

## WOMEN IN SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Joanne Harris talks to Paul Blezard 605

Peaches for Monsieur Le Curé

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25



Photo: KT Bruce

Bestselling author of *Chocolat* Joanne Harris discusses the third part of her food trilogy, *Peaches for Monsieur Le Curé*, with author and broadcaster Paul Blezard. The novel sees Harris return to the characters she first wrote about in *Chocolat* – made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp – and in *The Lollipop Shoes*. Vianne returns to the French village of Lansquenet after eight years to find things much changed. A community of Moroccans has arisen and opposite the church there is a minaret.

Harris is author of 13 novels including *Blackberry Wine* and *Five Quarters of the Orange*. She recently published a volume of short stories, *A Cat, a Hat and a Piece of String*. Her books have been published in more than 40 countries and have won a number of British and international awards.

Harris is one of two writers in residence at this year's festival and will be staying in a Landmark Trust property.

THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

HSBC   
Premier

Alan Massie 607

Life & Letters

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11

Award-winning journalist, writer and novelist Alan Massie is well known to readers of the *Spectator* as writer of the literary column, *Life & Letters*. The first collection of the *Life & Letters* column is published in February 2013.

The collection reveals Massie's extraordinarily wide-ranging taste, knowledgeable opinion and elegant critique. He ranges from regretting the absence of Alfred Duggan's historical novels in bookshops, through contemplating if Dylan Thomas was dyslexic, to memories of his friendship with Simon Gray.

Massie has published nearly 30 books including non-fiction works, ranging from an account of Byron's travels to a celebration of Scottish rugby, and a series of novels set in ancient Rome. His second novel of a crime trilogy set in Vichy France featuring Superintendent Lannes, *Dark Summer in Bordeaux*, was published in summer 2012.

Alan Massie



Photo: Claudia Massie



Mark Rowlands

610

### Running with the Pack: On Meaning and Mortality

**10am / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £11**

Festival writer in residence Professor Mark Rowlands says most of the serious thinking he has done over the last 20 years has been done while running. The professional philosopher has run most of his life and says running and philosophy are inextricably linked. *Running with the Pack* tells of the most significant runs in his life, including an entire day running as a boy in Wales, and runs along French beaches, up Irish mountains with his wolf Brenin, and through Florida swamps with his dog Nina. Intertwined are the profound meditations on mortality, midlife and the meaning of life that those runs inspired.

Rowlands is professor of philosophy at the University of Miami and author of a dozen books including the bestselling *The Philosopher and the Wolf*. He is one of two writers in residence at this year's festival.

This event is held in association with The Landmark Trust, a building preservation charity established to rescue historic and architecturally interesting buildings and to let them as holiday homes. There are two properties in Oxford, the Old Parsonage in Iffley and the Steward's House in the Oxford Union.

Mark Rowlands



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**The Landmark Trust**

Lawrence Goldman, Susan Skedd, 625  
Sarah Williams and David Hey

### Researching Local And Family History

**10am / Corpus Christi / £11**

Four leading researchers of local and family history explain how they approach the subject from their different backgrounds and perspectives.

Sarah Williams launched the UK's biggest-selling genealogy title, *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine, in 2007. She was involved in the launch of *Living History* magazine and later became deputy editor of *BBC History* magazine. David Hey is emeritus professor of local and family history at the University of Sheffield. His numerous books include *The Oxford Companion to Family and Local History* and, with George Redmonds and Turi King, *Surnames, DNA and Family History*.

Dr Lawrence Goldman is editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and fellow and tutor in history at St Peter's College, Oxford, where he teaches modern British and American history. Dr Susan Skedd has worked as a Blue Plaques historian since 2003, during which time she carried out historical research into the public nominations for commemoration in London. She is currently writing a book about women's education in Britain during the period 1750 to 1850.

Corpus Christi  
College Oxford



Rupert Thomson  
talks to Ross King 627

## Secrecy

### 10am / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11

Acclaimed novelist Rupert Thomson talks about his new work, *Secrecy*. The novel is set in 17th-century Florence, a city blighted by corruption and austerity. It follows Zummo, a sculptor of figures that are so realistic they look like they might draw breath, and who is summoned to the Medici court and tasked with sculpting a life-size Venus from wax.

Thomson is the author of eight novels including *Death of a Murderer*, which was shortlisted for the 2008 Costa Novel Award. He has also published a memoir, *This Party's Got to Stop*.

