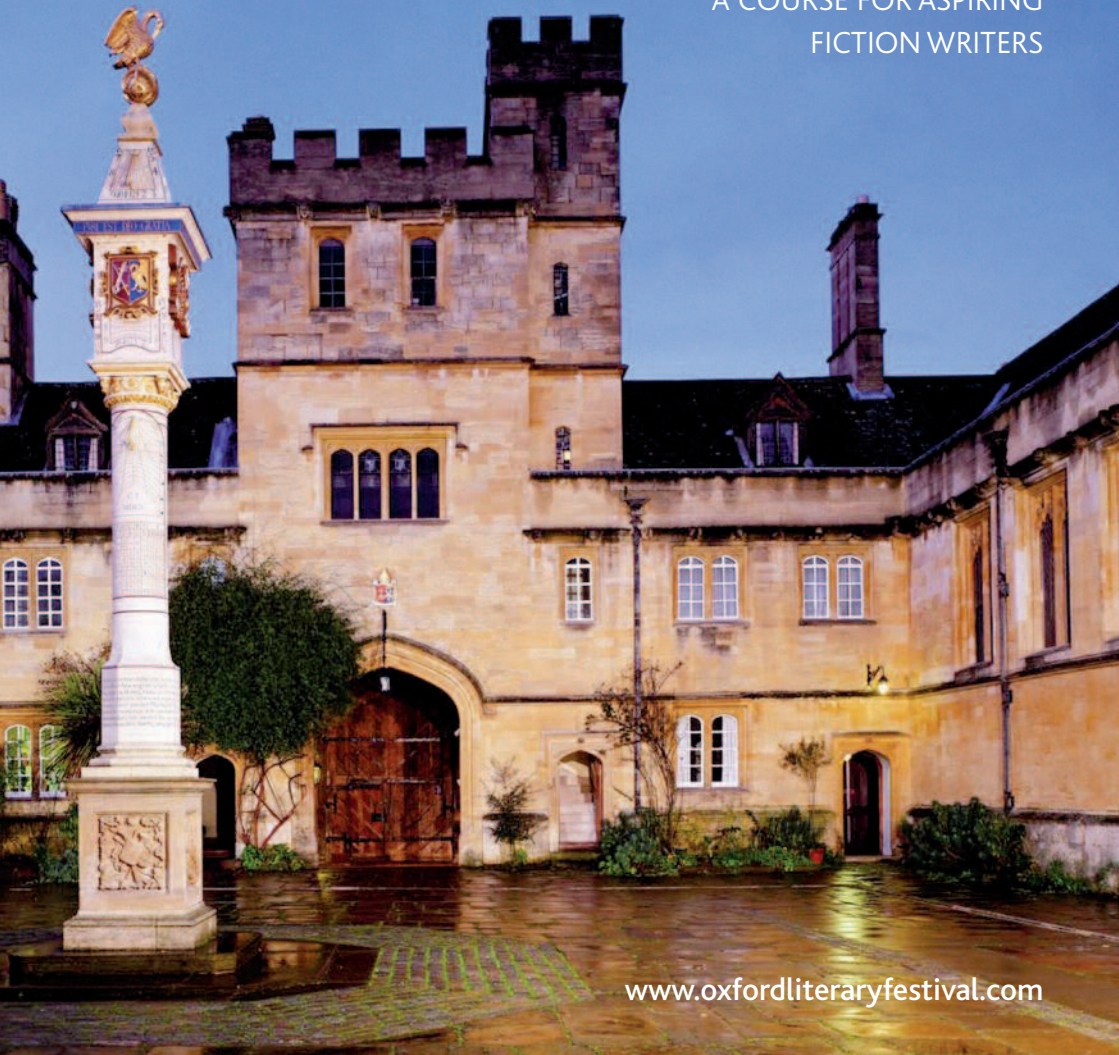


  
THE SUNDAY TIMES  
OXFORD  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Creative Writing at Corpus Christi College

FINDING THE PLOT:  
A COURSE FOR ASPIRING  
FICTION WRITERS



[www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com](http://www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com)

# Creative Writing at Corpus Christi College

## FINDING THE PLOT: A COURSE FOR ASPIRING FICTION WRITERS

The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival has a well-deserved reputation for enterprise and innovation, and the 2008 festival saw the introduction of a particularly exciting initiative: a five-day college-based residential course offering an opportunity for aspiring fiction-writers to hone their skills in the company of eminent authors and other representatives of the literary world.

