



FALL
2024

ROYAL OAK PROGRAMS



Primary underwriting provided by
Mark Pigott, KBE

PROGRAMS INFORMATION

FALL 2024 PROGRAMS

Royal Oak's Fall 2024 Programming will be a mix of online and in-person events. Please check our website for changes or additions.

Support for Lectures

For the Fall 2024 season, primary underwriting provided by Mark Pigott, KBE.

We are grateful to loyal Royal Oak members for generously providing critical funding for online and in-person lectures this season. As of print date they include:

Donors: The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation; Stephen and Karen Tyler

Supporters: Marian Meaker Apteker Foundation; The Neilsen Family Trust

Adopters: Thomas and Patricia Bain; Diana J. Mackie; Linda Pedro; Lynne R. Pickens; Roberta and Robert Young; and Anonymous donors

Register for Zoom & In-Person Lectures & Tours

Some lectures & tours will be held via Zoom. After registering on our website, you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom webinar or meeting. A reminder with the same link will be sent one hour before the lecture. A virtual waiting room is open starting 30 minutes before the lecture.

Lecture & Tour Recordings and Rentals

Most lectures & tours will be recorded and available to rent. The link to the recording will be emailed to you at 12 p.m. (ET) the day after the live lecture or tour and will expire at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on the date listed. The video is available for streaming only, not for download. Copyright is held by the speaker.

Dress Code & In-Person Events

Royal Oak is not responsible for venue dress code policies or requirements. Some locations require business attire.

Fees & Refunds

Royal Oak members receive a discount on **all** lectures. You must be signed into the website to receive the discount. We can turn your ticket into a tax deductible donation if you email us at least 48 hours before the lecture at zoom@royal-oak.org. **Royal Oak is not responsible for attendees' technology issues regarding viewing live or recorded lectures.**

How to Register

Please register online at www.royal-oak.org/events. If you have questions, please email us at zoom@royal-oak.org for the fastest response.

Cover: Central Hall at Polesden Lacey, nr Dorking, Surrey
Credit: ©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

Dear Royal Oak Members and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some relaxation and perhaps a bit of travel! Everyone at Royal Oak is delighted to present our Fall 2024 programming schedule, which includes a diverse array of lectures and tours.

While most of our programs will continue to be offered digitally, we are excited to expand our in-person offerings to more cities this season. We want all Royal Oak members and friends across the U.S. to have the opportunity to enjoy our lectures and digital tours.

I am pleased to announce the return of best-selling author Sonia Purnell, who will lecture on her newly published biography of Pamela Harriman at venues in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Charleston. Adrian Tinniswood, OBE, will also return to discuss his latest research on life in the English country house before the Great War. Although it was a golden age for the great estates, it was also a time when self-made millionaires brought new technology to houses that had remained unchanged for generations.

Our lectures always feature stunning images. This fall, we will explore quirky private homes in Ireland with "Irish aesthete" Robert O'Byrne, and we will visit NT houses such as Mrs. Greville's home and collection at Polesden Lacey. We will also have the opportunity to discuss her newly restored life-size portrait with the project conservator at The Royal Oak Foundation Restoration Studio at Knole.

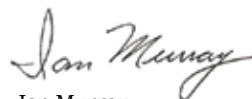
We will traverse centuries with Eleri Lynn's examination of exquisite textiles that exemplify power dressing at the Tudor Court in the 16th century, and Dr. Amy Boyington's insights into female architectural patronage during the Georgian era of the 18th century. Finally, Katherine Carter will take us to the 20th century to describe Winston Churchill's private gatherings at Chartwell—meetings that significantly impacted the course of history and the outcome of WWII.

Our popular digital armchair tours of England will explore the Scilly Isles in the far west, the alleys and lanes of Hampstead, a journey on the Thames to Greenwich, and London's theatres and great hotels.

If your plans include travel, consider Royal Oak's overseas excursions in the UK with Albion. We will also return to Bermuda in December for the Britannia in Bermuda tour, and we look forward to our June 2025 eight-day trip to the "Garden of France"—the majestic Loire Valley, filled with magnificent châteaux and stunning landscapes.

Whether you join us digitally or in person, for lectures or on one of our trips, I want to thank you for your continued support of Royal Oak and interest in our educational activities.

All my best,



Ian Murray
Executive Director



Looking towards Chapel Porth at St Agnes Head, Cornwall

©National Trust Images/Hilary Daniel

AT-A-GLANCE Please check your local time zone.

