

Hello,

I hope you have been able to enjoy this summer and may it continue. We are now only a few weeks away from Harpenden Learning for Leisure's Autumn term and a wide selection of interesting courses are available to choose from. Most of our regular lecturers have returned, and we also have some different courses taught by expert lecturers who are new to HLfL. Course bookings are well under way. In fact, "Design Challenges of Iconic Buildings and Bridges" is now full. So if you have yet to book your place on a course, now is the time to do so.

Michael King will be looking at 'The Celtic Contribution' to English Literature, Ian Waller will take us on a trip through 'Victorian Social History', whilst Virginia Brisco will continue to lead her Current Affairs discussion group – there is certainly lots to talk about right now.

*"From Henry VIII to Mr Darcy to Downton Abbey"*. 'The English Country House' is a course we would particularly like to draw your attention to. The grand English country houses offer a glimpse into another world; one of luxury, beauty and social status. Adam Smith will examine the English country house from the Tudor period onwards. The course will cover the changing architectural styles and interiors; as well as the lifestyles and social interactions of those who lived and worked within some of the grandest mansions across the country. He will show how these reflect the changes in fashion, society and the politics of their time. If you enjoy visiting country houses, perhaps through the National Trust, this is certainly a course for you.

This autumn we are experimenting with short (five week) courses: 'The Great Bardfield Artists' and 'Great British Comic Artists' expertly taught by Rosanna Eckersley and Martin Attridge respectively. Could those be of interest to you? We hope so.

We have also made the decision to turn Michael King's poetry class from a ten week course to one of five weeks in duration. Anyone already booked on this course will receive a refund to reflect this change. If you have not signed up to it, and enjoy poetry or would

like to broaden your understanding and appreciation of it, we urge you to consider doing so. Michael will look at the work of some of the most significant poets and poetry of the twentieth century, setting their works in context, and showing how through their content and structure they reflect the societal times in which they were written. Poetry can sometimes seem inaccessible, but Michael will give you the tools to interpret and understand them.

As usual, courses will be run in Southdown from the Harpenden Trust Halls, some of which have been recently refurbished, also in the Function Room of the Plough and Harrow pub. Ample free parking is available at the Co-Op car park nearby.

Despite inflationary pressures we have kept course prices the same as previous years, to make them as affordable as possible. We are a 'not-for-profit' organisation and we believe that they represent very good value.

So whether you are one of the many who attended a class last year, or have yet to enrol on an HLfL course, do visit our web site to find out more. <http://www.harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk>. If you need some guidance about enrolment please send an email message to Elaine O'Brien:

[enrol@harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk](mailto:enrol@harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk) Elaine will happily call you back if you would like to speak to someone in person, but remember to include your telephone number. If you have any other queries then send an email message to: [info@harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk](mailto:info@harpendenlearningforleisure.org.uk)

Thank you for your time reading this. We truly believe that HLfL is an important asset to the local community, giving participants the chance to meet like-minded people in a convivial, informal environment. Please sign up and help us build upon the success we had in previous years. Also, please would you forward this email to any friends or family who you think may be interested.

In the meantime we hope you enjoy what is left of the summer.

With best wishes,

The Harpenden Learning for Leisure committee.