

As at June 2021 - PLEASE NOTE – all lectures to be confirmed – and we may still be presenting via Zoom

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Eamonn Gearon

“Sahara as Palimpsest”



So, palimpsest? a manuscript or piece of writing material on which later writing has been superimposed on effaced earlier writing....Eamonn has worked, travelled and lived in the Sahara for many years.

Did you know that sand dunes only cover 15% of the Sahara, whereas 60-70% consist of barren flat landscapes; and it contains some of the world’s last unclimbed mountain ranges which stretch for hundreds of miles.

Few of us imagine that the Sahara was still fertile and green until only 12,000 to 14,000 years ago. In an area the size of Western Europe with a population of perhaps 3 – 3.5 million native inhabitants, Eamonn will help us to understand the desert as something more than an uninhabited, empty space.

Tuesday 8th February 2022

Richard Burnip

“Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers in London”



Richard is an Actor, Historian and Writer and well-known as an audiobook narrator.

Originally trained as an actor at The Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, who better to take us on the trail of Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple and Lord Peter Wimsey.



Agatha Christie was born 130 years ago on September 15th 1890 and became the most successful author in the Golden Age of detective fiction. Dame Agatha and that other Queen of Crime, Dorothy L Sayers, chose St James’s and Mayfair as the heart of their detectives’ London. And where did Poirot really live?

Tuesday 8th March 2022

Tessa Boase

“The Women Who Saved the Birds”



Living on the Sussex coast with a pair of binoculars by the back door, author, journalist and campaigner Tessa is interested in feathers!



Feathers photos:by Pybalo, MichaelMaggs, Hariadhi from Wiki Commons

Tessa describes herself as a “social historian and journalist who loves a good story”. Digging into archives, she has brought to life some of those invisible women from the late 19th and early 20th century who made such a difference. Etta Lemon could see the cruelty involved in the fashionable feathered hats of the day and built the RSPB, growing it to Britain’s largest conservation charity.

Tuesday 12th April 2022

Harry Venning

“The Art of the Cartoonist”



Harry graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth with a BA in history before starting a career in acting and then cartooning. You may recognise one of his creations Clare – from the Guardian strip – or BBC Radio 4!



This lecture will introduce the history of the cartoon profession, moving on to contemporary artists and even cartoons produced fresh on the page on the day! Of his own cartoons, Harry says “I can’t draw hands or horses”....

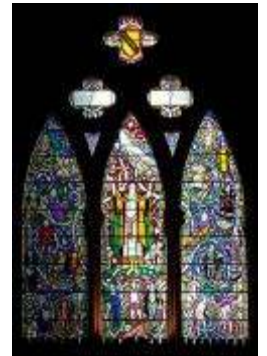
Tuesday 10th May 2022

Anna Warrilow

“The History of the City of London through Stained Glass”




Anna earned a BA (Hons) in the History of Art and Italian and also an MA in Renaissance Decorative Arts. A professional Blue Badge guide and university lecturer, she will lead us on a fascinating historical tour of the City as told through its astonishing heritage of stained glass.



The history of the City of London is a long and illustrious one, from its Roman walls and Mediaeval growth, through plague (unusually apt for today's pandemic times!) and the Great Fire of London to the Blitz of the Second World War, the City has a rich and remarkable heritage. Not forgetting its many well-known personalities such as Dick Whittington and William Caxton.

Within this history, it is the churches, Halls and civic buildings of the City, housing some of the most interesting stained glass windows in Britain, which each tell their own part of London's story. Many of them have withstood the ravages of the Second World War and can trace their history back to the early foundations of the City itself.

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