



Newsletter Edition No. 93 - September 2019

Dear Members

Welcome back after the Summer break. The weather has been rather changeable with the hottest day on record followed by massive flooding in the North. We have a new Prime Minister and we continue to race towards Brexit with all the speed and excitement of a snail. According to the news media, our economy is collapsing because of Brexit. So, let's turn our back on all that and see what our U3A can do for us.

With 60 activity groups there should be something for everyone. If you have any sport, hobby or pastime that you would like to share with others, please contact Heather, our Group Coordinator, who will put you in touch with a group where there are vacancies or will help you to join with others with the same interest, to start a new group.

Then there is a long list of events that you can attend. See the Dates for Your Diaries and the Speakers at Monthly Meetings within this newsletter. Not only can you attend these events, you could find it very entertaining to help the members who are organising them. It's a great feeling when something you have been involved in, gives great pleasure to others.

Your Committee will be discussing the program for 2020 in October. If there is anywhere you would like to visit, any event you would like to attend, any ideas you have for 2020, please let our Secretary, Debbie Bamber, know and the committee will then take on board your suggestions. If there is enough support, arrangements will be made for the viable suggestions. It doesn't matter if it has been done before. There are lots of new members who may be interested in your suggestion.

Speaking of volunteers, one member responded last month to my plea for someone to help with the audio equipment. That's a start. And I would like to welcome Val Foley to our Committee.

The Trust newsletter this month contains advice about help with paying for your TV licence when the BBC starts to charge pensioners over the age of 75. If you receive Pension Credit you will still be eligible for a FREE license. You can see details of how to apply here: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>.

We have just heard that Maggie Harris, a long-term former member of the Rayleigh U3A and Walking group 2, passed away in July. Our condolences go to her family.

Our next meeting is on 5th September when Dudley Chignall will talk about Beatrix Potter - hope to see you there.

Best wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey, Chairman

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT

We are starting our report with a plea for new Group Leaders to come forward and help get new groups off the ground. This can be a shared role with members within the group helping wherever possible.

There are enough members to start a Mahjong Group and a Badminton Group. Fusion Sports Centre at Rawreth Lane have Badminton courts available at £8 per hour (suggestion is that each player pays £1). Our successful Table Tennis Groups use similar facilities at this venue.

We had a meeting hoping to kick off a Serendipity 2 Group. Val and Jim Whitehouse are taking some of the new members who attended on a trip that their Serendipity group has done before, to show them what is involved. After this it is hoped that a further meeting will be arranged.

If you do volunteer to become a Group Leader you arrange the day and week of your meeting. If Group Leaders/Volunteer/Committee members are not prepared to come forward, our U3A will become very stale.

Classic English Novels Book club are looking for members, please come to our desk to register interest. If other groups have vacancies and would like a poster to let people know, please contact Val Whitehouse (Publicity Officer/Vice Chairman) by email: val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or phone her on **01702 512717**.

A Group Leader has come forward to teach Ipad for beginners. He requests that you have connection to Wi-Fi and an Apple Ipad. Please come to our desk to register your interest.

For members who receive the newsletter by email, you will notice that we have introduced a new feature: Short Story by a member of the Writing Group. This month the story is "MY FIRST JOB" by Val Foley. Members who have requested a printed copy of the newsletter, may receive a shorter version of the email copy. Printed copies will be limited to 8 pages to minimize costs.

REMINDER: Pop in Coffee Morning on Thursday 12th September at the WI Hall at 10.30 am to 12 noon - an opportunity for older/newer members to mingle.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

Do check out the events below that have been arranged by U3A National Office. There are some really interesting topics and all taking place in London. If you attend one, perhaps you could write a quick piece for the next newsletter too!

NATIONAL OFFICE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

U3A Jazz Study Day 2019, London. 11am – 4pm

17th September 2019 Tickets: £20

For a second year, Alan Barnes and his octet have agreed to entertain and enlighten us about jazz, this time focusing on the instruments in the band and the all-important personalities that energise jazz music. This will be the World Premiere of Alan's new project.

U3A Explores Science at the Ri, London. 1pm – 5pm

7th October 2019 Tickets: £21.50

Join U3A members and explore science through a variety of fascinating talks.

