

**Manchester
Lit&Phil**

Annual Sections Report 2022-23

June 2023

The Manchester Lit & Phil
COLONY Jactin House
24 Hood Street
Ancoats
Manchester M4 6WX
07312 090503

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manlitphil.ac.uk

Arts Section Report

Submitted by Celia Baker, Chair

Committee membership

Celia Baker is Chair. Joanna Lavelle, David Shreeve and Patricia McWilliam-Fowler will be stepping down this year. Tony Jackson and Edwina Dyson have agreed to stay on an extra year to ensure continuity but will need permission from Council to stay on. Other members are Manju Ghosh and Jim Howell. We will need to attract new members.

2022/23 Season Events

19 September 2022 – Theatre Group - Group discussion about The Glass Menagerie with Tony Jackson and Joanna Lavelle

1 November 2022 – Lynne Gibson MBE - Double Dutch "Still Life"

9 and 30 November 2022– Tours of Manchester Art Gallery (MAG) with John Ward

16 December 2022 - The Figgy Pudding Collective - A celebration of the music of Christmas

25 January 2023 – Professor Hannah Barker - Exploring the past through objects: Religious faith in Northern towns during the Industrial Revolution

3 April 2023 – Theatre Group - Group discussion about 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'

19 April 2023 - Theatre Group – Group visit to 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' at the Royal Exchange Theatre

25 April 2023 – Theatre Group – Post visit discussion

4 May 2023 – Frank Vigon - Renaissance Architecture

20 May 2023 – Theatre Group – Group visit to 'Can't Pay Won't Pay' at the Royal Exchange Theatre

22 May 2023 – Theatre Group - Post visit discussion

8 June 2023 – Dr Claire Reddeman - A Curious Person's Guide to Digital Art.

15 August 2023 - Tour of International Anthony Burgess Foundation

2023-24 events confirmed so far

11 September 2023 - Bat Walk, Broadhurst Park

21 November 2024 - Lynne Dawson - The Voice

19 February 2024 - Mandy Barker- Art from Plastic Waste

7 March 2024 Cynthia Johnston - Getting Mediaeval with Stranger Things

19 March 2024 Jamie Holman - Films of Mitchell and Kenyon

3rd June 2024 Brian Groom - Mancunians

2023-24 events to be confirmed

September 2023 - MAG Tour

February 2024 Sara Riccardi - Food in Art

Xiaoxiao Hou - Music and Dementia (date tbc)

Suggestions for future events

- Derek Blyth and singer Jill Taylor (who gave popular illustrated talk on Degenerate Music, as categorised and proscribed by Nazis), have another such offering on Kurt Weill, or alternative. This is being considered for either Summer 2024 or Autumn 2024.
- Suggestions for informal daytime events, for example historian Kevin Harrison has a range of topics to offer, from the Classical World, to more modern history, and real/mythical figures in history.

Other events under discussion for 23- 24

- Tour of Elizabeth Gaskell's house, Tour of Rochdale Town Hall
- Tour of Manchester Jewish Museum with curator
- Tour of Whitworth Art Gallery
- Professor Andrew Biswell – James Joyce's Ulysses: monthly online talks from February onwards, and a walking tour of Burgess's Manchester in November

Social Philosophy Section Report

Submitted by Dr Susan Hilton, Chair

2022/23 Season Events

A full programme of lectures and visits took place. Details as follows –

18 October 2022 – ‘Between God and Atheism’ – Philip Goff and Jack Symes headed a lively philosophical debate. Venue – Bridge 5 Mill.

29 November 2022 – ‘Global Citizen: reporting for duty’ - Engineer Yewande Akinola presented an inspiring look at the changing face of living in a connected world, and the opportunities it brings. Venue – National Football Museum.

9 February 2023 – ‘Will humans become extinct through climate change?’ – Dr Anders Sandberg – an informed look at this possibility; and if so, when? Venue – Halle St Peters.

15 March 2023 – ‘The Great Miss Lydia Becker’ – Joanna Williams – a detailed look at the 19th Century original campaigner for women’s votes, and many other rights. Venue – Cross Street Chapel.

6 April 2023 – ‘Can routine screening for Down’s Syndrome be ethically justified?’ – Professor Becki Bennett – a thought-provoking bioethical debate around all screening in the antenatal period. Venue – Halle St Peters.

10 May 2023 – ‘Feminist activism in Greater Manchester: past, present and future’ - Helen Pankhurst and Joanna Williams - discussed the Pankhurst family legend, and the ongoing fights for women’s rights in many walks of life, along with a lively debate from the audience. Venue – International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester.

