

Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution

Life-long learning, companionship, community

11 South Grove, London N6 6BS

www.hlsi.net 020 8340 3343 admin@hlsi.net



Received wisdom is that January is the most depressing month of the year, but I think February is the worst. The endless short days and grey skies are only made tolerable by curling up with a good book - a harder task this year as two of our local public libraries, Shepherd's Hill and Chester Road, are closed. The good news is that our marvellous HLSI lending library is open, warm and welcoming, six days a week, so do pop in.

Best wishes from Simon Edwards, HLSI President

FEBRUARY 2024 DIARY

KEY: Z Zoom VH Victoria Hall L Library MR Members Room

VH/Z	Tues 6	8.00pm	LECTURE	Pathenogenesis
VH	Weds 7	7.30pm	OPERA CIRCLE	The Force of Destiny
VH	Fri 9	6.00pm	EXHIBITION PRIVATE VIEW	Philip Diggle
VH/Z	Tues 13	8.00pm	LECTURE	Financial Services for an Ageing Society
VH	Thurs 15	7.30pm	FILM	Everything Went Fine (Tout c'est bien passé)
VH/Z	Tues 23	8.00pm	LECTURE	What is Life?
L	Fri 23	2.00pm	LIBRARY TOUR	open to all
VH	Sun 25	2.00pm	FILM	- Special - England, My England
VH/Z	Tues 27	8.00pm	LECTURE	The Digital Revolution
VH/Z	Thurs 29	7.30pm	SCIENCE TALK	Clinical Genetics

Scroll down for more information on events, and visit the website: www.hlsi.net

HLSI NEWS

A meeting for members Members will receive an email invitation shortly to attend a meeting to discuss changes arising from the decision at the AGM to convert from a Friendly Society to a charitable company limited by guarantee. Please look out for the message and come along if you can.

Hiring HLSI Luca Morelli, HLSI's Head of Operations, is always very happy to discuss any plans you might have for a party, meeting or celebration at HLSI. Drop him a line at luca.morelli@hlsi.net.

Join us for wine after events Please feel welcome, even if not (yet) a member!

LIBRARY NEWS

From Librarian, Lucy Matheson:

If you have any **travel guides** at home published in the last 5 years, that are in good condition and that you are happy to relinquish, please consider donating them to the library!

We haven't been purchasing travel guides in the library over the past few years. Although we stock many books on travel writing we don't normally buy travel guides as the information in them tends to go out of date very quickly and we don't generate sufficient issues to justify the expense, particularly if we want to have a comprehensive collection. I have noticed however that even books that were published a number of years ago still seem to go out as there is still some useful information in them. It would be lovely to replace some of these with newer versions and even increase our range.

From Stuart Baines, chair of the Library committee:

There will be a **Library Tour** on Friday 23 February from 2pm to 3pm. Members and non members are most welcome. For people who cannot make Friday afternoons it is possible to have a tour by mutual arrangement. The Discovering London Group will be at HLSI on Friday 16 February at approximately 11.15-11.30 to visit the library and the archives. Please note that the Coleridge Room will be booked from 10.30 to 1.30pm for that purpose. The development of an additional Library Tour has begun concentrating on our London Collection in the Coleridge Room. It is a work in progress and it is a delight to research new material.

HLSI Library hopes to take part in the forthcoming **Handmade in Highgate Fair** in March. Good **quality paperbacks** both fiction and nonfiction are very welcome.

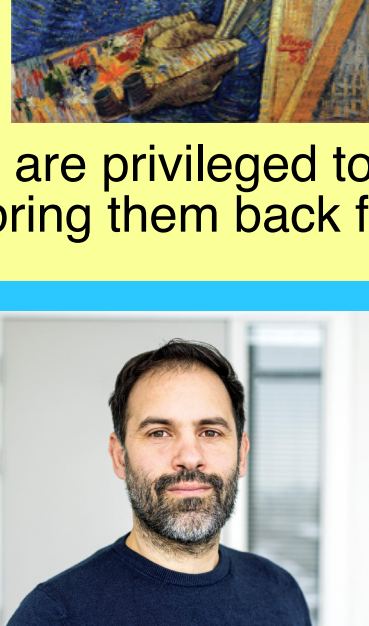
EDUCATION NEWS

From Cherry Crowley, Chair of the Education committee:

