



FALL
2026

ROYAL OAK PROGRAMS



Primary underwriting provided by
Mark Pigott KBE

PROGRAMS INFORMATION

Support for Lectures

For the Fall 2026 season, primary underwriting provided by Mark Pigott KBE

We are also thankful to loyal Royal Oak members for generously providing funding for lectures this season, including: Thomas and Patricia Bain, Chris and Laurie Neilsen, Linda Pedro, Lynne R. Pickens, Stephen and Karen Tyler, In Memory of Graham Watkins, Roberta and Robert Young, and Anonymous donors. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation and Marian Meaker Aptekar Foundation.

How to Register

Please register online at www.royal-oak.org/events. You must be signed into the website to receive the ROF member discount. We are not able to give refunds, but we can turn your ticket into a tax deductible donation. If you have questions, please email us at zoom@royal-oak.org or call 212-480-2889, ext 200. Please check the website for updates, changes, and added events.

In-Person Lectures and Tours

All in-person lecture and reception times are listed in the local time zone. In-person tour meeting locations are listed on the website. Royal Oak is not responsible for in-person venue policies or dress code.

Zoom-Only Lectures & Zoom Tours

After registering, you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom webinar or meeting. A virtual waiting room is open starting 30 minutes before the event. Royal Oak is not responsible for attendees' technology issues regarding Zoom. Attendee contact information may be shared with co-sponsoring organizations. Contact ROF to opt out.

Lecture & Tour Recordings

Many lectures and tours are recorded and available to rent. Recording links are emailed at 12 p.m. (ET) the day after the event and will expire at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on the date listed.

All programs are subject to change and cancellation

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Royal Oak Members and Friends,

I am delighted to present our Fall 2026 Programs Brochure, featuring a season of engaging lectures and captivating tours.

This autumn, Royal Oak continues to expand its in-person programming, returning to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and debuting a lecture in Denver, Colorado. Meanwhile, most programs remain available online, making them accessible to audiences across the United States, wherever they are.

As Royal Oak continues to raise awareness and support for the National Trust, we are pleased to welcome architectural historian Jeremy Musson to highlight Robert Adam's country houses. His talks complement our 2026 NT Appeal to conserve Saltram's Velvet Drawing Room.

I hope you will join us for another inspiring season of programs. Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity and support of Royal Oak.

Warmest regards,

Ian Murray
Ian Murray
Executive Director

Cover: Top Hall at Nostell Priory, showing the stone chimneypiece designed by Robert Adam.
©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

AT-A-GLANCE

All lecture start times are listed in the Local Time Zone.

SEPTEMBER

18	5:30 p.m. CT	Carol Ann Lloyd	Chicago IL In-Person
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OCTOBER

1	6:15 p.m. ET	India Hicks	NYC In-Person or Rent
5	6:00 p.m. MT	Jeremy Musson	Denver, CO In-Person
7	6:15 p.m. ET	Jeremy Musson	Philadelphia, PA In-Person
8	6:30 p.m. ET	Jeremy Musson	NYC In-Person or Rent
13	2:00 p.m. ET	Legal London: From Inn to Bar	Zoom-only tour or Rent
16	10:00 a.m. ET	The Tredwells' World of 19th-Century NoHo	NYC In-Person
19	6:30 p.m. ET	Andrew Jones	Philadelphia, PA In-Person
20	6:00 p.m. ET	Andrew Jones	Charleston, SC In-Person
21	6:15 p.m. ET	Andrew Jones	NYC In-Person or Rent
26	1:00 p.m. ET	A Walk Through Dulwich Village	Zoom-only tour or Rent

