

**PARENTS' ARTS SOCIETY
MICHAELMAS TERM PROGRAMME 2008**

(Drinks and sandwiches are available from 7.30 until 8.00 p.m.
in the Lowry Room before the lectures.)

Friday 12 September: 7.30 p.m.

Big School

Jazz Classics Revisited with Keith Nichols

(The Box Office: 01732 304241)

JAZZ CLASSICS REVISITED is an ambitious programme, in which seven versatile musicians recreate moments from the history of jazz, spanning a period of fifty years. The brain child of well-known pianist Keith Nichols, this concert was first performed at the Birmingham Jazz Festival in 1987, followed by a successful tour organised jointly by Jazz Services and the Arts Council of Great Britain. Highlights of the programme include Ben Cummings' rendition of "I can't get started" in the style of Bunny Berigan, James Evans recreating the music of Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman, and Keith Nichols' own renderings of Stride and Boogie-Woogie piano classics. Keith Nichols is considered to be one of the foremost authorities on Classic Jazz and Ragtime, and he has written many arrangements in the 20s and 30s style, notably for the New York Jazz Repertory Company, and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. Keith Nichols teaches jazz history at the Royal Academy of Music in London. This promises to be a wonderful evening for anyone interested in top quality jazz.

Monday 15 September: 7.30 p.m.

The Globe Theatre

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (50 tickets)

(Co-ordinator: Yvie Cloke: 01959 522868; email: shorehill@btinternet.com)

Hermia loves Lysander and Helena loves Demetrius – but Demetrius is supposed to be marrying Hermia. When the Duke of Athens tries to enforce the marriage, the lovers take refuge in the woods outside the city, and walk into the midst of a dispute between the king and queen of the fairies. And they are not alone: so, too, does a group of amateur actors rehearsing a play. Between the angry fairies, the bumbling players, and the dazed lovers flies Puck armed with a love juice capable of making anyone fall for the first person they set eyes upon – no matter how unsuitable. Shakespeare put some of his most dazzling dramatic poetry at the service of this teasing, glittering, very funny and amazingly inventive play, whose seriousness is fleetingly glimpsed beneath its dream-like surface. The Globe Theatre is a faithful reconstruction of the open-air playhouse, designed in 1599, where Shakespeare worked, and for which he wrote many of his greatest plays. This unique building provides the perfect setting for such a lively and entertaining production which has received wonderful reviews.

**Monday 15 September: 7.15 – 9.15 p.m., and continuing on Mondays
22 & 29 September, 6 & 13 October and 3, 10, 17 & 24 November**
The Vere Hodge Centre
Furniture Making Evening Classes with David Dixon

David describes himself as a product designer with a passion for furniture making. He is Head of Design Technology at Tonbridge, and his interest in furniture making started in his father's shed. Over a period of nine weeks parents will be introduced to the basic elements of furniture making. There are only 10 places available, so please apply early.

Tuesday 16 September: 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
Vere Hodge Lecture Theatre, with lunch in Old Big School
“From Cabbages to Unmade Beds: the Art of the Still Life”
A Study Day with Valerie Woodgate
(Co-ordinator: Zaria Maltz: 01892 871605; email: zmaltz@hotmail.co.uk)

We are pleased to welcome Valerie Woodgate back to Tonbridge for a study day devoted to the Art of the Still life, intriguingly titled “From Cabbages to Unmade Beds”. Valerie has given many superb lectures at Tonbridge on a wide variety of subjects, including “The Language of Art” and “Art Treasures of Paris”. From humble origins as the lowest of the genres, still life has become the subject of some of the most beautiful, exciting and innovative works in the history of art. We shall be looking at works by many different artists, including Caravaggio, Van Gogh, the Impressionists, Dali and Damien Hirst.

