

Surrey Network

Murder Most Foul

A Study Day on **Friday 18th June 2027** at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon

Speaker – Dr Kathryn Harkup

Introduction – We all enjoy a good murder mystery be it on TV or in film. But how accurately are they portrayed? Dr Kathryn Harkup takes us behind the scenes and explains the science that underpins some of our best loved assassinations: from Shakespeare to Shelley and from Agatha Christie to Ian Fleming.

Programme

- 9.30 Registration – Water available but not Coffee / Tea
- 10.00 **Shakespeare CSI** – The murders – the means, motive and the investigations – in Shakespeare's plays. Is poison in the ear really the best way to kill a king? How do you stage the assassination of Caesar without hurting your actors? Desdemona's dramatic revival after being suffocated is extremely useful for the plot, but is it realistic?
- 11.00 Coffee / Tea
- 11.30 **Back from the Dead** – The real-life murderers that brought Frankenstein's monster to life. Mary Shelley's novel is credited as one of the earliest works of science fiction but much of the plot was inspired by contemporary scientific obsessions. Tales of body snatchers and the reanimated bodies of hanged murderers were real concerns for the first readers of *Frankenstein*.
- 12.30 Lunch – Bring-Your-Own – Tea / Coffee available
- 1.30 **A is for Arsenic** – Agatha Christie's love affair with poisons and murder. Just because its fiction doesn't mean it's all made up. This talk is about how Christie used her detailed knowledge of toxic compounds to create some of the bestselling murder mystery stories of all time, or, how to spot strychnine in the soup and cyanide in the champagne.
- 2.30 Tea / Coffee
- 3.00 **No, Mr Bond, I Expect You to Die!** – Electrocuted, eaten by sharks/crocodiles/piranha, poisoned by spiders/snakes/ octopuses/shoe, pushed out of a plane, shot, squeezed, strangled, sliced in half with a laser, covered in gold paint – this talk is a scientific look at some of the many ways to die, or almost die, in a 007 film.
- 4.00 Departure

To Book – Send the slip below by 15th June with a cheque for Member £12, Guest £15, View Online £7, payable to Surrey u3a Network, to Denise Dobbs – u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791. Enclose an SAE or an email address for confirmation. **Or make a bank transfer** to HSBC Account No. 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, Event Ref. Jun27, and send an email to surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com with the booking information below. **Or on day pay at door £15.**

MURDER **Member £12 Guest £15 At Door £15 View Online £7** **18th June 2027**

Please Tick – Hall ☐ or View Online ☐; Email ☐ or SAE ☐; Cheque ☐ or BankTransfer ☐

Title First Name Surname Name of u3a

House Number/Name. Post Code Phone.

E-mail Address

If you need disabled parking, tick ☐ and give a car registration number

If you need a wheelchair space in the hall, tick ☐ or a step-free seat, tick ☐.

If you would like to receive details about future study days by email, please tick here ☐.

Biographical Information about our Speaker

Dr Kathryn Harkup is a former chemist, author and science communicator known for blending science, literature and pop culture. She completed a doctorate on her favourite chemicals, phosphines, and went on to further postdoctoral research before realising that talking, writing and demonstrating science appealed a bit more than hours slaving over a hot fume-hood. Kathryn's first book was the international best-seller *A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie*, which was shortlisted for a Mystery Readers International Macavity Award and a BMA Book Award. She has also written *Making the Monster: the Science of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* and *Death by Shakespeare: Snakebites, Stabbings and Broken Hearts*. In 2021, she published the popular science book *The Secret Lives of Elements*, and the nonfiction *Vampirology: The Science of Horror's Most Famous Fiend*. In 2022, *Superspy Science: Science, Death and Tech in the World of James Bond* was published dealing more generally with depictions of technology in Ian Fleming's James Bond novels.

Study Days at the Menuhin Hall

Surrey Network Study Days – We welcome members and guests to our study days in the Menuhin Hall, while also making it possible to view the study days remotely. We are pleased that during term-time the Menuhin School has been offering short recitals by pupils in the lunch interval. Details available on the day.

Advertising & Booking – The practice of applying by post or by email continues, with booking responses being sent as members chose, while payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer. We advertise the study days with full details and booking forms on our website – [Surrey Network](#) and circulate the information electronically to all u3as in Surrey Network and surrounding areas. We also electronically circulate a poster suitable for advertising the future programme on display boards or websites.

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.