NOVEMBER

3	5:00 p.m. ET	Castles Around London	Zoom-only or Rent
5	6:00 p.m. ET	Carol Ann Lloyd	Alexandria, VA In-Person
9	6:00 p.m. ET	George Saumarez Smith	NYC In-Person
11	6:15 p.m. ET	India Hicks	Atlanta, GA In-Person
12	12:00 p.m. ET	Sambourne House Museum Tour	Zoom-only or Rent
16	6:15 p.m. ET	Alidad	NYC In-Person or Rent
17	2:00 p.m. ET	Sinclair McKay	Zoom-only or Rent
17	6:30 p.m. ET	Hugo Vickers	Philadelphia, PA In-Person
19	6:30 p.m. PT	Hugo Vickers	La Jolla, CA In-Person
20	6:00 p.m. PT	Hugo Vickers	Pasadena, CA In-Person
23	2:00 p.m. ET	Mia Jackson	Zoom-only or Rent

DECEMBER

2	6:15 p.m. ET	Hugo Vickers	NYC In Person or Rent
3	5:30 p.m. ET	Becky Diamond	Zoom-only or Rent
TBD		Historic York: Two Thousand Years of History	Zoom-only or Rent



Drawing Room in The Athenaeum, a private London members' club founded in 1824.

© Laura Hodgson

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

Entertaining with a Side of Chaos

India Hicks
British Designer and Writer

**Thursday, October 1
6:15 p.m. (ET)**

Reception and book-signing following

**New York School of Interior Design;
170 E 70th St, New York, NY**

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

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



From *Entertaining with a Side of Chaos* by India Hicks. Rizzoli, 2026

Host India Hicks before the Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) fundraiser at Nina Cambell's house in the Hamptons

Splendor & Sociability: Robert Adam's Country Houses

Jeremy Musson
Architectural Historian and Writer

Thursday, October 8 | 6:15 p.m. (ET)
Reception 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



The Marble Hall at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

ZOOM LECTURES & IN-PERSON NEW YORK CITY

London Clubs: Interiors, Architecture, and Art

Andrew Jones, Author

**Wednesday, October 21
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: \$15 Members;
\$25 Non-Members and Guests



©Laura Hodgson

Ballot Box from Brooks', a gentleman's club in St. James's Street, London. Voting members drop black and white balls to vote—the black ball for rejection

New Classical & Traditional Design: Designing the English Country House for Today

George Saumarez Smith, Interior Designer

Monday, November 9 | 6:00 p.m. (ET) *Reception following*

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

For registration and more info contact ICAA of New York or visit classicist.org/english-country-house

Reimagining Historic Interiors

Alidad, Designer

Monday, November 16 | 6:15 p.m. (ET)

Reception 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



©Alidad Ltd

London Drawing Room featuring 17th-century tapestry and damask walls



Defending the Homefront: Britain's Home Guard

Sinclair McKay
Author and Journalist

Tuesday, November 17
2:00 p.m. (ET)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

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

*World War I recruitment poster,
"Are YOU in this?", 1915 by Robert Baden-Powell*



©Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Washington, D.C.

Duchess of Windsor c. 1952-1957

Behind Closed Doors: The Tragic and Untold Story of the Duchess of Windsor

Hugo Vickers
Biographer and Lecturer

Wednesday, December 2
6:15 p.m. (ET)

Reception and book-signing following

**New York School of Interior Design;
170 E 70th St, New York, NY**

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

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

Alice de Rothschild's World at Waddesdon Manor

Mia Jackson
Senior Curator of Decorative Arts
at Waddesdon Manor

Monday, November 23
2:00 p.m. (ET)

**Zoom Webinar
(Live or Rent)**

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



©Kayla Smith

The Dining Room at Waddesdon Manor

Sugar Plums and Seasonal Tales from the Gilded Age

Becky Diamond
Food Writer and Research Historian

Thursday, December 3
5:00 p.m. (ET)

**Zoom Webinar
(Live or Rent)**

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



Soft Molasses Cookies

From *The Gilded Age Cookbook* by Becky Diamond, Globe Pequot Publishing, 2023.