SEPTEMBER

30	6:15 p.m. ET	India Hicks	NYC In-Person or Rent
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OCTOBER

1	5:00 p.m. ET	<i>London's River: A Day on the Thames Clipper</i>	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
3	6:45 p.m. ET	Sonia Purnell	Alexandria, VA In-Person
8	6:30 p.m. ET	Sonia Purnell	Charleston, SC In-Person
10	6:30 p.m. ET	Sonia Purnell	Philadelphia, PA In-Person
15	11:30 a.m. CT	Sonia Purnell	Chicago, IL In-Person
16	6:15 p.m. ET	Sonia Purnell	NYC In-Person or Rent
17	2:00 p.m. ET	Robert O'Byrne	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
22	2:00 p.m. ET	<i>History of London Theatres</i>	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
23	6:15 p.m. ET	Carol Ann Lloyd	NYC In-Person or Rent
29	2:00 p.m. ET	<i>Alleys and Lanes of Hampstead</i>	Zoom Live Stream or Rent

NOVEMBER

5	3:00 p.m. ET	Alice Strickland & Anna Vesaluoma	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
12	2:00 p.m. ET	Dr. Amy Boyington	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
13	6:15 p.m. ET	<i>Cornwall and the Scilly Isles—England's Far West</i>	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
18	6:15 p.m. ET	Dr. Katherine Carter	NYC In-Person or Rent
19	2:00 p.m. ET	Eleri Lynn	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
25	2:00 p.m. ET	Adrian Tinniswood, OBE	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
26	2:00 p.m. ET	<i>London's Great Hotels</i>	Zoom Live Stream or Rent

DECEMBER

3	6:00 p.m. ET	Dr. Paula Henderson	Zoom Live Stream or Rent
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The Saloon at Polesden Lacey, Surrey

©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

PUBLIC LECTURES

Please note start times vary. Please check your local time zone.
For full descriptions and speaker bios, please visit www.royal-oak.org/events

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY



Pamela at Classiebawn County Sligo, Ireland

Lady Pamela: My Mother's Extraordinary Life

India Hicks, British designer and author

Monday, September 30 | 6:15 p.m. (ET)
Reception and book-signing following

The General Society Library,
20 W. 44th Street, NYC (Bet. 5th and 6th)

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members and Guests

Zoom Recording: \$20 Members;
\$30 Non-Members and Guests

Pamela Harriman: A Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue

Sonia Purnell, Best-Selling Author

Wednesday, October 16
6:15 p.m. (ET)

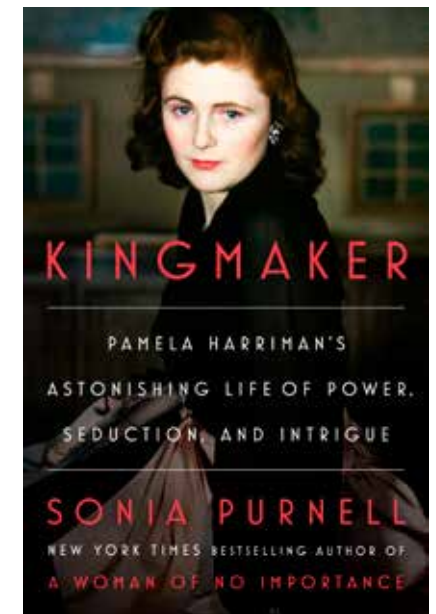
Reception and book-signing following

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden
Auditorium, 421 East 61st Street
(between First Ave. and York)

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members and Guests

Zoom Recording: \$20 Members;
\$30 Non-Members and Guests

Co-Sponsor: Colonial Dames of America



Published September 2024, Random House

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY



19th c. Drawing Room at Tullanisk, near Birr Castle, Ireland

The Irish Country House: A New Vision

Robert O'Byrne,
Noted Author and Historian

Thursday, October 17
2:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording: \$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members and Guests

British Consorts: From the Complicated to the Controversial

Carol Ann Lloyd,
Noted Speaker

Wednesday, October 23
6:15 p.m. (ET)

Reception following

The General Society Library,
20 W. 44th Street,
NYC (Bet. 5th and 6th)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members and Guests

Zoom Recording: \$20 Members;
\$30 Non-Members and Guests



*Queen Victoria and Prince Albert re-enacting
their wedding ceremony 14 years later*

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY

Created to Impress: Margaret Greville's Collection at Polesden Lacey

Alice Strickland & Anna Vesaluoma, National Trust Curators

Tuesday, November 5 | 3:00 p.m. (ET)
Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording: \$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members and Guests



*Portrait of The Hon. Mrs Ronald Greville
by Emile-Auguste Carolus-Duran*



East front of Polesden Lacey, Surrey

Hidden Patrons: Women and Architectural Patronage in Georgian Britain

Dr. Amy Boyington,
Social Historian and Author

Tuesday, November 12
2:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording: \$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members and Guests



Henrietta Howard, 9th Countess of Suffolk, 1724

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY

Churchill at Chartwell: Countdown to War

Katherine Carter, Curator and Historian

Monday, November 18, 6:16 p.m. (ET) | Reception and book-signing following

The General Society Library, 20 W. 44th Street, NYC (Bet. 5th and 6th)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

In-Person: \$35 Members; \$45 Non-Members and Guests
Zoom Recording: \$20 Members; \$30 Non-Members and Guests



The Dining Room at Chartwell, Kent

©National Trust Images/ Andreas von Einsiedel

Dressing for the Tudor Court: Power, Beauty & Influence

Eleri Lynn, Fashion and Textile Historian and Author

Tuesday, November 19 | 2:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording: \$15 Members; \$25 Non-Members and Guests



Left: ©The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Right: ©National Trust Images/John Hammond

Left: Pair of gloves detail, British ca. 1600. Right: Elizabethan gauntlet mittens at Dunham Massey, NT.

