

Julia Donaldson

814

Stories and Songs with the  
Children's Laureate

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15



Join 2012 Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson and friends to act out stories and sing songs from some of her much-loved books. Donaldson is the award-winning author of some of our best-loved children's picture books, including *The Gruffalo*. *The Gruffalo*, illustrated by Axel Scheffler, is regarded as a children's classic. It has sold three million copies worldwide, was voted the country's favourite bedtime story on Radio 2 and was adapted into an animated film shown on BBC1 on Christmas Day 2009. Donaldson works with many different illustrators. Her most recent book *The Paper Dolls* is illustrated by Rebecca Cobb. Her most recent books with Scheffler are *Superworm*, *Highway Rat*, *Tabby McTat*, *Stick Man*, and *Tiddler*.

HSBC   
Premier

THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

Namita Gokhale and Anil Menon. 819  
Chaired by Emma Dawson Varughese

Reading New India

10am / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11



Two Indian novelists, Namita Gokhale and Anil Menon, discuss and explore contemporary Indian writing in English. They look at how 'new' India has been recreated and defined in an English language literature that is now reaching a global audience, and at how Indian fiction has moved beyond notions of 'postcolonial' writing to reflect increasingly confident and diverse cultures, innovative voices and creative forms.

Gokhale has written six novels, short stories and several works of non-fiction. Her first novel, *Para: Dreams of Passion*, was a satire on the Mumbai and Delhi elite and caused uproar because of its candid sexual humour. She is a founder-director of Jaipur Literature Festival. Menon is a leading Indian writer of 'speculative fiction'. His debut young adult novel, *The Beast with Nine Billion Feet*, was shortlisted for the 2010 Vodafone Cross Word Book Award.

The discussion is chaired by Dr Emma Dawson Varughese, author of *Reading New India: Post-millennial Indian fiction in English* and *Beyond The Postcolonial: World Englishes Literature*, a comparative study of new English fiction from around the world.

Anil Menon



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Bee Wilson

822

### Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat

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

Food writer and historian Bee Wilson explores how kitchen implements have shaped the way we cook and prepare food. Blending history, science and anthropology, Wilson gives a witty account of how some of our everyday kitchen items have evolved. She explains how the knife predates the discovery of fire, how the fork was subject to centuries of ridicule before gaining acceptance, and how other implements, such as the water-powered egg whisk and magnet-operated spit roaster, have fallen by the wayside.

Wilson's previous books include *Swindled: The Dark History of Food Fraud, from Poisoned Candy to Counterfeit Coffee*. She has been named Guild of Food Writers' Food Journalist of the Year three times. She writes a weekly food column for the *Sunday Telegraph's Stella* magazine and is a regular book reviewer for *The Sunday Times*.

Bee Wilson



Photo: Jay Williams

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THE MANOR

AT WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

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Eoin Colfer

826

### W.A.R.P.: The Reluctant Assassin

**10am / Corpus Christi / £6**

Join Eoin Colfer, the hysterically funny and utterly brilliant author of the internationally bestselling *Artemis Fowl* series, as he comes to the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival to launch his brand new series *W.A.R.P.: The Reluctant Assassin*. Eoin will introduce you to his fantastic new villain, Riley aka The Reluctant Assassin, a Victorian boy who is suddenly plucked from his own time into the 21st century, accused of murder and on the run. Get ready for an explosive new adventure, Colfer's trademark wit and a villain to die for!

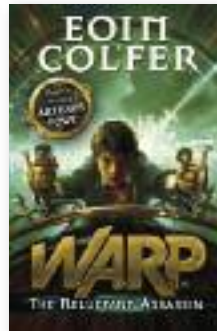
Eoin Colfer



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College Oxford



Meg Rosoff

827

## Voice: How to Figure Out What You Should Be Writing About

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11

Award-winning novelist Meg Rosoff talks about 'voice' in writing at the invitation of students on Oxford Brookes University's MA in creative writing. Students will talk to Rosoff about how to find a 'voice' for their writing, and how it applies to other things such as work, parenting and relationships. Rosoff stresses the importance of a connection with the subconscious and will discuss how you figure out what you should be writing about. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Rosoff was born in Boston, USA, and moved permanently to the UK in 1989. After spells in publishing, journalism, advertising and politics, she released her first novel, *How I Live Now*, winner of the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize and due to be released as a feature film in 2013. *Just in Case* won the 2007 Carnegie Medal, and her sixth novel, *Picture Me Gone*, is due out in March.

Meg Rosoff



Presented by

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BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY

Marie de Hennezel

830

## The Warmth of the Heart Prevents Your Body from Rusting

10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11

Bestselling psychologist Marie de Hennezel says ageing does not have to condemn us to solitude, suffering, degradation or dependency. In *The Warmth of the Heart Prevents Your Body From Rusting: Ageing Without Growing Old*, de Hennezel uses her years of experience as a clinical psychologist to provide an inspirational guide to the art of growing old. She says that by maintaining joy and warmth in our hearts, we can transform the way we see the world.

The book was a bestseller in de Hennezel's native France, where she is a household name. She is known as the therapist who helped the late French President Francois Mitterand through the later stages of his cancer, and has advised French health ministers. De Hennezel is also author of *Intimate Death: How the Dying Teach Us How to Live*.

Marie de Hennezel



In association with Oxfordshire Age UK.

Oxfordshire  
age UK

Bodleian Libraries

Alastair Lack

**SOLD OUT**

802

**Inspector Morse with Alastair Lack****11am / Balliol College Lodge / £25**

Mention Oxford and dreaming spires, and colleges and quadrangles come to mind – plus, of course, Inspector Morse. The television series featuring John Thaw was based on the novels of Oxford writer Colin Dexter and remain immensely popular worldwide. Morse and Sergeant Lewis encounter heads of houses, dons, murderers and criminals in the course of their detective work – pausing only for a pint or two in a favourite pub. This walk visits the scenes of some of the best-known cases of Inspector Morse. This walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

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Christopher Lloyd

837

**What on Earth? – History of the World from Big Bang to Present Day****12 noon / Christ Church: JCR / £6      Ages 6+**

Join Christopher Lloyd on the ultimate cross-curricular journey that connects the dots of the past across 20 key moments in the history of planet, life and people. Using a series of everyday objects, picked from his coat of many pockets by the audience, Christopher connects 13.7 billion years into a single sweeping narrative using a giant edition of his *What on Earth? Wallbook* as a backdrop.

Topics covered include cosmology, planet formation, photosynthesis, cambrian explosion, dinosaurs, mass extinctions, mammal diversification, human origins, discovery of fire, dawn of agriculture, birth of wiring, ancient civilisations, pre-columbian americas, Islamic conquests, European expansion, industrial revolution, climate change, and population growth.

Christopher will be around from 10 am with family quizzes and activities.



Anna Dallapiccola

804

**Indian Love Poetry****12 noon / Christ Church: Festival Room 1 / £11**

Indian poetry celebrates love in its many forms – the mystic love for the divine, the passionate love of couples, and the love between friends and family. Professor Anna Dallapiccola celebrates this love in *Indian Love Poetry*. This popular work has been reissued by the British Museum Press in a new illustrated format. It features the best of traditional Indian romantic poetry, biographical notes on the poets and some of the finest examples of Indian art from the British Museum collection.

Dallapiccola is honorary professor at the University of Edinburgh and regularly makes research visits to India. She is also author of *South Indian Paintings*, *Hindu Visions of the Sacred* and *Hindu Myths*.

Anna  
Dallapiccola

Julia Golding

808

## Young Knights of the Round Table

**12 noon / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £6  
Age 9+**

Waterstones and Nestle Children's Book Prize winner Julia Golding is well-known for her compelling and thrilling fantasy novels. Join her for a whistle-stop tour of her fantastical worlds, including Oxford as you have never seen it before. Expect an interactive extravaganza and a chance to join the Round Table and find out which knight you would be.

*Young Knights of the Round Table* is a modern twist on the Arthurian legend set partly in Oxford and is likely to appeal to fans of the BBC's *Merlin* series. Golding has written more than 30 novels for children and young adults in genres ranging from historical adventure to fantasy.

Julia Golding



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Robert Macfarlane talks to  
Andrew Holgate

807

## The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot

**12 noon / Corpus Christi / £11**

Award-winning writer Robert Macfarlane talks to *The Sunday Times* literary editor Andrew Holgate about the paths he trod in *The Old Ways* and how they led him to discover unexpected new things. Macfarlane merges natural history, cartography, geology, archaeology and literature as he follows the ancient tracks, holloways, drove roads and sea paths that criss-cross Britain. He explores the ghosts that haunt ancient paths and stories of pilgrimage, ritual, people and place.

