

What's on at HLSI this December?



NEWS

The pleasures of our High Street and local park are something to be grateful for this Christmas season. I hope you agree that we are also lucky to have HLSI at the heart of our community. Why not consider sharing the benefits by giving **the gift of HLSI membership** to someone you care about this Christmas? New members who join before the end of this term will pay the 2021 subscription rates. As you'll know, members benefit from reduced prices on events and courses too, so it's truly a gift that will last all year. (I hope you have made time to browse the **courses for next term** and signed up!) Over the last year we have learnt to value our ability to make online connections as well as the occasional, treasured 'in-person' meetings. We all hope that we can meet each other a little more freely in the coming year. Until then, may I wish you and all your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best wishes, Kathy Dallas, HLSI President

Survey of members Thank you so much to the 200-plus members who completed our online questionnaire. If you are interested in the results, click on the link included in the email accompanying this update. Among the many interesting results, we find that:

- The Tuesday lectures are the top attraction for members
- The Members' Room is only used by a minority and that views of its purpose differ: Is it for socialising and meeting friends, or is it a quiet room for reading?
- Our Zoom activities have been appreciated by a majority of members, though there is a minority for whom Zoom is not possible or desirable, and we need to bear that in mind
- Regarding the use of the building, a large proportion of members (40%) have been visiting the library, and some have been doing classes in the Victoria Hall and using the Members' Room since the lifting of the lockdown
- A majority appreciate our Covid safety precautions

Subscription Rates for 2022 Following the Special General Meeting, members approved the rise in membership subscriptions from 1 January 2022. Individual membership will be £120 and Household membership will be £200. Reduced membership for under-26 year olds in full-time education remains at £40. We believe this still gives great value. To take advantage of the 2021 rates, consider giving a gift membership to a loved-one!



DECEMBER DIARY

KEY: Z Zoom VH Victoria Hall, HLSI

Weds 1	7.30pm	OPERA CIRCLE Christmas event, details to come
VH Sun 5	11am-5pm	HLSI CHRISTMAS CRACKER FAIR
Z Tues 7	6.00pm	LECTURE The Artful Dickens
VH Thurs 9	8.00pm	SCIENCE TALK Maternal Health and Mitochondria
Z Tues 14	6.00pm	LECTURE A Craze for Quizzing
VH Thurs 16	8.00pm	FILM SCREENING The Philadelphia Story
Z Fri 17	5.00pm	FILM TALK Discussion of The Philadelphia Story
Z Thurs 23	4.00pm	HLSI CLOSSES for Christmas, re-opening 4 January

LIBRARY

The Christmas Cracker Fair – Sunday 5 December We will be selling reasonably priced books in the library during the Christmas Cracker Fair on December 5 (11am-5pm). A selection of titles for both adults and children will be on offer, so do come and browse.

Festive book selection We are highlighting festive books for adults and children this month in the run-up to Christmas. We have books on display as well as a couple of reading lists for you to choose from:

- Festive books to get you in the mood for Christmas
- Christmas books for children

Click on the links given in the email accompanying this update to access these lists.

New books

- *Free: coming of age at the end of history* by Lea Ypi. This biography charts Lea Ypi's coming of age during Albania's political upheaval in the 1990s and the fall of communism.
- *Looking for trouble* by Virginia Cowles. Memoir from the trailblazing female reporter who saw London on the first day of the Blitz and Madrid during the Spanish Civil War.
- *The gardener* by Sally Vickers. The latest novel from Sally Vickers looks at the healing power of nature when two sisters renovate a Jacobean house and its garden. New friends are made and old sibling wounds opened!



OPERA CIRCLE

Weds 1 Dec **L'ELISIR D'AMORE**
7.30 - 9.30pm on Zoom
Geoff Hunt introduces us to Donizetti's comic masterpiece, full of glorious tunes and emotional melodies.

Geoff, chair of the Opera Circle committee, wishes all OC Friends season's greetings and hopes to welcome you to further events in 2022! The image shows the first Dr Dulcamara, from L'Elisir D'Amore, 1832, raising a seasonal toast?!

HLSI members free Non-members £5 Book online by 1.00pm on the day



HLSI CHRISTMAS CRACKER FAIR

Sun 5 Dec 11am-5pm
Christmas is coming to HLSI! Join us at the annual fair, showcasing antiques, collectibles, designer-maker items, seasonal plants and delicious goods from an artisanal bakery.

We ask that visitors wear masks as they go around the Fair. Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance.



LECTURES

The final lectures from the autumn programme of varied and stimulating lectures continues on Zoom. Lectures take place on Zoom, at 6.00pm.

