

Rembrandt – From Fame to Poverty & Final Acclaim

A Study Day on Friday 17th November 2023 at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon

Speaker – Colin Wiggins

Rembrandt's fame began in his own lifetime. Before he was even 30 years old, his work was represented in Charles I's Royal Collection. His early practice in Amsterdam was so successful that word went around that you did not just have to pay Rembrandt to paint your portrait, you had to beg him as well. However, Rembrandt's early success did not last and following the death of his wife Saskia his fortunes waned. He employed Hendrickje Stoffels as a nurse for his young son Titus but after the birth of their daughter Cornelia, their relationship was condemned by the Dutch Reformed Church. The respectable and religious merchant class of Amsterdam turned away from him. Furthermore, his painting style became ever more daring and radical, which was too much for the conservative tastes of the 17th century. His life ended in poverty, and he was buried in an unmarked grave.

Programme

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 **Rembrandt's Early Life & Success** – These talks will examine Rembrandt's remarkable life and work. His technical innovations in both painting and printmaking will be discussed.
- 11.00 Coffee / Tea
- 11.30 **Fame & Famous Masterworks** – Famous masterworks such as *The Nightwatch*, and *The Jewish Bride*, as well as the rich collection of his works held by London's National Gallery, will be analysed and placed in context
- 12.30 Lunch – Bring-Your-Own – Tea / Coffee available
- 1.30 **20th Century Reputation & Revisions** – We will also examine Rembrandt's reputation in the 20th century when several of his most celebrated works were downgraded by scholars to the status of work by his assistants or pupils, before many were then reinstated as genuine Rembrandts.
- 2.30 Tea / Coffee
- 3.00 **Rembrandt's Legacy** – Finally, we will look at how artists such as Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Maggi Hambling have learnt from his legacy, as his influence continues down the centuries.
- 4.00 Departure

Speaker – Colin Wiggins – See page 2 for biographical information.

To book Members should send the slip below, with a cheque for £12 or £15 for a Guest, payable to Surrey u3a Network, or bank transfer to HSBC Account No. 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, Event Reference Nov23, to Denise Dobbs – u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791 or send an email to – surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com. Enclose a SAE or an e-mail address for confirmation.

REMBRANDT Member £12 Guest £15 17th November 2023

Please Tick – Attend Hall ☐ or Virtually ☐; E-mail ☐ or SAE ☐; Cheque ☐ or Bank Trsf ☐

Title First Name Surname Name of u3a

Address

Post Code Telephone E-mail

If you need disabled parking, tick ☐, or a wheelchair space in the hall, tick ☐.

Biographical Information about our Speaker

Speaker – Colin Wiggins began his career in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, which houses one of the greatest collections of drawings in the world. He then moved to the National Gallery, where he worked for over 30 years as Head of Education and Special Projects Curator. While there, he was responsible for the Associate Artist scheme, inviting contemporary artists such as Paula Rego, Peter Blake and Ana Maria Pacheco to become involved in the life of the Gallery and to hold exhibitions of their work there. During his time at the National Gallery, he also curated exhibitions of work by artists such as Frank Auerbach, Bridget Riley, Lucian Freud and Sir Anthony Caro. He has many publications to his name.

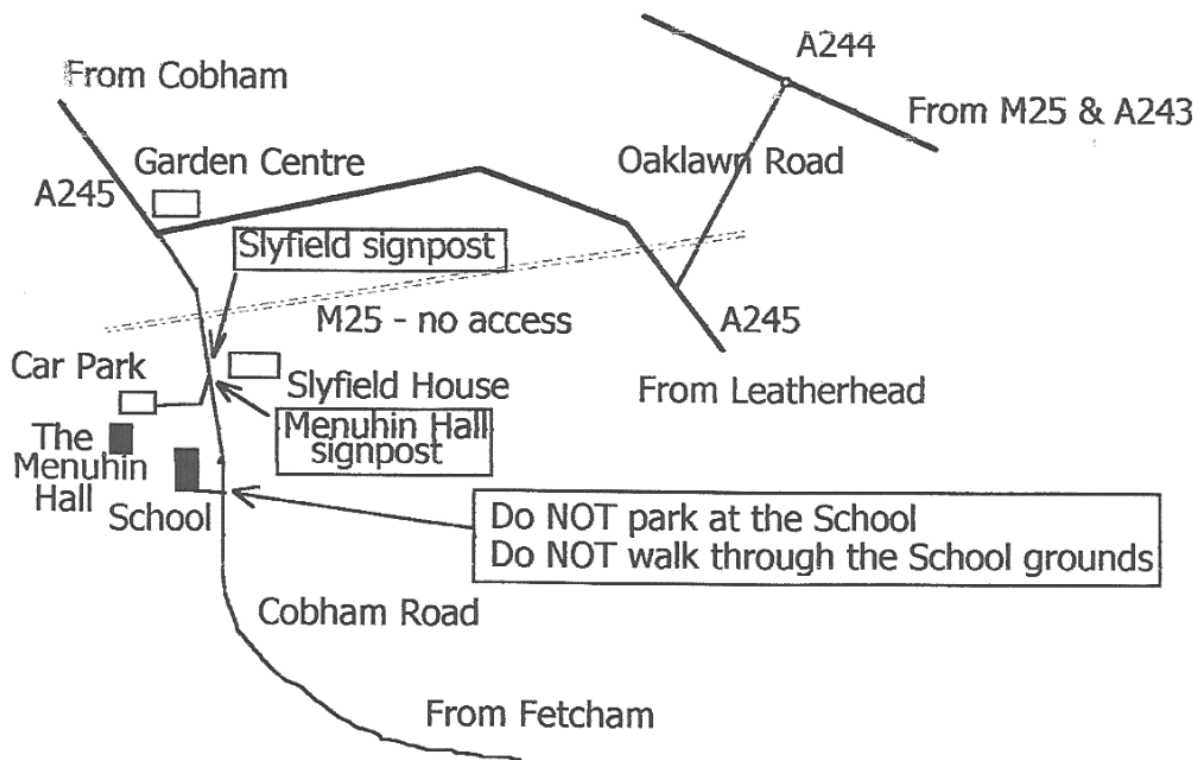
Location & Contact Details for Study Day