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY

Power and Glory: The English Country House Before the Great War

Adrian Tinniswood, OBE,
Social Historian and Author

Monday, November 25
2:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar
(Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording:
\$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members
and Guests



View of the exterior of Cragside, Northumberland

©National Trust Images Rupert Truman



The Strand, Looking Eastwards
from Exeter Change, c1824

Millionaire Houses Along the Strand

Dr. Paula Henderson,
Architectural and
Garden Historian

Tuesday, December 3
6:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar
(Live or Rent)

Zoom Recording:
\$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members
and Guests

D.C. AREA

Pamela Harriman: A Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue

Sonia Purnell, Best-Selling Author

Thursday, October 3 | 6:45 p.m. (ET)

Lecture is preceded by a reception at 6:15 p.m.

Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum,
201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia

In-Person: \$35 Members; \$45 Non-Members



Smith Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

Wedding of Mr Randolph Churchill and Hon Pamela Digby
at St John's, Smith Square. 4 October 1939

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Pamela Harriman: A Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue

Sonia Purnell, Best-Selling Author

Tuesday, October 15 | 11:30 a.m. (CT)

11:30 a.m. Lecture followed by Luncheon

Private Women's Club. Call for more information.

In-Person: \$85 Members; \$95 Non-Members

Business attire required

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Pamela Harriman: A Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue

Sonia Purnell,
Best-Selling Author

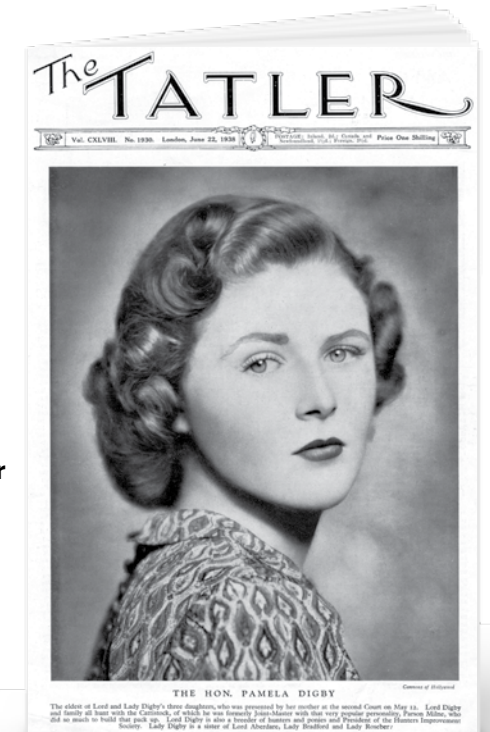
Thursday, October 10
6:30 p.m. (ET)

Lecture is preceded by a cash-bar
reception at 6:00 p.m.

The Union League of Philadelphia,
140 South Broad Street

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members

Business attire required



The Hon. Pamela Digby, pictured after her debut.
Front cover of The Tatler, by Cannons of Hollywood,
June 22, 1938

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Pamela Harriman: A Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue

Sonia Purnell, Best-Selling Author

Tuesday, October 8
6:30 p.m. (ET)

Lecture is preceded by 6:00 p.m.
reception and book-signing

Charleston Library Society, 164 King St.

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members



Toni Frissell Photograph Collection/Library of Congress

Pamela Digby Hayward (Harriman) and her son
Winston Spencer-Churchill in Newport RI,
featured in LIFE magazine 1962.

ROYAL OAK MEMBER TOURS

Digital tours are presented live and our guides will give an illustrated presentation. Some tours will be recorded and available for a limited period. In-Person Tours are not recorded. Please note start times vary and are all listed in Eastern time.

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

London's River: A Day on the Thames Clipper

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, October 1 | 5:00 p.m. ET

The Thames River, holds a central place in British history, earning the poetic moniker “liquid history” by John Burns. It has hosted major annual events like the Henley Royal Regatta and served as a venue for two Summer Olympic Games. London tour guide Rob Smith will virtually lead us as we explore London’s iconic Thames Clipper River “buses” for an unforgettable journey along England’s longest river. Whether you are a visitor or a local, cruising the Thames offers a unique perspective on the city’s history and landmarks. Our virtual tour not only showcases the scenic routes, but also unveils significant events and cultural highlights along the Thames’ storied banks. Starting from the remains of Deptford Dockyard—a critical Navy base from the 16th-19th centuries—we will admire the historic Royal Navy buildings. Ships glide past Greenwich, home to the elegant Queen’s House, before reaching the Royal Woolwich Arsenal, symbolizing Britain’s industrial past and military strength. “Sail” this iconic waterway, with ROF to glimpse both London’s past and present.

TICKETS: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members



Tower Bridge, London, opening for tall ship

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

History of London Theatres

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, October 22 | 2:00 p.m. ET

The entire world is a stage in London! Competing with New York City as the greatest place to see theatre in the English-speaking world, London offers a rich and varied dramatic experience. Stephen Benton will guide us on a digital journey through the history and splendor of theatrical London. Travel back to the 16th century and explore the world of Shakespeare’s playhouses, learning why these iconic buildings no longer stand. Discover

continued

Sondheim Theatre in London’s West End

200 year old historic playhouses, iconic Victorian palaces of marble and gilt, sleek Art Deco buildings, stark mid-20th-century concrete theatres, and the most cutting-edge 21st-century venues. Each theatre has its own fabulous story and unique charm. With around 45 West End theatres and countless smaller venues, London boasts an impressive array of staged options. At any given time, you can find around 25 different musicals, including the world’s longest-running musical, “Les Misérables,” which first opened in 1985 and has performed over 15,000 shows with no signs of closing. Even more enduring is “The Mousetrap,” which opened in 1952 and has played nearly 30,000 performances. Join us as we tread the boards in London and experience the magic and history of one of the world’s most vibrant theatrical landscapes.

TICKETS: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members



Ladies at the theatre, from Gallery of Fashion, c.1800

© The British Library Board

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

Alleys and Lanes of Hampstead

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, October 29 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Royal Oak is taking an immersive virtual tour through the charming and intricate network of alleys and lanes in the heart of old Hampstead. Discover how this picturesque village evolved from a fashionable 18th-century spa into a thriving community with vibrant social amenities in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Experience Hampstead’s rich history as we explore its historic houses, quaint cottages, and notable monuments. From the comfort of your home, enjoy a fully accessible tour that brings the essence of Hampstead to life and uncovers the stories behind each corner. Our guide, Marilyn Greene, a former curator of Hampstead Museum, has many years of experience researching the history and streets of this beloved area. She will share fascinating anecdotes about the places and people who have shaped Hampstead over the centuries.

TICKETS: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members



Hampstead Heath ponds



©National Trust Images/David Noton

Levant Mine, near St Just, Cornwall

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

Cornwall and the Scilly Isles – England’s Far West

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Wednesday, November 13 | 5:00 p.m. ET

Rob Smith will take us on a captivating virtual tour through the far west of Cornwall, where some of Britain’s oldest rocks cascade dramatically into the sea. Here, remnants of tin mines, dating back to the early Industrial Revolution, are meticulously preserved by the National Trust. They offer a glimpse into Cornwall’s rich industrial heritage. We will explore the local legends as we visit the mystical Merry Maidens, a prehistoric stone circle steeped in myth and mystery. Cornwall’s rugged coastlines have witnessed numerous shipwrecks, reflecting its perilous maritime history – which includes intriguing pirates – and adds to the area’s allure. Venturing even further westward, we will explore the Scilly Isles, where a gentle microclimate nurtures a profusion of wildflowers amidst Tudor castles and pristine beaches. These islands have been inhabited since the Stone Age, their history intertwined with tales of mariners, pirates, and ancient settlements.

TICKETS: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

London’s Great Hotels

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, November 26 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Before the 19th century, visitors to London had few accommodation options, relying on gentlemen’s clubs, lodging houses, and coaching inns. Stephen Benton will guide a digital walking tour for Royal Oak, revealing London’s hotel history. The tour begins at the George Inn, the last surviving galleried coaching inn, preserved by the National Trust. We will explore how the railway transformed travel, leading to hotels like the Gothic marvel at St. Pancras Station. By the early 20th century, iconic hotels emerged such as Claridge’s, The Langham, The Ritz, and The Savoy. Between the World Wars, grand aristocratic townhouses were replaced by hotels like The Dorchester and Grosvenor House. The 1960s brought London’s first hotel tower, the Hilton, and the 1980s saw the rise of boutique hotels in historic buildings. Today, London boasts over 700 hotels with more than 120,000 rooms. Join Stephen Benton for a captivating exploration of this diverse and ever-evolving landscape.



St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel, London

TICKETS: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members

IN-PERSON PRIVATE TOUR

National Arts Club, NYC

In-Person (not recorded)

TBD

Founded by New York Times art critic Charles De Kay, The National Arts Club has been a hub for American artists and patrons since 1898. Past members include three U.S. Presidents, distinguished artists like Frederic Remington, and architect Stanford White. In 1906 the Club moved to Gramercy Park, into the home of former New York Governor Samuel J. Tilden. Tilden acquired 15 Gramercy Park South in 1863 and later purchased the adjacent brownstone. He hired Calvert Vaux to modernize the facade with sandstone, bay windows, and Aesthetic movement decoration. The striking interior features stained-glass windows by John LeFarge; elaborate fireplace surrounds and doors by the firm Ellin and Kitson; and a dramatic skylight, by glass artist Donald MacDonald, which crowns the Club’s bar. Join Royal Oak as we have a private tour of this beautiful landmark and view the latest exhibits.