CALIFORNIA, LA JOLLA

Behind Closed Doors: The Tragic and Untold Story of the Duchess of Windsor

Hugo Vickers, Biographer and Lecturer

Thursday, November 19 | 6:30 p.m. (PT)

Preceded by a reception at 6:00 PT

St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect St, La Jolla, CA 92037

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

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES AREA

Behind Closed Doors: The Tragic and Untold Story of the Duchess of Windsor

Hugo Vickers, Biographer and Lecturer

Friday, November 20 | 6:00 p.m. (PT)

Lecture followed by reception and book-signing

Pasadena Heritage, 160 N. Oakland Ave, Pasadena CA 91101



In-Person: \$35 Members; \$40 Non-Members and Guests



Duke and Duchess in Paris 1978. Picture is inscribed to Maître Suzanne Blum, the Duchess's lawyer during her final years.

From *The Jewels Of The Duchess Of Windsor* catalogue
2nd-3rd April 1987 Sotheby's, Geneva.

COLORADO, DENVER



Interior view of Harewood House,
West Yorkshire, England

Splendor & Sociability: Robert Adam's Country Houses

Jeremy Musson

Architectural Historian and Writer

Monday, October 5

6:15 p.m. (MT)

Reception following

Grant-Humphrey's Mansion
770 Pennsylvania St

In-Person: \$45 Members;
\$55 Non-Members and Guests

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

Co-sponsored by
ICAA Rocky Mountain



GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Entertaining with a Side of Chaos

India Hicks, British Designer and Writer

Wednesday, November 11

6:15 p.m. (ET)

*Reception/book-signing preceding
at 5:15 p.m. (ET) at Ainsworth-Noah &
Associates, Inc., ADAC, Suite 518, 5th Floor*

Lecture location:

**ADAC, Lecture Room,
351 Peachtree Hills Ave NE**

In-Person: \$35 Members;
\$40 Non-Members and Guests



Flowers and wild grasses are collected from
the fields and hedgerows on a luncheon table.

From *Entertaining with a Side of Chaos* by India Hicks, Rizzoli, 2026

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO



Salamander Brooch, set with Columbian emeralds and diamonds from India. Salamanders were popular symbols for 16th-century jewelry.

Hidden Treasures: Tudor Jewels Unearthed

Carol Ann Lloyd
Author and Historian

Friday, September 18
5:30 p.m. (CT)

Reception at 5:00 pm

Freeman's Auction House
1550 W Carroll Ave
(street parking available)

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

©The London Museum, Cheapside Hoard.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

London Clubs: Interiors, Architecture, and Art

Andrew Jones
Author

Monday, October 19
6:30 p.m. (ET)

A cash bar reception and book-signing at 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Reception and Lecture:
\$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members and Guests

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED

Staircase at the City of London Club, founded in 1832.



© Laura Hodgson

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Splendor & Sociability: Robert Adam's Country Houses

Jeremy Musson
Architectural Historian and Writer

Wednesday, October 7
6:30 p.m. (ET)

A cash bar reception at 6:00 p.m. (ET)

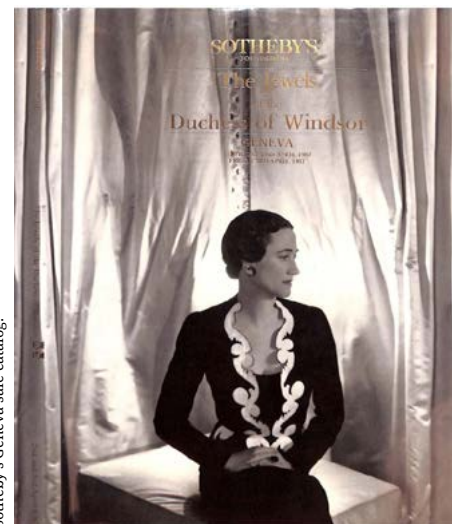
Reception and Lecture:
\$35 Members;
\$45 Non-Members and Guests

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED

The Saloon, or Great Drawing Room at Saltram, Devon, designed by Robert Adam 1768.



©National Trust Images/John Hammond



Sotheby's Geneva sale catalog.

