Elmbridge Borough Council’s Leisure & Cultural Services

Royston Pike Lecture Series 2017-18

An excellent series of lectures covering a wide range of topics
elmbridge.gov.uk/culture
The Royston Pike Lecture Series 2017-18

Edgar Royston Pike, formerly Chairman of the Esher Council, introduced the ‘Esher Library Lectures’ in the late sixties. In 1974, Elmbridge Borough Council changed the title of these lectures to the ‘Royston Pike Lectures’ in appreciation of his 20 years’ work on the Library Committee.

This season, the lectures will be held at the following venues:

**The Barn Theatre:**
70 High Street, West Molesey KT8 2LY

**The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse:**
Hurst Grove, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1AU

**King George’s Hall** (adjacent to Civic Centre):
Off High Street Esher, KT10 9SD

**Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre:**
Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2PF

**The Vera Fletcher Hall:**
4 Embercourt Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0LQ

Most of the lectures will start at 7.30pm but this series also includes 1 afternoon lecture at 1.30pm.

For further information, please call Leisure & Cultural Services on 01372 474 568 or email arts@elmbridge.gov.uk

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Peking to Paris Relived
Sir Gerald Acher

**Date:** Thursday 14 September 2017
**Venue:** Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames | **Time:** 7.30pm

One hundred and ten years ago the first ever transcontinental motor race took place when, in 1907, six mad pioneering motorists raced from Peking to Paris across deserts, traversing canyons and along railway lines. Twenty years ago in September, modern day pioneers set out from Peking to celebrate this race in one of the first historical motor rallies when they rallied to Paris over the Himalayas, through Nepal, India, Pakistan, Baluchistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece. Sir Gerald Acher recounts and illustrates his adventures on this rally covering 10,000 miles in six weeks in a little 1932 Aston Martin 1.5 litre sports car winning the “Spirit of the Rally” award.

Sir Gerald, Chairman of Brooklands Museum Trust, is an enthusiastic driver of vintage and classic cars and has twice completed the challenging Peking-Paris rally – the first time winning the “Spirit of the Rally” Award. Sir Gerald has been prominent in the charity, voluntary and business sectors since his retirement in 2001 from City firm KPMG where he was the Senior London Partner and advised the Aircraft Division of British Aerospace from nationalisation until after flotation on the London Stock Exchange. He is currently President of Young Epilepsy, Vice-Chairman of Motability, Deputy Chairman of Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust and Chairman of Cobham Conservation & Heritage Trust. He was previously the Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts and the Aston Martin Heritage Trust and has also served on the boards of NHS London, BPB Industries and the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Weekend Trust. He is a Past Master of the Chartered Accountants Livery Company.
Gloriana, The Queen’s Rowbarge
What Happened Next?
Malcolm R. Knight

From the Mediterranean to Central Asia, join explorer and broadcaster John Pilkington in two eye-opening journeys. Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan are in the news for all the wrong reasons. In 2009 and 2011, John unravelled a picture quite different from the news stories in two journeys from the Mediterranean to Central Asia. He met a spectacular variety of people – Arabs, Kurds, Wakhi, Kyrgyz and Shia and Sunni Iranians – and despite their differences he often found them working together to survive the harsh climates and make ends meet. In the High Pamirs – a region well-known to Marco Polo – he made a dramatic finale where Afghanistan meets China.

John Pilkington is an old friend of the Royston Pike Lecture Series, and this will be his 15th talk for us. He’s often called “one of Britain’s greatest tellers of travellers’ tales”. After starting as an author and journalist he became a broadcaster with the BBC World Service and Radio 4, making travel documentaries and contributing to programmes such as ‘From Our Own Correspondent’. But it’s for his superbly illustrated talks that people know him best. He has spoken to over 1,000 audiences in six countries, and holds the Royal Geographical Society’s much-coveted Ness Award for popularising geography and the wider understanding of the world.

Further to the 2015 Royston Pike lecture, ‘The Making of the Gloriana’, Malcolm Knight’s talk explores how the Thames Alive organisation was involved at the beginning with Gloriana, the concept of a River Pageant to celebrate HM Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and how the Thames Traditional Rowing Association helped bring the Olympic flame to London on a traditional rowing boat.

The talk will include pictures of the build, launch and events such as the Diamond Jubilee Pageant and Day 70 of the Olympic Torch Relay with background stories, including selected events that Gloriana attended such as Magna Carta 800, Lord Mayor’s Flotilla, Tudor Pull and Gloriana Achievers Day.

