

Alyth's Arts Week

Alyth Synagogue is holding its inaugural Arts Week on February 12-19 in support of the North London Hospice.

In much the same way as the Proms at St Jude's showcases excellent musical talent we hope that this week will encourage people interested in the arts to access some wonderful events and sessions.

In addition to many of our 3,200 members, the majority of whom live on the Suburb and its environs, we hope to attract everyone living and working in the area to join us in this week of cultural exploration and diversity.

The week of mixed arts programmes includes classical concerts, featuring the Lawson Piano Trio music by Haydn, Clarke and Dvorak; Robyn Koh, pianist music from 15th and 16th century; Raphael Lang music by Barber, Beethoven and Simon Laks; and Katie Hainbach mezzo soprano in a programme of French chanson.

Blink. Theatre will be performing 'Response', a unique evening of monologues around the theme of social responsibility. Directed by Lotte Ruth Johnson, six speeches by emerging writers have been combined to create a singular, site specific performance for Alyth Synagogue and its surrounding community.

Literary events run throughout the week with appearances by Alan Ereira, Pam Fox, Leila Segal, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, Gerald Jacobs and Alex Bellos.



A Pat Schaverien original

Three lectures by Rabbis Josh Levy and Mark Goldsmith and architectural historian Dr Gordon Higgott also feature.

A visit to the V&A archive department has been arranged. This is an opportunity to view the collection of émigré designers with a discussion led by Rabbi Mark Goldsmith.

The week culminates with an exciting South American dance party on Saturday 18 February and a Craft Fair on Sunday 19 where we are offering

the opportunity for local crafts people to take stalls; there will be children's activities and an on-site café for all to enjoy. There will also be an exhibition of art works by 21 local artists on display and for sale throughout the week.

For more information please contact artsweek@alyth.org.uk or ring 07956 912567.

You can also find and download a copy of the full Alyth Arts programme on the website at www.alyth.org.uk.



Lawson Trio



Fellowship House news

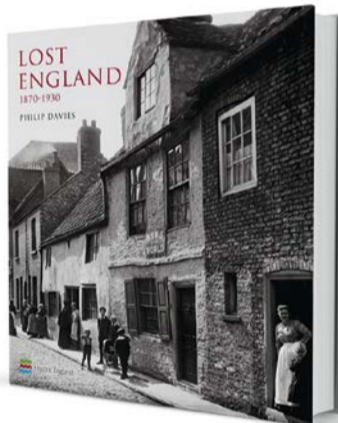
Fellowship House has developed its new website, which is a great improvement on what existed before. So for all information regarding what's on, activities, management, history, private hire etc, please visit our new website at www.fellowshiphouse.co.uk.

Meanwhile its programme of Art in Fellowship continues with an exhibition by Suburb artist Lilian Barnett whose watercolours are on show in the Eileen Whelan Room. All the works are for sale with the proceeds going to Crisis, the charity for the homeless.

This follows on from the debut exhibition of another Suburb artist, Rebecca Frankel-Rudowski, which took place in December and featured abstract paintings reflecting influences of Jewish and Eastern mysticism, mythology and folklore. Rebecca takes on commissions and also gives painting and drawing classes for all levels and ages.

Exhibitions are free and the Gallery is open on Tuesdays, 2-5.30pm, Wednesday, 6-10pm, and at many other times when the building is open and the room is free.

Lost England 1870-1930



Philip Davies' 'Lost England' is a big book in every sense: a book so weighty it could damage many a coffee table, a book so profusely illustrated it could unashamedly be categorised as a 'picture book' rather than a 'history text'. Its subject matter is England in the sixty-year period between 1870 and 1930;

a time before the direct memory of all but the oldest, but a time that has left an indelible imprint on the modern age. It was a time of great transformation – of almost seismic change in economic and social conditions – and it was also a time when the first comprehensive photographic record of England was laid down.

And it is that beautifully reproduced photographic record that is the subject matter of this wonderful book.

Davies has made use of a selection of material from the Historic England Photographic Collection to provide a window on the past and allow us to imagine what the highways and byways of our towns and villages – the thoroughfares of our grandparents – were really like. Following a fascinating introductory essay, the book is structured on geographic lines,



and the eight great regions of the country are explored via more than 1,300 black and white photographs. It is these photographs that are at the very heart of the book and which provide the reader (although the designation should really be 'the looker') with such a powerful insight into the past. So often it is the peripheral detail that contains the very essence of social history – the stray advertising hoarding, the clothes of the people caught accidentally walking down the street, the endless horses and carts – and this is where the size

of the book comes into its own. You could spend a lifetime with this volume and a half-decent magnifying glass and never see the same thing twice.

The scale of the undertaking also allows a degree of comprehensiveness: town and country are both well represented, north and south, rich and poor, industry and leisure. Each illustration is accompanied by a short descriptive caption – providing details of time, place and context – but you are free to wander through its 550 pages in any way you want. You can start at the end and work forward, you can dip in and out with the alacrity of a hedge warbler, you can ignore the captions and just feast on the photos: it is entirely up to you.

Someone once said that a picture is worth a thousand words, but that surely devalues the currency of the historic image. This big book is worth far more than any million-word text – it is a complete course in English history and given its size and the quality of its photographic reproductions, it is a bargain at only £45.

ALAN BURNETT

Philip Davies (Atlantic Publishing, 2016) £45.

Alan Burnett is a writer and blogger with a special interest in old photographs, and happy to be from Yorkshire. His News From Nowhere Blog (<http://newsfromnowhere1948.blogspot.co.uk>) regularly features old photographs from his own collection.



Lilian Barnett watercolour



Rebecca Frankel-Rudowski abstract

Park Farm Historic Photographs

Philip Davies, Lost England author (see adjacent) and long-standing Suburb resident, is looking for photographs of Park Farm. The farmhouse stood in East End Road until the mid-1960s when it was redeveloped along with its farmland for housing. Park Farm Close now covers the site.

Unfortunately neither the Trust, nor the HGS Archives, nor Barnet Council has any coverage of this historic farm, where once circus animals were kept.

The intention is to include the farm in a new book – Lost London II – Victorian and Edwardian London. His original book Lost London 1870-1945 is the best-selling book on London ever published, so if anyone has any pictures not only will they be fully acknowledged, but they are also guaranteed to get a wide audience.

Philip has asked that anyone with any photographs or potential leads should e-mail him at phd51@btinternet.com.



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