

ALSTON PROGRAMME

We have once again put together an interesting programme of talks, presentations, and 'Special events'! We do hope you will be able to join us over the Autumn/Winter period. Unless otherwise stated all presentations commence with a three-course dinner at 6.30pm.

Evening events up to and including **Sunday 26th October** are detailed in our **Spring/Summer 08 brochure** – telephone the college for further details.



A PEEP AT PERU

Sunday 2nd November

8JXNP2A007

Fee £18

Join **Frank Duckett** as he travels South from Lima along the Pacific coast to the Paracas Isles and Nasca Lines; thence to Arequipa, the Colca Canyon. Over the Andes to Lake Titicaca; taking the railway to Cusco and onwards to Machu Picchu.

PRESTON GUILD, PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Sunday 9th November

8JXNP2A008

Fee £18

It's getting nearer! The 2012 Guild is only four years off and already the pace is quickening. Now is a good time to think about how the Guild began, how it developed and how it has changed over the 830 years since the first written record. It's a fascinating story and who better than **Alan Crosby**, the official historian of the Guild, to tell it!

A FALKLANDS EXPERIENCE

Sunday 16th November

8JWNP2A001

Fee £18

The Falklands came into prominence in 1982 when Argentina tried to claim sovereignty. Today it is mainly naturalists and nature photographers who study and record the fantastic wildlife found there. There are five types of penguin, many other seabirds as well as several endemic species together with elephant seals and killer whales offshore. **Colin Smith** hopes to show us just how magical these islands are.

SOME EAST LANCASHIRE CHARACTERS

(For Lancashire Day)

Thursday 27th November

8JXNP2A009

Fee £18

(Dinner is at 7.00pm)

Characters who were all one time inhabitants of Accrington, Blackburn or Burnley. Some 'top of their tree', others destitute but lovely, albeit sad people in whom others recognised inward merit. Many were simply odd and bizarre variants of nature well known in their day because of their oddities. All of these, **Cliff Astin** claims added something to life itself and there is some humour amongst the sadness!

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Sunday 30th November

8JYNP2A001

Fee £23

An evening of opera and song with **Roberto Garcia Lopez** (tenor) and **Joanna Porter** (piano); a journey across space and time, reliving the works of the great opera and song masters. Enjoy and relax listening to the lively '*La Donna e Mobile*' to the rousing '*Nessun Dorma*'. A real treat for cold winter evenings.



AN INDIAN SUMMER

Sunday 18th January

8JWNP2A002

Fee £18

The building of India's new capital 'Imperial Dehli' from 1913 to its official opening in 1931, is the theme of this evening's presentation. **Colin Dickinson** uses slide images to examine the city's grand architecture with its Viceroy's House by Edwin Landseer Lutyens whilst telling the story of clashing personalities, prejudices, and political pressures associated with its creation in the final years of British rule in India.



BURNS SUPPER – CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND POETRY OF ROBERT BURNS

Sunday 25th January

8JTNP2A009

Fee £20

Come and enjoy a traditional Burns Supper with typical fare. The receiving and addressing of the haggis, the 'Immortal Memory', Scottish piper (Ivon Walters) and dancing display. Fee includes a dram of whisky to toast the haggis (Scottish Dress optional). We thank **David and Dorothy Wade** for their help in organising this evening.

FOOTLOOSE IN WALES

Sunday 1st February

8JXNP2A000

Fee £18

Join **John Shaw** for a 250 mile foot path route through Wales from Chepstow in the South to Caernarvon in the North. From the River Wye to the Black Mountains, then across the Cambrian Hills to the coast, the route winds northward to Cadair Idris, Harlech Castle and finally, Snowdonia. A tale of sunshine, rugged landscape and legend.

MONUMENTS OF THE NILE

Sunday 8th February

8JXNP2A001

Fee £18

Enjoy an armchair trip up the Nile with **Jane Burrows** to explore some of the greatest monuments of ancient Egypt. We shall start our tour in the north, visiting Saqqara and Giza and continue leisurely south to visit temples, tombs and towns and to marvel at the extraordinarily rich heritage that this ancient civilisation has bequeathed to us.

TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE!

Sunday 15th February

8JTNP2A010

Fee £23

Joyce Tindsley and **Geoff Balson** return to Alston Hall to present an entertaining evening of songs, piano music and poems, from Britten and Purcell to Gershwin and Sondheim, celebrating love in all its different aspects.

STYLE 85 HARP DUO

Sunday 1st March

8JVNP2A000

Fee £23

AnnaKate Pearson and **Gwen Yorke** met while studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Both are freelance harpists and wanted to explore the possibilities of playing as a harp duo. Having mainly performed in Scotland, they are excited about bringing a varied mixture of harp duos and solos to Alston Hall. It's an appropriate concert for St. David's Day but also a rare treat to have not one but two harps!



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CONCORDE - Supersonic Superlative

Sunday 8th March

8JYNP2A002

Fee £18

Concorde – The world's most beautiful and prestigious airliner. This presentation by **Gordon Bartley** looks at the development of supersonic flight, and traces the background to Concorde and its less fortunate foreign competitors. The evening concludes with an illustrated overview of Concorde's world-beating technology and the tragic events in Paris, in July 2000, that would eventually lead to its premature retirement.

Eu4ia (Ladies Barbershop Quartet)

Sunday 15th March

8JTNP2A011

Fee £23

Eu4ia are four not so ordinary ladies who, through a great love of music, close harmony and a-cappella singing, have with dedication and hard work achieved National and European gold medals as well as competing internationally in Detroit, Las Vegas and Hawaii. A stunning performance awaits their Alston Hall audience.

ONE MAN'S LAKELAND

Sunday 22nd March

8JXNP2A002

Fee £18

Don Austin will give you a personal view of his 30 years living and walking in Lakeland with a passion for fell walking.

CUBA-CASTRO'S ISLAND

Sunday 29th March

8JXNP2A003

Fee £18

Exotic Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean and we tour the full length of the island seeing beautiful Spanish colonial towns, lush mountains, rushing waterfalls, fascinating wildlife, Castro's revolutionary headquarters and of course, the amazing capital, Havana, with a mixture of restored and crumbling architectural marvels.

Steuart & Anita Kellington also describe the way of life under the Castro regime.



SPRING MEDLEY – CONTEMPORARY FLORAL DESIGN DEMONSTRATION

Tuesday 31st March

(evening begins at 7pm)

8CENP2A002

£23

(includes demonstration, a glass of wine and finger buffet)

Enjoy another evening with well known NAFAS international demonstrator **Tom Hodge**. Tom will show you how to create interesting floral designs suitable for your own home and special events, using beautiful Spring plant materials. A selection of designs which will suit everybody from beginner to advanced flower arrangers.

ELGAR, ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE

Thursday 23rd April

8JXNP2A004

Fee £18

(Begins with dinner at 7.00pm)

Elgar is often thought of as the quintessential English composer, with an image redolent of Empire and patriotism. But how much is this really the case? This evening **Christopher Rodwell** will present two differing portraits of Sir Edward, as well as exploring his choral work 'The Banner of St. George', celebrating the Patron Saint of England.