Rupert Thomson



Photo: John Westby



Bodleian Libraries



Adam Roberts 635

## Can Science Fiction Turn into Science Fact

### 10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11

From H G Wells to Arthur C Clarke and the novelists of today, writers of science fiction have tried to imagine a future that is entirely plausible. But how good were the science fiction writers of the past at imagining the future, and what of today's science fiction writers, are their imaginings based on a realistic vision of the future, or are their works implausible? Science fiction writer, academic and critic Adam Roberts comes up with some answers.

Roberts has been nominated three times for the Arthur C. Clarke Award for science fiction. His books include, *Salt*, *Gradsil*, and the Tolkien parody *The Soddit*. Roberts's most recent novel is *Jack Glass* and he has just published a short story collection, *Adam Robots*. Roberts teaches at Royal Holloway, University of London.

This event is part of a series organised in partnership with the Folio Society.

Adam Roberts



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Corpus Christi  
College Oxford



The Folio Society

A Guided Coffee Tasting with  
the East India Company 633

The Story of Coffee

11am / Christ Church: Hall / £12



Coffee is one of the world's most widely consumed drinks, and its story has its roots in Ethiopia. As legend states, an Ethiopian goat herder by the name of Kaldi first discovered the potency of the coffee bean after observing his goats 'dancing' after chewing coffee cherries.

This session explores how coffee, first cultivated in the Arab world, spread around the globe. Discover where the word mocha comes from, explore the differences between coffee varieties from Asia, Africa, and the Americas and enjoy stories of the first British coffeehouses – including a famous one named Lloyds.

The event will also include tastings of several coffees and discussions on what influences their flavours.

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Javier Marias talks to  
Kevin Jackson 604

The Infatuations

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11

Impac award-winning Spanish novelist Javier Marias talks to *The Sunday Times* reviewer Kevin Jackson about his much-anticipated new novel. *The Infatuations* is a metaphysical murder mystery addressing questions of life, death, love and morality that has been acclaimed as a highly original literary achievement. It features Maria Dolz who stops at the same cafe every day for breakfast and enjoys watching the same handsome couple who follow the same routine. One day the couple are not there and Maria later comes across a newspaper photograph of the man lying stabbed in the street.

Marias is an internationally acclaimed author, frequently touted for the Nobel Prize, who has published ten novels including *A Heart So White*, winner of the prestigious Dublin IMPAC award. He has translated many English authors into Spanish, including Joseph Conrad, and has taught in the United States and Britain including as a Spanish lecturer in Oxford.

Javier Marias



Photo: El País 2006



Bodleian Libraries

Ruth Rendell talks to  
Peter Kemp

608

## The Child's Child by Barbara Vine

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25

Multi-award-winning crime and murder mystery writer Ruth Rendell talks to *The Sunday Times* chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp about *The Child's Child*, a new crime novel written under her pen name of Barbara Vine. It is an examination of betrayal in families and of the once unmentionable subjects of illegitimacy and homosexuality. Rendell has published 14 novels under the Vine name and



*The Child's Child* is the first one since *The Birthday Present* in 2008. *Fatal Inversion* and *King Solomon's Carpet* both won the prestigious Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award.

Baroness Rendell of Babergh's most famous creation is Chief Inspector Wexford. The latest book in the Wexford series, *The Vault*, was published in 2011. Along with P D James, she is often credited with raising the crime genre from a 'whodunit' to a 'whydunit' because of the exploration of themes such as chance, coincidence, psychology and the humanity of criminals involved. Many of her works have been adapted for television and film.

*Sponsored by MacDonald Randolph Hotel*



Paul Murdin

613

## Are We Being Watched? Search for Life in Cosmos

12 noon / Corpus Christi / £11

Leading astronomer professor Paul Murdin assesses whether life really could exist outside our planet. If it does, what form might it take, and could it be as advanced as life on Earth? Or, are we simply alone in the universe? He approaches his subject in an accessible way, assuming no scientific knowledge on the part of the reader.

Murdin is former president of the European Astronomical Society. He has been director of the British National Space Centre and is a fellow of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University and visiting professor at Liverpool John Moores University. His works include *Catalogue of the Universe* and *Secrets of the Universe*.