Behind Closed Doors: The Tragic and Untold Story of the Duchess of Windsor

Hugo Vickers, Biographer and Lecturer

Tuesday, November 17 | 6:30 p.m. (ET)
A cash bar reception and book-signing at 6:00 p.m. (ET)

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

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED

The Jewels of the late Duchess of Windsor Thursday, 2nd of April 1987 and Friday, 3rd of April 1987.



PHILADELPHIA LOCATION:

The Union League of Philadelphia, 140 South Broad St

Co-sponsors: The Union League of Philadelphia, and ICAA, Philadelphia Chapter

SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON



©Laura Hodgson

The Travellers Club at 106 Pall Mall, London.

London Clubs: Interiors, Architecture, and Art

Andrew Jones, Author

Tuesday, October 20 | 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Lecture is preceded by 5:30 p.m. reception and book-signing

Location: Charleston Library Society, 164 King Street, Charleston

In-Person: \$30 Members; \$40 Non-Members and Guests



VIRGINIA, ALEXANDRIA



©National Trust Images/John Hammond

Hidden Treasures: Tudor Jewels Unearthed

Carol Ann Lloyd, Author and Historian

November 5 | 6:00 p.m. (ET)

Reception at 5:30 p.m.

**Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum
201 S Washington St**

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

Painting of unknown woman, c. 1570.

ROYAL OAK MEMBER TOURS

Digital tours are presented live and our guides will give an illustrated presentation with an accompanying talk. 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

Legal London: From Inn to Bar

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, October 13 | 2:00 p.m. ET

In 1234, when King Henry III issued a decree forbidding the teaching of law within the City of London, teachers and practitioners of the law were forced to relocate outside the City's boundaries. They established practices in Holborn where they remained conveniently close to both their commercial clients as well as the Royal Courts at Westminster. Over the centuries, barristers clustered together to form a series of institutions that evolved into the four prestigious Inns of Court—Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, and Middle Temple. These legal societies possess the exclusive right to call individuals to the Bar to practice as barristers in England and Wales. On this virtual tour, David Charnick will discuss the rich history and enduring traditions of London's legal quarter and illustrate some of London's most remarkable architectural treasures. He will explore the inner workings of Legal London through the buildings, institutions, and hidden corners that cluster around Chancery Lane.

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



19th-Century Barrister's Wig. Ravenscroft Lincoln's Inn, London.

IN-PERSON WALKING TOUR

The Tredwells' World of 19th-Century NoHo

In-Person (not recorded)

Friday, October 16 | 10:00 a.m. ET

New York City entered a period of extraordinary growth and prosperity with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. As commerce flourished and lower Manhattan became increasingly crowded, many of the city's wealthiest merchant families moved north to the fashionable neighborhood now known as NoHo. Led by a guide from the Merchant's House Museum, once home to the Tredwell family, we will explore the elegant streets of this former enclave of New York's mercantile elite. Discover how prosperous families lived, worked, and entertained, and gain insight into a transformative period in the city's history through the surviving architecture and stories.

Walking tours are approximately 90 minutes. Limited Space. Registration required.

TICKETS: \$45 Members; \$55 Non-Members



©Library of Congress

Broadway looking North from Houston St.



Bell Cottage, Dulwich from 1741

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

A Walk Through Dulwich Village

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Monday, October 26 | 1:00 p.m. ET

With its wide grassy verges, fingerpost signs, half-timbered, medieval-like houses, and grand villas, Dulwich retains a character unlike anywhere else in London. On this virtual tour, Richard Watkins traces the area's evolution from a rural manor into a thriving suburb shaped by prestigious schools, artistic ambition, and nineteenth-century expansion. Along the way, discover Dulwich's rich architectural heritage. Notable residents included Charles Dickens, Camille Pissarro, and Ernest Shackleton. The town also features England's first purpose-built public art gallery, London's only surviving toll-gated road, and the surprising inspiration for the iconic British telephone box.

