

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

When joining the Society, we ask for your name and contact details. Any such data that you provide is kept on a small database, and is held by the Membership Secretary.

**We do not pass this data to third parties**, and use it solely for contacting you at renewal time, and where we hold an email address, for sending out reminders a few days before each meeting.

You have the right at any time to ask to have your details removed from the database.

Anyone who fails to attend or respond to us for three years will have their details erased.

## Subscriptions for this season -

**Season Ticket** (eleven talks) \_\_\_\_\_ **£25**  
**January to March** (six talks) \_\_\_\_\_ **£14**  
**Visitor's Fee** (per talk) \_\_\_\_\_ **£6**

If you would like your membership card sent to you BEFORE the first meeting, then please include a stamped, addressed envelope (9"x4"). Otherwise, your card will be held until the first meeting that you attend.

**Very rarely, a talk has to be postponed for some reason. Please check on our website for any last-minute changes to the advertised programme, or contact a member of the committee.**

**To encourage wider membership, members are urged to invite a friend to use their ticket if they are unable to attend a talk themselves.**

## The Committee

**Chairman:** Richard Walker  
3, Vincent Road,  
Coulston. CR5 3DH  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**Secretary:** Georgina Inwards

**Treasurer:** Bob Cherry  
Tel: 07746 680 883

**Membership Secretary:** Yvonne Walker  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**Programme Secretary:** Richard Walker  
Tel: 01737 552 654

**Committee Members:** Sarah Thomas,  
Dawn Gibbons  
Karl Harbour,  
Dave Murray.

# Purley Lit

## 2023/2024

### 110th Programme

***	<b>New Venue:</b>	***
**	<b>Christ Church, Purley</b>	**
***	<b>On-site parking</b>	***

- **Eleven stimulating talks to entertain you from Autumn to Spring**
- **Even better than YouTube!**
- **Close to the station and bus stops.**
- **8 pm start except for the AGM meeting, which starts at 7:30 pm.**

**Meetings: October to March**

**The Philippi Lounge  
Christ Church,  
Adjacent to 861, Brighton Road,  
Purley, CR8 2BN.**

**Queries/website:**

**info@purleylit.org.uk  
www.PurleyLit.org.uk**

**10 October** **Ian Bevan**  
**Historic Greenwich**

Greenwich has been a Viking stronghold, a royal estate, a home for navy veterans, even a smugglers' den, as well as the home of the royal observatory. Ian will talk about the history of Greenwich from the first Celtic settlement to the present day.

**24 October** **Bernard Winchester**  
**The Crystal Palace High Level Railway**

Discover who built the railway and why; its grand terminus, its chequered history - including plans to extend it to Sanderstead and Oxted, and its final fate. Bernard is a retired lecturer and member with a particular interest in local history and railways.

**7 November** **Mark Stevenson**  
**From Riddle to Lion: Recent Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Croydon**

Historic England is the government's lead advisor on the historic environment, and Mark provides advice to most of the south London boroughs. He will discuss the scope of work, and in particular, projects local to Purley.

**21 November** **Tom Oliver**  
**The Work of the City of London Commons**

Over a century ago, the far sighted City of London Corporation purchased tracts of land around London to help the capital breathe. These include Coulsdon Commons and Riddlesdown, and Tom is one of the latest generation of curators of these green spaces.

**5 December** **Carol Harris**  
**Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition**

Endurance was the barquentine in which Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the Antarctic in 1914, where the boat was crushed in the ice. Journalist and social historian, Carol will take us through this epic tale.

----- 2024 -----

**9 January** **Ian Westworth**  
**Restoring Big Ben**

Ian, a veritable 'Time Lord' of Parliament, will talk about one of London's biggest clock projects in recent centuries. Apart from the Great Clock, there are about 240 antique mechanical clocks in the Parliamentary estate—which all need adjusting at least twice each year!

**23 January** **Francesca Murray**  
**Exbury Gardens and the Rothschilds**

Francesca is a garden historian whose particular interest is forgotten Victorian gardeners, nurserymen and florists. She will talk about Exbury Gardens (in Hampshire) and the Rothschilds, which is the subject of her book, "The Eighth Wonder of the World."

**6 February** **Michelle Ernout**  
**Around the Beehive**

From the very first time Michelle looked inside a bee hive, she has been totally fascinated by bees and their environment; and ultimately she became a beekeeper! She will bring a beehive with her (empty, we understand), and talk around it!

**20 February** **John Hickman**  
**Notable Women of Norwood**

John is a member and former President of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (CNHSS). His particular area of interest is largely north of the borough, particularly South Norwood and Woodside.

**5 March** **Michael Withers**  
**Medieval and Renaissance Musical Instruments**

Michael is a multi-instrumentalist and an experienced conductor and arranger, as well as being a member of Faronel – a late medieval and renaissance music group. With the help of some instruments from his collection, Michael will talk about the development of woodwind and stringed instruments, with demonstrations!

**AGM at 7:30 followed by**

**19 March** **Mark Lewis**  
**Edward Lear, the Artist**

Lear is perhaps better known for his 'nonsense verse', but he was also an outstanding landscape painter. This talk examines the life, drawings and paintings of this prolific and well-travelled artist, described by one of his contemporaries as a 'man of versatile and original genius'.