

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" x 4"). Otherwise, your card will be held until the first meeting that you attend.

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,
Coulsdon. 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

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

Very rarely, a talk has to be changed or cancelled for some reason. Please check on our website for any last-minute changes to the advertised programme.

PurleyLit.org.uk

On our website, as well as details about the Society, the 'Links' page contains pointers to other organisations, many of whom have supported us in the past – usually by providing speakers.

Other literary societies and local museums are also included.

Members and visitors alike are encouraged to visit these websites to find out more about the speakers (and their 'parent' organisations).

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.

Purley Lit

2026/2027

**Purley Literary Society presents its
113th Programme**

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

**Meetings: alternate Thursdays,
from October to March**

**The Hebron Hall
Christ Church,
Adjacent to 861 Brighton Road,
Purley,
CR8 2BN.**

Contacts
info@purleylit.org.uk

website: PurleyLit.org.uk

15 October **James Baird**

Medical Detection Dogs

Medical Detection Dogs was founded in 2007, and uses the extraordinary ability of dogs to sniff out diseases. Dogs also serve as alert assistance dogs for people who experience sudden and unexpected episodes, such as fits.

James will be accompanied by Drimmie, mother to Bumper - the first dog to detect Parkinson's.

29 October **Denis Bohm**

Wild Herzegovina

Denis grew up in Mostar, and he has led both birding and cultural trips to Herzegovina for over 10 years. He will take us on a journey to this region that lies on the Adriatic Flyway migratory route where several endangered European bird species still thrive.

12 November **Alan Speed**

Peru: Places and History

Alan's career as an engineering geologist took him to the north of Peru in 1972, close to where Pizarro and his conquistadores landed 500 years earlier. Starting with Pizarro and the Incas, Alan will lead us on a journey, via conquest and independence, to the 20th century.

26 November **Colin Jones**

Monet's Giverny and Van Gogh's Provence

Colin, a gifted horticulturist and speaker, will tell us what an impressionist is, and talk about two of its greatest practitioners. How Monet created his great garden and its water lilies; its decline after his death; and the rebuilding by rich Americans. How Van Gogh's life was poor: both monetarily and in mental state.

10 December **John Hickman**

Beckenham Cemetery

Whilst not one of the big five, the former 'Crystal Palace District Cemetery' is unfortunately much underrated. Local historian John will talk about the controversial origin of the cemetery, the symbolism of some headstones, as well as 'meeting' some of the well known (permanent) residents.

Followed by some Christmas Fayre

----- **2027** -----

7 January **Tony Webb**

The Life of a Master Carver at St Paul's Cathedral

Tony learnt the art of carving wood and stone, and went on to spend much of his career at St Paul's Cathedral. He will tell us about his formal apprenticeship, through to becoming the Master Carver in residence at St Paul's.

21 January **Bernard Winchester**

The Columbian Exposition of 1893

A descendent of the Great Exhibition of 1851, this Chicago World's Fair dazzled its 27 million visitors with the wonders of the new age of electricity. Tesla and Edison played key parts in its dramatic story, alongside the world's first Ferris wheel.

4 February **Lindsey Ould**

Gillett & Johnston

Former Croydon company, Gillett & Johnston, made clocks and cast bells for buildings great and small, on a world-wide basis. Ranging from modest St Mary's church, Balcombe to the Canadian Parliament buildings in Ottawa, Lindsey Ould will tell us the story of this giant in its field.

18 February **Eleanor Redshaw**

My Grandmother was a Suffragette

Eleanor Beatrice Higginson was a member of the suffragette movement in Preston, and by 1914, she was involved in running the local branch of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her grand-daughter and former teacher (also named Eleanor) will tell us about her grandmother's life, and her arrest during the campaign for women's suffrage.

4 March **Rosie Bantick**

Fingerprints and other branches of Forensic Science

Rosie will explain the history & science of fingerprints, and why police forces use them for identification purposes. There will be demonstrations of some of the techniques involved, and there may be the chance for audience participation!

18 March **AGM at 7:30**

and at about 8pm **Tony Harris**

Hercule Poirot 'in person!'

Agatha Christie was probably the famous woman in the world when she mysteriously disappeared a hundred years ago this year. She was found safe and well but nobody ever got to the bottom of her case. Now her best-loved sleuth, Hercule Poirot, takes on the case, - brought to life by popular performer at Purley Lit, Tony Harris!

Followed by the End of Season Party