The Pre-Raphaelites at The National Gallery, London. 11am – 4pm

7th November 2019 Tickets: £25

Discover how National Gallery paintings, including van Eyck, Titian, Hogarth and others, inspired the young and rebellious Pre-Raphaelites as they brought about a revolution in British painting.

NATIONAL OFFICE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (continued)

Beneath your Feet – Hidden Depths of Roman London. 10.30am – 4pm.

20th or 21st November 2019. Tickets: £23.50

The Archaeologist of London's Guildhall Art Gallery will lead this study day in the remains of London's Roman Amphitheatre to discover more about the City's ancient history. U3A members will also take part in a Roman lamp-making workshop to create their own authentic clay oil lamps. The day ends with a guided visit to the nearby Temple of Mithras, a unique experience in the heart of the City of London.

The Architecture of London at the Royal Institute of British Architects, London.

10.30am – 4pm. 25th November 2019 Tickets: £25

The Royal Institute of British Architects cares for one of the largest and most diverse architectural collections in the world. Travel through four centuries of London's architectural development on this exclusive study day, hosted within the Institute's iconic art deco headquarters.

Full details are on the U3A website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.

If you require any assistance, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: debbiebamber@rayleighu3a.co.uk or call me on 07947 064799.

NEWS FROM AROUND YOUR U3A

TEN PIN BOWLING



The Ten Pin Bowling group meet every month at CJ Bowling in Hockley – good exercise and competition.



Members from our two
TABLE TENNIS GROUPS

having a fun time.

The sessions finish with a relaxing chat and tea/coffee/iced drinks in the café at the Sports Centre, Rawreth.

Elaine & Maureen

NEWS FROM AROUND YOUR U3A (continued)

WALKING GROUP 2

Members of the group during a recent walk around the Hawkwell countryside, enjoying the weather and the scenery, are shown alongside.

David Fryer-Kelsey



CHURCH GROUP 2 VISIT to ELY CATHEDRAL



35 members and friends of the group visited Ely Cathedral in June. We had a tour of the beautiful cathedral, visited the Stained-Glass Museum and had a lovely lunch in the Almonry.

Val Whitehouse

SERENDIPITY GROUP 5 VISIT to KEW GARDENS

June is a good time to visit Kew, everything is in flower and the perfume from the rose garden is almost overwhelming. Our previous visit was in 2013 and someone said it was time we went back. So, on the appointed day some twenty people made their way to Stratford and caught the over ground to Kew and used the two for one voucher supplied by the railway; this reduced the entry from £20 to £10.

Most people's first stop was for a cup of coffee or an early lunch set amid the display of multicoloured plants and flower beds. The more energetic made for the Chinese pagoda with its 250 steps for great views over London. Others made use of the on off land train for a more leisurely tour of the 300-acre grounds. Apparently, Kew Gardens are supposed to have every kind of English tree and plant, and they might be right.

The tree walkway high in the tree canopy provides an unusual perspective of the grounds. Kew is a world



Ice cream for some of Serendipity 5

heritage site and edges the Thames. Take a stroll along the path overlooking the Thames, you could almost imagine life in 'Wind in the Willows'.

The green houses at Kew are one of the star attractions. The Palm House is reminiscent of a rainforest. As soon as you walk through the door you are hit by a wall of heat and humidity. It's full of tropical plants and Palm trees. I'm half expecting monkeys to come swinging through the trees. The spiral stair case takes you up to the roof. They've got an iron lattice balcony running around the top, and you can look through the palms to the plants and people down below.

The temperate green house has recently reopened after renovation and not quite so hot this time, but filled with prickly cacti, orchids and ferns. There are lots of desert rocks and water fountains. The water lily house is another hot greenhouse, this time with beautiful water lilies; some with huge leaves six feet or more in diameter floating on the surface of the pond.

Close to Sackers bridge there is a woody trail of fir trees and the floor is littered with deep green pine needles and cones. You can look out across the lake to the islands where there is a brood of baby ducks gently foraging for food, while large white swans patrol the lake like bouncers, daring you to come close.