Malcolm is Secretary of the Thames Traditional Rowing Association and a Director of Team Thames Alive. A fixed-seat oarsman with five World Records for distance rowing, three set on the River Thames (the last in 2005 for rowing the length of the Thames single-handed non-stop), he now organises events for others to enjoy (the annual Tudor Pull, The Admiral of the Port Challenge, The Port of London Challenge, The Lord Mayor’s Show Flotilla and is one of the original organisers of the London 2 Paris Rowing Challenge). Malcolm is retired from the Metropolitan Police after serving 25 years.
Maggs makes a return to the Royston Pike lecture series with another one of her ‘takes’ on the world around us: Life as it is lived at home. Presented in her unique style she explores other cultures’ domestic habits and ours and wonders if domesticity is all it’s cut out to be. What exactly is home?

Maggs Latter is an arts consultant and speaker and has lived locally for over 30 years. Maggs taught drama for Scene Two Drama School, Walton Theatre Workshop, Adult Education classes and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. She was a drama adviser for Surrey County Council, a youth worker and a founding member of The Barn Theatre. She is a member of the 120 singers of Elmbridge Choir and participates in all things theatrical. A former Arts Development Officer for Elmbridge Borough Council, and former Head of the Friends of the Riverhouse Arts Centre, Maggs has recently become a Trustee of the R C Sherriff Trust. Maggs would like to point out that she has no time for domesticity, hence she will talk about it instead.

The vibrant colour of tulips, heralding spring, and the beauty of its form has delighted many people over the centuries. Hear the story of how the lowly tulip came to Europe, the subsequent tulip mania and the later tulip craze in Turkey.

Cherrill Sands has always been interested in gardens, initially passing the RHS General Certificate. After becoming a volunteer and guide at Painshill Park she achieved her MA in the Conservation of Gardens, Landscapes & Parks from the Architectural Association in London. She now works mainly as a freelance garden historian and consultant, including an involvement with the restoration of Battersea Park, teaching for Adult Education, giving talks to local groups and writing about subjects relating to gardens. Since January 2016 she has been Chairman of the Surrey Gardens Trust and is also part of the Research & Recording team.

At Painshill she works in the archives, gives guided tours, and is a Representative Member for Painshill Park Trust. In 2013 she went on a Lecture Tour of the USA for Painshill, giving talks in Philadelphia, New York and Chicago.
The Villas and Gardens of Lake Como

Keith Holmes

Lake Como is situated in the wealthy Italian region of Lombardy in the foothills of the Alps. Whilst Lake Maggiore is the longest of the lakes and Lake Garda the largest, Lake Como is perhaps the most beautiful. The area offers the visitor a heady combination of mountains, lake and delightful villages. It was the building of the lakeside villas that brought the area to the attention of Europe’s nobility leading to tourism for the wealthy in the 19th century.

Keith’s talk focuses on the villages of the Centro Lago – the central part of the Lake, Tremezzo and Varenna and in particular the small town of Bellagio, aptly named the “Pearl of the Lake”. The villas and gardens of Melzi, Carlotta, Serbelloni and Balbianello are pictured against the spectacular backdrop of mountains and lake. There is also a visit to the historic garden of Villa d’Este at Cernobbio. This luxurious hotel is regarded as one of the world’s best and is favoured by royalty, the rich and famous.

Keith Holmes is a speaker and photographer based in Derbyshire who presents a series of talks on England & Italy to societies throughout England.

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Surrey on Film 1914-1953

A Community in Peace and War

Matthew Piggott

This fascinating compilation film, narrated by Matthew Piggott, is jointly produced by Screen Archive South East and Surrey History Centre, traces community life in the county from peacetime through the trauma of two world wars and closes with the coronation celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Among the films included on the video are: a parade in Godalming, 1913 (one of the earliest surviving films of a Surrey town); Women war workers in Shackleford during the First World War; Reigate Borough Carnival, 1926; Empire Day at the Southern Railway Servant’s Orphanage, Woking, 1933; George V Silver Jubilee celebrations in Walton-on-Thames and Hersham, 1935; The Emberton Family of Chobham, 1936 and 1938; Walton’s March for Victory, 1941; and Horley Cricket Club Coronation Fete, 1953.

Matthew Piggott has worked at the History Centre since 2001. He graduated with a BA in History and Politics from Kingston University in 1996 and a Master degree in Religious History from St Mary’s University College, Strawberry Hill, in 1998. He obtained a Diploma in Archive Administration from Aberystwyth University in 2004.

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The competition is open to students aged 18 or under on 18th November 2017, who live in the borough of Elmbridge, and who have reached the standard of ABRSM Grade 5, on their chosen instrument(s). NB You do not need to have taken formal exams. The closing date for entries is 9pm on Friday 29 September 2017 with auditions held on Saturday 14 October. The final will be held on Saturday 16th November, at Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton on Thames.

Full terms and conditions and an entry form are available at www.rcsherriftrust.org.uk or by contacting 01932 229996 or emailing arts@rcsherriftrust.org.uk.

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2017

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For further details contact arts@rcsherriftrust.org.uk or call 01932 229996