

Chichester Literary Society

Programme 2025

Celebrating Twenty Years
of literary talks



Photo by Nigel Cull

Simon Brett OBE FRSL and the Chichester Literary Society's Patron. Author, playwright and a producer-writer for television and radio.

January 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the Chichester Literary Society. Over the years the Chichester Literary Society has maintained not only a solid membership base, but has expanded and explored an ever-growing range of topics linked to the written and spoken word. Each year we arrange our unique season of informative talks and presentations, designed to inspire, enthuse and above all, entertain, bringing the world of literature, books and writers to everyone.

Disclaimer

This programme is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change without notice. Please see our website for latest information.



The Chichester Literary Society

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm for a 2:00pm start.

Annual Subscription

Individual Membership: £45.00

Joint Membership: £80.00

Visitors welcome

at any of our meetings

Visitors: £8.00

Students: £2.00

Please note

* Our January meeting has been moved from the 1st to the 8th to avoid a clash with New Years Day. This talk will close with an Austen inspired afternoon tea party.

** Visitors to the June meeting must buy tickets in advance. Full details on our website. Tickets will not be available at the door.

For further information

Contact

CLS Secretary

Tel: 023 9241 3664

Email: infochichesterlitsoc@gmail.com

www.chichesterliterarysociety.org

Boxgrove Village Hall

The Street,
Boxgrove,
Chichester,
PO18 0EE

Wednesday 8 January *

Introducing Jane Austen; The Woman and the Writer
By Maureen Stiller



The CLS welcomes in the new year by marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of one of England's most influential women authors, Jane Austen. Maureen Stiller is Honorary Secretary of the Jane Austen Society and her talk will look at Jane's life and family. Maureen will introduce Jane's growth as a writer and her influence on the development of the modern novel.

Wednesday 5 February

PG Wodehouse and the Men of Tost
By Dr Christine Berberich



An investigation into the time British author PG Wodehouse spent at the Nazi Internment Camp at Tost (now Toszek) in Silesia; Christine evaluates his own writing on the topic alongside the memoirs, letters and reminiscences of other former inmates, in order to compile a compelling story of this civilian internment camp, filling a gap in existing research.

Wednesday 5 March

Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
By Pauline Rowson



Amazon best-selling author of the Solent Murder Mysteries featuring Detective Inspector Andy Horton, the Art Marvik mystery thrillers and the 1950s, Inspector Ryga mysteries, set against the ever-changing backdrop of the sea in the UK. Pauline will talk about how she plots, writes and researches her crime novels.

Wednesday 2 April

Fact from Fiction: what the great 19th century novels can tell us about our ancestors?
By Dave Annal



The works of the great 19th century novelists entertain, intrigue and amuse us. The characters, places and plots have become recognisable reference points with themes of inheritance, illegitimacy and identity that lie behind the plots of many of the great novels; the same themes that may have affected our own ancestry.

Wednesday 7 May

Cross-Dressed to Kill
By Vivien Morgan

A unique collection of extraordinary stories of brave women masquerading as men fighting as soldiers in the 17th to 20th centuries and the risks they took with harsh penalties including the death penalty. The practice was seen as an unnatural act that threatened society and offended social morality.



With his extensive military and political experience, Lord Richards is uniquely placed to explain the military and political thinking behind the D-Day invasion decision and how the thinking evolved. We have a soldier explaining a military campaign that was the biggest and most complex military operation of the 20th century..

Wednesday 4 June **
Great Plans and Big Egos - Operation OVERLORD Normandy 1944
By General the Lord Richards of Herstmonceux



This presentation is based on two of Michelle's best-selling books. From the romance and suspense of *A Little Love Song* set during the long, hot summer of 1943, to the drama and mystery of *Just Henry* set in the years immediately post Second World War in the thinly disguised town of Sternsea; a fictional mix of Portsmouth and Southsea.

Wednesday 2 July
Heard, but Not Seen
By Michelle Magorian



From initially believing that Egyptian hieroglyphs were beyond the ordinary person's comprehension and not being aware that a genre of Egyptian literature actually existed. Brian will describe his personal exploration of the emergence of writing and how the hieroglyphic system was deciphered with illustrations from a variety of contemporary texts.

Wednesday 6 August
Literature in Ancient Egypt: A Personal Journey of Discovery
By Dr Brian French



Wednesday 3 September

Tin Hats, Dragons' Teeth & Squander Bugs
By David Warwick



Daily life in a wartime village comes vividly to life in a journal kept by David's mother, Mrs Dorothy Warwick, responsible for hundreds of evacuees. Her diaries only discovered after her death and written at a time when invasion was imminent, with an unknown outcome, have a direct first-hand immediacy.

Wednesday 1 October

A Close Shave with Sweeney Todd
By Fay Shaefer



Many of us have come to know the macabre story of Sweeney Todd through 20th century stage or screen representations. This talk, however, traces the origins of the story from its first appearance in print as a Victorian 'penny blood', and the changes that have been made to the original text. It also considers what makes themes such as cannibalism and murder so appetising....

Wednesday 5 November

Beast, Angel and Madman; the Controversial Truth about Dylan Thomas
By Josh Brown



A controversial, groundbreaking book demolishing popular and persistent myths about Wales' greatest poet. Josh presents Dylan Thomas as a revolutionary figure in modern literature who democratised poetry, leading the way for performance poetry and Rap with a uniquely personal view of the world, based on political conviction and ancient bardic traditions reshaped for the modern era.

Wednesday 3 December

A Butler's Christmas
By Dr Bob France



We have all heard the well-worn phrase 'The Butler Did it!', but do we have any idea exactly what the butler really did. One man who knows is Dr Bob France, a guide at both Uppark and Petworth House. As a costumed Victorian Butler he will give an insight into life, both above and below stairs in these two great houses.