

**THE THIRTEEN SOCIETY
PROGRAMME
2019-2020
at Kingswood Village Hall**

Monday, October 14th, 2019 8.00 pm

Phil Holt

The Crowded Sky

A casual observer looking up on a summer's day will see the white contrails left by planes and perhaps have an inkling that there is a pattern to it. Who controls it? What are the systems and procedures? How will they keep on sharing out the airspace in "The Crowded Sky"? Phil Holt was an Air Traffic Controller for over 30 years and will present an amusing yet factual talk on air traffic control, so standby for take off!

Monday, November 11th, 2019 8.00 pm

Dr Nikki Gammans

Bumblebee conservation

We are learning daily of the need to protect our environment and tonight's speaker will begin with a description of the three different types of bee species, their ecology, lifecycle and behaviour. She will continue to describe how UK bee populations are declining, and the reasons why, and how we can help through our gardens and will conclude with a discussion on the short-haired bumblebee project which aims to reintroduce an extinct UK species and her work with farmers and land owners to restore flower rich habitat.

Monday, December 9th, 2019 8.00 pm

Barry Venning

Giles: The Life, Times and Cartoons of a National Treasure

The cartoonist, Carl Giles, once said that he loved his creation, Grandma Giles – that fearsome, black-clad, gambling, drinking battleaxe – because she allowed him to say things through his cartoons that he was too polite to say in person. She helped him to poke fun at authority in all its forms, from Hitler to traffic wardens and even his employers at the Daily Express. Few people realise, however, that this likeable and humane satirist was also a war correspondent who witnessed the horrors of Belsen.

If in doubt, please check with a committee member before leaving home when the weather conditions are bad.

Monday, January 13th, 2020 8.00 pm

Martin Pailthorpe

Sanctuary and Saboteurs - to Norway and Belarus on the trail of the true stories behind two WW2 movies.

Martin worked with TV's Ray Mears on two films. One about the "Real Heroes of Telemark", the Nazi atomic bomb and the Norwegian saboteurs themselves, his trip

in their footsteps (winter and summer) and their survival story. The other film is about a group of Jewish brothers who set up a huge camp in the forests of what is now Belarus and organised saboteur raids on the Germans. In both cases we follow in their footsteps while discovering the survival techniques they used.

Monday, February 10th, 2020 8.00 pm

Lorraine Spindler

Surrey Spies

In 2018 a coroner ruled that the government can keep secret the details of whether there were any links between British spies and a Russian businessman who died in mysterious circumstances. Alexander Perepilichnyy, 44, collapsed in November 2012 when out jogging near his mansion in Surrey. Foreign interference in the affairs of our country is nothing new in Surrey and neither is the governments wish for these 'activities' to be kept secret. This talk will uncover many of Surrey's historic links to the activities of spies and ultimately how the training of assassins in Surrey changed the direction of the Second World War.

Monday March 2nd, 2020

12.30 for 1pm

Annual Luncheon at Walton Heath Golf Club

Please register interest as soon as possible, tickets available from November

Monday, March 9th, 2020 8.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

followed by: -

Roger Askew

Handel- from Opera to Oratorio

This lecture explores how a musician from a relatively obscure German state came to transform the musical life of Britain, from his arrival in 1710 to his death in 1759, and beyond. George Frederick Handel created some of the finest music for ceremonial occasions and during his lifetime was the one composer to whom people turned when they wanted to celebrate a national event. He invented the English oratorio which is central to much of the professional and amateur music-making up and down the country. The lecture explores this most British of composers and is illustrated with a variety of musical examples, some well-known, others less familiar.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Phil Holt joined National Air Traffic Services (NATS) in 1972 as an Air Traffic Controller, a career spanning almost 40 years serving at seven locations, including London Heathrow, the busiest airport in the world. He has served as a reservist in the R.A.F. as a flying instructor and in Maritime Air Region operations. Phil, involved with organising airshows, continues as an active pilot and can count amongst his flying achievements parachute dropping and flying for the St John's Ambulance air wing.

Dr Nikki Gammans graduated at Edinburgh University, studying biology with Hons. in Ecology and went on to complete a PhD at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Southampton University, studying ant behaviour. Later she completed a one year post doctorate course in the USA on invasive ant species. On her return she worked with London Zoo and Surrey Wildlife Trust before beginning her role as project officer on the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction. Nikki's current roles include working with farmers & landowners across the release sites of South Kent & East Sussex.

Barry Venning is an historian of British art with a particular interest in Turner and was the BBC's script consultant on a film about the artist. He is an associate lecturer for the Open University and lectures for the Arts Society, Christie's education and others.

Martin Pailthorpe is a TV producer, specialising in wildlife and expedition films in remote and challenging locations. His films have been shown on domestic and worldwide TV channels. He has worked with the likes of Ray Mears, Bear Grylls and Monty Halls, in locations as diverse as the slopes of Everest, the Canadian Arctic, the tropics and - closer to home - the Hebrides and West Coast of Ireland. Martin returns to us after a very popular first visit in 2018.

Lorraine Spindler studied European history, genealogy and military history and began her career with Reed Business Publishing before becoming a founder director of Boffin Books. Until recently, Lorraine was the curator at Leatherhead Museum, responsible for the First World War Centenary exhibitions and helped co-ordinate the First World War genealogy investigation team at Dorking Museum. Since March 2019 Lorraine has taken over as Chair of the Walton on the Hill & District Local History Society.

Roger Askew brings a wide experience to his lecturing. He was a chorister at Wells Cathedral, then a Choral Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. There he gained degrees in English Literature and Music before spending many years as a professional singer in London.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman..... Robert Rosbotham (833496)
Hon Treasurer.....Roger Furnston (553323)
Hon Secretary..... Trevor Jobling (554118)
Membership Secretary.....Adele Hawkins (355653)
Programme Secretary....Frances Rosbotham (833496)

Bunty Bennett Sue Camblin.
Mary Hudson James Jackson.
Margot Jobling Pat Kitchen

Hon Examiner.....Lewis Brown

Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be available at the February meeting and the accounts available at the AGM.

Annual subscription £18.00
Guests: £5.00 each per meeting
(including coffee and tea served during the evening)

Date for your Diary

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12.30 for 1pm
Tickets available in November

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