National Arts Club Bar Dining Room

MEETING PLACE: National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003

TICKETS: TBD

THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION BENEFIT DINNER

WITH SIR CHARLES GLADSTONE, 8TH BARONET
GREAT-GREAT GRANDSON OF WILLIAM GLADSTONE,
FOUR-TIME BRITISH PRIME MINISTER



THURSDAY, THE 7TH OF NOVEMBER, 2024
A PRIVATE CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY

For Information Contact Alison at adichter@royal-oak.org

ROYAL OAK LECTURES



Dr. Amy Boyington is a social and architectural historian who attained her PhD in architectural history from the University of Cambridge. Dr. Boyington has worked in a curatorial capacity at Holkham Hall, Goodwood House and Woburn Abbey. She has worked as a research consultant for the National Trust at Stowe Landscape Gardens and for Historic Royal Palaces at Kensington Palace. She was recently a Senior Properties Historian for English Heritage. Her debut book is *Hidden Patrons: Women and Architectural Patronage in Georgian Britain* (Bloomsbury, 2023). She is now working on her second book *Decadence & Display* (Yale University Press) which focuses on the 18th-century country house dining room. Dr. Boyington is also a popular historian on social media (@history_with_amy) with over 1.4 million followers.

HIDDEN PATRONS: WOMEN AND ARCHITECTURAL PATRONAGE IN GEORGIAN BRITAIN

An enduring myth of Georgian architecture is that it was purely the pursuit of male architects and their wealthy male patrons. History states that it was men who owned grand estates and houses, commissioned famous architects, and embarked upon elaborate architectural schemes. However, some women with sufficient wealth and autonomy were at the heart of architectural patronage of the day, exerting far more influence than has previously been recognized. They were actively involved in architectural drawing, design, discourse and patronage, with many laying out great sums to realize their architectural visions. Some remodeled their ancestral seats, such as Jemima Yorke, Marchioness Grey, who updated Wrest Park, her country house in Bedfordshire. Others transformed the interiors of their marital homes, such as the 15-year-old Louisa Conolly at Castletown House, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Some spent vast fortunes on building magnificent London town houses, such as Mary Hervey, Baroness Hervey, and Henrietta Fermor, Countess of Pomfret. Many also chose to build or remodel villas during their widowhoods, each desiring a fashionable, convenient country residence close to the city, but set within a tranquil arcadian setting. In her lecture, Dr. Amy Boyington will discuss these female patrons while re-examining well-known Georgian masterpieces alongside lesser-known architectural gems. Drawing from private estate papers and personal correspondence, Dr. Boyington will uncover the role of women as important patrons and designers of architecture and interiors in 18th-century Britain and Ireland.



Katherine Carter is an NT Curator and Historian specializing in early 20th century British political history, and manages the house and collections at Chartwell for almost a decade. As Curator, she is responsible for the research, conservation, presentation and interpretation of the Churchill family's home, which typically welcomes more than 250,000 visitors every year. Her exhibitions have included 'Death of a Hero', 'Into the Trenches', 'Child of the Commons' and 'Churchill and the Crown'. Katherine advises organizations and institutions around the world on the life and legacy of Winston Churchill and appears frequently in print and broadcast media. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Her first book, *Churchill's Citadel: Chartwell and the Gatherings Before the Storm*, published by Yale University Press on November 5, 2024.

CHURCHILL AT CHARTWELL: COUNTDOWN TO WAR

During the tumultuous time leading up to WWII, Winston Churchill was out of political office with his career apparently finished. However, behind the scenes Churchill was preparing to meet the oncoming conflict using his estate, Chartwell, as his base of operations. Chartwell, with its rich history dating back to the 14th century, served as more than just Churchill's home—it was a sanctuary where he wrote speeches, composed books, and met with the best political minds of the 20th century. Those that gathered at his dining table could assist his campaign against German rearmament and the British government's response to the rising threat of Nazi Germany. This eclectic group of advisors and informants, ranging from household names like Albert Einstein and T. E. Lawrence, to political leaders, diplomats, and spies, played a pivotal role in shaping Churchill's later strategy as Prime Minister, and ultimately altering the course of history. Katherine Carter, Curator at Chartwell, will unveil the extraordinary, yet little-known, meetings that took place behind closed doors. Ms. Carter will bring to life the remarkable stories of those who visited and influenced Churchill and helped him become a voice of resistance against tyranny.



Paula Henderson is an architectural and garden historian who has degrees in art history (University of Chicago, M.A.) and Ph.D. in architectural history from the Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London). She lectures widely in Britain (where she lived for 43 years) and the United States and has published over 70 articles on English Houses and their landscapes. Her first book, *The Tudor House and Garden: Architecture and Landscape in the 16th and 17th centuries* (published by Yale University Press), won the Berger Prize for the outstanding contribution to the history of British art in 2005. She is currently completing books on London gardens in the age of Shakespeare. She taught courses for the Courtauld Institute of Art and more, most recently for the V&A museum. She has lectured for the Paul Mellon Center for British Art, both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Birkbeck college, Christie's Education, The Inchbald School of Design, the Tate Gallery, The Garden History Society, and Sir John Soane's Museum, among others. She led tours for the Courtauld Institute to Florence ('Gardens of the Medici') Derbyshire ('Elizabethan architecture') and the Cotswolds ('Gardens of the Cotswolds'). She is a Fellow of Society of Antiquaries of London and now splits her time between Nantucket, Massachusetts, and Williamsburg, Virginia.

