

GLOSSOP GUILD - MEMBERS NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

Hello There! To all Members both old (well, not too old) and new (well, old enough). We hope the vast majority of you have managed to avoid any infection from the Corona Virus; but if anybody has been unlucky enough to contract the Virus that you have recovered well from it.

You will all know that although there has been a considerable downturn in the infection rate; that there are still spikes occurring in different areas. The thing has not finally subsided yet.

Because of this and the uncertainty which remains around the Covid rearing its head again, the Committee have decided that the Autumn Term certainly will need to be presented via the Zoom technology. Many of you will have joined us, when with a number of Tutors, we were able to bring presentations to your homes, for a number of Courses in June. While not being as satisfactory as a live, in the room lecture; from the feedback members gave us, this way of presenting material was as satisfactory as any method we could devise in the circumstances. We would like to thank Alan Sennett who showed us the way to do this. And I would like to thank John Coupe, Bill Murray and Richard Leyshon for organising and making the sessions so satisfactory; and giving us the impetus to present a complete term using Zoom.

It may be possible, if the Pandemic recedes quickly and meeting restrictions are largely lifted for meeting in rooms, for us to put on one or two Courses at end of November/beginning December so that we can meet in an enclosed room with a group. If this is possible we will give you details as soon as is feasible. By November we will have a clear idea whether, in the Spring 2021 Term, we can run Courses for groups in a room, or we will have to rely on Zoom technology. Whatever happens, you can rest assured that the Committee will have put together a series of interesting and informative Courses for the Spring term .

Some details about running Courses via Zoom :

In accordance with some members wishes, most of the 2 Hour sessions will be presented by a single Tutor; talking to their subject both before and after the break in the middle. We are not able to run Zoom Courses in the evenings; as it is unreliable due to the high pressure of people using the facility.

Paying for Courses . There will be special rate of £15 to members (£25 for non-members) for a "Season Pass" to join all our Autumn term sessions. You can also attend single sessions for £7, as a "taster", which will be taken off the cost of a "Season Pass" if you go on to buy one.

Questions for Tutors will, as before, be at the end of the Session after the Tutor has presented both of their Talks. On occasions, if the talks have extended over the 2 hours, then the Host and the Tutor can decide to offer a limited period, should members wish to ask questions.

Should any persons be still uneasy about using Zoom technology to attend classes; we can make somebody available to talk you through this. Members who have attended, however , have remarked how easy it is to join the classes after some initial hesitation and have generally enjoyed the presentations.

And now we come to the courses planned by our Course Organiser Maggie Mooney, who has come up with an interesting and varied programme for the Autumn Term. I think we should recognise that having already set down one set of Courses prior to Covid for the Autumn term our Course Organiser has now had to completely revise it to accommodate the Zoom technology. Thanks are due to Maggie for doing this, ably assisted by Diana Cavanagh and Rose Kendrick from the Committee.

A full and more complete description of the Autumn Courses will be available to look at on the Guild's website – www.glossopguild.org from the 15th of August. And you can of course book your chosen Course with payment from the information on the website.

We hope we can get to see you eventually in a real room ; and renew our acquaintance with yourselves. In the meantime we hope you will be attracted by our Autumn Term Programme ; and that we see you in a Zoom meeting room . It really is quite easy to do – don't be put off . Come on ; choose a Course to do and give it a try . Keep well and look after yourselves ,

Yours sincerely,

Mike Webb Chairperson.

ZOOMING THROUGH THE AUTUMN TERM 2020

SOVIET RUSSIA ON FILM – Alan Sennett

Monday 28th September & 5th October 11am-3pm (with lunch break)

We'll be looking at politics and society in the Soviet Union from the Revolution to WW2. Many issues to raise and Alan will be using clips from documentary and feature films.

ALL MY TROUBLES SEEMED SO FAR AWAY: "THE SIXTIES" AN EXPLORATION OF EVENTS & MUSIC – Frank Vigon & Steve Millward

From Thursday 1st October x 5 weeks 10am – 12pm

A journey back to "the Sixties" - a decade that changed society and politics irrevocably. Take a rollercoaster ride with Frank and Steve.

VOLCANOES – Pete Webb

Monday 12th October 1.30 – 3.30pm

Pete will show, with videos, the various types of volcanic activity and the risks faced by local communities.

THE ART OF MEDIEVAL CONSTANTINOPLE (c800 – 1200) – Birgitta Hoffman

Monday 19th October 10am – 12pm

During the Middle Ages Constantinople was a byword for wealth and an arbiter for taste. We will look at the surviving examples in architecture, icon paintings and everyday craftwork.

THE ART OF CONSTANTINOPLE AFTER THE FOURTH CRUSADE (1200-1480) – Birgitta Hoffman

Monday 26th October 10am – 12pm

Birgitta's second session shows us how the characters of art and architecture changes after the Fourth Crusade.

WRITING HISTORY & FIGHTING HISTORY: CHURCHILL AS HISTORIAN & MANCHESTER AT WAR IN WORLD WAR 2 – Kevin Harrison & Tim Cockitt

Monday 2nd November 1.30 – 3.30pm

The first hour will take us through how politics dominated Churchill's life and how history was of central importance and gave a sense of destiny for himself and for the British people – a vital element in the existential crisis of 1940. Tim will follow on to give us a brief look at Manchester in WW1 & the inter-war years: the Luftwaffe bombs, the Manchester Blitz and the unexpected danger in late 1944.

THE LIFE & WORK OF JOHN BANVILLE – Creina Mansfield

Thursday 5th November & 12th November, 1.30 – 3.30pm

In this 2 week course, Creina will be leading us through the life and works of the Irish author John Banville, "the man who nearly won the Nobel Prize" (and who might still). The book to focus on is

The Untouchable (1997)

THE ENIGMA OF FRANCIS BACON – Frank Vigon

Monday 9th November 1.30 – 3.30pm

"Do you know that I am the greatest living British Artist?" - so said Francis Bacon. This two hour session will explore his life and times – a self-taught, self-made enigma.

FEMINISM IN THE TIME OF CORONOVIRUS – Valerie Bryson

Monday 16th November 1.30 – 3.30pm

In this session Valerie will argue that despite recent changes, women and men still tend to play different roles and have different experiences, both in the home and at work. The social and economic impact of the lockdown has not been gender neutral and the negative effects have been acute for the women who already have hard lives.

THE LIVES & TIMES OF THE VICTORIAN MAYOR, ROBERT 'RESCHILD' STANLEY – Christina Longden

Thursday 19th November 10.00 – 12pm

Born into poverty, Robert Stanley was one of the first working class Mayors in the country and one of the most highly respected ones. In 1898 aged 69 he converted to Islam and became the Vice-Chairman of the UK's first mosque. Christina Longden, his great, great, great Granddaughter takes us through Robert's incredible life and times.

WONDERS OF THE SOUTHERN SKIES - Ian Morison

Monday 23rd November 1.30 – 3.30pm

A fascinating look at some of the most interesting objects in the Southern Skies, including how a star that disappeared in the 18th century is expected to be the next supernova to lighten our skies.

THE OAK IN LEGEND, HISTORY & NATURAL HISTORY – Patrick Harding

Thursday 26th November 1.30 – 3.30pm

From Dryads to Druids and Boscobel to Birnam; from coopers to cathedrals and wagons to warships. English Oaks and their natural history, from caterpillars to chicken of the woods and not forgetting Kate Moss and Spike Milligan!

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