

# Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution

Life-long learning, companionship, community

11 South Grove, London N6 6BS www.hlsi.net 020 8340 3343 admin@hlsi.net



Though the weekly lecture season has ended, this month there are stimulating discussions with the opera circle on the Barber of Seville and the science group on Solar Geo-engineering. The film society is showing a tragic French film, Saint Omer, set just across the Channel. Best wishes from Simon Edwards, HLSI Chair

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY 2024

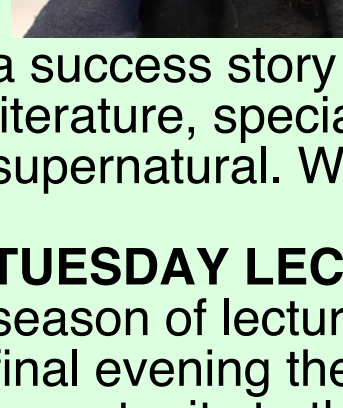
Key VH Victoria Hall L Library Z Zoom

VH	Weds	1	7.30pm	<b>OPERA CIRCLE</b> The Barber of Seville
		4-6		<b>HLSI CLOSED</b> for Bank Holiday
VH	Fri	10	6.00pm	<b>GALLERY PRIVATE VIEW</b> Bodenpress
	Mon	13		<b>LIBRARY CLOSED</b>
VH	Thurs	16	7.30pm	<b>FILM</b> Saint Omer
VH/Z	Thurs	23	8.00pm	<b>SCIENCE TALK</b> Solar Geo-Engineering
		27		<b>HLSI CLOSED</b> for Bank Holiday
L	Fri	31	2-3pm	<b>LIBRARY TOUR</b> free and open to all

## AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE...

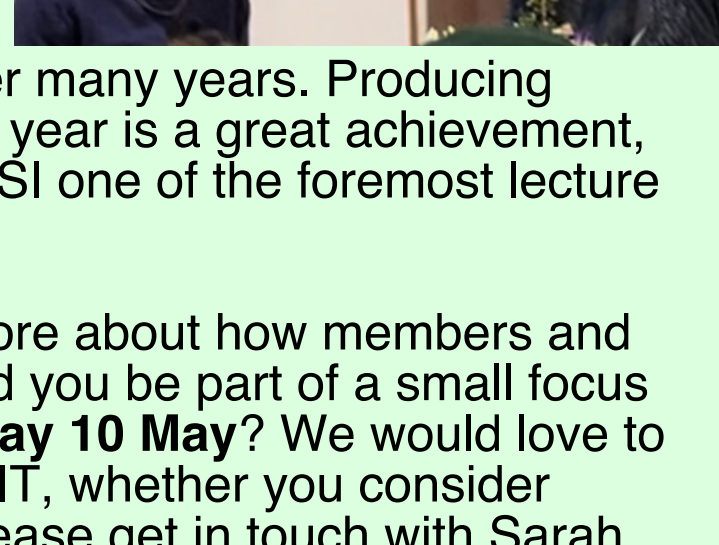
VH	Weds	5	7.30pm	<b>OPERA CIRCLE</b> Great Scenes in Opera
VH	Thurs	20	6.00pm	<b>HLSI AGM</b>

## HLSI NEWS



**WELCOME TO LOTTE** We are delighted to welcome Lotte Rimoncelli to our office team as Administrator for Education and Wider Activities - a big title and a big, full-time, job! Lotte will take responsibility for the full administration of the education programme as well as supporting the work of all the other committees at HLSI. HLSI appealed to Lotte because of our commitment to life-long learning, the very wide range of cultural activities HLSI offers, and our emphasis on building friendships and a warm community. A proven commitment to education and a success story in her own right, Lotte has a degree and a masters in English literature, specialising in 19th century narratives of social class and the supernatural. We hope that Lotte really enjoys working with us at HLSI.

**TUESDAY LECTURES** Another highly successful season of lectures concluded in April, and on the final evening the lecture committee took the opportunity to thank Hilary Laurie for her long and outstanding contribution as committee Chair. Megan Pilgrim made a short presentation, praising Hilary's energy enthusiasm and good humour, and thanking her for her guidance and organisation over many years. Producing twenty-seven high quality and varied lectures each year is a great achievement, and Hilary has been instrumental in making the HLSI one of the foremost lecture venues in London today.