MILLIONAIRE HOUSES ALONG THE STRAND

The Strand, a major street in the City of Westminster, London was, from the middle ages, the most prestigious place to live in London. Running from the Temple Church on the east, to Charing Cross on the west (just as it does today), the Strand was strategically placed between two power centres: the City and Westminster. From the 1530s, leading courtiers and aristocrats acquired the magnificent medieval bishops' inns and their spacious gardens. They adapted the houses and beautified the gardens as showpieces, visible to all who traveled on the Thames. Like the palaces along the Grand Canal in Venice, these great London houses were seen as powerful expressions of the city's wealth and grandeur. While most of these houses were on the south side of the Strand, Lord Burghley built a new house along the north side. A recently discovered plan of his house and garden remains the most important source of information about the splendour of these houses and gardens—a short period in London's history of true *rus in urbe*.



India Hicks, a humanitarian, designer, and author, has led an unexpected life. Growing up as the daughter of decorator David Hicks and goddaughter of King Charles, she comes from both British and design royalty. She has authored four design books and consults with fashion, home and lifestyle brands. India has lived in the Bahamas for the past 27 years, where she raised her five children. She now works on the fringes of fashion and in the front lines of disaster relief. She partnered with the disaster relief agency 'Global Empowerment Mission' in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. She joined

GEM's Executive Board in 2020, traveling to the Ukraine to aid with refugee relief and provide emergency supplies. She also is a patron for The Prince's Trust and works to help young women who face disadvantages transform their lives.

LADY PAMELA: MY MOTHER'S EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

For years, British designer and author India Hicks has been sharing anecdotes about the life of her mother, Lady Pamela Hicks. Join Royal Oak as Hicks chronicles the life of 'Lady P' (as she is affectionately known), the daughter of the 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the last viceroy of India. Lady Pamela was a first cousin to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and served as a bridesmaid and lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, before marrying legendary interior designer David Hicks. Sifting through her parents' archives, India has uncovered a new trove of material about her mother, including letters from the Queen; images of the houses and gardens in which she lived; details of her work during Indian independence; stories about her marriage to David Hicks and the houses he designed; and details of her father's assassination in Ireland. India will also speak about the lessons she has learned from her mother while offering a tribute to Lady Pamela's extraordinary life for lovers of history, royal watchers, and all style enthusiasts.



Carol Ann Lloyd, historian and lecturer, is a popular speaker who shares the stories of Shakespeare and English history. She is the former Manager of Visitor Education at Folger Shakespeare Library, where she gave workshops and tours about Shakespeare and Early Modern England. Carol Ann has presented programs at the Smithsonian, Folger Shakespeare Library, Agcroft Hall, and TEDx, among other venues. Ms. Lloyd is a member of the National Speakers Association.

BRITISH CONSORTS: FROM THE COMPLICATED TO THE CONTROVERSIAL

The relationship between a royal consort and a reigning monarch can be complicated. While consorts of British monarchs have no constitutional status or power, many have had significant political influence and supported the sovereign in his or her duties. Historian Carol Ann Lloyd will provide an in-depth exploration of some of Britain's most legendary royal couples, focusing on the dramatic challenges they faced in balancing their marriages with their singular roles as rulers. In the 12th century, the relationship between Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen Consort, and King Henry II was notably turbulent. Their relationship was marked by Eleanor's attempts to undermine Henry's reign, and his subsequent retaliation imprisoning his wife. Some foreign-born consorts did not try to assimilate into English society after their marriage, causing devastating political consequences. For example, during the 17th century, Queen Henrietta Maria's lifestyle choices led to the trial and execution of her husband, King Charles I. Behind the scenes, some consorts were either forced to act as the de facto British ruler, such as Queen Charlotte during George III's unsteady reign, while others were literally locked out by their King husbands, such as Queen Caroline and George IV. In her lecture, Ms. Lloyd will also highlight the male consorts who had to navigate the dual role of husband while they were subject to their reigning queen wives. For example, Prince Albert could never become King consort, as his gender would have led him to outrank his wife Queen Victoria. Finally, Ms. Lloyd will discuss the influence of more modern consorts (or would have been consorts), including the significant impact of Wallis Simpson on King Edward VIII's reign, as well as the complex situation that Prince Philip created for Queen Elizabeth II.



Eleri Lynn is a fashion and textiles historian, curator, and author. She gained her curatorial experience within the Textiles and Fashion Department of the V&A Museum before becoming Curator of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Historic Royal Palaces, and thereafter Head of Exhibitions at National Museum Wales. She is a Trustee of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. Her recent TV appearances include the BBC2 'Art That Made Us' series and BBC1's, regularly interview her 'Elizabeth: Fashioning a Monarch'. She is the author of several monographs among

which include *Tudor Fashion* (Yale University Press, 2017), and *Tudor Textiles* (Yale University Press, 2020). Eleri is the curator of several major fashion and textiles exhibitions including *Diana: Her Fashion Story* (Kensington Palace, 2017), *The Lost Dress of Elizabeth I* (Hampton Court Palace, 2019), and *Undressed: 350 Years of Underwear in Fashion* (V&A touring, 2013-14). She was part of the curatorial teams on *Savage Beauty: Alexander McQueen* (V&A, 2013), *Fashion Rules Restyled* (Kensington Palace, 2015), and *Crown to Couture* (Kensington Palace, 2023).