Thursday 18 September: 6.30 – 9.00 p.m.
The Headmaster's Garden (The Lowry Room if wet)
Novi Parents' Drinks Party
(Co-ordinator: Hilary Colegrave: 01732 862919; hilarycolegrave@msn.com)

The Tonbridge School Parents' Arts Society is hosting a drinks' party, open to all parents of Novi. This will give them the opportunity to meet fellow parents, some members of the Common Room and the Society's committee. We do hope you will be able to join us for this informal evening of drinks which will take place in the Headmaster's Garden.

Friday 19 September: 7.30 p.m.
The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre
‘E.M. Forster and Tonbridge: writing about schools’ – the inaugural
E.M. Forster Lecture, given by Jonathan Smith

E.M. Forster (1879-1970), it is well known as Tonbridge's most famous author. Almost as well known is that he was unhappy here as a boy. In the inaugural E.M. Forster lecture, Jonathan Smith looks at the fiction Forster made of Tonbridge in *The*

Longest Journey, explores the creative use writers often make of their own schooldays, and then charts the wider achievements of other writers who have been pupils at the school. Jonathan Smith taught English at Tonbridge for thirty-five years. He is the author of six novels, has written many plays for the BBC, and published *The Learning Game*, his memoir of a life spent in schools.

**Monday 22 September: 7.00 – 9.00 p.m., and continuing on Mondays
29 September, 17 & 24 November and 1 December
Vere Hodge Centre
'Computing for Absolute Beginners' with Ray Bradley**

Following on from the successful ECDL course offered last year; we are now offering a course for absolute beginners, enabling them to build up their confidence in the use of computers. The pace will be gentle, with emphasis on understanding and being able to do a simple set of tasks. These will include Logging on to a Computer and passwords, How to use the Mouse and the Desktop, Using Directories, Loading and Saving Files, Surfing the Internet, Simple use of a Word Processor and Sending email. The exact nature of the course will be determined by the experience of those who apply, and sessions will be based on a PC, rather than an Apple Mac. Two members of staff will be available, and numbers will be limited to ensure enough interaction with the tutors.

**Tuesday 23 September: 6.00 p.m.
An evening visit to the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace (80 tickets)
(Co-ordinator: Janice Wallace: 01892 871132; janicewallace@hotmail.co.uk)**

Our private visit to the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, which will start with an expert talk and finish with a drink in the Queen's Gallery Shop, will allow us to view two exhibitions. The first of these, entitled "Amazing Rare Things", is an extraordinary exhibition of over 80 paintings and drawings that have been selected from the collections of the Royal Library in collaboration with Sir David Attenborough. Many of the plants and animals represented in the exhibition were then barely known in Europe; today some are commonplace, while others are extinct. The second exhibition, "Treasures from the Royal Collection", features some of the greatest works of art acquired by kings and queens over 500 years, and they have been brought together at The Queen's Gallery from royal residences across the UK. The exhibition includes world-famous paintings by Rembrandt and Canaletto, some of the finest furniture ever made, spectacular jewels, dazzling works by Fabergé, as well as sculpture, arms and armour, and historic pieces of porcelain that are still used for ceremonial occasions today.

**Wednesday 24 September: 10.30 a.m.
Autumn walk through woodlands around Westerham and Chartwell
(Co-ordinator: Caroline Owen: 01580 890130; caroline.owen7@btinternet.com)**

For anyone who enjoys walking at a "friendly" pace with convivial company, this is a

must for you! Starting in the charming historic town of Westerham, we will head southwards towards Mariners Hill, through leafy autumn woods, than along towards Chartwell, with spectacular views (hopefully) on our return via French Street. A stop at a watering hole along the way will complete this lovely Autumnal outing.

