

NEWSLETTER October 2026



The Monthly Newsletter of The Arts Society

Leatherhead **October 2026**



Postcard 24

Lipsi, Greece

Greek island of the Donecanese group

by Anne Trickle

Dear Members

Doesn't the island of Lipsi look spectacular? I'm sure many of us wish we were there but, back in Surrey, October brings not only changing leaves, shorter days and cooler weather, but also our AGM. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the meeting. We have prepared all the documents required for the AGM and hope you will have had a chance to read them as they have to be accepted and approved by our membership. Following the AGM, Roger Mendham will give his lecture on the Evolution of Street Art.

Later this month, Roger is taking members on a guided walk to view our local Street Art in the Brick Lane area of London. He is doing the same tour on two separate dates, 22 and 29 October so please let him know if you want to join the group but haven't yet completed an expression of interest form.

In November, The Arts Society Surrey Area are holding a special interest morning entitled 'I Know it So Well: Musicals and their Inescapable Hit Songs'. It promises to be a lively and entertaining morning. Details and a link to booking tickets are further down this newsletter and also available via a link on our own website – via the menu option Surrey Area / Area Events.

Finally, you can now book places for our New Year lunch and lecture on 13 January 2027. The lecture, 'The Art of State Ceremonial Music' will offer insight into how the military prepares for major occasions such as the State Opening of Parliament, Royal Weddings and State Funerals. Booking forms will be available at the October meeting and a link to the Booking form is in this newsletter. Please join us for a very ceremonial event!

Best Wishes

Carol

THIS MONTH'S LECTUREand AGM

Wednesday 14 October 2026

The meeting will start with the AGM. Links to the relevant documents are below and all documents are on our website in the section: Our Society / Documents

[AGM Agenda](#)

[Minutes of the 2025 AGM](#)

[Trustees Annual Report and Accounts to year end 31 July 2026](#)



(Following our Annual General Meeting)

The Evolution of Street Art

by [Roger Mendham](#)

Over the past 50 years street art has evolved from its roots in American graffiti to becoming a global art movement.

The talk includes examples of street art from various locations in the UK and internationally. Expect some great images of brilliant art on some unexpected surfaces as we explore the beauty of this very modern art form.

NEXT MONTH'S LECTURE

Wednesday 11 November
2026

Rembrandt's 'Night Watch':
The Anatomy of a
Masterpiece

by Hilary Williams

'The Night Watch' of 1642 is
Rembrandt's greatest and most
famous painting. But why is it
so special?



How did Rembrandt paint it and where has it been hung throughout its life? Who are the characters represented? Why is there a lone woman and what is meant by the dead chicken trussed up in her waistband? What does this all tell us about changing Dutch society? Hilary Williams will reveal all!

VISIT TO HIGHGATE CEMETERY



Visit to Highgate Cemetery - Wednesday 23 September

On a glorious late summer day, eighteen members travelled, via Waterloo and the Northern line to Archway, to visit Highgate Cemetery. A tour of this famous cemetery offers a hauntingly atmospheric walk through Victorian history and overgrown nature. Split into two halves, the West Cemetery requires a guided tour, and we were fortunate to have Peter Mills as our guide. Peter has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the cemetery and brought every aspect of the place to life with his wonderful commentary.

He led us through dramatic features like the Egyptian Avenue, the Circle of Lebanon, and subterranean catacombs framed by towering trees. Some of the highlights were the sheer scale of some of the

tombs, the very early monuments and the graves of famous individuals, such as George Michael and Alexander Litvinenko. In the catacombs we saw the lead coffin of Dr. Robert Liston, a famous 19th-century Scottish surgeon known for his incredible speed and also for being the first to use an anaesthetic in Europe.

Animals feature on a number of the graves, with a large stone lion on the tomb of George Wombwell, a 'menagerist' and a massive dog on the tomb of Tom Sayers, a legendary Victorian bare-knuckle prize fighter. Tom's grave was the most visited in the West Cemetery during Victorian times.

The tour was supposed to finish at that point, but our guide offered to take us into the East Cemetery to see the grave of Karl Marx. This part of the cemetery contains more modern graves, including Douglas Adams – with a dominant 42 in the headstone, as well as the very large monument and bust of Karl Marx.

It was a fascinating trip with so much to enjoy, and our thanks go to Irene Gawne for making it all happen.

Roger Mendham

NEXT VISIT

October Visit: Street Art Walking Tour

Thursday 22 October and 29 October 2026

DISCOVERING STREET ART -

A Walking Tour of the Brick Lane Area

An opportunity to take a guided walking tour of the Brick Lane area, discovering the various types of Street Art on display. The trip will involve independent travel and the cost is £10 per person. Just a few places left.



[STREET ART WALKING TOUR](#)

December Visit: Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 2 December 2026

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

We have a few tickets left for our Christmas outing - to enjoy a Ceremony of Carols by Candlelight service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.



The cost is £32 per person.

Although this visit is almost fully booked, Cheryl is happy to maintain a waiting list. Please complete an Expression of Interest form to be added to the list. Names will also be taken at the October lecture meeting.

[CEREMONY OF CAROLS](#)

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Join us at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon, KT11 3QQ and explore the world of musical theatre and its place in popular culture.

Stage musicals have long been a source of some of the most well-known and lasting popular songs. John Snelson will explore how these hit songs spread from the stage into shared culture.

Tickets cost £30 for the 2 lectures plus tea/coffee. Click the link below for more details:

[The Arts Society Surrey Area Special Interest Event](#)

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets for this Event](#)

NEW YEAR LUNCH

The Arts Society Surrey Area presents

I know it so well:

Musicals and their Inescapable Hit Songs

Friday 13th November 2026
10.00am - 1.00pm

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road,
Stoke d'Abernon KT11 3QQ

Dr John Snelson will have us tapping our toes and maybe-just maybe -singing along as we explore the world of musical theatre and its place in popular culture. This promises to be a lively and entertaining morning.

To book tickets with Ticket Tailor please scan QR Code below or go to:
www.tickettailor.com/events/theartssoietysurreyarea/2276021

For more information email: info@theartssoietysurreyarea.co.uk

Tickets £30.00. Includes the two talks and coffee.
Non-members are welcome



Wednesday 13 January 2027

New Year Lunch and Lecture
from 12.00 noon at
the Old Barn Hall, Bookham ,
KT23 3PQ

Our lecture will be:

**The Art of State Ceremonial
Music**

by Graham Jones

The UK provides some of the biggest and arguably the best Ceremonial Events in the world. Why is this? How do the military prepare for major events such as State Opening of Parliament, State Visits, Remembrance Day, Royal Weddings or even a State Funeral. Please Click this link to book. Forms will also be available at the October lecture meeting.

The cost is £33 for a welcome drink, two-course lunch, plus tea or coffee and the lecture.

[NEW YEAR LUNCH BOOKING FORM](#)

NEW ARTFULLY SAID



In the latest ArtfullySaidepisode, [‘Are We Losing the Art of Painting?’](#) Arts Society Accredited Lecturer Alice White joins artist, writer and broadcaster Lachlan Goudie to explore how artists have made paintings across thousands of years.

From prehistoric ochre and Renaissance workshops to Rembrandt’s impasto, art-school training and AI, they discuss the materials, skills, accidents and technologies that shape a work of art. Together they investigate what understanding the process of painting can add to, and even change, how we look at an artwork.