The other reason for our visit to Kew was the Chihuly reflections on nature exhibition. Dale Chihuly is an innovative artist who works in glass. The exhibition at Kew contains a stunning collection of his work set against a unique backdrop of plants amid the greenhouse structures. Many of the glass sculptures are huge and intricate. I thought the best was the White Persian Water Lilies set in the water lily house among the real water lilies, and the Sapphire Star, but there are many others and well worth a visit.



Many of the green houses contain sculptures. There is also an art gallery with an exhibition called Exotica. It contains a display and collection of 30 paintings of unusual tropical plants.

Bob White

JIGSAW CLUB

At the September Monthly Meeting we shall have a selection of our Jigsaws that may be borrowed by Rayleigh U3A members. There is a form on the table by the Book Stall. Just fill in your details and take the jigsaw home. Jigsaws can be returned at any Monthly Meeting.

Why not sign up and join the Jigsaw Club? There are over 20 jigsaws you can complete at home. If you have any questions just email me: val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or give me a ring on **01702 512717**.



U3A DIARIES will be on sale at the **September** monthly meeting, price £2.75 each

SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER MYSTERY EVENING – tickets will be on sale at **September** monthly meeting. Full details/poster are on the website and in the July newsletter.

EVENT CINEMA SCREENINGS

Details of screenings for September/December, currently shown on the websites, are listed below: -

Tues 17thSept	Odeon Southend	Lake Constance Rigoletto (Opera)	19.30	150mins
Tues 1st Oct	Odeon Southend	Verona - Placido Domingo 50th Anniversary Gala	19.00	150mins
Thurs 3rd Oct	Odeon Southend	York Theatre Royal Wise Children	19.00	153 mins
Tues 8th Oct	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera House Don Giovanni	18.45	210 mins
Thurs 17th Oct (recorded)	Odeon Southend	National Theatre A Midsummer Night's Dream	19.00	180 mins
Thurs 24th Oct	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera House Don Pasquale	19.30	150mins
Sun 27th Oct	Odeon Southend	Moscow Bolshoi Ballet Raymonda	15.00	180 mins
Thurs 7th Nov	Odeon Southend	National Theatre Hansard	19.00	180 mins
Sun 17th Nov	Odeon Southend	Moscow Bolshoi Ballet Le Corsaire	14.00	210 mins
Thurs 28th Nov	Odeon Southend	National Theatre(The Old Vic) Present Laughter	19.00	180 mins
Tues 10th Dec	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet Copelia	19.15	150 mins
Sun 15th Dec	Odeon Southend	Moscow Bolshoi Ballet The Nutcracker	14.00	150mins

Some of the screenings detailed above will also be shown at **Cineworld, Basildon**

12th Oct	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Turandot	17.55	182 mins
26th Oct	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Mahon	17.55	212 mins
9th Nov	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Madam Butterfly	17.55	192 mins
23rd Nov	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Akhaten	17.55	211 mins

If you wish to join a group for any of these screenings or would like further details, please phone Sheila on **0772 409 5299** or email her at sh.fa.40@gmail.com .

PUZZLE - COFFEE STOP?

Travelling at an average speed of 100 km/h, Roger took 4 hours to drive to his grandma's place. But then he stopped for a while at a coffee shop right next to his grandma's house, which reduced the average speed for his whole trip to 80 km/h. How long did Roger spend in the coffee shop? Answer is on page 8.

TALKS FOR ALL FESTIVE EVENT



Monday 25th November 2019

Christmas Greetings by Keith Baldwin

Followed by Afternoon Tea

(Sandwiches, Homemade Scones, Cakes etc. Tea/Coffee)

At The British Legion Hall, 2 London Hill, Rayleigh SS6 7HP

2.00pm—4.30pm

Tickets on Sale at the September Monthly Meeting onwards.

Keith will give readings, anecdotes, poems & stories
(some taller than others).

All Designed to Start the Festive Season in Good Cheer!



