

## Lecture Programme 2016/17/18

We meet at: St Mary and St Nicholas Parish church  
Church Road, Leatherhead KT22 8BD  
Doors open from 7PM Talks start at 7.40PM

Click on **contact us** if you would like to come as a visitor  
or the **Orange button** if you would like to join us.

### Legends of Czech Glass

9 November 16

Mark Hill will explain that behind the Iron Curtain, skill designers pushed the boundaries of 20<sup>th</sup> century glass design and produced unique art glass masterpieces that went on to inspire visually stunning, highly innovative and commercial ranges.



### The Corked Conjurer

14 December 16

Ian Keable asks: would you pay money to see a man climb inside a bottle? People in 1749 did when a newspaper advertisement claimed that a conjurer would do just that. But the Bottle Conjurer hoax inspired satirical prints through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, long after the incident itself was forgotten.



### Art and Architecture of the Khmer Empire

11 January 17

Michael O'Brian's lecture includes a brief account of the geography, historical sources, language and religion of the Khmers and traces the development of the Empire from small Indianised states in the 6<sup>th</sup> century to the establishment of their capital in the Angkor region in 802AD and on to its demise after the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



### Vivaldi in Venice

8 February 17

Peter Medhurst: Vivaldi is the one Baroque composer whose music is a direct reflection of the city in which it was composed. Listen to a Vivaldi concerto and hey presto you are transported directly to the heart of 18<sup>th</sup> century Venice. With live musical performances, this lecture explores the amazing world of Vivaldi's music; that is as intrinsically Venetian as the canvasses of Canaletto.



### Art Inspired by Wine

8 March 17

*This is our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture*

John Ericson's lively presentation shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for wine and the contribution that 'wine art' makes to our colourful world. As a consequence there are numerous wonderful paintings of wine being made and wine being drunk in celebration, but it also lends itself to wicked cartoons and striking posters.



### Not Just Smoke and Mirrors

12 April 17

Nicholas Reed tells us that Camouflaging of ships in wartime was invented in WW1 by the artist Norman Wilkinson. But it was a professional conjurer who accomplished the impossible by hiding the Suez Canal in WW2. Find out how he did it!



### The Art of the Poster

10 May 17

Andrew Davies: The Poor Man's Art Gallery - the British poster has informed, entertained and instructed ever since the arrival of colour printing showed what was possible. We will savour the colourful and vibrant delights of this often-neglected popular art form which reveals how we lived, worked and played over the last 100 years.



### The Day Parliament Burned Down

14 June 17

Caroline Shenton: On 16 October 1834, a huge ball of fire exploded through the roof of the Houses of Parliament, creating a blaze so enormous that it could be seen by the King and Queen at Windsor. This talk Takes the audience through the gripping hour-by-hour story of the fire through contemporary depictions of the disaster by Turner, William Heath and others.



### The Huguenot Weavers of Spitalfields

12 July 17

Sue Jackson: Welcomed at first with open arms and bringing luxury skills, the Huguenots' fortunes fluctuated wildly. Sue will talk about their early 18th-century houses that still stand and will discuss the fashionable patterned silk dresses – who designed and made them. And how, finally the trade died out, with some weavers literally dying in poverty at their looms.



### How women lived loved and died in Paris 1939-1949

13 Sept 17

Anne Sebba tells us of women's lives during the dark days of the Nazi occupation. It began at a magnificent circus ball held in the grounds of the Palace of Versailles; many of the guests could not believe that war was imminent. It ends it with Christian Dior's lavish New Look in 1947 as well as a perfume, Miss Dior, named after his sister Catherine, a member of the resistance.



### The Whole Art of the Book

11 October 17

Dominic Riley tells us why the art of bookbinding, itself surely the most complex of all hand crafts, is as beguiling and enchanting today as it was when it was invented on the banks of the Nile 2,000 years ago.



### What really happened on Easter Island

8 November 17

Paul Bahn:

Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, is the most isolated piece of permanently inhabited land on the planet, and yet it produced a most extraordinary Stone Age culture: hundreds of sophisticated coastal stone platforms, more than a thousand enormous stone statues, the richest rock art in the Pacific, and a unique writing system. This talk will provide an introduction to the history of the discovery of this culture; to its principal features; and to what archaeology, oral traditions and, more recently, palaeobotanical evidence have combined to teach us about the island's cultural rise and decline, its environmental crisis, and the lessons all this can teach us about how we look after the Earth.



### Norman Rockwells Christmas Wish

13 December 17

Charles Harris:

Norman Rockwell was the most beloved American illustrator of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he always portrayed life as he wished it would be. He was most at home portraying the ideal far Christmas, often with direct connections to Dickens and the English Yuletide Tradition. Charles shares his own experiences of the ideal American Christmas from sleigh rides and ice-skating to trimming the tree and wondering how Santa got down the chimney.



### Pots and Frocks, The world of Greyson Perry

10 January 18

Ian Swankie

Widely known for his appearances dressed as his feminine alter ego, Claire, Grayson Perry is now a core part of the art establishment. Ten years after winning the Turner Prize he gave the brilliant BBC Reith Lecture in 2013. His works of ceramics, textiles, tapestries and prints are highly sought after. Often controversial, he is able to tackle difficult subjects in a poignant yet witty way. This talk will examine Grayson Perry's works, his exciting and thought provoking exhibitions, and we'll look at the character inside the flamboyant frocks.