DRESSING FOR THE TUDOR COURT: POWER, BEAUTY & INFLUENCE

The Tudor monarchs and their courtiers are some of the best-known figures in history. Even today, their stories continue to spark our curiosity and imagination. Their enduring popularity is partly due to the iconic portraits in which they are depicted in magnificent style: in farthingales and elaborate ruffs, covered in furs and jewels, and clothed in vast expanses of velvet and silk. Far from being decoration, at that time fashion was pivotal in communicating the status and power of the wearer. Tudor dress was used as a tool in securing and holding a tenuous Tudor throne, as well as a competitive "weapon" in the factions, intrigues, and love affairs of the court. In this talk, Eleri Lynn will explore the changing fashions of the Tudor wardrobe and explain the elaborate process of dressing. Using rare surviving garments and textiles, original documents, and archaeological records, she will explain how fashion was central to the Tudors' mindset and their very understanding of royalty and power.



Sonia Purnell is a bestselling author and journalist known for her lively writing and meticulous research. Her work has been optioned by leading filmmakers and praised by diverse audiences. Her first book, *Just Boris: A Tale of Blond Ambition*, a biography of Boris Johnson, was longlisted for the Orwell Prize in 2011 and remains his definitive biography. Her second book, *First Lady (UK) / Clementine (US)*, unveiled the crucial role of Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine, influencing her portrayal in media such as Netflix's "The Crown." A *Woman of No Importance*, Purnell's third book, tells the true story of WWII spy Virginia Hall and became a New York Times Bestseller, winning the Plutarch Prize for Best Biography in 2020. Her latest book, *Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction & Intrigue*, to be published in September 2024, reexamines the life of Pamela Harriman, revealing her influence on 20th-century politics. Purnell's work has received acclaim from numerous publications, including the Independent, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, and New York Times. Her books have been translated into over twenty languages, inspiring readers worldwide.

PAMELA HARRIMAN: A LIFE OF POWER, SEDUCTION AND INTRIGUE

Often written off as a mere courtesan and social climber, Pamela Harriman's true historic legacy has been overshadowed by her glamorous social life and infamous erotic adventures. Much of what she did behind the scenes – on both sides of the Atlantic – remained invisible and secret. During WWII, Churchill's beloved daughter-in-law became his "secret weapon," strategically wining, dining, and seducing diplomats and generals to help win over Americans to the British cause against Hitler. After the war, she helped to transform Fiat heir, Gianni Agnelli, into Italy's 'uncrowned king' on the international stage. After helping the Democratic Party and an unknown Bill Clinton take the American presidency, she was appointed U.S. Ambassador to France. In this role, she deployed her legendary powers to charm world leaders, while working on N.A.T.O. expansion and aiding efforts to bring peace to Bosnia—playing a huge role during the high-water mark of American global supremacy. For five decades, Harriman blazed a trail through to the center of political power. There is practically no one in 20th-century politics, culture, and fashion whose lives she did not touch, including the Kennedys, Truman Capote, Aly Khan, Kay Graham, Ed Murrow, and Frank Sinatra. Harriman acknowledged her notoriety and admitted, "I'd rather have had bad things written about me than be forgotten." In this lecture, investigative journalist and award-winning biographer Sonia Purnell presents an electrifying re-examination of Harriman's story using new research and previously unknown sources. Telling a tale full of sex and politics; set on yachts and in palaces; and always hallmarked by glamour and luxury, Purnell will unveil for the first time how Harriman left an indelible mark in the heart of world history and politics.



Adrian Tinniswood OBE, studied English and Philosophy at Southampton University and was awarded an MPhil at Leicester University. He has acted as a consultant to the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund. He is currently Senior Research Fellow in History at the University of Buckingham and Visiting Fellow in Heritage and History at Bath Spa University. He has lectured at several Universities in both the United Kingdom and United States, including the University of Oxford and the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of 16 books on architectural and social history including *His Invention So Fertile: A Life of Christopher Wren*; *By Permission of Heaven: The True Story of the Great Fire of London*; *The Verneys, Pirates of Barbary*; *The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House Between the Wars*; *Behind the Throne: A Domestic History of the Royal Household* (2018). Tinniswood was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2013 Birthday Honours for services to heritage.

POWER AND GLORY: THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE BEFORE THE GREAT WAR

In the decades before the First World War, the owners of England's stately homes reveled in a golden age of glamour where privilege and hedonism went hand-in-hand with duty and honour. At a time when Britain ruled over a quarter of the world's population, privileged few lived in ancestral stately country homes encumbered by history. However, by the end of the 19th century, members of the elite and landed gentry found themselves living in the company of *arrivistes*. Their new neighbors—from chorus girls to millionaire greengrocers to guano impresarios—were unencumbered by the weight of tradition. They used their "new money" to bring innovations to the country house, affecting every aspect of life, from the kitchen to the drawing room. In a fascinating prequel to his lecture and best-seller *The Long Weekend*, Adrian Tinniswood OBE will speak about life in the English country house and describe how the self-made millionaires turned that traditional world upside down—bringing automobiles and labour-saving devices to mansions that had been standing virtually unchanged for generations. He will explore the impact of new technologies on both old homes and old owners. Could the romance of the past exist alongside the shock of the new? While electric light and bathrooms with hot and cold running water might have made things easier both above and below stairs, it still could not quite banish the ghosts of the past. Professor Tinniswood will explain that the period before the horrors of the Great War was indeed a golden age for the British country house, but not for the reasons we might expect.