Now in its fifth year, the course has established itself as a firm fixture. Providing a series of five two-hour tutor-led workshops, together with a series of ten one-hour talks (masterclasses) given by eminent novelists and other significant figures from the literary world, it is designed to serve the needs of writers who are interested in honing their creative skills in the company of a small, dedicated group. The learning environment is intentionally intimate: the course as a whole will have places for a maximum of 30 participants, while the group will be split into two sub-groups for workshops, each containing a maximum of 15 participants. The whole group will gather together for each talk in the masterclass series.

The workshops will be led by two knowledgeable tutors who are themselves well-known writers of fiction, Jem Poster and Sarah Hall; in addition, the series of masterclasses will allow participants to listen to, and to engage in discussion with, a wide range of other literary practitioners.

The course offers a remarkable opportunity to experience life as a member of a creative community. Living, dining, learning and writing in one of Oxford's most attractive historic colleges, participants will be able to extend their understanding of their craft in the company of like-minded individuals.

The course offers five full teaching days and six nights of college accommodation. There may be the opportunity to sign up for a further short period of college accommodation, at a reasonable additional cost: this will allow participants to continue their writing practice beyond the time-frame of the course itself, or to attend some of the festival's other events.

Oxford has helped to nurture the talents of many well-known writers of fiction: among the University's alumni are Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, Aldous Huxley, William Golding, Kingsley Amis, V. S. Naipaul, Martin Amis and Julian Barnes.



### Comments from participants on the 2011 programme

*"The mixture of participants was magical, alchemical, inspirational."*

*"Ticked all the boxes on expectations and ambitions. Now I don't just **think** I can be a writer – I **know** I can."*

*"Wonderful environment – very stimulating. A window on another world. I absolutely loved it and found it to be the perfect setting for creative thinking and writing."*

*"...a superb series of masterclasses by inspirational speakers, passionate about their art and keen to teach us its techniques. The workshops were skilfully and sensitively led by two talented writers and excellent teachers, who I felt pitched their responses to our work at just the right level."*

The inclusive charge per person is £1660 and includes all accommodation and full board. All rooms are en suite.

## The Tutors

### Jem Poster



Photo: Stephen Call

**Jem Poster** has edited a selection of George Crabbe's poetry and has written a study of the poetry of the 1930s; he is also the author of a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light*, and a past winner of the Cardiff International Poetry Competition. His two novels, *Courting Shadows* and *Rifling Paradise*, were

published in 2002 and 2006 respectively. A former Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford, he now holds the Chair of Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, where he directs a range of creative writing programmes from undergraduate to doctoral level. He is the festival's Academic Director.

### Sarah Hall



Photo: Richard Thwaites

**Sarah Hall's** first novel, *Haweswater* (2002) won several awards, including the 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best First Book). Her second book, *The Electric Michelangelo* (2004), set in the turn-of-the-century seaside resorts of Morecambe Bay and Coney Island, was shortlisted for

the 2004 Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the 2005 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Eurasia Region, Best Book). *The Carhullan Army* (2007), won the 2007 John Llewellyn-Rhys Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the 2008 Arthur C Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction. Her fourth novel, *How to Paint a Dead Man*, was published in 2009 and was longlisted for the Man Booker prize and won the 2010 Portico Prize for Fiction. A collection of short stories, *The Beautiful Indifference*, was published in 2011.