A recent Education Newsletter has highlighted new courses starting after half term but we could not let this half term pass without special mention of our two current History of Art tutors: Julia Musgrave and Peter Webb. Julia is currently leading a Monday morning class on **'Paintings of the Dutch 'Golden Age', 1588-1672'**. Fortunately I do not have to find words to express the merits of this course; current students do that brilliantly:

'I love Julia's lecture and look forward to Monday mornings now because she delivers a clear historical account of the paintings, how the paintings were executed, the artists, what they were up to personally as well as professionally, the contemporary goings-on as well as the political climate and hints of where we can go and see the art she talks about - as well as videos and readings around that week's subject. All this delivered with a wonderful sense of humour. It's like two hours of a wonderful cultural soap opera!'

And Dr Webb leads his course on **Van Gogh** on Tuesday afternoons. The following comment captures the opinions of all the students in the group:



'Peter is a brilliant and engaging lecturer whose passion for his subject is infectious. His expertise on Van Gogh, his art and life is peppered with unique insight and previously unheard anecdotes. He brings each work of art to life by explaining not only the artistic process but the context in which it was created. Having previously attended his enthralling series of lectures on David Hockney I am delighted to be able to attend the current series on Van Gogh'.

We are privileged to engage these two outstanding tutors and we shall work hard to bring them back for more courses.



Jonathan Kennedy



Debora Price



Paul Nurse



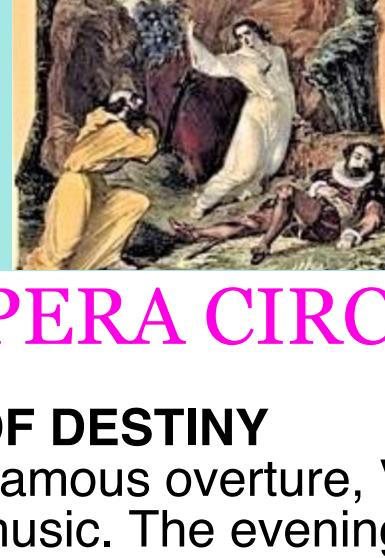
Mike Smith

LECTURES

We will have four very attractive lectures in February - big speakers on big subjects. Join us in the Victoria Hall - no need to book a place - or watch from home. Members can sign up to receive the link for one lecture or for the whole programme. This is sent on the afternoon of each lecture.

Tues 6 Feb	PATHENOGENESIS: HOW GERMS MADE HISTORY Jonathan Kennedy, Senior Lecturer and Director of Global Public Health programme at Barts and the London Medical School
Tues 13 Feb	FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR AN AGEING SOCIETY Debora Price, Professor of Social Gerontology at the University of Manchester
Tues 20 Feb	WHAT IS LIFE? Paul Nurse, Chief Executive and Director of the Crick Institute
Tues 27 Feb	MY EXPERIENCE OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION: HOW THE INTERNET HAS CHANGED THE MUSICAL LANDSCAPE Mike Smith, Global President of Downtown Music Publishing

Lectures are free to HLSI members; non-members: £10 per lecture
In the Victoria Hall and online: book your online link via the website: www.hlsi.net



OPERA CIRCLE

Weds 7 Feb 7.30pm Victoria Hall	THE FORCE OF DESTINY As well as the famous overture, Verdi's opera contains some of his finest late music. The evening's exploration of the opera will include extracts from one performance with an extraordinary cast that has never been, or ever likely to be, surpassed. A great evening ahead, not to be missed!
-----------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Weds 6 Mar Please also note our March evening which introduces the HGO production of The Fairy Queen. We are delighted that Dame Emma Kirkby, the renowned singer, will be hosting part of the evening, and sharing clips from her own performances of Purcell's opera.

