and Barbara’s Choice	8
16	LCA Visit- Leighton House	30
17	Art History- Eardley and Redpath by Ronnie Ireland	23
29	Concert- “Beethoven’s Fifth” at the Royal Festival Hall	25

DEC	EVENT	PAGE
1	Friday talk- Westminster Detectives: Fact and Fiction by Helen Naylor	26
2	Coffee Morning	9
6	Short Walk- Headley Heath & Village Circular	13
7	Book Club	8
14 Dec - 2 Jan	Kirby Library closed for Santa’s Sitting Room. The office will be open until 22 December. Access will be through the Albany Room (G1)	
15	Christmas Event- Downsmen Barbershop Chorus	27
20	Recorded Music- It’s Christmas	8
22 Dec - 2 Jan	LCA office closed for Christmas	

Tuesday Games takes place weekly in the Abraham Dixon Hall (pg 9).

Guitar Lessons are alternate Tuesdays dependent upon ability (pg 9).



Photos clockwise from top left– Hannah Peschar Gardens, walk round Gatton Park, Midsomer Murder coach trip, grotto at Painshill

Copy Deadline

Issue 202– January, February, March, April 2024

Copy 10 November 2023

Publication week commencing 11 December 2023

Issue 203– May, June, July, August 2024

Copy 8 March 2024

Publication week commencing 8 April 2024