Paul Murdin



*Presented by the  
Centre for Inquiry.*



Jason Lewis

614

### The Expedition: First Human-powered Navigation of Earth

**12 noon / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £11**

Jason Lewis became the first person to circumnavigate the earth using human power alone. Here he tells the story of the epic journey that lasted 13 years, two months and 24 days. He tells how he survived a crocodile attack off Australia, blood poisoning in the middle of the Pacific, malaria in Indonesia and Asia, mountain sickness in the Himalayas, and arrest for espionage on the Sudan-Egypt border. Lewis walked, cycled, swam, kayaked and rowed his way around the world. Along the way, he uses the journey to draw attention to our shared responsibility for the planet and to raise thousands of dollars for orphaned children. Lewis is a contributor to many travel books and magazines.

Jason Lewis



Richard Davenport-Hines

623

### An English Affair: Sex Class and Power in the Age of Profumo

**12 noon / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11**

Acclaimed biographer Richard Davenport-Hines lifts the lid on the seedy world of 1960s London on the 50th anniversary of the Profumo scandal. Davenport-Hines introduces us to the key characters in the scandal, society doctor Stephen Ward, good-time girls Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies, and the Secretary for War John Profumo. And he also uncovers for the first time the role played by tabloid hacks, hangers-on and property developers. Above all, it is the story of a nation on the verge of profound social change and about to cast off its veneer of respectability.

Davenport-Hines won the Wolfson Prize for his first book *Dudley Docker*. He has written biographies of W H Auden and Marcel Proust.

Richard Davenport-Hines



Photo: Christopher Phillips

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Dieter Helm talks to  
Anthony White 624

## The Carbon Crunch: How We're Getting Climate Change Wrong

**12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11**

Economist Professor Dieter Helm talks to energy consultant Dr Anthony White about the 'carbon crunch'. Helm is author of *The Carbon Crunch: How We're Getting Climate Change Wrong – and How to Fix it*, which argues for a pragmatic rethinking of energy policy. He looks at the transition from coal to gas, the electrification of transport, carbon pricing and new technologies.

Helm is a professor at the University of Oxford and holds a number of advisory board appointments including as independent chair of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs National Capital Committee. He assisted the European Union in preparing its Energy Roadmap 2050. White has worked in the utilities and finance sectors for more than 30 years.

Dieter Helm



Klaus Dodds 630

## The Antarctic: A Very Short Introduction

**1.15pm / Blackwell Bookshop / Free**

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell Bookshop, Broad Street.

Professor of geopolitics at Royal Holloway, University of London, Klaus Dodds gives a modern account of Antarctica, looking at how the continent has been explored and represented, and at the main issues it faces.

Klaus Dodds



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V S I



Patricia Fara

603

### Erasmus Darwin: Sex, Science and Serendipity

**2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11**

Patricia Fara sets out to discover why an innocuous, 18th-century Midlands physician called Dr Erasmus Darwin provoked a fierce intellectual and political reaction to his writings on sex and science. She uncovers a man whom Coleridge regarded as having 'perhaps a greater range of knowledge than any other man in Europe'. Erasmus Darwin's ideas influenced his grandson, Charles, were banned by the Vatican and scandalised his critics. Today, he appears a champion of the abolition of slavery, of the education of women and of the ideals of the French Revolution.

Fara teaches history of science at the University of Cambridge and specialises in Enlightenment England. She has written many works including *Science: A Four Thousand Year History*, which won the Dingle prize of the British Society for the History of Science.

Patricia Fara



Michael Phillips

609

### William Blake and The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

**2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11**

Leading Blake scholar Michael Phillips introduces his new edition of the poet's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. Phillips throws light on the importance of Blake's seminal work and shows how it evolved over time. The new edition includes a complete facsimile of the copy of the original work held by the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Drawings from Blake's notebook and working proof impressions are also reproduced to show how the work evolved. *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* was produced with a revolutionary new technique, illuminated printing. A plate from each of the eight other surviving copies of the original work is reproduced to show how Blake altered the way each copy was finished over a period of 30 years.

Phillips is honorary fellow of the Centre for 18th-Century Studies at the University of York. He has published extensively on Blake.

Michael Phillips




Bodleian Libraries

Frances Harrison and Roma Tearne. 615  
Chaired by David Freeman.

Still Counting the Dead:  
Survivors of Sri Lanka's Hidden War

## 2pm / Corpus Christi / £11

Journalist Frances Harrison and Sri Lanka-born artist and novelist Roma Tearne discuss the horrors of conflict in Sri Lanka. Harrison worked in Asia for many years as a foreign correspondent for the BBC, including four years in Sri Lanka, and has also worked as head of news for Amnesty International. Her book, *Still Counting the Dead*, describes how Sri Lanka became a hell for the Tamil minority as decades of civil war reached a climax in 2009 and recounts many of the war crimes to a wider world for the first time.

Tearne arrived in the UK at the age of ten and trained as a painter. She later turned to writing and her first novel, *Mosquito*, was shortlisted for the Costa First Book Award. Like many of her subsequent works, it is set partly in war-torn Sri Lanka with its backdrop of violence. Her most recent novel is *Road to Urbino*, a story of two different men and their love for the women in their lives set against the backdrop of the long-running Sri Lankan conflict.

Discussions are chaired by journalist and broadcaster David Freeman.

Frances Harrison



Roma Tearne



Pauline Stainer talks to Jem Poster 616

Conversations with Poets

## 2pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £8

Since the publication of her first collection in 1989, Pauline Stainer has built up what Frances Levison, writing in the *Guardian*, has described as 'a unique and extraordinary body of work'. This event will foreground her eagerly awaited new collection, *Tiger Facing the Mist*. Stainer talks to Professor Jem Poster, a poet and novelist, academic director of the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival, and former professor and chair of creative writing at Aberystwyth University.

Pauline Stainer



Jem Poster



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Jane Ridley

619

**Bertie: A Life of Edward VII****2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11**

Biographer Jane Ridley looks at the man who gave his name to the Edwardian age, although he was only king for nine years. The eldest son of Victoria and Albert was 59 when he eventually acceded to the throne in 1901. Ridley uncovers a stormy mother-son relationship and a playboy prince denied any responsibilities. Despite all this, Ridley shows how Edward was an instinctive diplomat who did a good job as king, reinventing the monarchy for the 20th century.

Ridley, great-granddaughter of *Edwin Lutyens*, is author of *Edwin Lutyens*, winner of the Duff Cooper prize, and of an acclaimed biography *The Young Disraeli*.

Jane Ridley



Sponsored by



Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, Clare Mulley and Chris Morgan Jones.  
Chaired by Mark Huband

629

**The Spying Game: Reality and Fiction****2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £11**

Chris Morgan Jones

Clare Mulley

Four writers approach the spying game from different angles, the academic expert, the biographer, the novelist and the journalist. But what is the reality? Is it like the television worlds of *Spooks* and *Homeland*, the film world of *James Bond*, or do we learn more from the writings of those such as Stella Rimington who have recently worked in this shadowy world?

Professor Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones is an authority on American intelligence history and has written extensively on the CIA and FBI. His latest book, *In Spies We Trust: The Story of Western Intelligence*, tells the full story of the Anglo-American intelligence relationship. Biographer Clare Mulley's *The Spy Who Loved* is the story of Christine Glanville, one of World War II's most daring spies. Novelist Chris Morgan Jones worked for Kroll, the world's largest investigations company, for ten years. His acclaimed debut novel, *An Agent of Deceit*, draws on all his experience and knowledge, in particular of Russian affairs.

The panel is chaired by former *Financial Times* security correspondent Mark Huband whose new book, *Trading Secrets*, uncovers some extraordinary tales of espionage from recent decades.

THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

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Liaison is proud to be a partner of The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival 2013.

We hope you enjoy this unique opportunity to listen to and meet some of the nation's most celebrated authors.

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A Guided Chocolate Tasting with The East India Company 632

Beans of Paradise

2pm / Christ Church: Hall / £12



The cocoa bean is classified as cacao theobroma, which literally translates as 'food of the gods'.

Chocolate-lovers are invited to join The East India Company on this tasting journey through luxurious chocolates and delicious flavours. Explore the flavour profiles of one of the world's most-loved indulgences, and discover how its unique taste complexities are created.

The event is designed as a journey of chocolate discovery, allowing people to enjoy rich and unique samples while learning a bit more about this delectable treat.

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Clare Morgan and Susan Sellers 606

The Ruffian in the Market Place: What Do We Read Fiction For?

4pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11

What would happen if Emma did not get her Knightley? Or Elizabeth her Darcy? Will readers read novels where what Howard Jacobson refers to as 'the bone of redemption to chew on' is less than evident? Dr Clare Morgan, director of Oxford University's master of studies in creative writing and author of *A Book for All and None*, is joined by Professor Susan Sellers, professor of English at St Andrew's University and author of *Vanessa and Virginia*, to discuss the difficulty of offering a tough, non-redemptive novel in the contemporary market place, and the pressure on writers to produce certain kinds of endings.

Drawing on literary predecessors as varied as Jane Austen, Henry Miller, Marcel Proust, Virginia Woolf, Charles Dickens, Franz Kafka and P. D. James, Morgan and Sellers will share with the audience the challenges, the solutions, and the excitements of writing such fiction, in relation to their own published and forthcoming work.

Clare Morgan



Susan Sellers



Bodleian Libraries

Christopher French

612

**Weird Science: An Introduction to Anomalistic Psychology****4pm / Corpus Christi / £11**

Professor Christopher French explains how anomalistic psychology attempts to provide psychological explanations for reports of paranormal phenomena that have been made throughout history. He will illustrate his talk with examples relating to a range of ostensibly paranormal phenomena. French is head of the Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London. He frequently appears on radio and television, casting a sceptical eye over paranormal claims. He writes for the Guardian and *The Skeptic* magazine. His most recent books are *Why Statues Weep: The Best of The Skeptic* and *Anomalistic Psychology*.

Christopher French



Presented by the  
Centre for Inquiry.

Corpus Christi  
College Oxford

Richard O Smith and  
Nicholas Chrimes

617

**Oxbridge Leisure and Eccentricity****4pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £11**

Back in 1209 some scholars fled from Oxford to settle in Cambridge. Despite the historic rivalry between the two universities since then, there's one thing they have in common: how to fill their leisure time and, when their choices meet with official disapproval, how the universities mete out the punishment.

Sharing anecdotes of this scholarly misbehavior are two writers, Cambridge guide Nicholas Chrimes, author of *Cambridge – Treasure Island in the Fens*, and Richard O Smith, writer on Radio 4's *The Now Show* and author of *Oxford Student Pranks*.

Nicholas Chrimes



Richard O Smith



Paula Byrne

621

## The Real Jane Austen

**4pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11**

Bestselling biographer Dr Paula Byrne overturns the traditional portrait of Jane Austen as conventional and genteel. She explores the forces that made Austen, including her father's faith, her mother's aristocratic pedigree, her brothers' military experiences and her struggles to become a writer. Austen emerges as a much tougher, more socially and politically aware, and more modern woman than is often thought.

Byrne is a research fellow in English literature at University of Liverpool. She has written a number of acclaimed works including *Jane Austen and the Theatre*; *Perdita: The Life of Mary Robinson*; and *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*.

Paula Byrne



Peter Hennessy

622

## Distilling the Frenzy

**4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11**

One of Britain's leading contemporary historians, Lord Peter Hennessy talks about the grand themes running through the 20th and 21st centuries. Hennessy's *Distilling the Frenzy* looks at the main trends of the post-war era, including Britain's impulse to punch above its weight, the desire for nuclear weapons, the contrasting styles and achievements of prime ministers from Attlee to Cameron, and the success and failure of constitutional reform. Hennessy uses his own experiences to tell the story through his own eyes, lending added poignancy to the large historical themes.

Peter Hennessy, Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, is Attlee Professor of Contemporary History at Queen Mary, University of London. He is author of many bestselling works, including *Whitehall*; *Never Again: Britain 1945-51*; *Having it so Good*; *The Secret State*; and *The Prime Minister*.

Peter Hennessy



Bodleian Libraries

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Paddy Ashdown and  
Eugene Rogan

626

Universal Values: Are They a Basis for  
World Order?

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25

Is there a set of universal values common to all humanity? If so, what are they? And can they be a basis on which to construct a new world order and lasting peace?



These questions will be debated by the former leader of the Liberal Democrats and former High Representative of the International Community and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lord Ashdown, and by leading academic and writer on the Middle East, Dr Eugene Rogan.

Ashdown believes that there are universal values and aspirations that we share with other communities across the world and that these common interests will help us to provide governance in a world that is globalising rapidly and in which power is shifting away from the Atlantic and towards a multi-polar world. Ashdown's roles as a diplomat and as a peace broker in the Balkans give him a unique insight into bringing communities together.

Rogan asks if universal values are a common denominator around the world, arguing there are culture-specific values that people are willing to fight and die for. He cites events such as recent violence in the Muslim world against parodies of the Prophet Muhammed. These values change over time in countries and are different between countries. And he warns of the danger of the West dressing up our values as universal and of imposing them on other countries.

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THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

A Guided Tea-Tasting with  
The East India Company

632

The Finest Teas with the Tea Master

4pm / Christ Church: Hall / £12



Join The East India Company on a tea-tasting experience through India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, and beyond, and explore the finest teas.

Journey back to where it all began, when China had the world's monopoly on tea, and see how this beverage has travelled through the centuries to become one of Britain's most famous traditions. Learn the difference between a white, green and black tea, learn the best way to brew a truly bewitching cup, discover some of the rarest teas in the world, and taste an Earl Grey like no other.

Led by The East India Company tea master, Lalith Lenadora, this guided tasting session is sure to delight and surprise.



Lalith Lenadora

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EAST INDIA COMPANY  
LONDON

Lynda Mugglestone

631

Dictionaries:  
A Very Short Introduction

**5.15pm / Blackwell Bookshop / Free**

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell Bookshop, Broad Street.

Professor of the history of English at Oxford University Lynda Mugglestone explains why dictionaries are more than a simple list of words; they are human products and reflect the dominant social and cultural assumptions of the time in which they were written.

Lynda Mugglestone



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V S I

Paddy Ashdown

601

A Brilliant Little Operation: The  
Cockleshell Heroes and the Greatest  
Raid of WWII

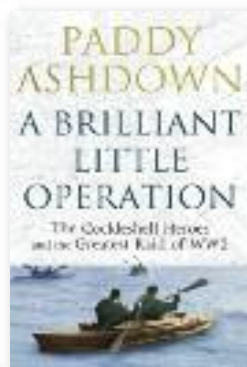
**6pm / Corpus Christi College / £11**

Paddy Ashdown rose to fame as an MP and popular leader of the Liberal Democrat party. Before that, however, he was a member of the Royal Marines' elite Special Boat Service (SBS). Here he tells the story of Operation Frankton, the remarkable canoe raid on German ships in Bordeaux Harbour in 1942 that was the catalyst for the formation of the SBS. The daring mission, led by 'Blondie' Hasler, was to paddle 'Cockleshell' canoes 100 miles up the Gironde River and into the harbour to sink the German ships at anchor. Only two men made it back alive.

Lord Ashdown has always been fascinated by Operation Frankton and recalls meeting Hasler once as a boy. He has researched unseen archives to write the definitive story of the raid, uncovering Whitehall rivalry and breakdowns in communication that made the success of the raid even more remarkable. Ashdown has also fronted a BBC TV documentary on the Cockleshell raid.

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**Blake  
Lapthorn**



Sara Wheeler

611

### O My America! Second Acts in a New World

6pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £11

Writer, traveller and broadcaster Sara Wheeler follows the trail of six middle-aged

women who travelled from Britain to make their names in America in the early nineteenth century. They are Fanny Trollope, mother of Anthony and author of the cutting *Domestic Manners of the Americans*; actress Fanny

Kemble, who made a passionate indictment of slavery; pamphleteering economist Harriet Martineau; homesteader Rebecca Burlend; traveller Isabella Bird; and Jane Austen's niece, novelist Catherine Hubback, who left her husband in a madhouse and travelled to San Francisco. All of them were outsiders whose true qualities came to the fore in the emerging new world.

Wheeler studied classics and modern languages at Oxford before embarking on polar explorations. She is author of seven books including *The Magnetic North* and *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica*.

Sara Wheeler



Christopher Phipps

Caspar Henderson

618

### The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st-century Bestiary

6pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11

Journalist and writer Caspar Henderson introduces a world of 'barely imagined beings' – real creatures that are often stranger than anything that appears in the pages of a medieval bestiary. Henderson takes his examples from all corners of the Earth, from the depths of the ocean to arid deserts, and captures the beauty and bizarreness of living forms. Henderson has worked for the *Financial Times*, the *Independent*, and the *New Scientist*. He received the Roger Deakin Award from the Society of Authors in 2009, and the Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Award in 2010.