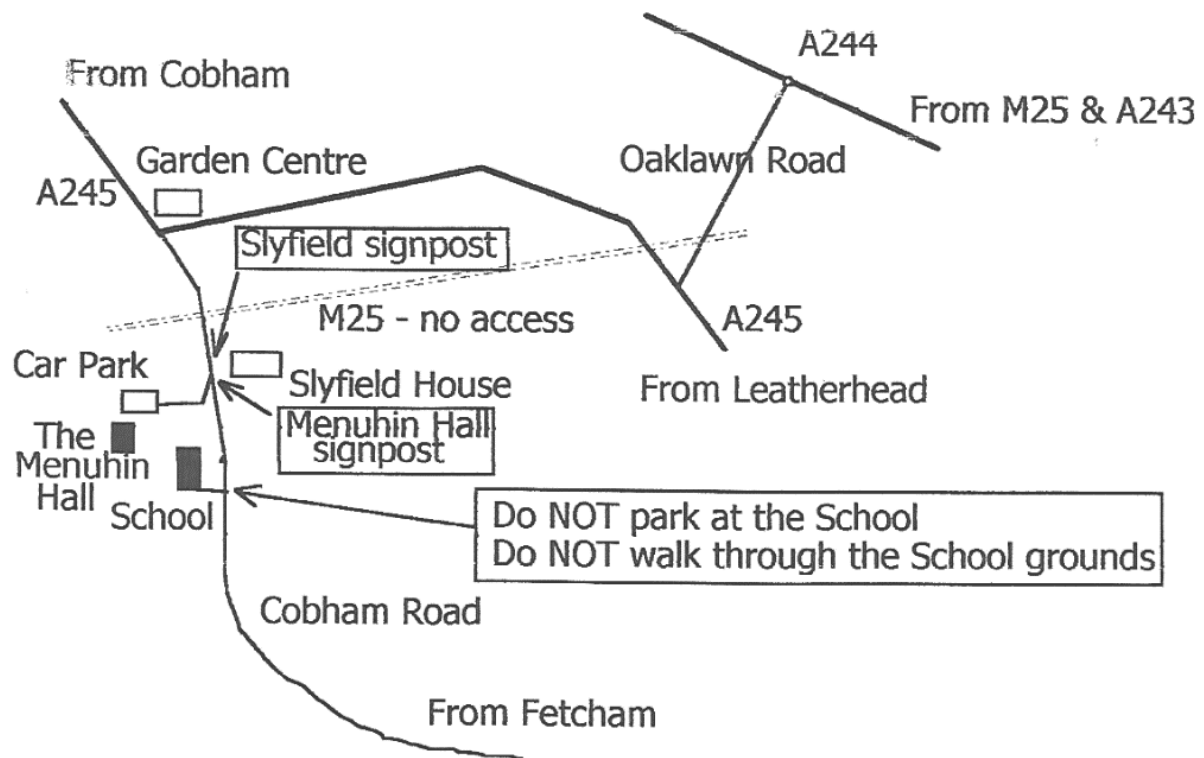
Wheelchair Spaces – If you need a seat removed in the hall to accommodate a wheelchair then tick Wheelchair on the booking slip.

Support for Network Committee – The study days have been running successfully for over twenty years. New volunteers with ideas for the future programme and the commitment to help run future study days will be made very welcome. Please contact Surrey Network Chairman, Mike Brigden, on 07766 331642 with offers of help.

Location & Contact Details for Study Day

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3QQ

Telephone 07763 805046 (Emergency – On-Day-Only) or Menuhin Hall Office 08700 842020



The Menuhin School

The school was founded in 1963 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around one hundred gifted pupils studying 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, was 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.

Recently a sister school, Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao (YMSQ), was opened in China. The Yehudi Menuhin School has long held a close connection to China, dating back to the 1980s, when Yehudi Menuhin led the school orchestra on a tour to the country. The decision to establish YMS's first overseas branch in China was therefore driven by both a special emotional attachment to the country and a long-standing desire to contribute to the development of classical music education in the Far East. Partnering with the Qingdao Urban Construction Group, an organisation which demonstrated a common vision for music education, YMSQ was officially opened in September 2022. In time, the school is expected to grow to around 850 pupils, with first-study options covering the entire range of orchestral instruments. YMSQ is located in Qingdao, a beautiful coastal city in Shandong Province in North-East China.

Surrey u3a Network Study Day



Murder Most Foul

Presented by Dr Kathryn Harkup, Author & Science Communicator

Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon on Friday 18th June 2027

9.30am Registration for 10am Start

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