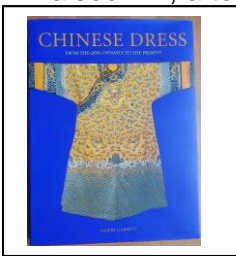


Dear Members,

Meeting on Tuesday 19 April 2022– 10.30 hrs. Doors open at 09.45 hrs

Woodlands Centre—We would appreciate it if you could take sensible precautions and respect other people's space. Wearing a mask is a personal choice and no longer obligatory.

We will be serving coffees and teas as usual. A warning: we have charged 50p for your coffee and biscuit for more years than our committee members care to remember. From May 2022 we will have to raise the price. As we are a charity, we don't aim to make a profit. Any money raised will, after costs, go towards costs of the Hall and other essentials.



Raffle: Our Lecturer is providing this book on Chinese Dress which for £1 could be yours.
Please try and pay with the correct money as we are often short of change.

April's Lecture: Chinese Imperial Court Costume of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) A journey through the Imperial Wardrobe

by David Rosier

Surprisingly, David is a Chartered Insurer, who has spent more than 25 years in Asia, China and in particular in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he and his wife created a collection of over 500 Imperial Qing Dynasty items of costume and dress accessories, since 2019 in the Shanghai Museum.



His lecture provides an insight into the origins and evolution of the 2000 year history of Regulated Court Costume, plus dress accessories. The regulations covered the clothing men and women had to wear on formal, and semi-formal, occasions whilst at Court or positioned within Central or Provincial Government. A system that reached the height of sophistication and complexity during the Qing Dynasty.

Initial consideration will be given to the origins and evolution of the structure and iconography of formal, mandated, Court Costume, and the dress accessories, worn by the Imperial Clan plus the nine ranks of Civil and Military Officials.

There will be a focus on the Insignia of Rank that were worn to visually indicate the rank and status of the wearer. Specific consideration will be given to the origins and usage of the iconic Chinese Imperial Dragon, the personal emblem of the Emperor, but not for his exclusive use.

The lecture concludes with an exploration of the Imperial Wardrobe from State Robes, and regalia, through to informal wear for the men and women of the court

And, as if this is not enough, David will bring actual examples which will be displayed at the front of the Hall. I for one cannot wait to see this selection. I am sure you don't want to miss out either.

Visit to Christ's Hospital School on 24 March 2022

This visit took place in bright sunshine, which added to the pleasure of walking round the extensive school grounds. The Museum Curator explained the history of this rather special school, and we loved visiting the museum. But the guided tour given by some of the pupils themselves, in the original uniform dating back almost to its origins in the 16th century, was particularly enjoyable. You can find feedback and pictures of this visit on our website under 'Visits 2022'.

Events to come

The following tickets will be on sale on 19 April 22 at Woodlands

Thursday 19 May 22 Champs Hill: Coffee and biscuit, *Late Newlyn Exhibition* and the lovely gardens full with sculptures. The gardens will be at their best and most colourful at this time of the year. This visit makes a lovely and relaxed morning outing. Do book as places are limited. There is a booking form on the website.

10.30-12.30 hrs with arrival around 10.15-10.25 hrs. **Cost: £10.50**



Left: a statue of David Bowerman who, together with his wife Mary, set up the Bowerman Charitable Trust in 1984 to promote classical music and art, and the growth of the Christian faith. This statue neatly links this visit to the next one as it was sculpted by Philip Jackson.



Wednesday 22 June 2022: A visit to *Philip Jackson's Studio* with a talk by the man himself about his life and work. A fascinating insight in the thought processes, techniques, and pure talent culminating in such amazing lifelike sculptures, often commissions, as the one above, of Gandhi (London), St Richard at Chichester Cathedral, Bobby Moore at Wembley, etc, but also his elegant and theatrically enigmatic gallery sculptures (see our poster at the door). You will be listening to him, surrounded by examples of his work.

This is our third visit to his Studio. Our previous visits were very popular and sold out quickly. We open the booking up for **members only** this month. At the moment there is no booking form on the website,

Now for the sad news:

A Tour of the Royal Albert Hall, followed by an optional Tour of Kensington Palace

Thursday 12 May 2022

Royal Albert Hall only: £35 / including Kensington Palace £49

Unfortunately, we are not anywhere near the number of people that will allow us to break even (35). Some (non)-members apparently indicated they would transfer money but this has not been forthcoming so we cannot include them. Some showed interest but did not follow up.

I will follow up with all those whose name is on the list. I am also looking at alternatives, although I am not sure there is a satisfactory one. Not everyone is mobile enough to make their own way to the Royal Albert Hall and, according to one comment, most people want the comfort, camaraderie and convenience of a coach. A smaller coach would not necessary be much cheaper. And Covid is still around. My sincere apologies, I also had been looking forward to the normality of a coach trip.

At this stage: if you were considering joining us, please come forward at the meeting next week and put your name down – no payment. For those who have paid, you will get your money back if we have to cancel – which seems likely.

I hope to see many of you next week. I missed you last month!

Miek Bell
Chair