

'Opals' Talk by Helen Plumb & Afternoon Tea

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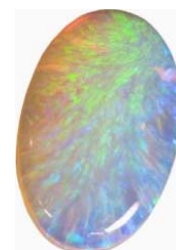
Thursday 3rd November 2011

We are delighted Helen Plumb, an internationally renowned gemmologist, will again give an insight into the fascinating world of Gemstones. This year her topic is Opals.



The name Opal is said to be derived from the Sanskrit word "upala" meaning "precious stone" and approximately 95% of the world's precious opal comes from Australia with the balance from Brazil and Mexico.

Precious opal is made up of tiny uniform spheres of transparent hard silica which fit together in an orderly three dimensional frame sitting in a "bath" of silica solution and it is the orderliness of the spheres that separates precious opal from common opal. Light passes through the transparent spheres in a direct line but when it hits the 'bath' of silica it is bent and deflected at different angles. This produces the rainbow effect of opals and depending on the size of the spheres, various colours of the spectrum are diffracted. The sphere size has a bearing on the colour produced – smaller spheres bring out the blues from one end of the spectrum while larger ones produce the reds from the other end. The more uniform the placement of the spheres- the more intense, brilliant and defined the colour of the opal.



Helen is a graduate of Geological Sciences and an internationally recognised expert in assessing and appraising gemstones and has a business "Just Gems".

EVENT DETAILS

Time: 2.30 pm Talk on Opals by Helen Plumb followed by Q & A's
3.45 pm Afternoon Tea

Cost: Members - £20.00 Guests: £25.00 per person

Tickets will not be issued for this event.



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Booking Form

Name: *(please print)*

Please reserve places at the 'Opals' Talk & Afternoon Tea. I enclose a cheque for £..... (made payable to The Cavalry & Guards Club). To pay by Debit or Credit Card, kindly print the following details clearly on the reverse of this form: the type of card (*debit or credit*) the 16-digit number from the front of the card together with the start & expiry dates + the 3-digit security number from the back of the card. Please note credit card payments are subject to a 2% transaction fee.

My Guest(s) will be:.....:

Additional names may be listed on the reverse of the booking form

Kindly return the completed booking form to:

Miss Frances Watt, Membership Secretary,
The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PX
or call 020 7659 0906 to reserve places