Thursday 25 September: 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

A Guided Tour of Titsey Place and Gardens (40 places)

(Co-ordinator: Janice Wallace: 01892 871132;

email: janicewallace@hotmail.co.uk)

Dating from the mid-16th century, Titsey Place is one of the largest surviving historic estates in Surrey. Nestling under the North Downs, the mansion house, with its stunning garden, lakes, walled kitchen garden and park, offers panoramic views in an idyllic setting. Our private tour starts in the house, which has evolved through several centuries. The main part dates from 1775, but was refaced in 1826 to the design of William Atkinson, a pupil of James Wyatt. Titsey is especially noted for its fine collection of family portraits and four paintings of Venice by Canaletto. We will then have a guided tour of the gardens, which include box beds over 150 years old, fine herbaceous and shrub borders, a magnificent rose garden and unusual climbers along the south face of the house. The large kitchen garden was completely restored in 1996 as an illustration of Victorian horticultural techniques, and will be beautiful in late September, with crops in abundance. Our visit will include a break for tea and cakes, after which we may enjoy further time in the garden or woodland walks.

Tuesday 30 September: 8.45 a.m.

A Tour of Shepherd Neame Brewery and Belmont House and Gardens

(Co-ordinator: Debbie Munton: 01732 810286;

email: debmunton@hotmail.com)

We will meet in the Quad at 8.45 a.m. and travel to the Shepherd Neame Brewery by coach. Following coffee on arrival, at 10.00 a.m., there will be a guided tour of Britain's oldest brewery. At the end of the morning there will be a tutored tasting of their Kentish Ales and speciality lagers. A wholesome pub lunch, with wine or beer, has been arranged for us, after which, we will rejoin the coach for a short journey to Belmont House and Gardens. Belmont is a delightful Georgian manor, home to successive Lords Harris throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. It contains a superb collection of clocks, fine art and furniture. The garden comprises a magnificent kitchen garden, with Victorian greenhouses, herbaceous borders in a walled garden, a pinetum and rockery, all hidden gems in a landscaped setting on the 3,000 acre estate. After a guided tour of the house, and a leisurely stroll around the gardens, we will have tea before travelling back to Tonbridge. An application form is enclosed.

on the BBC and draws crowds of more than 30,000 over the course of the event. The Royal Albert Hall provides an awe-inspiring and iconic venue for the tour. An application form is enclosed.

Sunday 30 November: 7.30 p.m.

The Barbican

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and City of London Choir

with Hilary Davan Wetton

(Co-ordinator: Jane Dickins: 01342 850872; email: dickinsj@uwclub.net)

This is another concert of outstanding British music, in the 50th year since Vaughan Williams' death. Like the last three symphonies, *Hodie* is a product of Vaughan Williams' old age and, like them, it is full of a vitality and inventiveness astonishing in a composer over 80 years old. Written in 1953-4, it is one of VW's finest and most optimistic works. Paired with this is *In Terra Pax*, Finzi's much shorter Christmas Cantata, which has become one of the most loved of this fastidious composer's works. Three major international soloists and the RPO provide outstanding support for the City of London Choir, all conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton, our recently "retired" Director of Music.

Tuesday 2 December: 6.30 p.m.

The Tunnel Gallery

"Kaleido-scope" – an exhibition of work by Lorena Carbajal and students from her workshops

Throughout the Michaelmas Term Lorena Carbajal will be resident artist at Tonbridge School running workshops for Tonbridge School students, and for schools in the local community. An Argentinian artist, her work combines mix-media, installation, video, photography and collage. She studied Visual Arts at the National University of San Juan, Argentina, and more recently earned an MA in Art and Space at Kingston University, London. She has won various awards among them a 'study residency' at The Irish Museum of Modern Art. Her work has been shown in numerous exhibitions in Argentina, Spain, Ireland and England.

Friday 5 December: 1.00 – 5.30 p.m. (approx.)

The Royal Albert Hall

"BlackRock Masters Tennis" (25 places)

(Co-ordinator: Yvie Cloke: 01959 522868; email: shorehill@btinternet.com)

Following last year's hugely enjoyable and entertaining visit to The Royal Albert Hall, the Parents' Arts Society are delighted to invite you once again to an afternoon session of "Masters Tennis" at the season finale to the BlackRock Tour of Champions, a year-long tour that makes its way across Europe and the world, and pits past tennis champions against each other. Players signed up to play this year in London include Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg. The BlackRock Masters Tennis is now firmly established as the UK's most popular indoor tournament – it is televised

Thursday 2 October: 6.30 p.m.