HLSI members in advance: £7; non-members and all on the door: £12 Please book online by 1pm on the day

Philip Diggle
New York New York, 2023



HIGHGATE GALLERY

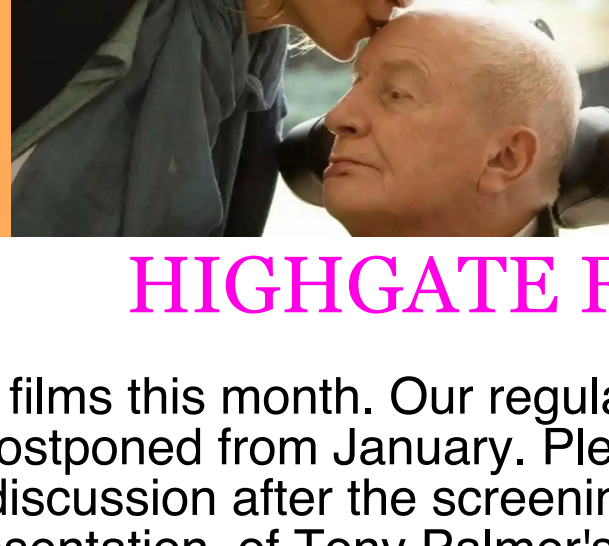
9-22 Feb PHILIP DIGGLE - Bringing it all back home

This is Philip's eighth exhibition at Highgate Gallery, and these heavily encrusted canvases again demonstrate his attitude to painting: he is '...for an art that is political, erotic, abstract, exposed - and does something other than sit and entertain... I am for an art that embroils itself with everyday and comes out on top.' The title refers to Bob Dylan and the artistic flowering of New York in the 1960s, as well as Philip's own background in the Manchester punk scene of the 70s and 80s.

9 Feb PRIVATE VIEW - 6.00-8.30pm

Gallery Open: **Weds-Fri 1.00-5.00pm; Sat 11.00am-5.00pm; Sun 11.00am-4.00pm**

Everything
Went Fine



England,
My England

HIGHGATE FILM SOCIETY

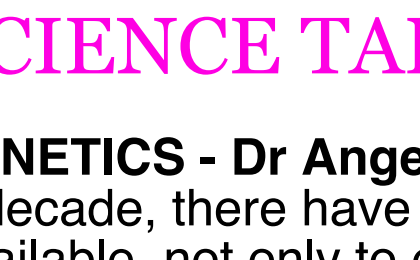
We have two films this month. Our regular Thursday evening date is the moving French film postponed from January. Please feel welcome to join us for Film Talk, the informal discussion after the screening. In addition, there is a special Sunday afternoon presentation, of Tony Palmer's celebrated film about Purcell, England, My England - an extra treat arranged in anticipation of the Opera Circle's March evening on Purcell's opera, The Fairy Queen.

Thurs 15 Feb 7.30pm Victoria Hall	EVERYTHING WENT FINE (Tout c'est bien passé) In this powerful family drama, a daughter is called upon to reconcile with her father after he suffers a devastating stroke, and to contemplate helping him in his final wish, to die with dignity. Charlotte Rampling has a cameo role as the father's ex-wife. FILM TALK Everyone is welcome to stay on after the screening for an informal discussion about the film.
-------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

HLSI members: £9 non-members: £12 Please book online by 1.00pm on the day

Sun 25 Feb 2.00pm	ENGLAND, MY ENGLAND We are delighted that the director Tony Palmer will be joining us to introduce the screening of his 1995 film about the great English composer, Henry Purcell. It stars Michael Ball and Simon Callow, with musical performances by John Eliot Gardiner's Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra. The script is co-authored by John Osborne who sets the action in both Purcell's time and the 1960s.
-----------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Tickets: £18 price includes refreshments.
Please book online by 1.00pm on Friday 23 Feb



Dr Angela Barnicoat

SCIENCE TALK

Thurs 29 Feb 8.00pm Victoria Hall	CLINICAL GENETICS - Dr Angela Barnicoat Over the last decade, there have been huge developments in the technology available, not only to examine chromosomes but also to look at the chemical sequences of genes. Dr Barnicoat, who has recently retired from 40 years in the NHS, will discuss the role of genetic and genome testing in the NHS and draw attention to some of the challenging social and ethical issues that the techniques may give rise to.
-------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Free to all. No need to book in advance if attending in person.
To attend remotely, book your online link via the website: www.hlsi.net

Follow us on Twitter @highgatelitsci and on Instagram at HighgateLitSci