Robert O'Byrne, is a writer and lecturer specialising in the fine and decorative arts. He is the author of more than a dozen books, among them *Luggala Days: The Story of a Guinness House* (Cico Books); *Romantic Irish Homes*, *Romantic English Homes: A Tribute to Desmond Fitzgerald, 29th Knight of Glin* (Lilliput Press), and *The Irish Aesthete: Ruins of Ireland* (2019). A former Vice-President of the Irish Georgian Society and trustee of the Alfred Beit Foundation, he is currently a trustee of the Apollo Foundation. Among other work, he writes a monthly column for Apollo magazine, and contributes to each issue of the quarterly Irish Arts Review.

THE IRISH COUNTRY HOUSE: A NEW VISION

Irish country houses have a distinct character and personality, often whimsical and quirky and not following the stereotypical English country house style. In his lecture based on his new book, *The Irish Country House: A New Vision*, historian and author Robert O'Byrne highlights the eclecticism of Ireland's historic interiors. He will showcase a mix of historical Irish estates as well as contemporary restorations to offer a fresh perspective on the beauty of these homes. He will explore some of Ireland's most interesting and unusual private interiors, from derelict estates to historic hunting lodges, and from an Irish castle renovated by a Mexican financier to an Elizabethan Revival house transformed by a contemporary artist. He will illustrate a mansion in Westmeath, restored by the descendants of its original owners, and show Coollattin, Ireland's largest country house at 65,000

square feet, where the Baroque style is emphasized by its unfinished state. By delving into these remarkable interiors, O'Byrne offers a new understanding of the cultural and historical significance embedded within Ireland's country houses.



Anna Vesalouma is a Paintings Conservator for the National Trust, based at the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio on the property of Knole House, Kent. During her time at the ROF Conservation Studio, Anna has treated a wide range of paintings from across National Trust properties, including works by Carolus-Duran, John Singer Sargent, George Romney and Melchior D'Hondecoeter. Before joining the Trust, Anna worked two years as a painting conservation fellow at the Yale University Art Gallery, in New Haven, Connecticut, where she focused on the conservation of American paintings. She holds a postgraduate degree in the Conservation of Easel Paintings from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and a BA (Hons) in Painting from the University of Edinburgh.



Dr Alice Strickland is a curator for the National Trust in London and the South East. Her doctorate considered British women artists of the Second World War and she was awarded a Paul Mellon research grant for a publication on women artists of the First World War. Her publications include contributions to *Laura Knight a Celebration* (Penlee exhibition catalogue, 2021) and *Learning from the Masters* (Ashgate, 2013). Her book *Laura Knight* (2019) forms part of a series on Modern Women Artists published by Eiderdown Books.

CREATED TO IMPRESS: MARGARET GREVILLE'S COLLECTION AT POLEDEN LACEY

Margaret Greville (1863-1942) was a wealthy heiress and a member of the aristocracy through her marriage to the Hon. Ronald Greville, the heir of an old political dynasty. Following her marriage, Margaret entered the glamorous social set that surrounded the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, who commented on her 'positive genius for hospitality.' Margaret's money and position was a powerful combination in Edwardian Britain, and while she was a successful hostess, Margaret was also a significant collector. Polesden Lacey in Surrey, now houses the extraordinary collection Margaret created for both her London townhouse and her country estate. At both residences she worked with the interior decorators Mèwes and Davis and White, Allom & Company to create lavish interiors for the display of her collection. Margaret's *objets d'art* collection included carvings by Cartier and Fabergé and provided a dazzling display for her guests and visitors. Once Margaret came into her inheritance in 1913, she complemented her father's collection of Dutch 17th century paintings with the addition of Italian Medieval and Renaissance religious works and European and British portraits. In 1942, Margaret Greville bequeathed Polesden Lacey to the National Trust 'for the largest number of people to have enjoyment thereof,' anticipating that her collections would be combined 'to form a Picture and Art Gallery. The life-size portrait of Lady Greville, by society portraitist Emile-August Carolus-Duran (1838- 1917), was recently returned to Polesden Lacey in 2024 following conservation at The Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio at Knole. NT Curator at Polesden Lacey will speak about Lady Greville and her life at Polesden Lacey while Anna Vesalouma, NT Conservator of Paintings, will delve into the meticulous conservation of this painting and the incredible results. Now re-displayed at Polesden Lacey in its rightful place on the loggia staircase, the portrait remains a record and symbol of Greville's incredible legacy.



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Diaries, postcards, photos, and telegrams from the 1940s. Book of Common Prayer given by Queen Victoria to Pamela's grandmother.

FALL 2024 PROGRAMS