The Fleming Collection Gallery, Berkeley Street, London

A Private View of The Fleming Collection and the Artwork of Ely House

(Co-ordinator: Debbie Munton: 01732 810286; debmunton@hotmail.com)

The Fleming collection is widely recognised as the finest collection of Scottish Art in private hands. The purchase of paintings by Scottish artists, or of Scottish scenes, started in 1968 when this famous bank moved premises and decided to brighten up a few bare walls. Since then the collection has established itself as an embassy for Scottish art in London. The art is now exhibited at The Fleming Collection Gallery at 13 Berkeley Street, London. We will meet for drinks and canapés in the gallery at 6.30 p.m., and will then be taken through to Ely House for a private tour of the artwork. After the tour we will return to the Gallery, where we will be shown around the current exhibition – the work of Joan Eardley, one of Scotland's most popular and best loved twentieth century artists.

Monday 6 October: and continuing on Mondays 13 October,

3 & 10 November: 7.30 – 8.45 p.m.

The Lowry Ante-Room

Issues in American Politics – Evening Classes with Alan Bird

The US political world is constantly in the news at the moment: dissatisfaction with the President, the prospect of the first-ever African-American President, the sense that there is suddenly an opportunity to address many of the intractable issues of American Politics, and a desire from the rest of the world for a new start – all of these factors help to explain why we are hooked by this particular electoral battle. This series of evening classes will consider some of the central themes in American politics – from the continuing impact of historic racial divisions, to the current "culture wars" which dominate much political debate. The discussion will be rooted in the ongoing election campaign, and the final class will take place once the election result is (hopefully!) known. There will be time for discussion and debate, and the sessions will take place in the comfort of the Lowry Ante-Room (rather than the formality of a Politics classroom).

Wednesday 8 October: 8.30 a.m.

Day trip to Windsor Castle – The Great Kitchen and State Apartments

(30 places)

(Co-ordinator: Susie Smith: 01892 516970;

email: susannasmith@hotmail.co.uk)

We have a lovely day planned for you at Windsor Castle. On arrival, you will have the choice of either visiting the 14th century St. George's Chapel, the burial place of ten Sovereigns, and the setting for many royal weddings, or, alternatively, visiting the Castle's Drawings Gallery to view the latest exhibition. This new exhibition is to

celebrate the 60th Birthday of H.R.H The Prince of Wales, and draws from The Royal collection and also His Royal Highness's personal archive. Amongst the exhibits will be family photos and childhood memorabilia, including a small group of his own watercolours. The plan is then to walk into the town of Windsor for lunch before meeting up again at 1.00 p.m. for our private guided tour of the Great Kitchen. This tour will provide an extraordinary insight into the behind-the-scenes life of the castle. The kitchen itself has been in constant use for nearly 750 years. We shall have an introductory talk about royal dining, past and present, and will hear about the elaborate banquets prepared for State occasions. The visit will conclude in the magnificent State Apartments, restored after the fire in 1992.

Thursday 9 October: 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre

Alan Bird (Head of Politics) – The US Election 2008

As we go into the summer of election year, George W. Bush's approval rating has slumped to the lowest level since polling began; and turnout in the primary elections of 2008 (which helped to select the presidential candidates for November) exceeded all past records. This is an election which has energised the American public, and in January 2009, the USA will either have its first African-American President, or its oldest ever President. Issues such as the economy, Iraq and health care lie at the heart of this election; but underneath it all is the hope that the 2008 election will signal the end of the ideological stalemate that has characterised much of the American political system for the last 15 years. Delivered as the candidates gear up for the final push towards November 4th, this lecture will look at the fascinating, unique features of this year's contest, and consider the issues that will determine the outcome.

Friday 10 October: 10.00 a.m.

