

STUDY DAY THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2026

Wilde About Oscar: The Extraordinary Life & Times of Oscar Wilde

by Simon Whitehouse

Venue: The Fitzwilliams Centre, HP9 2JW

Lecture One: Introduction. Oscar Wilde: Famous for Being Famous: Oscar's early years, artistic circle & rising celebrity.

Lecture Two: A Handbagg! The Importance of Being Oscar (and Earnest!): the height of his success, the publication of his only novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray, with a special focus on his final and most brilliant play, the Importance of Being Earnest.

Lecture Three: The Trials of Oscar Wilde: Famous for Being Infamous: at the peak of his success, disaster struck, leading to the criminal trial of the century, prison & exile. We conclude the day with an appreciation of Oscar's enduring legacy and how he continues to inspire and entertain us today.

Speaker: Simon Whitehouse is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, presenter, Alexander Technique & voice teacher, and award-winning London Blue Badge Guide. He regularly guides for Arts Society groups on their Visits Programmes in addition to his lecture offerings. He has worked as a guide lecturer in house at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Opera House, the BBC & the National Gallery, guiding public & private tours. He lectures for the Blue Badge Guide training course on the performing arts & English literature modules.

To book: please complete the form below and send by email to osorioruby424@gmail.com or by post to Ruby Osorio at 127 Heath Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1DJ, indicating you have paid by BACS transfer (*we would prefer bank transfer, if possible*) or cheque made payable to "The Arts Society Beaconsfield" before 16th March 2026. Before returning your application please note:

1. If you have any doubt shortly before the event as to whether you have a place, then please email the organiser.
2. If, on the day of the event, you have a problem attending, please phone **0798 564 3833**
3. Cancellations less than three weeks before the event will only receive a refund if the place can be filled from the waiting list.

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I/We have paid by BACS transfer to CAF Bank Ltd., Sort Code: 40-52-40, A/C No: 00085849, (Reference: Your Surname). Payment is £45 per person, including coffee and lunch with wine. Or I/We enclose a cheque payable to The Arts Society Beaconsfield (delete as applicable).

My/Our lunch choice is: (beef/chicken/veg). Any Allergies:

Confirmation: by email YES/NO; by enclosed stamped addressed envelope YES/NO.

NAME: Mobile:

Email:

Emergency contact: Name and Phone number:

Signature: Date.....