

Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution

Life-long learning, companionship, community

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Welcome to 2024 and, no doubt, a year of change in the world at large. At HLSI it will be a case of *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* as we look forward to a busy January of lectures, a film, an opera circle evening, and round the month off with a concert.

Best wishes from Simon Edwards, HLSI President

JANUARY DIARY

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

	Tues 2	10.00am	HLSI OPENS after the Christmas holiday
VH/Z	Tues 9	8.00pm	LECTURE It's OK to be Strange
GR	Weds 10	3.30pm	CHESS GROUP new term starts
VH	Weds 10	7.30pm	OPERA CIRCLE Madam Butterfly
VH/Z	Tues 16	8.00pm	LECTURE Justice for Women
VH	Thurs 18	7.30pm	FILM Everything Went Fine (Tout c'est bien passé)
VH/Z	Tues 23	8.00pm	LECTURE The Iron Curtain Then and Now
L	Fri 26	2.00pm	LIBRARY TOUR open to all
VH/Z	Tues 30	8.00pm	LECTURE 8000 Miles in the Andes by Bamboo Bike
VH	Weds 31	7.30pm	CONCERT The Asaka Quartet

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

HLSI NEWS

It was lovely to see so many members at our **Christmas party**, meeting those new to HLSI as well as familiar faces. Thanks are due to the staff who made the arrangements for a jolly event, joining in when time allowed.

We have returned to packed houses for several events - a delight after the years of restriction - whilst many enjoy attending events online. The **Debate** in December attracted a full house to discuss the pros and cons of returning the Parthenon Marbles to Greece. The house voted in favour, but with a smaller majority than at the start of the debate, and many had their minds changed by the engaging speakers.

Films and **Science Talks** are also increasingly popular. The stimulating programme of films prompts interesting discussions afterwards in the Members' Room, and the visiting speakers on scientific themes have been excellent. The talks are now streamed too.

If you fancy **becoming involved** in one of the activities at HLSI, please get in touch with Sarah Lane or Luca Morelli in the first instance. They will guide you to the relevant group for a further conversation. Email the office on admin@hlsi.net or call 020 8340 3343.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Librarian, Library Committee and Library Volunteers wish HLSI members a happy 2024. Our team of dedicated volunteers look forward to welcoming you in the Library in the coming year.

2024 also brings **new publications** which will be available in the near future after cataloging and processing. Come and have a browse!

The next **Library Tour** will take place on Friday 26 January from 2-3pm. Please book via the website or phone the office.

A successful **Children's Event** was held before Christmas which included a visit to the Library. Why not bring your children or grandchildren for an enjoyable time in our children's section?



The Library welcomes **good quality paperbacks**, both fiction and nonfiction, for our book sales.

EDUCATION NEWS

Our spring 2024 programme launches with an exciting start. At the end of week 1 we have our 2-day Russian literature and philosophy fest:-

Thursday 12 January	The literature and Philosophy of Dostoevsky
Friday 13 January	The Literature and Philosophy of Tolstoy

Both courses have 3 remaining places and both courses take place in the Gosling Room from 10.30 until 3.30pm.

Another exciting new departure in week 1 is Dr Peter Webb's 5-week course on Van Gogh beginning on Tuesday 9 January from 2.30 until 3.30 in Victoria Hall. Dr Webb's course is very timely in a year when The National Gallery will host a spectacular exhibition in September entitled Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers - a once-in-a-century exhibition. Peter's course will be an excellent appetiser, taking students through all the different creative phases in Van Gogh's short life.

Please see the website for details of all spring courses but look in particular at new titles in History of Art, Music Appreciation, French Culture and gardening, the latter offering expert tips on container gardening.

We're looking forward to welcoming you back for another stimulating term at HLSI.



Sarah Cheney

Harriet Wistrich

Timothy Phillips

Kate Rawles

LECTURES

We also look forward to seeing you in the Victoria Hall for the new term's exciting programme of lectures. There's no need to book a place for the hall. Members may sign up to receive online links for the entire term's lectures. These will arrive in your In Box on the afternoon of each lecture. This allows lectures to be viewed at home if preferred. However, it's always lovely to see you in the Victoria Hall in person!

Tues 9 Jan	IT'S OK TO BE STRANGE Sarah Cheney, research fellow at the Queen Mary Centre of the History of the Emotions, University of London
Tues 16 Jan	HOLDING THE STATE TO ACCOUNT AROUND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS Harriet Wistrich, solicitor and Director of the Centre of Women's Justice
Tues 23 Jan	THE IRON CURTAIN THEN AND NOW Timothy Phillips, Emeritus Professor of European History, Bradford University
Tues 30 Jan	8000 MILES IN THE ANDES BY BAMBOO BIKE: THE LIFE CYCLE BIODIVERSITY BIKE RIDE Kate Rawles, writer, cyclist and former lecturer in Environmental Philosophy

Lectures are free to HLSI members; non-members: £10 per lecture



OPERA CIRCLE

Weds 10 Jan 7.30pm Victoria Hall	MADAM BUTTERFLY Barry Mellor introduces us to Puccini's tragic love story, and illustrates his talk with extracts demonstrating a range of performance approaches.
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HLSI members: £7, non-members: £12 Please book online by 1pm on the day



HIGHGATE FILM SOCIETY

Thurs 18 Jan 7.30pm Victoria Hall	EVERYTHING WENT FINE (Tout c'est bien passé) France 2021, 113 mins. Directed by François Ozon. Starring Sophie Marceau, André Dussollier, Géraldine Pailhas, Charlotte Rampling
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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.

Members' Room 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

Or book for the remaining 6 films of the season, still better value than paying for films individually - HLSI members: £45 non-members: £50



CONCERT

Weds 31 Jan 7.30pm Victoria Hall	THE ASAKA QUARTET We are delighted to welcome the award-winning Asaka Quartet to play at HLSI. They have recently (2022/23) been Chamber Music Fellows at the Royal Academy of Music. Their programme for HLSI includes quartets by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich. Full information is available on the website.
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The Victoria Hall has proved itself to be particularly suitable to the intimate scale of chamber music, and the acoustics have been praised by performers and audiences alike. Not to be missed! Following the concert, audience members are welcome to join the quartet for refreshments in the Members' Room.

Tickets HLSI members in advance: £15
Non-members, and all tickets on the door (if available): £18

HIRING HLSI

HLSI is lucky to be in a beautiful building in the heart of Highgate. We can offer rooms suitable for a wide range of events: weddings, celebrations, parties, meetings, AGMs. If you are looking for a space to hire and would like to find out more about HLSI, please see our online brochure or contact Luca Morelli for details or to arrange a visit: luca.morelli@hlsi.net.



The Members' Room

The Coleridge Room