The British Museum

“Hadrian: Empire and Conflict” (70 tickets)

(Co-ordinator: Yvie Cloke: 01959 522868; email: shorehill@btinternet.com)

This special exhibition will explore the life, love and legacy of Rome's most enigmatic emperor, Hadrian. Ruling an empire that comprised much of Europe, northern Africa and the Middle East, Hadrian was a capable and, at times, ruthless military leader. He realigned borders and quashed revolt, stabilising a territory critically overstretched by his predecessors. Beyond military campaigns, Hadrian had a great passion for architecture and Greek culture. His extensive building programme included the Pantheon in Rome, his villa in Tivoli, and the city of Antinoöpolis, which he founded to immortalise his male lover Antinous. This unprecedented exhibition will provide fresh insight into the sharp contradictions of Hadrian's character and the challenges faced during his reign. Objects from 35 museums worldwide, and finds from recent excavations will be shown together for the first time to reassess his legacy.

entertaining guide as to what really happens in the rehearsal room, the concert hall and the recording studio. He explores both the choreography of conducting, and the complex psychological relationship between conductor and orchestra.

Tuesday 25 November: 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre

“What sport tells us about life” – a talk by Ed Smith (OT)

Ed Smith's latest book “What sport tells us about life” casts an eye over a spectacular range of topics in sport and culture. He explains the virtues of amateurism, explains why there will never be another Don Bradman, and argues that cheating is not always as clear cut an issue as it might seem. Captain of Middlesex, as well as being a brilliant writer and raconteur, this will be a superb talk for anyone remotely interested in sport – and what sport can tell us about life.

Wednesday 26 to Thursday 27 November

Trip to Bruges, Belgium

(Co-ordinator: Caroline Owen: 01580 890130; caroline.owen7@btinternet.com)

So close, but often overlooked, the medieval city of Bruges was once a flourishing trading centre, and its wealthy merchants built well and to last: most of the medieval architecture survives to this day, and the historic centre with its cobbled roads and beautiful canals has been a World Heritage site since 2000. We will be staying at the Hotel Navarra, an elegant 17th century listed mansion, situated in the heart of the city. Bruges is small enough to explore by foot, so we will start our visit with a walking tour, finishing up for some much needed refreshment at the De Halve Maan brewery and tavern. We will then have a chance to visit the famous Belfry, Michelangelo's Pieta, and the Market Square which is, coincidentally, home to the annual Christmas Market. Dinner has been arranged for the group at the hotel restaurant. The following morning there will be a guided tour of the Groeninge Museum, after which there will be ample opportunity to visit the many other museums in the city.

Friday 28 November: 7.00 p.m.

The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre

The Selected Letters of Ted Hughes – a talk by Christopher Reid (OT)

Christopher Reid was born in Hong Kong, educated at Tonbridge, and studied at Oxford University. He won an Eric Gregory Award for his poetry in 1978. A year later his first poetry collection, Arcadia (1979) was published, winning the 1980 Somerset Maugham Award. The Selected Letters of Ted Hughes, edited by Christopher, was one of the major publishing events of last year. In his talk he will discuss his experience of editing the letters and explore the enigmatic and controversial life of the former Poet Laureate. He will also read from his latest – and hilarious – book, “Mr Mouth”.

Tuesday 11 November: 9.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Backstage Tour of Glyndebourne and Walking Tour of Historic Lewes
(Co-ordinator: Amanda Thomson: 0208 946 1204;
email: robendamanda86@hotmail.com)

In the morning we will enjoy a guided walking tour of Lewes, which will take in some of the sites of this attractive town. Lewes is where Henry II was defeated by Simon de Montfort and his army in 1264, and boasts a castle, the remains of a Priory, three Norman churches and various 18th century houses. After lunch we will drive to Glyndebourne for a backstage tour of the Opera House. Glyndebourne is unique, not just because of its beautiful location and intimate setting, but also because of its technical innovation and desire to reach out to wider audiences, thereby securing future generations of opera-goers. For over 70 years, Glyndebourne has entertained opera lovers, and grown into a cultural institution. Join us on this highly informative tour to see what goes on behind the scenes.