**WEBSITE FOCUS GROUP** We want to find out more about how members and others use and experience the HLSI website. Could you be part of a small focus group, to be held at HLSI on the **afternoon of Friday 10 May**? We would love to hear from you, whatever your level of comfort with IT, whether you consider yourself to be a novice or a confident web-user. Please get in touch with Sarah Lane for more information and to register your interest. Thank you for helping us make improvements, for everyone's benefit!

**ENVELOPE STUFFING** The good news is that the annual newsletter will soon be distributed to members. We'd like to thank everyone who has previously helped with envelope stuffing and distribution. Sarah has already contacted our regulars to see if they can help again this year. However, with lots of new members we would like to increase our numbers, which will include covering new roads/addresses for distribution. Envelope stuffing will take place in the Victoria Hall on **Friday 24 May at 1.30pm**. Those able to distribute envelopes may collect them from the office on Friday 24 May, 3.30-5pm, or Saturday 25 May, 10am-4pm. Please reply to [admin@hlsi.net](mailto:admin@hlsi.net) if you are able to help with stuffing or distribution, and which roads you can cover.

**SUPPORTING HLSI** We are always delighted to hear about the special place that HLSI has in members' lives. To support our activities, many members are keen to make a donation on top of the regular subscription. It is easy to increase your Direct Debit subscription to include a donation, and HLSI can claim Gift Aid on the donation element. Your contribution really assists HLSI's work providing a cultural hub in Highgate. Thank you! Contact Sarah Lane for more information or assistance: 020 8340 3343, or [admin@hlsi.net](mailto:admin@hlsi.net).

**HLSI AGM** A date for your diary: our AGM will be held in the Victoria Hall on Thursday 20 June at 6.00pm. Do join us!

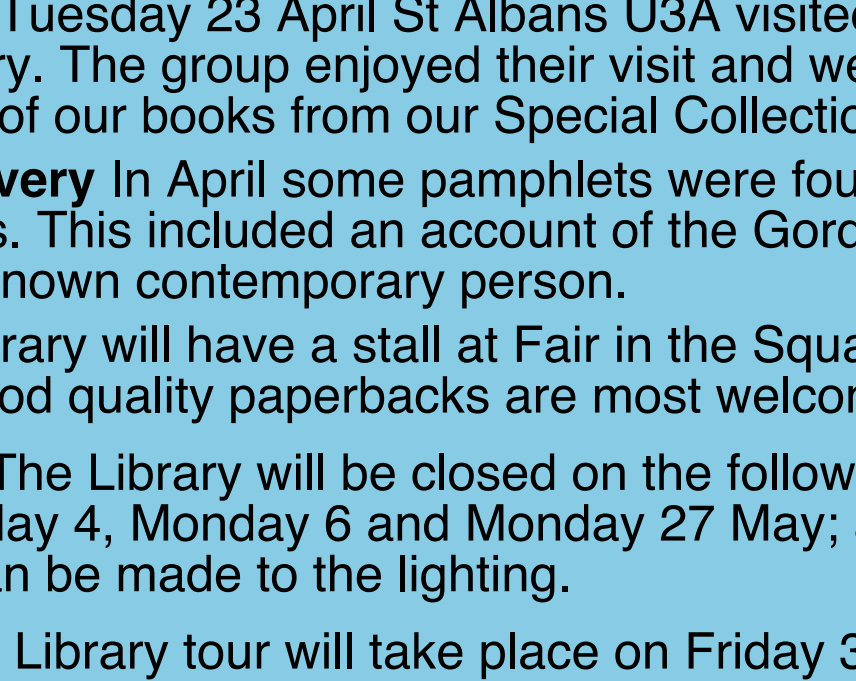
## LIBRARY NEWS

From Lucy Matheson, Librarian:

If you enjoy crime fiction (and it is apparently the UK's most popular genre) you will be aware that we have a large crime section in the library. Do you know that we also about 400 titles in Reserve Stock? These are located in the Library Store and are available for loan. If you would like to see them please ask at the library desk or check the online catalogue.

**New literary course** Watch out for the new 6-week crime fiction course starting at HLSI in September 2024 with Andrew Martin.

**Murder by the Book** is a free exhibition at Cambridge University Library that is open to all. The exhibition "examines crime's place in our literary history and the Library's own special collections". For more information and to book click on the link: <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/murderbythebook>



From Stuart Baines, Chair of the Library committee:

**Visitors** HLSI has become known beyond the boundaries of Highgate and the surrounding area! On Tuesday 23 April St Albans U3A visited HLSI for a tour of the building and the Library. The group enjoyed their visit and were very appreciative of being shown some of our books from our Special Collections.

