

London-Art and More

Spring Term 2015

A series of lectures and visits covering a variety of subjects mostly concerning London and the wider world of the arts. Lectures are held on Mondays at Duke Street Church, Richmond, commencing at 10.30 and finishing at 12.30.



5 January 2015

Lecture by Rosalind Whyte

Holbein in England

This talk focuses on Holbein's two extended stays in England. Rosalind will explore the religious and political background of Holbein's times and the impact this had on his life and career as an artist. It looks at his close links with the court of King Henry VIII and how his images of the King have done a great deal to establish a certain view of Henry in modern minds.



12 January 2015

Lecture by Peter Scott

The Wyeths – The American Realists

Three generations of American artists produced a huge range of iconic scenes of American rural life. Peter will take us on a tour of works by Andrew Wyeth, one of the best known American artists of the 20th century, exploring his intimacy with the world around him. The talk will also look at Andrew's father, N.C Wyeth and his son, Jamie.



19 January 2015

Visit by public transport

The Wallace Collection

We will have a private guided tour of the highlights of this sumptuous Marylebone town house. There are 25 galleries, including the magnificent Great Gallery which has just reopened after two years of refurbishment and we'll see the world class collection of old masters in this wonderful setting. There will be time for a cup of tea in the elegant covered courtyard.



26 January 2015

Lecture by Doug Gillen

The Story of Street Art

Doug is a film maker, journalist, blogger and tour guide with close associations to London's street artists. His commentaries focus on the official and unofficial art painted on buildings and street sculptures, especially in London's East End. He will leave the spray cans behind but will tell us about the background, the techniques, the humour and the people behind this art form (it's not just Banksy!). Doug will also explain the social implications, and examine when graffiti becomes a work of art.



2 February 2015

Lecture by Gavin Henderson

151 Years of John Lewis

Last year saw the celebration of John Lewis's 150th anniversary. Gavin is an archivist with John Lewis and his talk will take us through the history of this much loved institution and its influence over the years. The firm has an extensive archive of photographs, documents, fabrics and merchandise samples which Gavin will use to illustrate this talk. We'll hear about the company ethics, and the reasons why it has been so successful.



9 February 2015

Visit by public transport

The Dickens Museum with Lucinda Hawksley

Lucinda has given us two excellent lectures in the past and this time she will take us around the newly re-opened Dickens Museum at his house in Doughty Street. Lucinda is a descendant of Dickens and has written extensively about him. As the museum is small this visit will be in two groups and will be combined with a short walking tour of the surrounding area.



16 February 2015

Lecture by Ian Swankie

London's Looking Up

Whether we like it or not, by 2020 there will be over 200 buildings in London over 20 storeys high and dozens twice this height. This talk looks at the best of these buildings as we discover their extraordinary architectural and engineering challenges. It also examines the controversies and difficult social decisions needed to manage this dramatically changing skyline.

23 February 2015 – Half term



2 March 2015

Visit by public transport

Backstage at the London Coliseum

Built in 1904, this is one of Frank Matcham's great masterpieces. This glorious building is the largest theatre in London, and the first to have electric lighting, lifts and a revolving stage. We'll have a behind-the-scenes tour of the backstage area, dressing rooms, scenery stores and maybe a chance to sit in the Royal Box!



9 March 2015

Lecture by Colin Jones

London's Secret Gardens

Colin is a horticulturalist who lectures regularly on cruise ships. In this talk he will take us on an armchair tour of some of the hundreds of gardens in London, some public, some private, but all colourful and inspiring. He'll also be happy to answer your own gardening questions afterwards. So if you want to know when to prune your clematis – this is the chance to ask!



16 March 2015

Lecture by Julie Chandler

London's 18th Century Pleasure Gardens – See and be Seen!

In the 18th century pleasure gardens were the Hello magazine of the day, where you could see the latest fashions and rub shoulders with the glamorous gentry. Discover London's gardens of entertainment with their fine dining, dancing and musical performances, but also stroll in the dark walks and find out what goes on there!



23 March 2015

Visit by public transport

More City Churches with Tony Tucker

Tony is the acknowledged expert on City churches and this tour will include visits to some churches we haven't seen previously including two very different Wren churches. Firstly the magnificent interior of St Stephen Walbrook with a dome said to be a model for St Paul's. It also contains the original Samaritans telephone. Secondly, St Mary Aldermary with a very fine fan vaulted ceiling and several very rare monuments.



30 March 2015

Lecture by Frank Woodgate

Ai Weiwei

Frank will examine the provocative and often beautiful work of the Chinese artist and designer Ai Weiwei in the context of dissident art in China, Europe and South America, and look at some of his sources of inspiration, including the Russian Constructivist, Vladimir Tatlin and the leading Dada artist, Marcel Duchamp. Later in the year there is a major exhibition of Ai Weiwei's work at the Royal Academy.

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