Macfarlane won the Guardian First Book Award, the Somerset Maugham Award and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award for his first book, *Mountains of the Mind*. Of *The Old Ways*, *The Sunday Times* said Macfarlane laid 'an irresistible trail for readers to follow'.

Robert Macfarlane



Photo: Angus Muir

In partnership with  
*The University of Oxford Alumni Office*



Diarmaid MacCulloch

813

## Silence in Christian History

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25



Broadcaster, writer and historian Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch introduces his latest work *Silence in Christian History*. MacCulloch, well known for his 2009 BBC TV series and book *A History of Christianity*, looks at silence throughout Christianity, including prayer, mystical contemplation, shame, evasion and careless and purposeful forgetting. He describes the early Church's attitude to the competing claims of silence and noise, shows how monasticism came to dominate Christian worship, and looks at the sudden eruption of noise in the Protestant reformation.

MacCulloch is professor of the history of the Church at the University of Oxford. His books include *Thomas Cranmer*, winner of the Whitbread Biography Award, the James Tait Black prize and the Duff Cooper Prize. *A History of Christianity* won the Cundill Prize, the world's largest history prize. His most recent television series, *How God Made the English*, was broadcast in March 2012.

*In partnership with  
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THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

John Carey, D J Taylor  
and Richard Bradford

815

The Glamour Decade? Amis, Larkin  
and other 1950s' writers

12 noon / Bodleian, Divinity School / £11

Most would describe the 1950s as anything but 'glamorous'. The economy was still carrying the burden of wartime expenditure and rationing did not end until 1954. Few people owned houses or cars, the sober paternalism of the BBC was not challenged by independent television until 1955, at least for the 7% of homes with a set, and, in Larkin's opinion, sexual intercourse did not begin until 1963. 'Dreary' seems a more appropriate term. But the generation of writers who rose to prominence during these years lit the gloom with a spark of mischief, producing novels that appeared to endorse bad behaviour and poems that spoke directly, often shockingly, of the lives their readers' lived.

The panel includes literary critic Professor John Carey, novelist and biographer D J Taylor, and Amis biographer Richard Bradford, and will discuss the work, lives and influence of the men and women who contributed to the 'glamour decade'.

Questions and contributions from the audience are welcome.

D J Taylor



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Bodleian Libraries

Sherard Cowper-Coles

817

### Ever the Diplomat

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

Former ambassador Sherard Cowper-Coles lifts the lid on embassy life around the world. Cowper-Coles's distinguished career took him from the corridors of Whitehall – where he wrote speeches for Margaret Thatcher and Geoffrey Howe – to Beirut, Alexandria, Cairo, Washington, Paris and Hong Kong. It was followed by a spell as principal private secretary to Robin Cook under New Labour and a succession of ambassadorial posts that culminated in a posting to Afghanistan. Cowper-Coles provides a fascinating and witty insight into the life of a diplomat.

This event is part of the festival's leadership strand.

Sherard Cowper-Coles



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**HSBC**   
**Premier**



Leonie Frieda

823

### The Deadly Sisterhood: The Women Who Ruled Renaissance Italy

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

Historian and biographer Leonie Frieda tells the stories of eight remarkable women who all experienced great riches and power during the Italian Renaissance. They include Lucrezia Turnabuoni, Queen Mother of Florence, the power behind the Medici throne; Beatrice d'Este, the Golden Girl of the Renaissance; Isabella d'Aragona, the Weeping Duchess; and Lucrezia Borgia, the Virtuous Fury. While they all knew great fortune, they also experienced banishment, poverty, and the loss of husbands and children.

Frieda is also author of a biography of Catherine de Medici that was a bestseller on both sides of the Atlantic and was translated into six languages.

Leonie Frieda



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Ashley Jackson

828

### The British Empire: 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 imperial and military history at King's College, London. Ashley Jackson defines the British Empire, explains what caused it to expand and contract, and examines its impact and legacy.