**An interesting discovery** In April some pamphlets were found in a binding marked Miscellaneous. This included an account of the Gordon Riots with annotations by an unknown contemporary person.

**Library stall** HLSI Library will have a stall at Fair in the Square on Saturday 8 June. Donations of good quality paperbacks are most welcome.

**Some dates to note** The Library will be closed on the following days over the May Bank Holidays: Saturday 4, Monday 6 and Monday 27 May; and on Monday 13 May so that repairs can be made to the lighting.

**Library tour** The next Library tour will take place on Friday 31 May, 2-3pm. All are most welcome - members and non-members. Please book online.

## EDUCATION NEWS

From Cherry Crowley, Chair of the Education committee:

**Musical Theatre Choir** The 'taster' session for the Musical Theatre Choir was a great success: almost 40 people enjoyed a big vocal workout on Tuesday, 23 April, singing a few well-known tunes from the shows. The choir will now become part of the programme at HLSI, resuming on Tuesday, 7 May at 7pm. All the details are on the website and booking is open for enrolments. In the words of one member from Tuesday evening:

*'It was a resounding success with a brilliant, inspiring conductor and we all left at 9pm with a spring in our step. It was good to see a clientele of young people new to HLSI, too.'*

**Thank you to Julian Williamson** Julian Williamson, who has been teaching Music Appreciation at HLSI for four decades, will be retiring after his last class on Wednesday, 22 May. We shall be honouring his long and outstanding service to HLSI with a light buffet lunch on 22 May at 12.30 in the Members' Room. Present and former students are warmly invited to share this occasion to thank Julian for his outstanding contribution.



## OPERA CIRCLE

**Weds 1 May** **THE BARBER OF SEVILLE**  
7.30pm  
Victoria Hall

Bill English hosts an entertaining evening introducing the most popular of comic operas. Rossini wrote the opera in 1816 during his time in Naples, on a libretto from the play by the French playwright Beaumarchais, who also wrote the play of The Marriage of Figaro. Unsuccessful at its premiere, the opera soon became a favourite, both in Italy and internationally, and consolidated Rossini's reputation as one of the great composers of opera in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

HLSI members in advance: £7; non-members and all on the door: £12

Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments (included in admission fee).

Please book online by 1pm on the day.



Segovia (detail), 2023  
Denise Purdy

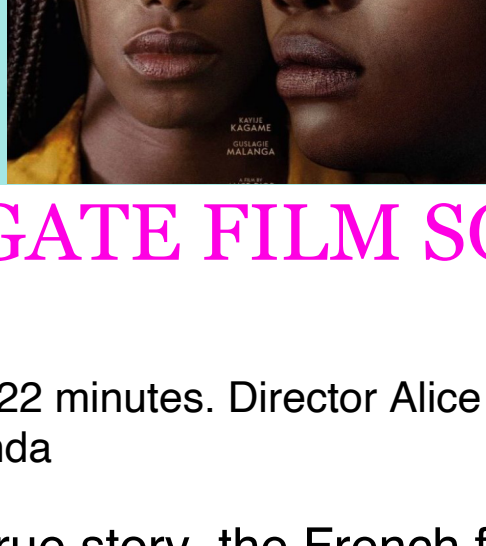
## HIGHGATE GALLERY

**10-23 May** **BODENPRESS - A Walk with Laurie**  
Victoria Hall

The common theme of this group exhibition is the poetic and descriptive writing of Laurie Lee (1914-97), exploring people and places. This will be the sixth literary themed exhibition by Bodenpress, a collective of printmakers. Twelve artists will show work at HLSI, using a variety of styles and techniques: linocut, collagraph, drypoint, monotype, screenprint and polymer etching. The artists will be available throughout the show to discuss their work and promote the practice of printmaking to a wider audience.

**10 May** **PRIVATE VIEW** - 6.00-8.30pm

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



Alistair Duffey

## SCIENCE TALK

**Thurs 23 May** **SOLAR GEO-ENGINEERING**  
8.00pm  
Victoria Hall and Zoom

Alistair Duffey from UCL gives an overview of the proposed ideas for solar geo-engineering and the underlying physical science, in the broader climate change context, and the potential risks and benefits.

FREE TO ALL Please book by 1.00pm on the day to receive a Zoom link, or attend in person in the Victoria Hall (with no need to book)