Tickets £5.00



SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thurs 5 th September	DUDLEY CHIGNALL	BEATRIX POTTER THE LAKE DISTRICT HER ART & INSPIRATION
Thurs 3 rd October	COLIN VAN GEFFEN	LADY HOUSTON, THE LADY WHO SAVED a NATION
Thurs 7 th November	DR JAMES TAYLOR	BRILLIANT BRITISH HUMOUR in the FORGOTTEN ART of the PICTURE POSTCARD: 1840 - 1950

All the monthly meetings are held at **THE MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH**

DATES for your DIARIES 2019

Thurs 12 th Sept	POP IN COFFEE MORNING	10.30am to 12noon WI HALL, RAYLEIGH (in front of MILL HALL)
Wed 18 th Sept	STUDY DAY 65 YEARS IN HORTICULTURE with JIM BUTTRESS (includes 2 course lunch)	12.30pm (for 1.00pm start) to 3.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND SS2 6UN Tickets £20 available SEPT monthly meeting
Sun 22 nd Sept	COACH TRIP TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD	Three tickets (£19 each) available SEPT monthly meeting
Mon 14 th Oct	TALKS FOR ALL JOHN DUDLEY & the 9 DAYS QUEEN Diane Mannering	2.15pm to 4.00pm CLOISTER HALL, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH - Tickets £3 includes tea/coffee/biscuits ALL TICKETS SOLD
Wed 16 th October	MURDER AT THE MUSEUM - MYSTERY EVENING (includes 3 course dinner and coach)	MUSEUM of POWER, Langford near MALDON Tickets £39.50 available SEPT monthly meeting
Thurs 14 th Nov	FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING	10.30am to 12noon WI HALL, RAYLEIGH
Sat 23 rd Nov	AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT	7.30pm to 10.30pm HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL, RAYLEIGH Bring your own drinks and nibbles Tickets £4 available SEPT monthly meeting
Mon 25 th Nov	TALKS FOR ALL 'CHRISTMAS GREETINGS' followed by AFTERNOON TEA	2.00pm to 4.00pm ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL, London Hill, Rayleigh Tickets £5 available SEPT monthly meeting

PUZZLE ANSWER: 1 hour

Travelling at 100 km/h for 4 hours means Roger travelled 400 km. To travel 400 km at an average speed of 80 km/h takes $400 / 80 = 5$ hours. So, Roger spent an hour in the coffee shop.

STORIES FROM OUR WRITERS' GROUP

MY FIRST JOB

"A bottle lass please."

"A bottle of what? "

"A bottle of BROON."

Luckily Jim was near and explained that the customer was asking for a pint bottle of Newcastle brown ale. I was also told to serve it for the customer to pour it himself into a schooner glass.

"Two pints of Scotch." To me scotch meant whisky, but even in my innocence I did not think it was drunk in pints! Again, Jim to the rescue. The customer was looking for Scotch Beer, which we did not have in our pub. Instead we served Worthington Best Bitter. Sometimes we explained that to the customers, but when we were busy, we just pulled the Worthington and usually the customers just drank it.

The pub was run by Jim's parents. We were both students at Durham University and during the holidays we worked in the pub.

The building was an old one, dating from 1880 or thereabouts. It was at the Newcastle end of the High-Level Bridge, and faced the Black Gate, part of an ancient castle. It was five minutes from Newcastle Central Station, and the trains ran over the bridge day and night. It was a large pub with a Public bar and a Buffet. Despite its name, the Buffet did not serve food; it took the place of a Lounge Bar.

Upstairs there were three other rooms that could be used for meetings and social events. We frequently served in the Big Room, especially when the Folk Club was meeting, or the River City Jazzmen. In the small bar in the Big Room there was only room for one beer barrel. But the customers did not realise that. We always had a cask of Bass, which was the premier beer sold in the pub, but we served Worthington, Scotch, Jubilee (the premier version of Scotch) and anything else the punters wanted. During the performances it was hard to explain about the beer, because we had to whisper so as not to disturb the musicians. Nobody ever complained and we were always honest about the prices.

Jim's father always said that I was his best barmaid because I was honest and could add up. In 1962 we had to add up the orders in our heads then take the money and give the correct change, and of course it was in pounds, shillings and pence. You did not calculate how much change to give, you started with the cost amount then counted the change into the customer's hand. With big orders, we could usually remember what it cost the first time and charge them the same. Sometimes things were not quite accurate, and if the customer complained we put it right.

