



**Plagues & Pestilence: Past & Present**

**Forensic Science & Sherlock Holmes**

A Study Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

At The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon (Map on next page)

Tutors - Dr Tim Mason & Dr Carrie Paris

9.30 Registration

10.00–12.30 **Plagues & Pestilence: Past & Present – Dr Tim Mason** (See over page for CV)

10.00 **Edward Jenner & the Smallpox Virus** – “The smallpox has gone out of late, perhaps it may be followed by the great”, so wrote Byron in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The great pox, syphilis, has sadly not followed the disappearance of smallpox, but smallpox has been virtually eliminated. This lecture follows the history of the disease from earliest records in the times of the Pharaoh Ramses V to its eradication in the twentieth century. The story takes in the life and times of Edward Jenner who developed the first vaccine and who envisaged the demise of the disease more than 150 years before it actually occurred. But it hasn't gone completely.

11.00 Coffee/Tea

11.30 **The Polio Story** – From the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century poliomyelitis went from a “rare disease not noted by medical writers” to one which struck fear into the hearts of the parents of most children. Within the next 50 years it came into the sights of those anticipating making the disease the second only after smallpox to be eliminated from the world. That transformation gives insight into interesting concepts in the transmission and control of infectious diseases.

12.30 Lunch (Bring your own)

13.30–16.00 **Forensic Science & the Sherlock Holmes Stories – Dr Carrie Paris** (See over page for CV)

13.30 **A Real Sherlock Holmes? The Rising Power of the Forensic Witness in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century England.**

Just before Norman Thorne was hanged in 1925 for the murder of Elsie Cameron, he described himself as 'a martyr to Spilsburyism.' Renowned pathologist and expert witness, Sir Bernard Spilsbury, had been instrumental in securing a capital sentence in the case, despite significant criticism of his evidence from other experts during the trial. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was resident in Crowborough where the alleged murder took place, wrote to the press to voice concerns about the verdict. This talk will examine the origins and consequences of Spilsbury's legacy as an expert witness, and question whether the blurring of the lines between fact and fiction was more of a help or a hindrance to the evolution of the forensic science profession.

14.30 Tea/Coffee

15.00 **The Forensic Science Fiction of the Sherlock Holmes Stories.** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's medical training had a huge influence on his creation of Sherlock Holmes as a new type of scientific detective. We will look back on some of the key moments from the Sherlock Holmes stories and discuss whether the great detective is really the cold emotional scientist Dr Watson believes him to be.

16.00 Departure

To assure your place send the slip below, as soon as possible, with a cheque for £10 (Non-U3A Guest £12) – Payable to 'Surrey U3A Network' – to John Kennedy – U3A, 20 Greville Park Road, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2QT. 01372 273561 & [surreyU3Astudyday@btinternet.com](mailto:surreyU3Astudyday@btinternet.com). Enclose an SAE or your e-mail address for confirmation.

Fees are not normally refundable

For our website see the next page

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Please Print Confirm by E-mail  or Enclosed SAE

Title.....First Name..... Surname .....Name of U3A.....

Address .....

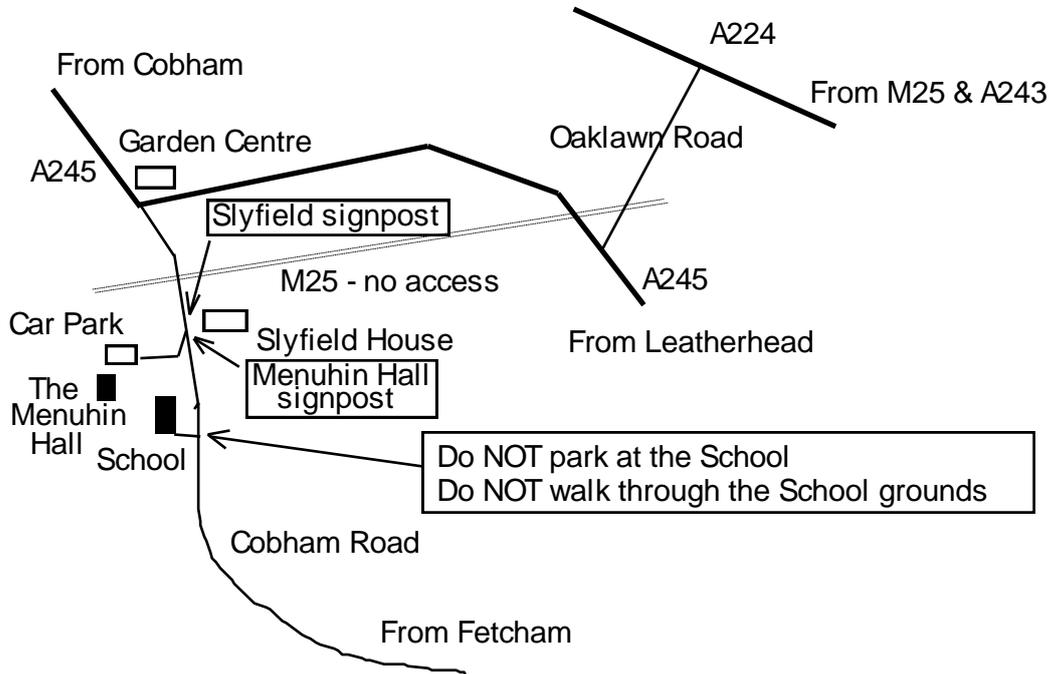
Post Code .....Telephone .....E-mail.....

Do you need disabled parking? (Disabled Drivers Only / Display Badge) Yes

## The Menuhin Hall

Cobham Road, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3QQ  
Map ref: TQ 132 579 on Landranger 187 & Explorer 146  
Telephone 07763 805046 (Emergency - On Day Only)  
Or Menuhin Hall Office 08700 842020

Squires's Garden Centre (01932 862530) is about 800 metres North of the Menuhin Hall.  
Light lunches are available and reservations are not required.



The Menuhin School was founded in 1963 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around seventy extremely gifted pupils advancing their skills on stringed instruments and is financed, in part, by the DfE. Lord Menuhin was born in New York on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1916 and died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1999 in Berlin. His parents had come from Russia. His first public concert was in March 1924 and his first in Europe, in Paris, in 1927. His performance of Elgar's Violin Concerto was recorded at the Abbey Road Studios in 1932. The Menuhin Hall, designed by Mark Foley, was conceived as a memorial to Yehudi and was handed over to the school on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The official opening was on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Yehudi is buried near the stone pillar in front of the Hall. Nearby is an oak which he planted on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Hall was first used for U3A Study Days on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005 when the Steinway grand piano was used as no other was available.

Surrey Network Website - <http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> has application forms for study days and other events plus information about the Surrey Network and links to Surrey U3A websites.

**Tutor – Dr Tim Mason** is a microbiologist, working in a discipline which includes the study of bacteria, viruses, vaccines and antibiotics. He started at the University of Kent with research on how bacteria compete in the intestine and in 1980 he became a lecturer in the School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences at Portsmouth University. His greatest pleasure always came from lecturing to undergraduates on the causation, treatment and prevention of infectious disease. He is genuinely fond of the creatures in his discipline and finds it hard not to be on their side.

**Tutor – Dr Carrie Parris**, a former analytical chemist, has a PhD in creative writing and has made a study of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle.