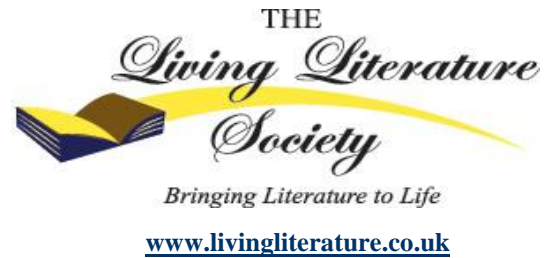


LLS



*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 6.30pm*

## *Virginia Woolf – Her Life and Art*



*Actress*

***Karin Fernald***

*Shines a new light on this passionate author as taken from her letters, diaries and novels.*

*Join us at*

***Fitzroy House  
37 Fitzroy St. London***

***6.30pm Drinks reception with canapés: 7.30pm: Presentation 8.30pm***

**Cont/-**

2.

In this illustrated performance and presentation on Virginia Woolf, Karin Fernald gently lets us in to the author's world. Virginia Woolf's idiosyncrasies as a fiction writer have tended to obscure her central strength: Woolf is arguably the most lyrical novelist in the English language. According to Fernald, Virginia felt that what she did best as a writer was to recreate visual scenes such as her childhood memories at St. Ives in Cornwall. She did this particularly well in **To The Lighthouse** (1927) set on two days 10 years apart. Woolf's imaginative power enables her to succeed in painting a picture. One of the primary themes of the novel is the struggle in the creative process that beset painter Lily Briscoe while she remains determined to paint in the midst of the family drama. Faced with a blank canvas she exclaims 'Where to begin? That was the question...one line placed on the canvas committed her to innumerable links. as the waves shape themselves symmetrically from the cliff top...the trees wave, the clouds pass.'

Woolf, surprisingly, never painted or drew but her closeness to her sister, the artist Vanessa Bell – 'Do you think we have the same pair of eyes, only different spectacles'? – and to Roger Fry and also other members of the Bloomsbury group would stimulate her curiosity. Woolf's frank confessions 'I hate buying clothes. In particular, I hate buying suspenders,' offer refreshing and amusing insights into the tribulations of smart London life in the 1930s. The intensity of Virginia Woolf's poetic visions elevates the ordinary, sometimes banal setting of most of her novels. For instance, **Mrs Dalloway** (1925) centres on the efforts of Clarissa Dalloway, a middle-aged society woman, to organise a party, even as her life is paralleled with Septimus Warren Smith, a working-class veteran who has returned from the First World War bearing deep psychological scars. The film 'The Hours' with Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman was, of course, an emotional adaptation of Woolf's Mrs Dalloway. Her famous piece on women's education '**A Room of One's Own**' is a skilled and effective piece of rhetoric, which has at its heart the changing position of women over the years. Her last work **Between the Acts** (1941) is the most lyrical of all, both in feeling in style, being written mainly in verse.

Fitzroy House is set in the heart of Fitzrovia and was frequented by literary greats such as George Orwell, HG Wells and Charles Dickens. Virginia Woolf lived a few doors away just across the square from this magnificent eighteenth century house which sets the scene for our evening.

To celebrate this event, The Folio Society is donating a copy of the Society's superb cloth-bound edition of **Mrs Dalloway** to be offered in a free draw which will follow the performance. Further copies of this Folio edition of **Mrs Dalloway** will be available to purchase on the evening at a discount of 10% on the 2012 catalogue price.

*To include drinks reception with a generous selection of canapés,  
Followed by Karin Fernald's presentation*

*For further details and to confirm availability contact  
[diane.walters@storylinejourneys.co.uk](mailto:diane.walters@storylinejourneys.co.uk) or phone 01727 825 939*



*Please detach & return*

**REPLY SLIP**

**The Living Literature Society, Clarendon House, Shenley Road, Elstree, Herts. WD6 1AG Tel 01727 825 939**

*I attach my cheque for £.....in favour of Lamb B D (LLS) (please note payee)*

*Please reserve. ....members/guest places for 'Virginia Woolf her Life & Art' on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 from 6.30pm.*

*Name.....Address.....*

*.....Tel.....Email.....*