The other bar staff were all interesting in one way or another. Rosalind with the big beehive had a further career which we did not ask about, so long as it was kept out of the pub. Tommy lived on a diet of monkey-nuts, buying them in their shells which used to litter the floor in the bar. In those days the pub closed at 3pm and opened for the evening at 6. If Tommy was allowed to go early, we did not expect him back for the evening shift. Cissy was the oldest barmaid, having worked in the same pub since before Jim's parents had taken it. She used to repeat the customers' orders in a loud voice, which was all very well in the bar or the buffet, but annoying in the Folk Club. A performer would be in the middle of a quiet song when "Two pints of Worthy," would echo through the room.

There was also a small room at the back of the buffet where we had table service at weekends. I often did this room on my own, which meant carrying trays laden with pints of various liquids. This room became a haunt of the younger Newcastle crowd and their tastes were not those of most of the punters. We sometimes scented strange smells, and saw the people sharing smokes. The most popular drink was

“Snakebite” which at one-point Jim’s father refused to serve. I was once asked for “Greensher troos”, which after a while I translated as green chartreuse.

It was not always peaceful in Newcastle on a Friday or Saturday night. It wasn’t as bad as some pubs in the city; we were not in the Bigg Market district, where the rough pubs were. We were five minutes away. A fight in our pub was something to think about, not a normal incident. Jim’s father had a good relationship with the police. Also, he was a large man – over 23 stone when I first met him. He looked as if he would have difficulty moving from the end of the bar where he drank with his cronies, but he had been a boxer in the RAF during the war and was fitter than he looked. His tactics in the pub were to watch everything from his vantage point. He kept an eye on the staff to stop them from pinching cigarettes (this was before they were kept in machines) and he had a nose for trouble. He could run the length of the bar in no time at all, and ensured that miscreants left the pub.

After closing time, the family and I had welcome drinks in the bar before going up to the flat for a meal. It was impossible to go straight to bed after a night working. Jim’s mother always had some good food for us. She managed the Buffet, but since she did not drink, she went up to the flat before the rest of us. She also did all the bookwork for the pub and made food for social events.

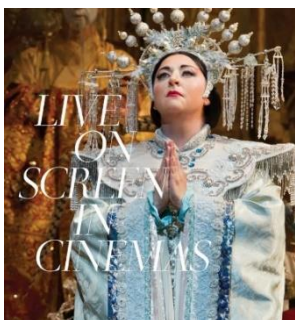
I look back on our time working in the pub with pleasure. It was not always fun. Later when I was teaching and Jim was living at home and working for the Post Office (before we were married), we still worked in the pub when I came from Darlington, where my school was. Later still when we had children, we still gave a hand if needed when we went to see Jim’s parents.

We moved from Newcastle to Leeds when our daughter was four months old, then to London when Rachel was six and Paddy (born in Leeds) was five. Still until their retirement we continued to help.

It was a good awakening for me. I had been brought up in completely different circumstances. Teaching in a convent school by day and working in a pub at night was a great education!

Val Foley

For those who are interested, further details regarding some of the **Event Cinema Screenings** are given below:

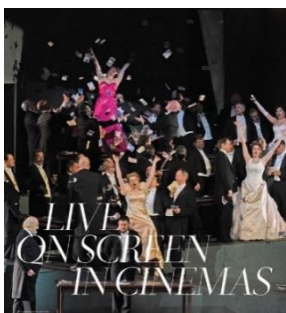


TURANDOT running time **182 mins**

12th October

starts 17.55

Franco Zeffirelli’s spectacular production returns to cinemas with powerhouse soprano Christine Goerke taking on the titular role of the sharp princess, sworn never to be possessed by a man. Calaf, an unknown suitor played by tenor Roberto Aronica, who sings the famed aria ‘Nessun dorma’, becomes lovestruck with the icy princess, vowing to risk his life in attempting to answer the challenging three riddles that promise to unlock her heart. Yannick Nezet-Seguin, the Met’s Music Director, conducts this powerful production of love, loss and loyalty.

