



BOOKING FORM WINTER 2018 LECTURE SERIES

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OR A **DISCOUNTED PRICE** IF YOU ARE ORDERING **6 TICKETS OR MORE:**

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Please indicate the number of tickets you require for each lecture

- ___ 1. SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG AND CRAGSIDE 15 January
- ___ 2. WEBB, THE WYNDHAMS AND CLOUDS 23 January
- ___ 3. ROTHSCHILD AND MENTMORE TOWERS 31 January
- ___ 4. THE HIGHLAND IDYLL 7 February
- ___ 5. THE THELLUSSONS AND BRODSWORTH HALL 12 February
- ___ 6. THE GIBBS FAMILY AT TYNTESFIELD 20 February
- ___ 7. LORD BUTE AND THE FALKLAND ESTATE 26 February

Total £_____ enclosed by

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CANCELLATIONS No refunds given, but please do let us know.

DISCLAIMER You participate in events at your own risk. We reserve the right to cancel, alter or postpone events if necessary.

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The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT

Telephone 020 8747 5895 **Web** victoriansociety.org.uk

EVENT
1801

2018 winter lecture series

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Private Realms 3

The Victorian age, with its sustained economic growth, low rates of personal taxation and culture of individualism, was peculiarly sympathetic to individual patronage of architecture and the arts. Many remarkable buildings and places around the British Isles testify to the Victorian love of self-expression through architecture, as we have seen in two previous series of 'Private Realms'. Seven distinguished speakers now introduce us to another seven remarkable builders and their houses. Series organised by Steven Brindle.

Lectures usually last about an hour and take place at the the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1 at 6.30pm. Doors open at 6pm. Wine will be available before the lectures (not included in ticket prices). The venue is conveniently placed for Holborn and Russell Square tube stations and numerous bus services. Tickets £11 on the door, if available, or cheaper if you book 6 or more.

Monday 15 January

Sir William Armstrong and Cragside

Sir William Armstrong, famed inventor, industrialist and arms manufacturer, began to form his Cragside estate in Northumberland in 1863; over 30 years he transformed the landscape, planting forests, creating lakes, and building the remarkable house, one of Richard Norman Shaw's masterpieces, and the first house in the world to be lit by electricity. *Henrietta Heald*, author of *William Armstrong, Magician of the North* (2010), tells us how the house reflected its creator's personality.

Tuesday 23 January

Webb, the Wyndhams and Clouds

Percy Wyndham and his wife Madeline were at the centre of the group of cultivated aristocrats known as the Souls. After buying the Clouds estate in Wiltshire in 1876, they commissioned the celebrated architect Philip Webb to design them a house. Clouds was one of the fullest expressions of Arts and Crafts taste, including work by Morris, Burne-Jones and Dearle, as well as Webb himself. *Dr Caroline Dakers*, historian and Professor at Central St Martin's, and author of *Clouds, The Biography of a House* (1993), tells us the story of this key work of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Wednesday 31 January

Mayer Amschel Rothschild and Mentmore Towers

Mayer Amschel Rothschild, a partner in the English branch of the famous bank, built Mentmore Towers in 1852-4

to the designs of Joseph Paxton as the setting for his amazing collections of paintings, sculpture and the decorative arts. *Dr Nicola Pickering*, historian and Teaching Fellow at Reading University, recounts the history of the man, his house and collections, and explains their significance as one of the key examples of 'le gout Rothschild', until the famous - or notorious - Mentmore sale in 1977.

Wednesday 7 February

The Highland Idyll: Scotland's sporting paradise and the architecture of the Romantic North

Some of the most remarkable and least-known Victorian country houses were those built for holidays in the Scottish Highlands. *Mary Miers*, Fine Arts and Books Editor of *Country Life* and author of the recently published *Highland Retreats* (2017), discusses the social and historical context of houses such as Ardverikie, Arisaig, Ardtornish, Ardinglas and Kinloch Castle and shows how the architecture and patrons of the Highland shooting lodge have often been misrepresented.

Monday 12 February

The Thellussons and Brodsworth Hall

Brodsworth in South Yorkshire is one of the most remarkable and mysterious of Victorian Classical houses, created for Charles Sabine Thellusson, one of the ultimate beneficiaries of the famous 'Thellusson will'. Its Italianate design, rich decoration and remarkable collections have an individual quality which set it apart from other houses of its generation. The house and its contents were saved

by being transferred to English Heritage in 1990; *Caroline Carr-Whitworth*, Senior Curator at Brodsworth and the leading authority on the house, reveals its story.

Tuesday 20 February

The Gibbs Family at Tyntesfield

In the mid 19th century the Gibbs family, long-established merchants in Bristol, turned their large fortune into a vast one through the importation of guano as fertiliser. They transformed the modest Georgian house at Tyntesfield in Somerset into one of the most spectacular Victorian Gothic mansions. The National Trust's acquisition of Tyntesfield in 2002 saved this key Victorian house. *Tim Knox*, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and formerly the Trust's Head Curator, tells us the story of the Gibbs family and their house, and the struggle to save it.

Monday 26 February

Lord Bute and the Falkland Estate

John Patrick Crichton Stuart, 3rd Marquess of Bute, was probably the most prolific and remarkable aristocratic builder of the Victorian age, famous for his work in South Wales and at properties including Dumfries House and Mount Stuart. Lord Bute's great grand-daughter *Marietta Crichton-Stuart* introduces us to another, much less well-known area of his patronage, the Falkland estate in the Kingdom of Fife, where his work included the sensitive restoration of the 16th-century Renaissance palace, and the Arts and Crafts redecoration of William Burn's Jacobean-style House of Falkland in 1839.