

**7 March** **John Pilkington**  
*Russia and Europe: What Next!*

Passions run high in Ukraine and the Caucasus. Putin's adventures in Ukraine took the West by surprise. But followed the pattern of the legendary 'Great Game' between Russia and Britain in Victorian times. John has always loved Eastern Europe and 2015 seemed the perfect time to get to know it better, discovering the stories behind the news. Visiting two places that hosted the worst events in past history Auschwitz and Chernobyl. The trip was both upsetting and heart-warming. After five months, I'm none the wiser. But I did get a surprising insight into the people, their sadness and the practical steps some are taking towards a calmer future.

**21 March** **Alan Johnson MP**  
*AGM @ 7:30pm, followed by refreshments*

***The Long Winding Road***

The third volume of Alan Johnson's best selling and award-winning memoirs takes us to the corridors of Westminster, lifting the lid on the life of a hard working constituency MP. Entering Parliament in 1997, was something of a culture shock. Alan eventually took to the corridors of power, fuelled by his passionately held principles and his loyalty to his constituents in Hull West and Hessle. No self-aggrandising memoir of politicking and skulduggery. In the best selling tradition of '*This Boy*' and '*Please, Mister Postman*', Alan's honesty and authenticity shine through. Prepare to see Westminster as you've never seen it before!

**SUBSCRIPTION FOR  
THE 2016/17 SEASON**

**Season Ticket** (eleven talks)-----£22  
**January to March** (six talks)-----£12  
**Visitor's Fee** (per talk)-----£5

Please also include a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of your membership card and programme.

Very rarely, a talk has to be postponed through bad weather. If in doubt, please check our website. If that's not possible, ring a committee member the day before the talk.

*To encourage wider membership, members are urged to invite a friend to use their ticket if they are unable to attend a lecture.*

**COMMITTEE**

**Chairman:** John D Wilson  
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Tel: 020 8657 3189

**General Secretary:** Daphne Knights  
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**Treasurer:** Daphne Knights

**Additional Member:** Bob Cherry

**Purley Lit**

**2016/17**

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**104<sup>th</sup> PROGRAMME**

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- **ELEVEN STIMULATING TALKS TO ENTERTAIN YOU FROM AUTUMN TO SPRING.**
- **GIVE TV A REST AND YOUR FRIENDS A TREAT - BRING THEM ALONG TO ENJOY AND QUESTION ENTHUSIASTS AND SPECIALISTS WHO REALLY KNOW THEIR SUBJECTS.**
- **MANY TALKS ARE ILLUSTRATED, SOMETIMES SPECTACULARLY, USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY.**
- **ALWAYS AN ENJOYABLE EVENING OUT.**

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**Meetings: October to March  
8 pm in the hall of  
Purley United Reformed Church  
906 Brighton Road  
Purley CR8 2LN**

[www.purley-literary-society.com](http://www.purley-literary-society.com)

**11 October** **Roger Barton**  
*Reminiscences of a Fishmonger*

Roger got into "the fish business" through his father, entering old Billingsgate market as a shop boy. By the time it moved to its current location he had become a fish tenant. He got a leading role in a TV programme, featuring the market and its characters called "Inside Billingsgate". A new series followed, "The World's Greatest Markets" where Roger was given the challenge by the BBC to sell in India, USA and Mexico.

**25 October** **Kev Reynolds**  
*Abode of the Gods*

From Nepal's west to its far north-east, Kev has wandered the highest mountains and deepest valleys. If this is your scene, this lecture will appeal. A writer, lecturer specialising in mountains and wild places, he has produced two volumes of memoirs. *A "Walk in the Clouds"* and *"Abode of the Gods"*, experiences of Nepalese journeys.

**8 November** **Dr Lois Oliver**  
*Tailoring the Image:  
Costume and Accessories in Art*

Lois explains how clothing and accessories play a significant role in art. For artists; fabrics, lace, embroidery and jewellery provide a showcase for their virtuosity. Based on research from 1500 to 1900, exploring the significance of everything from armour to silk slippers. Featuring works by the masters and close-up details of paintings and historic costumes.

**22 November** **Ilana Cravitz**  
*The London Klezmer Quartet*

Melodies played on fiddle, clarinet, accordion and double bass, colourful stories about musicians' lives and times, from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Delving into celebratory and soulful Eastern European Jewish music. Subtle original tradition, combining a kick-the-chairs-over desire to party. Reviving an almost-lost folk tradition, LKQ's music includes themes on food, love, conscription and exile.

**6 December** **Neil Miller**  
*Hever Castle Gardens*

Neil Miller will give us a brief history of the Castle from day one to the present day, including the turbulent Tudor Times. The gardens, originally laid down by the Astor family in the very early twentieth century. Today they are a show piece of the gardener's art.

## **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**10 January** **Colin Jones**  
*Gardening Under the Tsars*

The two Greats, Peter and Catherine wanted St Petersburg, to be a European style city, including their gardens. Peter wanted the formal French Versailles style, whilst Catherine desired an English informal landscape. With only 137 days a year frost free, making it difficult to garden. Colin shows us the results and what became of the gardens under war and peace.

**24 January** **Chas Bailey**  
*Early Churchill Years*

The talk could be called "Winston Churchill - Exceeding Expectations". He was arguably one of the most enigmatic men of modern times. Chas will explain what made Churchill the man he was and show how despite his personal difficulties and the stresses of World War II, Churchill became the man of the moment.

**7 February** **Nigel Arch**  
*A Very Sweet Villa:  
the Life and Times of Kensington Palace*

Nigel speaks about Kensington Palace, discussing the architectural development of the palace and gardens in the context of royal inhabitants, from William III onwards. Spending 30 years, as Curator of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection and later as Director of the State Apartments. Finally responsible for Kew Palace.

**21 February** **John Wilson**  
*Lord Armstrong of Cragside*

Possibly Britain's leading scientist, engineer and entrepreneur. John will talk of his first profession as a lawyer and his second and most important ENGINEER! He developed hydraulics, and a completely new big gun system and was a very successful ship builder. His house 'Cragside' the first to have all modern conveniences, pre 1880! His last project, designing the mechanism for Tower Bridge. Died in 1900, his personal assets amounted to £180 million at that time.