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

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

Castles Around London

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

**Tuesday, November 3
5:00 p.m. ET**

London is home to one of the world's most famous castles—the Tower of London—but it is far from the only fortress within easy reach of the capital. Rob Smith will digitally explore a number remarkable castles, each revealing a different chapter of England's history. From Windsor's military past and the pivotal events at Berkhamsted, to the rebellion at Cooling Castle and the dramatic ruins of Hadleigh overlooking the Essex coast, discover how these fortresses shaped the nation's story. Along the way, Rob also uncovers the histories of lesser-known castles whose surviving ruins still bear witness to centuries of conflict, royal ambition, and political change.

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



*Hadleigh Castle by Henry Bright (1810–1873)
from the collection of Beecroft Art Gallery*



*Dining room of Sambourne House,
Kensington, London*

ONLINE MUSEUM TOUR

Sambourne House Museum Tour

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, November 12 | 12:00 p.m. ET

Step inside the remarkable home of Edward Linley Sambourne, at 18 Stafford Terrace Kensington. He was a celebrated *Punch* illustrator and one of Britain's first and finest cartoonists. Through his distinctive drawings, Sambourne captured the personalities, fashions, and politics of the Victorian age, while his Kensington home reveals another side of his life through his passion for design, collecting, and photography. Preserved much as the Sambourne family left it, Sambourne House Museum offers a rare glimpse into the artistic and domestic world of the late 19th c. Beginning in 1875, Linley and his wife, Marion, transformed their home into a showcase of the Aesthetic movement, filling it with William Morris wallpapers, stained glass, ceramics, and carefully curated interiors. Hannah Lund, Curator of Exhibitions and Displays, explores the Sambournes' family life on this digital tour. She discusses Linley's celebrated career and illustrates the remarkably preserved interiors that make Sambourne House one of London's finest surviving Victorian homes. We will also peek into an upcoming exhibition featuring never-before-seen items from the archives.

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

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

Historic City of York: Two Thousand Years of History

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

TBD

Founded by the Romans in 71 CE, York has been shaped by nearly two thousand years of history. From Roman fort to Viking capital, medieval pilgrimage center, and Georgian city, each era has left its mark on York's streets and landmarks. On this digital tour, discover York's rich past as an expert guide leads you through the city's historic center. Along the way, explore highlights including the medieval City Walls, Bootham Bar and Monk Bar, the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, the magnificent York Minster, the timber-framed Shambles, and the city's hidden lanes and historic buildings. Learn how Roman soldiers, Viking settlers, medieval merchants, and royal visitors all helped shape one of Britain's most fascinating and preserved historic cities.

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



*Shambles Rd. in York featuring preserved
medieval timber-framed buildings, with
jettied floors that overhang the street.*

ROYAL OAK LECTURES



Alidad is an award-winning interior designer renowned for his richly layered interiors, which draw on a deep appreciation for history, craftsmanship, and tradition. After beginning his career at Sotheby's, Alidad established his own design studio where he developed his approach to creating bespoke spaces. Inspired by his Persian heritage and a lifelong fascination with historic design, Alidad blends antique, vintage, and contemporary elements to create interiors that appear to have evolved over generations. His work combines color, pattern, texture, and scale with meticulous craftsmanship displayed in his projects including the restoration at Buscot Park, a National Trust property.

REIMAGINING HISTORIC INTERIORS

From elegant private residences in Beirut, Vienna, London, and Paris to the restoration of two significant rooms at Buscot Park, Oxfordshire (NT), interior designer, Alidad, explores the projects that define his distinctive approach to design. Presenting richly illustrated examples, he examines the decorative choices behind each commission. Named one of *House & Garden's* Top 100 Interior Designers, Alidad is renowned for creating layered interiors featuring vibrant, upholstered furnishings, opulent *passementerie*, and antiques sourced from around the world. Drawing inspiration from the Baroque and Neoclassical periods, as well as Chinoiserie and Art Deco, he creates spaces that feel both timeless and deeply personal. As he explains, "I want to create spaces that look as though they have always been there."