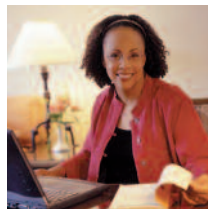


## The Masterclass Speakers

Masterclass speakers in 2011 will include London literary agent **Luigi Bonomi**, founder-director of the LBA agency and recipient of *The Bookseller* Literary Agent of the Year award for 2010; **Lee Brackstone**, Publishing Director of Faber and Faber; **Jill Dawson**, author of twelve books, including the novel *Fred and Edie* (short-listed for the Orange Prize and the Whitbread); **Helen Dunmore**, poet and novelist, winner of the inaugural Orange Prize with *A Spell of Winter*; **Joanne Harris**, celebrated author of novels including the bestselling *Chocolat*; poet and novelist **Patrick McGuinness**, author of *The Last Hundred Days*, longlisted for the 2011 Man Booker Prize and **Jewell Parker Rhodes**, prizewinning African-American novelist.



Joanne Harris



Jewell Parker Rhodes



## Corpus Christi College

Corpus Christi College was founded in 1517 by Richard Foxe, Bishop of Winchester and a trusted diplomatic and political adviser to King Henry VII. Bishop Foxe had originally intended the College for the training of monks; if he had followed through with this plan, the College would probably have been dissolved in the Reformation of the next generation. Instead, he decided that the College should be a place of Renaissance learning for the education of young men in the humanities and the sciences.

The beautiful main quad, with its tower, dining hall, library and adjoining chapel were planned and completed under Foxe's guidance. Queen Catherine (of Aragon) was a friend of the College's first President, John Claimond, and would visit him in his College lodgings while her husband, Henry VIII, hunted at nearby Woodstock.

Many significant figures have been graduates or fellows of the college, among them the educational reformer Thomas Arnold, the Poet Laureate Robert Bridges, the art historian John Ruskin and the philosopher Isaiah Berlin.

## BOOKING FORM FOR THE FICTION WRITING COURSE

THE COURSE FEES INCLUDE ALL TUITION AND MASTERCLASSES AND ALL EN SUITE ACCOMMODATION IN THE COLLEGE FOR A TOTAL OF 6 NIGHTS PLUS FULL BOARD CATERING (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE
EMAIL

WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE COURSE?

PREVIOUS WRITING EXPERIENCE/HOPES

Please give a brief account of your previous writing experience, together with an account of what you hope to gain from the course. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, ACCOMMODATION OR ACCESS NEEDS

AGE GROUP (PLEASE CIRCLE)

18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59
60-69	70-79	80+	

SIGNED

DATED

I CERTIFY THAT I AM AUTHORISED TO MAKE THIS BOOKING ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE

### EXTENDED STAY

Rooms for additional stay may be available, please enquire if you would like to stay beyond Friday 30th. The Festival programme continues until April 1st.

### HOW TO BOOK

For further information please contact **Susan Walker** on 07758 065283.

Or email: [creativewriting@oxfordliteraryfestival.com](mailto:creativewriting@oxfordliteraryfestival.com)

To confirm your booking, please fill in the attached booking form and return by post, enclosing a cheque for £1660 made out to 'The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival'.

Please return booking form and cheque to:  
**The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival**  
c/o 7 Threshers Yard, Kingham, Oxon, OX7 6YF

Inclusive charge per person: £1660 (includes all accommodation and full board. All rooms are en suite.)

### ONLINE BOOKING

Bookings can now be made online at [www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com](http://www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com)

[Visa and Mastercard accepted, booking and transaction fees may apply]

### CANCELLATION POLICY

If you cancel and we are able to fill your place on the course, you will be refunded the full fee. If we are unable to do so due to limited time before the course begins, the organisers reserve the right to retain your fee in full.

Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL), Cox & Kings, Blackwell and The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival (STOLF) directly or via their agents may mail, email, SMS or telephone you with future offers reflecting your preferences.

Tick if you do NOT want offers from:

- TNL       STOLF       Cox & Kings  
 Blackwells       or third parties