

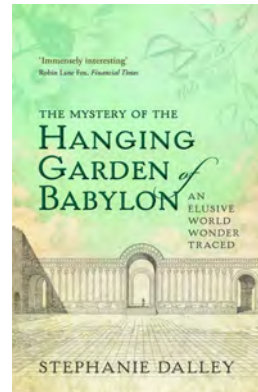


October 2017 Newsletter

A Mystery of the Ancient World



On Tuesday October 24th at Wychwood House, Enstone at 7 for 7.30pm our speaker is the distinguished scholar of the Ancient Near East; Stephanie Dalley (left)_who will be talking about her book *The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon* published by OUP. Stephanie Dalley was research fellow at the Oriental Institute in Oxford and has translated the Babylonian myths making them accessible for the first time to a wider audience. Eighteen years of studying texts about the Hanging Garden, considered one of the seven



wonders of the ancient world led Dalley to conclude the gardens were not hanging, they were terraced, they were not in Babylon but in Nineveh and built in Sennacherib's rule. In her talk to us, Stephanie Dalley will; discuss Where was the Hanging Garden of Babylon, and what did it look like? Why did the ancient Greeks and Romans consider it to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World? Stephanie Dalley's research, book, and the documentary she made in northern Iraq in 2013 for Channel 4, have now been accepted by most of her colleagues, and she aims to 'both entertain and convince us' with her illustrated talk. Copies of her book will be available for sale during the evening. Those who wish to attend please let Anne Francis know as soon as possible as space is limited.

The Remarkable Rothschilds



Carol Hardy, a senior guide at Waddesdon Manor who gave us such a fascinating talk about the manor and its treasures last year returned to give us another brilliant talk on September 26. This time the theme was the Rothschild family and their amazing family fortunes and philanthropy. Carol began her talk with a history of Jewish persecution and the cramped, grim ghetto in Frankfurt (see



Judengasse -Jewish alley- right) where the Rothschild

family originated and who never forgot their roots and the origin of their name from the 'Red Shield' house. The five ultra successful brothers - from the ten surviving children out of of eighteen children - of founding father Meyer Amshel, an orphan from the age of twelve who became a metal and textile dealer, working up to be crown factor to the Elector of Hesse looking after his treasure and imperial agent meaning he could travel freely rare for a Jew. His sons spread out to the money capitals of Europe: Paris, Naples, Vienna, and London to which Nathan came via Manchester where he dealt in textiles before founding the bank in London supplying money to Wellington's army in Spain. By the mid nineteenth century, the Rothschilds dominated European banking as well as getting involved in railways, mining and vineyards. Though the English branch had so many houses in Piccadilly it was nicknamed 'Rothschild Road', the family bought several country estates including Tring Park, Mentmore Towers, Aston Clinton, Ascott and Waddesdon; the area becoming known as Rothschildshire. Though they entertained the likes of the Prince of Wales, hunted and became involved in politics, the family did a remarkable amount of philanthropic work. They created new build villages, financed schools, maternity homes, hospitals, cemeteries, village halls, churches, paid good wages for their employees and furthered modern development of agriculture as well as at pre World War 1 Waddesdon supporting two brass bands, and other musical orchestras. Disraeli opened an exhibition they put on aimed at rural regeneration and at Tring there was even an early private health and social service organisation. The evening was so inspired several members suggested a group visit to Waddesdon and it is hoped to arrange something next summer when the house reopens.

Returning to the Fast Lane



On November 14, Martin Cummings has generously invited members to tour the Renault F1 headquarters at Enstone. The outline for the evening will be similar to the event held earlier in the year though some different areas such as the wind tunnel will be on view. We already have 25 members who have signed up to come along but Martin has agreed to raise the limit to a maximum of thirty. If any member would still like to come along please let Anne know.

Roundabout

Open Day at the Museums Resource Centre

The Standlake centre will open to the public for one day on Sunday October 8 to explore this treasure trove of museum objects from archaeology to today, meet staff and volunteers and tour behind the scenes to see objects in store. The Witney Blanket industry collection will be on view in its new dedicated storage area. Open between 10 am and 4pm, entry is free and there is parking on site.



Family History Fair

The annual Family History Fair will be held Saturday 7th October from 10:00am in the Marlborough School in Woodstock, OX20 1LP. Over 35 different organisations will offer a wide range of services, research advice, books, CDs, maps and family history materials in Oxfordshire and nearby counties. Information on <http://www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html> or call Angie Trueman on 01488 71714 to make sure that someone you particularly want to see is there.

I will be away in Cambodia and Laos in the second half of October so please address any queries to Anne Francis in my absence.

Carol Geare, Chairman, 01608 677246 / carolawt@gmail.com

Anne Francis, Hon.Secretary, 01608 678820 / annefrancis1@gmail.com

Diary Dates:

Tuesday October 24; 7. for 7.30 at Wychwood House, Enstone; Stephanie Dalley on The Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Tuesday November 14, evening tour of the Renault FI Headquarters.