Tues 7 Dec **THE ARTFUL DICKENS** - John Mullan, Lord Northcliffe Chair of Modern English Literature, University College London

Tues 14 Dec **A CRAZE FOR QUIZZING** - Marcus Berkmann, quiz expert and author

HLSI members free Non-members £5 per lecture
Please sign up online for the whole series or by 1.00pm on the day of each lecture



SCIENCE TALKS

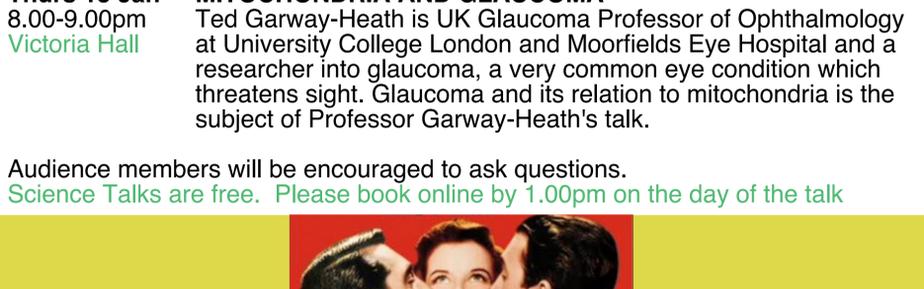
Mitochondria, the power house of the cell

The next two Science Talks relate to mitochondria, the extraordinary structures inside cells that probably developed from bacteria ingested by cells over a billion years ago as an essential part of animal development. They metabolise materials such as fats and carbohydrates to make energy-rich chemical bonds which can then be used to power muscular contraction, amongst many other things. Without mitochondria there could be no beating hearts. They reproduce using their own DNA which is entirely inherited from the mother and quite separate from the majority of our DNA in the cell nucleus, which is inherited from both parents.

Thurs 9 Dec **MATERNAL HEALTH AND MITOCHONDRIA**
8.00-9.00pm
Victoria Hall
Catherine Williamson is Professor of Women's Health at Kings College London and Honorary Consultant in Obstetric Medicine at St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals. Catherine will talk about liver disease and diabetes as they manifest in pregnancy, and about mitochondrial disease, its inheritance and its significance for the foetus.

Thurs 13 Jan **MITOCHONDRIA AND GLAUCOMA**
8.00-9.00pm
Victoria Hall
Ted Garway-Heath is UK Glaucoma Professor of Ophthalmology at Garway-Heath is UK Glaucoma Professor of Ophthalmology and a researcher into glaucoma, a very common eye condition which threatens sight. Glaucoma and its relation to mitochondria is the subject of Professor Garway-Heath's talk.

Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions.
Science Talks are free. Please book online by 1.00pm on the day of the talk



HIGHGATE FILM SOCIETY

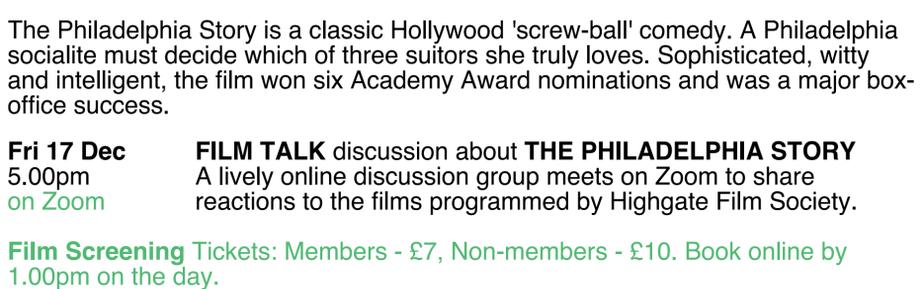
We continue this season's screenings of film classics. Join us in the Victoria Hall or watch the film online independently. Everyone is then welcome to join the free Film Talk discussion the following evening. Just sign up online for both.

Thurs 16 Dec **FILM SCREENING - THE PHILADELPHIA STORY**
8.00pm
Victoria Hall
USA 1940 (re-released 2015), 112 mins, Directed by George Cukor.
Starring Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, James Stewart and John Howard.

The Philadelphia Story is a classic Hollywood 'screw-ball' comedy. A Philadelphia socialite must decide which of three suitors she truly loves. Sophisticated, witty and intelligent, the film won six Academy Award nominations and was a major box-office success.

Fri 17 Dec **FILM TALK** discussion about **THE PHILADELPHIA STORY**
5.00pm
on Zoom
A lively online discussion group meets on Zoom to share reactions to the films programmed by Highgate Film Society.

Film Screening Tickets: Members - £7, Non-members - £10. Book online by 1.00pm on the day.
Film Talk Free. Please register online to receive Zoom invitations to discussions.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM HLSI!

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