

PROGRAMME 2018

- January No Evening Meeting
- Friday
February 16th **CONSERVATION WORK IN ASHPLATS WOOD**
TANYA HAYMAN, Chairman of Ashplats Conservation Group will talk about the valuable work of the Group.
- Friday
March 16th **OPEN FORUM**
Discussion on Planning, Development and Heritage issues followed by a talk about 'Rebuilding Bodies and Souls' the permanent exhibition at the Town Museum about the pioneering plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe.
- Friday
April 20th **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CHRISTOPHER ROBIN**
By GILLY HALCROW. 'Did that small English teddy bear overshadow his life?'
- Monday
May 7th 10am-4pm **MAY FAIR: SOCIETY STALL IN THE HIGH STREET**
An opportunity to find out who we are and what we do, plus a tombola with fantastic prizes!
- Friday
May 18th **GALES, GREENHOUSES AND GLOBAL WARMING**
By IAN CURRIE, with particular reference to the local area.
- Friday
June 15th **SECRET SUSSEX GARDENS**
By LESLIE CHAMBERLAIN, she is an active supporter of the National Garden Scheme and assists the County organisation.
- Saturday
July 14th 2.30pm **19th & 20th CENTURY EAST GRINSTEAD; TOWN TRAIL 2**
Guided walk starting from the High Street Bookshop, led by Chris Wheatley.
- Friday
July 20th **THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EDITH CAVELL**
By MELANIE GIBSON-MARTIN, she will explore the story of this British nursing heroine who was executed in October 1915.
- August No Evening Meeting.
- Sunday
September 9th **NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, A GUIDED TOWN WALK**
High Street, starting in St Swithun's Church, at 2.30pm led by Chris Wheatley.
- Friday
September 21st **SOUTH OF ENGLAND SOCIETY; HISTORY & CURRENT ACTIVITIES**
By IAN NICHOL, CEO of the South of England Agricultural Society and Director of the South of England Event Centre.
- Friday
October 19th **51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Followed by MARY NICHOLLS, East Grinstead Street Pastors Co-ordinator.
- Friday
November 16th **OUR FLORAL TOWN**
By JENNY WATSON, EGTC Head Gardener. Jenny coordinates the floral displays in the High Street and maintains the Terrace Garden and the Memorial Garden at East Court.
- Friday
December 14th **STANDEN, 15 YEARS A VOLUNTEER**
By HELEN BEALE, who will talk about her experiences and the recent changes in the house and gardens.

Friday meetings start at 7.30pm in Main Hall, East Court Mansion, College Lane, RH19 3LT, with a charge of £1.00/member and £3/non-member.

Annual adult subscription of £10 includes a bi-annual Bulletin and a Newsletter.

Application form found on website, or from Hon. Treasurer.

Walks guide Chris Wheatley; cjvwheatley@yahoo.co.uk. Ph. 07912 642730.

Website: www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org

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The East Grinstead Society is an independent association which exists to maintain and enhance the town's distinctive character by monitoring planning applications and the amenities in the town and its surroundings. Evening meetings are held during the year, with guided walks reflecting the town's heritage, participation in cultural events and recognition of notable members and residents.

THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY 2018



Sackville House - A Timber-Framed house with a rare Portland garden

One of the rare gems in East Grinstead's Conservation Area is Sackville House, a timber-framed building dating from around 1520, built as a hall with chambers at one end, but remodelled 50 years later to form a substantial house running back from the street with a yard at the side roofed by Horsham stone tiles and a well. The house was rescued from decay in 1919 by Geoffrey Webb, a devout Catholic and well-known stained-glass artist, who designed an iron grille in the wooden entrance gates so that passers-by could get a glimpse of the rare Portland garden. This is 630 feet, about 200 metres, or one furlong long sloping to the south, with Ashdown Forest in the distance. Geoffrey Webb's daughter, Ursula, left it to The Landmark Trust, in 1995, with a wish that it be kept as a dwelling. Ursula Webb loved riding and often rode from the Portland direct to Ashdown Forest without using any roads. It was Ursula's brother, Father Benedict, who was the first Landmark visitor. The house can be booked for self-catering holidays and free access is occasionally allowed during Heritage Open Days weekend.

(Illustration: Photograph © The Landmark Trust www.landmarktrust.org.uk.)