Becky Libourel Diamond is a food writer, librarian, and research historian. She holds a BA in journalism from Rider University and an MLS from Rutgers University. Her second cookbook, *The Gilded Age Christmas Cookbook*, blends Gilded Age details and celebrity stories with historic holiday menus and recipes, updated for modern kitchens. She is also the author of *The Thousand Dollar Dinner*, and *Mrs. Goodfellow: The Story of America's First Cooking School*.

SUGAR PLUMS AND SEASONAL TALES FROM THE GILDED AGE

During the Gilded Age, holidays were transformed into opulent celebrations featuring lavish decorations and delicious confections. Food writer and historian Becky Libourel Diamond will explore Gilded Age holiday traditions, from plum pudding, gingerbread, and mince pie, to grand balls, debutante parties, and festive teas. She will examine the fascinating history behind these confections, their ingredients, and baking methods, while uncovering the origins of many customs that became mainstream including, Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and Christmas cards. She will also discuss Hanukkah celebrations among America's growing Jewish community and New Year's traditions such as "New Year's Calling."



India Hicks is a designer, author, entrepreneur, and humanitarian. Based in the Bahamas, she continues to consult with fashion, home, and lifestyle brands while writing on design, entertaining, and family history. She has authored several books, and her latest *Entertaining with a Side of Chaos*, will be published by Rizzoli in September 2026. She serves on the Executive Board of Global Empowerment Mission, and is a patron of The King's Trust, supporting programs that help young women overcome disadvantage and build new opportunities.

ENTERTAINING WITH A SIDE OF CHAOS

British designer, author, and hostess India Hicks will speak about the art of gathering and entertaining, whether it is an impromptu lunch, a holiday celebration, or a milestone marked with family and friends. Raised amid British tradition, she is the daughter of Lady Pamela Hicks and the iconic designer David Hicks. After more than two decades in the design world, Hicks has learned that memorable entertaining has little to do with perfection, and everything to do with human

connection. With her irreverent humor, and using illustrations from her latest book, she will share examples of both grand and intimate gatherings—from dinners that end in dessert and raucous debate, to small tables set for two. She will also share family photos and stories, and speak about creating a warm welcome—even if the tablecloth is not ironed.



Dr. Mia Jackson is Senior Curator of Decorative Arts at Waddesdon Manor, where she has worked since 2017. She has curated exhibitions on Alice de Rothschild and her collections; the Rothschild Aviaries; and *Flights of Fancy: The Birds of Louis Denis Armand* (2024). She studied at the University of Oxford and the Courtauld Institute of Art before completing her PhD at Queen Mary, University of London. Previously, she worked at the British Museum, The Wallace Collection, and English Heritage.

ALICE DE ROTHSCHILD'S WORLD AT WADDESDON MANOR

Alice de Rothschild, a member of the influential European banking dynasty, was an art collector, gardener, and one of the most remarkable women of her era. Unconstrained by the social expectations placed upon women, she forged her own path and after inheriting Waddesdon Manor from her brother, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, in 1898, shaped its future for the next 24 years. Dr. Mia Jackson will explore Alice's lasting influence on Waddesdon Manor, revealing how she preserved and enriched the estate through her collections, gardens, and traditions of entertaining. In doing so, Alice established standards of stewardship and care that would later help shape National Trust conservation practices, securing Waddesdon's legacy for future generations.



Andrew Jones is an author who has lived in Mayfair—London's club land—for over 20 years. He is the author of *The Buildings of Green Park, a Tour of Certain Buildings, Monuments and Other Structures in Mayfair and St. James's*. He writes about cities for the *Financial Times* and has also written on architecture for *Blueprint*, *Drawing Matter* and *The London Gardener* as well as pieces on London for *The World of Interiors* and the *Londonist*. His lecture is drawn from his latest book *The London Club: Architecture, Interiors, and Art* (Fall 2025).