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

There is a Garden Centre (01932 862530), about 800 metres to the north of the Menuhin Hall where light lunches are available. Reservations are not required.



The Menuhin School was founded in 1962 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around eighty pupils learning to play stringed instruments including piano and is financed, in part, by the DfE. Lord Menuhin was born in New York on 22nd April 1916 and died on 12th 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 Hall, designed by Mark Foley, was conceived as a memorial to Yehudi and was handed over to the school on 5th August 2005. The official opening was on 7th January 2006. Yehudi is buried by the stone pillar in front of the Hall. Nearby is an oak which he planted on his 80th birthday. The Hall was first used for a Surrey Network Study Day on 14th October 2005.

STUDY DAYS AT THE MENUHIN HALL

Surrey Network Study Days – After an eighteen-month gap, study days at The Menuhin Hall resumed in September 2021. We welcome members to our study days in the hall, as in the past, while it is now also possible to view the study days remotely.

Advertising & Booking – The practice of booking by post or by email will continue, with responses being sent as members chose, while payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer. We have discussed using on-line booking and consider that this is our likely next step, while the workload in setting up the future programme is our main priority. We advertise the study days with full details and booking forms on our website at <http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> and also circulate the information electronically to u3as in Surrey Network and surrounding areas. We electronically circulate a poster suitable for advertising the future programme on display boards or websites. The booking fee was £9 when the study days started in 2004 and has been £10 for several years. The fee rose to £12 in 2022 and the virtual attendance fee will rise to the same figure in 2023 to enable us to cover the costs of hybrid meetings. The fee for guests remains at £15. The booking form above has details of the study day programme and the speaker's background.

Nut Allergies – The Menuhin School has pupils who have an allergic reaction to nuts and the staff have taken the decision to make the school and the Menuhin Hall a nut-free environment. Please ensure that your lunch does not contain any trace of nuts.

Disabled Parking – There are six spaces behind the hall and there are more in the main car park. If you have a blue badge and need level access to the hall, then tick Disabled Parking on the booking slip; you will then be allocated a space at the back of the hall and sent a permit. There is a drop-off space where disabled members have level access to the hall.

Wheelchair Spaces – If you need a seat removed in the hall to accommodate a wheelchair then tick Wheelchair on the booking slip.

Appreciation of Team Members and Plea for Support – Over the period of lock-down and more recently we were very sad to hear that five team members had passed away due to various causes and we wish to acknowledge the valuable support they gave for many years; Arthur Browne, Horley u3a, Alison Gaitonde, Banstead u3a, John Harbridge, Dorking u3a, Sheila Hill, Fetcham u3a and Sheila Pomfret, Bookham u3a. The study days have been running successfully for eighteen years and new volunteers with ideas for the future programme and the energy to help run the study days will be made very welcome. Our website is based on the u3a software Site Builder, and as a transfer to a new system is required in 2023 some extra support for the website would also be very welcome.

Please contact Surrey Network Chairman, Cher Palmer, on 01293 784313, with offers of help.

Surrey u3a Network

Study Day

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final acclaim***

Presented by Colin Wiggins



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**The Menuhin Hall,
Stoke d'Abernon**

**Friday 17th November 2023
Registration 9.30am**