Wednesday 12 November: 7.30 p.m.

The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre
The Annual General Meeting - with drinks!

Do come to the AGM if you can. It is a good opportunity to put forward your views and ideas about the Society, and we very much appreciate hearing from you!

Sunday 16 November: 8.15 p.m.

Big School

The Allan Bunney Concert: Messiaen – Quartet for the End of Time
(The Box Office: 01732 304241)

Members of the Music Department, including John Holmes, Andrew Pearson and Mark Forkgen perform one of Messiaen's most popular and moving works. The unusual combination of instruments was dictated by his fellow musicians in a prisoner of war camp in 1941. The resulting work, based on bird-song, Hindu ragas, and other exotic elements, was originally performed to an audience of thousands. It is now recognised as one of the greatest chamber works of the twentieth century.

Tuesday 18 November: 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

The Cawthorne Lecture Theatre
“Who needs a conductor?” - a talk by Hilary Davan Wetton

The art of conducting is a relatively recent one, but has already produced its own mythology. Conductors such as Toscanini, Karajan and Bernstein became legends in their own lifetimes, but how much does the conductor really affect what the audience hears? This talk seeks to shed light on this fascinating topic. Hilary Davan Wetton has forty years experience as a conductor, and will provide an insightful and

Tuesday 14 October: 7.00 p.m.

Glyndebourne

“The Magic Flute” (60 tickets)

(Co-ordinator: Kate Wheadon: 01892 863018; katewheadon@freenet.co.uk)

The Magic Flute was Mozart's only opera written for the popular theatre, and is his last completed opera. It is an exotic fairytale that tells the story of a quest for love and enlightenment, incorporating mystical elements and symbolism. The adventure is conveyed through an entertaining mix of popular melodies and lyrical arias. The musical characterisation is inspired, whether it be the earthly simplicity of Papageno, the dramatic brilliance of the Queen of the Night, or the solemn nobility of Sarastro. This is a vivid and colourful production by celebrated director Adrian Noble, and it will be conducted by the British conductor, Douglas Boyd, making his operatic debut.

Tuesday 14 October: 8.00 p.m.

The E.M. Forster Theatre

“Master/Mistress of my Passion”

Simon Callow performs Shakespeare sonnets

(The Box Office: 01732 304241)

Shakespeare's sonnets contain some of the most famous lines in the English language, and yet nothing is known of the story behind them. To whom are they addressed? Do they indeed tell a story, or are they a meditation on the joys and torments of love? Simon Callow will read from the sonnets, which will be interspersed with English madrigals, performed by the celebrated vocal consort Quintus. By turns passionate, playful and sorrowful, the madrigals perfectly complement Shakespeare's greatest poetry. Simon Callow acts, writes and directs. Recent credits include *Equus* (stage), and *The Magic Flute* (direction). He is best known for his work as an actor in *A Room with a View*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and on stage as Mozart in *Amadeus* at the National Theatre. Simon is also a celebrated author, known for biographies of Orson Welles, Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde.

Thursday 16 October: departing Tonbridge at 10.00 a.m.

Brighton Museum and the Royal Pavilion

“Chinese Whispers”

(Co-ordinator: Janice Wallace: 01892 871132; janicewallace@hotmail.co.uk)

“You won't see a prettier show this year than this visually sensuous survey of decorative art” *Richard Dormant, Daily Telegraph 13 May 2008*
The Chinese Whispers exhibition at the Brighton Museum and Royal Pavilion brings together a wonderful collection spanning the history of Chinoiserie – the British fascination with things Chinese, both real and imagined. With contents ranging from

silk pyjamas from the 1930s, to objects in porcelain, silver and tapestry, the collection portrays the influence of the Orient on British art and design since the mid 1600s. After a break for lunch, the tour continues at the Royal Pavilion, where the fashion for Chinoiserie was revived with the creation of this beautiful summer palace for the Prince of Wales in 1815-23. The luxurious and opulent interiors of the Pavilion show the passion for Chinoiserie at its most extravagant. After the tour, we will have the opportunity to take a guided walk around the nearby Lanes, with their ancient buildings rich in history and folklore.