LONDON CLUBS: INTERIORS, ARCHITECTURE, AND ART

London has more private members' clubs than any other city. There are clubs for every interest, profession, and background: from actors, aristocrats, architects, artists, and clergymen; to sailors, soldiers, journalists, fishermen, and spies. Historian and author Andrew Jones will illustrate some of the most beautiful and unusual of these clubs spanning 300 years of architecture and design. He will highlight the clubs' original interiors and exquisite furnishings, as well as showcase the extraordinary collections they hold. For example, he will reveal the concealed bookcase door in the library of The Travellers Club, show the taxidermy fish at the Flyfishers' Club, and discuss the club that "Winnie-the-Pooh built". Also, he will show some of the more intimate spaces—The Beefsteak Club's loos are wallpapered in facsimiles of members' writing, while Home House lavatories display Soviet spy relics. From bohemian to bling, shabby to chic, quirky to grand, Jones will celebrate the city's strangest and most elegant private dining and drinking establishments.



Carol Ann Lloyd is a popular speaker who shares stories of Shakespeare and English history. She is the former Manager of Visitor Education at Folger Shakespeare Library. Her podcast, *British History: Royals, Rebels, and Romantics*, explores the lives of famous and infamous historical characters. Her latest book is *Courting the Virgin Queen: Elizabeth I and Her Suitors*. Carol Ann has presented programs at the Smithsonian, Folger Shakespeare Library, Agcroft Hall, and TEDx, among other venues.

HIDDEN TREASURES: TUDOR JEWELS UNEARTHED

In the middle of the English Civil War, a London jeweler took advantage of one night's darkness to secretly bury a wooden casket below his shop on Cheapside street. This box contained riches hastily

concealed during his escape. However, the owner never returned, and this treasure was forgotten for 300 years. In 1912, on one of London's busiest streets, a work crew began to dig under the basement of a building. Suddenly, glittering rings, brooches, watches, and rare enameled chains—featuring emeralds, diamonds and pearls—were unearthed in a discovery that sounds more like fiction than reality. More than 500 pieces of rare Elizabethan and Stuart jewelry were revealed—rare surviving examples only previously known from portraiture. Carol Ann Lloyd will illustrate pieces from the Cheapside Hoard to show how 16th-and-17th-century royals and nobility used jewelry and adornment to establish and communicate power. Ms. Lloyd will explain how these objects were worn and also discuss how the gems demonstrate the impact of luxury items and global exploration in early modern England. Join us as we have a unique opportunity to look at this glittering “timecapsule” that has only been displayed twice: in 1914 and at the Museum of London in 2013.



Sinclair McKay writes for *the Daily Telegraph*, *the Mail on Sunday* and *The Spectator*. He is a literary critic for the *Telegraph* and the *Spectator*. He has published extensively on Bletchley Park in his books, *The Secret Life of Bletchley Park*, *The Secret Listeners*, and *Bletchley Park Brainteasers*. His other books include *Dresden: The Fire and the Darkness* (2020); *Meeting Churchill: A Life in 90 Encounters* (2023); *St. Petersburg: Sacrifice and Redemption in the City That Defied Hitler* (2025) and *Dad's Army: The Glorious True Story of the Home Guard* (2026).

DEFENDING THE HOMEFRONT: BRITAIN'S HOME GUARD

As the threat of invasion by Adolf Hitler loomed over the British nation, Prime Minister Anthony Eden's 1940 radio broadcast appealed for volunteers to protect the domestic front. Often called “Dad's Army,” the British Home Guard was made up of volunteers who were too young or too old for conscription during WWII. However, they were more than an assembly of well-meaning amateurs. Nearly 2M ordinary people—including George Orwell, A. A. Milne, and C. S. Lewis—stood ready to defend British towns and villages. Journalist and author Sinclair McKay will explore the incredible story of Britain's Home Guard. He will describe the village greens that became drilling grounds for WWI veterans who balanced rifle practice, night patrols, and anti-aircraft duties. McKay will also highlight the important role played by women. While at first officially banned from the Home Guard, undeterred, a group formed the Women's Home Defence Force in 1941. Also, McKay will talk about the 1st American Squadron, composed of US citizens living in the UK in 1940. This group stepped up to defend Britain while the US was still neutral. Drawing on archival research, McKay will offer a new perspective on the domestic spirit of resilience, ingenuity, and courage that helped sustain the nation during its darkest hours.



Jeremy Musson, LLB Hons, M.Phil, FSA, is an architectural historian and heritage consultant. He worked for the Victorian Society and the National Trust before joining *Country Life*, in 1995, where he was Architectural Editor in 1998-2007. He continues to contribute articles to *Country Life*; he is the author of several books and co-wrote and presented BBC 2's *The Curious House Guest* series. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and an affiliate lecturer at Cambridge University's department of architecture, he is also chairman of the Historic Houses Foundation. As a heritage consultant since 2007, he has worked on major historic sites including St Paul's Cathedral, Ickworth Park, Suffolk and Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire.

SPLENDOUR & SOCIABILITY: ROBERT ADAM'S COUNTRY HOUSES

Robert Adam was one of the greatest architects and interior designers in Georgian Britain. He introduced and popularized design based on his study of the ruins of ancient Rome, using ancient classical ornaments, including low relief plasterwork on ceilings and walls; carved and gilded classical motifs on furniture; and chimney pieces which incorporated classical masks and wreaths. Adam also enticed wealthy patrons into creating ambitious projects which evoked the spirit of ancient world buildings, and yet worked for the most fashionable parties, and for family life. He created memorable interiors by his use of distinctive colors such as pink, green, lilac, and straw hues, within his carefully planned dining rooms and drawing rooms, and libraries and saloons. Adam's work in British country houses resulted in some of the most memorable spaces in history which also

expressed the finest craftsmanship and highlighted a homeowner's social status and fashionable taste. Architectural historian and author Jeremy Musson will illustrate and discuss country house interiors designed or remodeled by Robert Adam including as Kedleston Hall, Osterley Park, Newby Hall, Syon House, and Saltram.



Hugo Vickers is a biographer, lecturer, and broadcaster. He has covered royal events such as weddings and funerals—including the State Funeral and Committal of The Queen Elizabeth II—and celebrations such as the Coronation of King Charles III. *The Financial Times* described him as: ‘the most knowledgeable royal biographer on the planet.’ He has written many biographies of 20th-century figures, including Cecil Beaton, Vivien Leigh, Princess Andrew of Greece, and the Queen Mother. When not writing, he travels through the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories, establishing Commonwealth Walkways. Mr. Vickers is a Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire and Captain of the Lay Stewards of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: THE TRAGIC AND UNTOLD STORY OF THE DUCHESS OF WINDSOR

While there have been many talks about The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, acclaimed Royal biographer Hugo Vickers's lecture provides a fresh perspective on the doomed royal couple's years in exile. While Mr. Vickers has his own theories about the Abdication itself; this lecture will highlight the untold drama of the final years of The Duchess's life. He will discuss how Wallis' life plummeted after Duke's death and illustrate how her later years ended with the criminal exploitation of an old, sick woman. Mr. Vickers will introduce Suzanne Blum, the ruthless French lawyer, and explain how once she was widowed, The Duchess's precarious financial and social position added to her horrible plight. Using previously unpublished papers and other private letters, he will show how The Duchess of Windsor's once-glamorous life quickly spiraled into one of desperation and fear. Vickers will paint a portrait of a complex and tragic icon and reveal the truth behind her final years—research that became the basis for the 2026 film starring Isabella Rossellini and Joan Collins.

Support The Royal Oak Foundation's campaign to raise \$300,000 to help conserve the Velvet Drawing Room at Saltram, Devon.

We are restoring the gilded decoration, reweaving the velvet to match the original wall coverings, and preserving the pier glasses and tables designed by Robert Adam. Help us conserve this room for generations to come!

www.Royal-Oak.org/Saltram

Pictured: View through doorway, looking into the Velvet Drawing Room at Saltram, Devon.



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Linens and tablecloths waiting to adorn the table.

From *Entertaining with a Side of Chaos* by India Hicks, Rizzoli, 2026