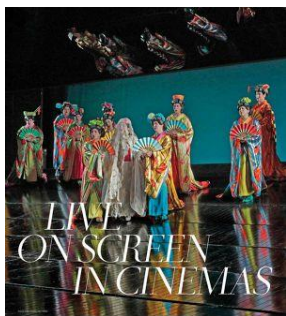


MAHON running time **212 mins**

26th October

starts 17.55

Lauren Pell’s enchanting production, starring exhilarating soprano Lisette Oropesa in the effervescent title role, explores the devastating consequences when excess and passion collide. Maurizio Benini conducts Massenet’s sensual score with tenor Michael Fabiano as the besotted Chevalier des Crieux, whose desperate love for Mahon proves to be the undoing of these unfortunate lovers.



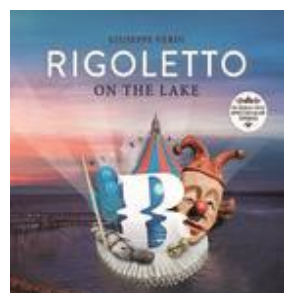
MADAM BUTTERFLY running time **192mins** **9th November** **starts 17.55**

Anthony Minghella's vividly cinematic staging of Puccini's tale of unrequited love returns to our screens featuring soprano HUI He in the devastating title role. One of the most frequently staged operas of our generation, Madam Butterfly follows the story of a young Japanese girl, Cio-Cio San, who falls in love with Pinkerton, an American naval officer. Tragedy unfolds in the sweeping production which is a perennial favourite. Pier Giorgio Morandi conducts one of opera's most beautiful and heart-breaking scores. Plácido Domingo adds another role to his remarkable repertoire, singing Sharpless for the first time and is joined by a cast that also includes tenor Piero Pretti as Pinkerton, and mezzosoprano Elizabeth DeShong as Suzuki.



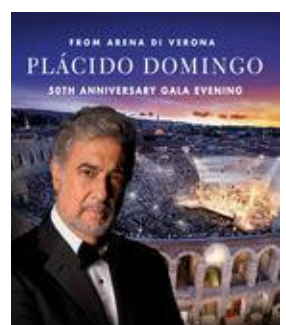
AKHATEN running time **211mins** **23rd November** **starts 17.55**

Star countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo headlines as the revolutionary Pharaoh who transformed ancient Egypt. Director Pelim McDermott, whose productions include the hugely successful Satyagraha by Philip Glass, returns to the Met to bring this contemporary production to life, with a virtuosic company and dramatic staffing that features acrobatics and juggling. The striking soprano J'Nai Bridges makes her Met debut as Nefertiti with Karen Kamensek conducting Glass's ritualistic and hypnotic score.



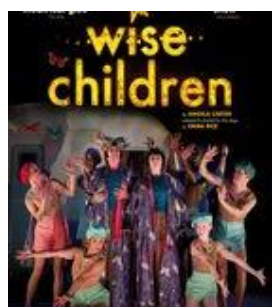
RIGOLETTO ON THE LAKE – 17th September

Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece - compelling, blood-curdling and beautiful – is being performed for the first time on the unique on the unique, Bregenz lake stage. One of Verdi's most popular works, Rigoletto is an unforgettable tale of sacrifice and revenge; of a father's rage and a daughter's shame.



50th ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENING – 1st October

With an illustrious career spanning five decades, over 150 stage roles, 11 Grammy awards and his iconic performance alongside Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras as one of the 'Three Tenors' (FIFA World Cup Final 1990, Italy), the legendary Plácido Domingo continues to astound audiences with a vocal talent unmatched in power.



WISE CHILDREN 3rd October

MULTI-award-winning director Emma Rice brings her unique, exuberantly impish vision to Angela Carter's great last novel in this brand-new theatre production. A big bawdy tangle of theatrical joy and heartbreak, Wise Children is a celebration of show business, family, forgiveness and hope, with a generous dash of Shakespeare, scandal and mischief, taking the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotion.