Friday 17 October: 6.30 p.m.

Glyndebourne

“Carmen” (60 tickets)

(Co-ordinator: Kate Wheadon: 01892 863018; katewheadon@freenet.co.uk)

“Carmen” is widely recognised as one of the greatest operas of all times, despite being considered by the critics at its première as ‘immoral’ and ‘superficial’. Bizet’s extraordinary, passionate work incorporates fast paced dramatic action, with extremes of emotions, whilst unravelling the torrid tale of murder, corruption, jealousy and obsession. When composing the work, Bizet moved away from the traditional *opera comique* which audiences of the time expected, incorporating an anti-heroine, disreputable female factory-workers, smugglers, immoral soldiers and a murder on stage. Infused with gypsy passion, it is an exhilarating production, directed by David McVicar, who describes “Carmen” as ‘the first ever musical’.

Thursday 6 November: 7.30 p.m.

The E.M. Forster Theatre

Blake Morrison

(The Box Office: 01732 304241)

Blake Morrison was born in Skipton, Yorkshire, and educated at University College, London. After working for the *Times Literary Supplement*, he went on to become literary editor of both *The Observer* and *The Independent on Sunday*, before becoming a full-time writer in 1995. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and former Chair of the Poetry Book Society, Blake has written fiction, poetry, journalism and literary criticism, as well as adapting plays for the stage. His best-known works are probably his two memoirs, ‘And When Did You Last See Your Father?’ and ‘Things My Mother Never Told Me’. Reading from ‘South of the Water’ and ‘When Did You Last See Your Father’, Blake Morrison will be giving a talk about the differing experience of writing poetry, autobiography and the novel.

Friday 7 November: 10.30 a.m.

A Guided Tour of Westminster Abbey and Walk

(Co-ordinator: Yvie Cloke: 01959 522868; email: shorehill@btinternet.com)

Alison Finlay, a Registered Blue Badge Guide, together with a colleague, have been booked to take us on a tour of Westminster Abbey in the morning, and a guided walk around Westminster in the afternoon. We will begin our day with a guided tour of the Abbey, where all our Monarchs have been crowned since Edward the Confessor, and where many have married and are commemorated after death. We will see the wonderful fan vaulting in the Henry 7th Chapel, the Coronation Chair and see how many of the great and the good from the world of politics, philanthropy, music and science are remembered. We shall also visit the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and Poets’ Corner, walking along the Abbey Cloisters, which serve as a reminder of the Abbey’s monastical beginnings, and its connections with education. After lunch we will have a guided walk around the Westminster area.

Friday 7 November: 7.30 p.m.

The National (Olivier) Theatre

“War Horse” (50 tickets)

(Co-ordinator: Lydia Goodson: 01732 810272;

email: goodsons@nuttrechall.com)

In response to popular demand, we have obtained further tickets to see this wonderful play. At the outbreak of World War One, Joey, young Albert’s beloved horse, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. However, Albert cannot forget Joey, and he embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home. Following *His Dark Materials* and *Coram Boy*, the National’s new epic is based on the celebrated novel by the children’s Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. ‘So exhilarating it makes you rejoice to be alive. Its sheer skill and invention are awe-inspiring.’ *The Times*

Saturday 8 November: 6.00 p.m.

Big School

‘The best of Tonbridge School Music’

The Tonbridge Society is hosting its inaugural “Best of Tonbridge Music” concert, showcasing the variety of music at Tonbridge, and including the School Songs. We hope that this will appeal to a wide range of ages within the Tonbridge Community, and encourage OTs and parents to bring their families. The full programme for the concert can be viewed at www.tonbridge-school.co.uk, where you can also register on-line, or you can email ot-secretary@tonbridge-school.org. This concert is free.