Caspar Henderson



Diarmaid MacCulloch, 620  
Ruth Rendell and Deborah Cohen  
Chaired by Alastair Niven

Shame: A Force for Good or Bad?

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25



Diarmaid MacCulloch Ruth Rendell

Three leading writers reflect on the emotion of shame. Is it a moral compass, a force for good that gives us that wince in the stomach that sends us on the right path, or is it an outdated emotion? What about politicians, bankers and newspaper owners? They appear to feel no shame? Does shame still have the power to wreck lives as it did in the sixties when many families felt so much guilt over unmarried pregnancies they were prepared to give up a child?

Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch is a broadcaster, writer and historian well known for his 2009 BBC TV series and book, *A History of Christianity*. His latest work, *Silence in Christian History*, looks at silence throughout Christianity, including prayer, mystical contemplation, shame, evasion and careless and purposeful forgetting. Ruth Rendell is one of our best-known crime writers. Her most recent work, under the pen name of Barbara Vine, *The Child's Child*, is an examination of betrayal in families and of the once unmentionable subjects of illegitimacy and homosexuality.

Professor Deborah Cohen is Ritzma Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History at Northwestern University. Her most recent work is *Family Secrets: Living with Shame from the Victorians to the Present Day*, which explores how the relationship between secrecy and openness has changed over the years.

Discussions are chaired by Dr Alastair Niven, principal of Cumberland Lodge and former director of literature at the British Council.

THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

Tracy Chevalier talks to 602  
Peter Kemp

The Last Runaway

6.00pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11

International bestselling author Tracy Chevalier talks about her new novel, *The Last Runaway*, published on the eve of the festival. It follows Quaker Honor Bright, who sets sail from Bristol with her sister for the forests and cornfields of 1850s Ohio. There, in the last days of slavery, she faces a dilemma. Should she hide the runaways hunted by ruthless men? And does the Quaker community opposed to slavery have the courage to help her defy the law?

US-born Chevalier has lived in London since 1984. She has written six previous novels, including *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which sold four million copies worldwide and was made into a film starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johansson. Her works are known for their rich evocation of the past. Here she talks to Sunday Times chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp.



Tracy Chevalier

Photo: Eamonn McCabe



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE LECTURE

Barry Miles and Anthony Wall  
talk to Graham Benson

628

The Beats

8pm / Corpus Christi / £12



"What the American flag means to me: I said 'Soak it in heroin, Doc, & I'll suck it!'" is an observation typical to the work of William Burroughs. The Beats – Kerouac, Burroughs, Ginsberg and the rest – were more than a literary movement, they were a challenge, a challenge to established mores of politics, sexuality, authenticity and style.

They had more in common with jazz, new art and cinema and rock 'n' roll than they did with the literary establishment. The Beats were a determining influence on the young Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and the other denizens of rock. They have continued to exercise a fascination on the young ever since.

Author Barry Miles and broadcaster Anthony Wall, in conversation with the festival's deputy chairman and film, television and theatre consultant Graham Benson, will re-examine the legacy of the Beats and recall their encounters with some of the key players. Miles has written extensively on the subject, including biographies of Burroughs, Ginsberg and Kerouac, has collaborated with them and was a close friend of Burroughs and Ginsberg in particular.

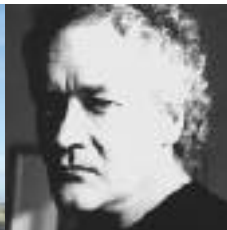
Wall has been editor of the BBC's multi-award winning strand *Arena* for nearly 30 years. *Arena* has made many films about or featuring the Beats. The session will be illustrated by classic moments of film from the incomparably rich *Arena* archive, featuring all the leading Beat players and, uniquely, Kerouac's idol, the great jazz eccentric Slim Gaillard.

Members of the audience will be welcomed on stage to read their own favourite pieces of Beat writing.

This event lasts 90 minutes.



Barry Miles



Anthony Wall



Graham Benson

"I saw the best minds of  
my generation destroyed  
by madness, starving  
hysterical naked,  
dragging themselves  
through the negro  
streets at dawn looking  
for an angry fix;  
Angel-headed hipsters  
burning for the ancient  
heavenly connection  
to the starry dynamo in  
the machinery of night."

The opening lines of  
Alan Ginsberg's 'Howl'



*Arena*

Corpus Christi  
College Festival

1923  
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The Festival Photographers



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