During the year the Philosophy Forum has met regularly, every 4-6 weeks, taking the form of a seminar group, discussing a themed paper each time. This is administered by the Philosophy Forum administration group, headed by Christopher Burke.

2023-24 events confirmed so far

September 2023 – 'Foraging visit to Fletcher Moss Gardens'

30 October 2023 – Nazir Afzal, Chancellor of the University of Manchester, will address the Society – title tbc

Early 2024 - Professor Stephanie Snow from the University of Manchester, who is an expert on health history

2024 – Guided tour of Victoria Baths

2024 - Professor Emily Collins will talk to us about Artificial Intelligence

2024 - Professor Cecile Fabre - the ethics of war and theories of justice

Committee membership

I am currently the Chair, with the committee comprised of Philip Hulme (Secretary), Peter Barnes, Sheila Whitaker, Pierre Waugh, Vienna Borowska and John Waterton, along with Ian Cameron, the Society President, who is an ex-officio member.

John Waterton has recently joined the committee so will need to be formally elected. We would also be happy to consider applications from other members who wish to join the committee. The Philosophy Forum administration group is headed by Christopher Burke, along with Peter Barnes, Robert Mears, John Pilkington, Ian Cameron and me.

Science and Technology Section Report

Submitted by Dianne Bamber, Chair

This year has seen an enjoyable programme of events from Science and Technology and the Climate Change subgroup. There were five standard events and four climate change seminars. All are listed below.

The highlight of the season was the Dalton Lecture in March at the RNCM and online, where we awarded the Dalton Medal to Sir Paul Nurse. There were 142 attendees in total and a group of us, including Sir Paul, had an excellent meal afterwards at the Midland Hotel.

Reports have been written for all events and submitted for inclusion in the Memoirs.

On 19 March members of the committee attended the Rochdale Science Festival, organised by Mohammed Rahman, Founding Director of the Rochdale Science Initiative. This was a very stimulating experience, with families from different ethnic backgrounds enjoying the various science related activities on offer. The Manchester Lit & Phil stall was well attended and provided much entertainment. A further event on 23 July, again organised by Mohammed, will also be attended by members of the committee. It is hoped that we will contribute to other such events in the future.

2022/23 Season Events

5 Oct 2022	Catherine Noakes	Pandemic resilience: How to control a virus
6 Dec 2022	Laurence Harwood	How can we achieve a sustainable nuclear fuel cycle?
18 Jan 2023	Simon Hiscock	The secret of biodiversity and evolution in plants
8 March 2023 (Dalton Lecture)	Sir Paul Nurse	What is life?
12 April 2023	Helen Fricker	Demystifying Antarctica: What we've learned and what comes next
18 May 2023	Peter Sasieni	Revolutionising cancer screening

Blue indicates postponed until next season.

Climate Change Seminars:

26 Sept 2022	Seminar	Reducing your carbon footprint: Electric Vehicles
28 Nov 2022	Seminar	Reducing your carbon footprint: air and ground source heat pumps
20 Feb 2023	Seminar	Reducing your carbon footprint: food and climate change

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Minaxi Desai who has retired as committee member and has made many valuable suggestions for speakers over the years. Also, to Martin Hunt and Brian Tyler for all their efforts on the Climate Change Subgroup. Thanks also to Diana Leitch for all her work in obtaining the engraved Dalton medal at short notice for presentation at the Dalton Lecture. Lastly, but by no means least, many thanks go to Lesley Roberts who has been a very efficient secretary and will be much missed. Her hard work, whilst battling with ill health, has been much appreciated.

Committee membership

Changes in the committee for the 2023-2024 programme are as follows:

Dianne Bamber is to step down as Chair as the 3-year term of office has been completed.

Jim Thomas is to replace Dianne Bamber as Chair.

Lesley Roberts is to step down as Secretary. As yet there is no replacement.

Minaxi Desai has retired from the committee.

We have a new member: Dr Ambrose Smith.

Committee for 2023-2024

Jim Thomas Chair (Feb 2019)

Dianne Bamber (May 2018)

President (President -ex-Officio) – this may be subject to change under a new structure

Melissa Lord (co-opted)

Paul Miller (Feb 2017)

Peter Williams (Feb 2019)

Desmond Winterbone (October 2016)

Lesley Roberts (March 2021)

Martin Hunt (July 2021)

Tea Milanovic (May 2022)

Ambrose Smith (May 2023)