

The Hillside Club Round Table presents
NICHOLAS FRIEND MA (Oxon), MA (Cantab)

THE HILLSIDE CLUB AND THE TRUE MEANING OF CIVILIZATION

Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:30 PM
The Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street Berkeley, California 94709



The Hillside Club emerged as a powerful force when determined women and influential men joined together to challenge profound social, philosophical, geopolitical and economic forces unleashed by the Industrial Revolution. Speaking with a distinct voice in Berkeley's earliest years, the Hillside Club members insisted there be a mutually beneficial relationship between Berkeley's unique geographic setting and the human activities practiced therein. Their collective intelligence guided the formation of a university town unique in the world yet deeply connected over time, land and oceans with other communities in Britain, Europe, and Scandinavia.

Nicholas Friend explores the Hillside Club's distinguished antecedents: Bishop Berkeley's Bermuda project, Coleridge's Pantisocracy, Robert Owen's New Lanark, Titus Salt's Saltaire, John Ruskin's Guild of St George, and William Morris's Firm. He investigates how their realization made possible Samuel and Henrietta Barnett's Toynbee Hall, Jonathan Carr's Bedford Park, Ebenezer Howard's Letchworth, Octavia Hill's National Trust, and the Hillside Club itself, and how the Hillside Club can be compared to similar enterprises in Germany, Scandinavia and Russia. The talk concludes with an appreciation of the Hillside Club's role in establishing Berkeley as a fair and revitalizing environment for its citizens, both civilized and civilizing, a role as topical today as it was then.

Nicholas Friend holds MA degrees from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, UK. For 25 years he was Academic Director of the Cambridge University Art History Summer School, and next year he celebrates 30 years as Founder-Director of the arts and heritage study society, INSCAPE. In that capacity he both lectures in London at the Art Workers Guild in Bloomsbury London, and leads art and architectural tours in the UK and Europe. He is a life-long student of John Ruskin and William Morris, a Morris Society Committee member for ten years, the chair of the Committee celebrating the centenary of Morris's *News from Nowhere* in 1990 and has regularly lectured on Morris for Sotheby's in London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Companion of the Guild of St George, founded by Ruskin in the 1870's. Nicholas and his wife Louise co-direct INSCAPE tours and lecture series, and are new members of the Hillside Club with a keen interest in its ideals, legacy and relevance today. They will be dividing their lives between the Inscape Outpost on Arch Street in Berkeley, and their workspace and home in London.