

## 2019/2020

### 107th PROGRAMME

- **Eleven stimulating talks to entertain you from Autumn to Spring**
- **Give TV a rest and your friends a treat – bring them along to enjoy and question enthusiasts and specialists who really know their subjects.**
- **Many talks are illustrated, sometimes spectacularly, using modern technology.**
- **Always an enjoyable evening out!**

**Meetings: October to March**  
**8 pm in the hall of**  
**Purley United Reform Church,**  
**906, Brighton Road,**  
**Purley. CR8 2LN**

**Visit our website at:**  
**[www.PurleyLit.org.uk](http://www.PurleyLit.org.uk)**

### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THIS SEASON

**Season Ticket** (eleven talks) \_\_\_\_\_ £22  
**January to March** (six talks) \_\_\_\_\_ £12  
**Visitor's Fee** (per talk) \_\_\_\_\_ £5

If you would like your membership card sent to you BEFORE the first meeting, then please include a stamped, addressed envelope (9x4). Otherwise, your card will be held until the first meeting that you attend.

Very rarely, a talk has to be postponed for some reason. Please check on our website for any last-minute changes to the advertised programme, or contact a member of the committee.

*To encourage wider membership, members are urged to invite a friend to use their ticket if they are unable to attend a talk themselves.*

#### The Committee

**Chairman:** Richard Walker  
3, Vincent Road, Coulsdon. CR5 3DH  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**General Secretary:** Tony Pearson  
452, Wickham Road, Croydon. CR0 8DG  
Tel: 020 8777 4598

**Programme Secretaries:** John & Bobbie Wilson  
9, Peartree Close, Sanderstead. CR2 9BR  
Tel: 020 8657 3189

**Membership Secretaries:** Yvonne & Richard Walker  
3, Vincent Road, Coulsdon. CR5 3DH  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**Treasurer:** Bob Cherry  
23, Haydn Avenue, Purley. CR8 4AG  
Tel: 020 8660 6542

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

#### Update May 2018

When joining the Society, we ask for your name and contact details. Any such data that you provide is kept on a small database, and is held by the Membership Secretaries.

**We do not pass this data to third parties**, and use it solely for contacting you at renewal time, and where we hold an email address, for sending out reminders a few days before each meeting.

You have the right at any time to ask to have your details removed from the database.

For any members that fail to respond to any contacts, details are erased after three years.

#### New Facility

For anyone wishing to pay their membership by online-banking or other forms of bank transfer, please contact the Membership Secretaries directly for details:

Yvonne and Richard Walker,  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**8 October** **Ian Porter**  
**The Remarkable Mr Selfridge**

Gordon Selfridge had a rich and varied public and private life. He was an innovator in the retail trade, a tireless worker during the Great War, and a staunch supporter of the Royal family. Ian is a novelist and historian.

**22 October** **Russell Bowes**  
**The Inexhaustible Mr Paxton**

A classic tale of rags to riches of a hugely talented Victorian. Paxton was an inventor, the designer of Crystal Palace, an architect, the head gardener to the Duke of Devonshire, MP, the owner of Punch, and a railway magnate. To cap it all, he was the first man in Europe to produce a flower from the Giant Amazonian water lily. Russell is a freelance garden historian.

**5 November** **Anthony Poulton-Smith**  
**What's in a Name?**

Anthony delights in words and the development of language. In this talk, he will explain the origins of some UK place names. A prolific writer, he has also created numerous quizzes, crosswords and works as an editor and proof reader. Among many other activities he chairs the Tamworth Literary Festival.

**19 November** **Lindsay Ould**  
**Museum of Croydon Archives**

Lindsay is the Museum of Croydon archivist. She will take us through the records of Croydon from its earliest days to the present. She will then focus on the history of Purley and its development from a small village to the present town.

**3 December** **Nicola Moorby**  
**The Great British Paint Off**

The “paint off” features two giants of British landscape painting – John Constable and JMW Turner. Nicola is an art historian who specialises in British art of the 19th and early 20th centuries and she will compare their different styles and painting techniques.

**Followed by Christmas Fare**

**14 January** **Frank Paine**  
**Shirley Windmill**

A well known landmark on the eastern side of Croydon, Shirley windmill was built in 1854. It was opened to the public over 20 years ago. Frank, a long standing member of the Friends of Shirley Windmill, considers the history, operation and special features of the windmill.

**28 January** **Amanda Bryett**  
**The Cow That Changed History**

This is the story of how a cow named Blossom changed the royal line of succession in this country. This was due to infectious diseases and the advances in vaccination to combat them. Amanda, an award winning Blue Badge guide, spent many years in the pharmaceutical industry. She combines history and medicine in her talk.

**11 February** **Piers Gough**  
**Rigorous Pleasure – The Architecture of CZWG at 1 Lansdowne Road**

Piers is the leading architect in the design of this building, which will be one of the tallest residential towers in Britain. The elevations are articulated with balconies and winter gardens corralled by sensuous curves influenced by Matisse cut outs and Ben Nicholson relief sculptures.

**25 February** **Gillian Cane**  
**The Miracle of Bletchley Park**

Bletchley Park was shrouded in secrecy during World War II. Little emerged in the years following the end of the war about the critically vital work undertaken. Gillian will concentrate on, and celebrate, some of the brilliant and often eccentric characters who found themselves serving at Bletchley.

**10 March** **Delia Taylor**  
**ENSA – Every Night Something Awful**

Delia will take us on a trip down memory lane! When World War II was declared, the government was keen to keep morale as high as possible. The Entertainments National Service Association was set up and entertainers encouraged to join. Over 50,000 did so, many of whom became household names loved by troops around the world.

**24 March**  
***AGM at 7:30 followed by refreshments***

**Anne Sebba**  
**Les Parisiennes: How The Women of Paris Lived, Loved and Died in the 1940s**

A story of resistance fighters, collaborators, spies and couturiers living in the frenzied world of 1940's Paris. Some struggled to survive, whilst others led a high life – theatre, opera, and fine dining. Wallis Simpson makes a fleeting appearance, as does Christian Dior, whose less known sister – Catherine – was sent to a concentration camp for her part in the resistance. Anne is an author, and a former Reuters and BBC foreign correspondent.