

Ivor Gurney: High above Gloucester and the Severn Plain 14/15 September 2018

Day One

Morning (10 am – 12 noon)

The Old City - Guided walk led by *Eleanor Rawling* around Ivor Gurney's Gloucester, looking at his birthplace, school, cathedral and other places connected with his early years.

Afternoon (1.30 – 4 pm)

Ashleworth Nestles by the River – Guided walk led by *Eleanor Rawling* around the village, the tithe barn, church and manor house at Ashleworth and onto Barrow Hill “where eyes, heart and soul may drink their fill” – including input on poems and music written during or just after Gurney's return from the war.

Late afternoon (5-7 pm)

Talks and discussions – Led by *Stephen Johnson*, chiefly focusing on Gurney's early life, up to and including his wartime experiences; his poetry and music of the period.

Speakers during the two days include *Stephen Johnson, Eleanor Rawling, Dr Kate Kennedy, Dr Philip Lancaster, Peter Parker, Professor Michael Trimble* and *Ian Venables*, chairman of *The Ivor Gurney Society*.

Evening

Pre-concert discussion (7.45 – 8.15 pm)

Led by *Stephen Johnson* and including the musicians.

Concert – To include Gurney songs and those of his contemporaries, performed by *James Gilchrist, Anna Tilbrook* and others shortly to be confirmed.

Day Two

Morning (10 am – 1 pm)

Cooper's and Crickley; Wonderful Falls makes Cotswold Edge – Guided walk led by *Eleanor Rawling* through the beechwoods, passing Whitcombe Roman Villa and the Birdlip Edge to explore Crickley Hill, Dryhill Farm, and “Gurney's Cottage”, places of great significance to Gurney in later years.

Afternoon (2.30 – 4.30 pm)

Talks and discussions – Led by *Stephen Johnson*, focusing on the effects on Gurney of his wartime experiences, the critical post-war period and his mental illness; his poetry and music of the period.

Speakers during the two days include *Stephen Johnson, Eleanor Rawling, Dr Kate Kennedy, Dr Philip Lancaster, Peter Parker, Professor Michael Trimble* and *Ian Venables*, chairman of *The Ivor Gurney Society*.

Late afternoon (5.15 – 6 pm)

Open forum

Evening

Pre-concert discussion (7.30 – 8.15 pm) – Led by *Stephen Johnson* and including the musicians.

Concert – To include *Ludlow and Teme* and *The Western Playland*, Housman settings by other composers, and the slow movement of the Howells Piano Quartet, performed by *James Gilchrist, Anna Tilbrook* and others shortly to be confirmed.