DON GIOVANNI 8th October

Mozart's masterpiece follows Don Giovanni, the women he serially seduces and the vengeance that finally catch up with him. The opera is renowned for its ever-shifting portrayals of complex characters, fast-moving action and mix of the comic and the heartfelt. Sexual intrigue, jealousy, wit, anger and retribution!



17th October

A feuding fairy King and Queen of the forest cross paths with four runaway lovers and a troupe of actors trying to rehearse a play. As their dispute grows, the magical royal couple meddle with mortal lives leading to love triangles, mistaken identities and transformations... with hilarious, but dark consequences. Gwendoline Christie (Game of Thrones), Oliver Chris (Green Wing, NT Live: Young Marx), David Moorst (NT Live: Allelujah!) and Hammed Animashaun (The Barber Shop Chronicles) lead the cast as Titania, Oberon, Puck and Bottom.



DON PASQUALE 24th October

Bryn Terfel heads the cast for this new production of Donizetti's comedy of domestic drama across two generations. The witty story of a middle-aged man, whose supposed young wife runs rings around him, with her own ulterior romantic purpose in mind, has long delighted and surprised audiences, not least as presented with the sparkle of its music and the virtuoso skill of its performers.



ROYAL BALLET - CONCERTO - ENIGMA VARIATIONS - RAYMONDA ACT III 27th October, 5th November

From the Royal Ballet's classical origins in the works of Marius Petipa, to the home-grown choreographers, who put British ballet on the world stage, this mixed programme highlights the versatility of the Company. Petipa's 'Raymonda' Act III is Russian classical ballet summarized in one act, full of sparkle and precise technique, while Ashton's Enigma Variations is quintessentially British in every way, from its score by Elgar and period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, to Ashton's signature style, the essence of British Ballet.



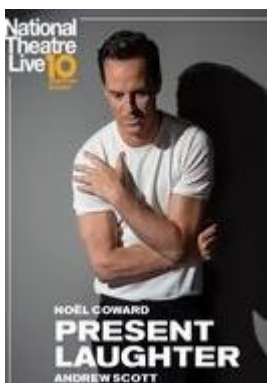
HANSARD 7th November

See two-time Olivier Award winners, Lindsay Duncan (Birdman, About Time) and Alex Jennings (The Lady in the Van, The Queen), in this brand-new play by Simon Wood, broadcast live from the National Theatre in London. It's a summer's morning in 1988 and Tory politician Robin Hesketh has returned home to the idyllic Cotswold house he shares with his wife of 30 years, Diana. But all is not as blissful as it seems. Diana has a stinking hangover, a fox is destroying the garden, and secrets are being dug up all over the place. As the day draws on, what starts as gentle ribbing and the familiar rhythms of marital scrapping quickly turns to blood-sport.



BOLSHOI BALLET: LE CORSAIRE 17th November

On the bazaar square of Andrinopolis, the Pachais struck by the beauty of Medora and tries to buy her, but the lovely young woman is not for sale. As the transaction is about to come to a close, Medora is kidnaped by Conrad, a charming corsair who catches her eye...



PRESENT LAUGHTER 27th November

Captured live from The Old Vic in London, Present Laughter, Noël Coward's provocative comedy, is a giddy and surprisingly modern reflection on fame, desire and loneliness. As he prepares to embark on an overseas tour, star actor Garry Essendine's colourful life is in danger of spiralling out of control. Engulfed by an escalating identity crisis as his many and various relationships compete, for his attention, Garry's few remaining days at home are a chaotic whirlwind of love, sex, panic and soul searching.



ROYAL BALLET – COPPELIA 10th December

A classic returns to The Royal Ballet repertory with Ninette de Valois' charming and funny Coppélia—a story of love, mischief and mechanical dolls. The intricate choreography is set to Delibes' delightful score and shows off the technical precision and comedic timing of the whole Company. Osbert Lancaster's designs bring a colourful storybook world to life in this Christmas treat for the whole family.



BOLSHOI BALLET - THE NUTCRACKER 15th December

On Christmas Eve, the mysterious Drosselmeyer brings a Nutcracker doll as a gift for his goddaughter Marie. At midnight, the doll comes to life and finds himself in a battle against the Mouse King, determined to save Marie from him.