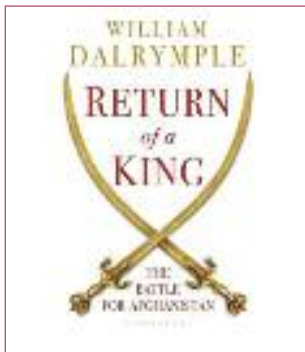
Ashley Jackson



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V S I



William Dalrymple

805

### The Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £11-£25



Bestselling historian William Dalrymple uses previously undiscovered Afghan sources to tell the full story of Britain's disastrous incursion into Afghanistan in the early Victorian era. Dalrymple follows the British forces as they invade Afghanistan in 1839 and re-establish Shah Shuia ul-Mulk on the throne. The British faced little opposition to the invasion but, two years later, the Afghans rose in answer to the call for jihad and ultimately consigned the British to their most humiliating military defeat of the 19th century.

Dalrymple is a multi-award-winning historian and travel writer famed for the narrative skill he has brought to his bestselling works, including *In Xanadu*; *City of Djinns*; *From the Holy Mountains*; *The Age of Kali*; *White Mughals*; *The Last Mughal*; and *Nine Lives*. He is also a frequent broadcaster and wrote and presented Channel Four's *Stones of the Raj* and *Sufi Soul*, and the BBC's *Indian Journeys*. Dalrymple lives on a farm outside Delhi and is a founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literary Festival.

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THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

Mark Rowlands

810

## Philosopher and the Wolf: Lessons from Wild on Love, Death and Happiness

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

Festival writer in residence Professor Mark Rowlands tells what he learned after answering an ad in his local newspaper 'wolf cubs for sale' and becoming the owner of a wolf. The bestselling story is about the wolf called Brenin and how it came to be Rowlands' best friend and greatest teacher during their 11-year relationship. Rowlands takes what he learned from Brenin and uses it to examine the fundamental questions of human existence.

Rowlands is professor of philosophy at the University of Miami, author of a dozen books including *Running With The Pack*, and a founding fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. He is one of two writers in residence at this year's festival and features at a second event about *Running With The Pack*.

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

Roy Strong talks to Brian Sewell 811

## Self-portrait as a Young Man

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11



Art historian, writer and broadcaster Sir Roy Strong has enjoyed half a century as one of the leading figures in Britain's art world. The former director of the National Portrait Gallery and Victoria and Albert Museum talks to art critic Brian Sewell about his early years before he rose to fame, which he describes in his new book, *Self-Portrait as a Young Man*. Strong tells of his social origins in suburban North London, his grammar school and university education, and of the development of his lifelong passion for the culture and history of England.

The world he describes is one dominated by hierarchy and class up which the new 'meritocrats' like himself and Alan Bennett began to climb. It is also a time of big change as the drab London of the 1950s turns into the swinging sixties.



Bodleian Libraries

## Science and the Future

806

## Death – Nothing More Certain?

2pm / Corpus Christi / £25  
 (£40 including 807 Death or Glory, save £5)

Chaired by Georgina Ferry, science writer and author

### 2pm – 2.10pm Introduction

From Neolithic burials to Mozart's *Requiem* and the novels of Martin Amis, humans have fashioned cultural responses to the inevitability of each individual's demise. But what does science have to say about death? In a stimulating afternoon of panel discussions, scientists and writers debate the impact of future advances in science and technology on our understanding of the end.

### 2.10 – 3.20pm Facing death

What are the living mechanisms that break down when things die? What extremes can the body endure and survive? How have microbes evolved that kill their hosts?

Frances Ashcroft FRS, Glaxo SmithKline Royal Society Research Professor at the University Laboratory of Physiology, Oxford, author of *The Spark of Life*; Kevin Fong, Consultant in Anaesthesia, director of the Centre for Aviation, Space and Extreme Environment Medicine at University College London, author of *Extremes: Life, Death and the Limits of the Human Body*; Sunetra Gupta, novelist and professor of theoretical epidemiology, Oxford Martin Programme on Vaccines

### 3.20 – 3.50pm Tea



Photo: Robert Taylor



Adam Rutherford

Frances Ashcroft



### 3.50 – 5.00pm A necessary end?

Can we rejuvenate ourselves with spare parts grown in the laboratory? Can technology provide a longer-term substitute for living bodies and brains? For how long can – or should – the end be postponed?

Paul Fairchild, co-director of the Oxford Stem Cell Institute, Oxford Martin School; Adam Rutherford, geneticist, writer and TV presenter, author of *Creation: The Story of Life on Earth and How We Are About to Start it Again*; Anders Sandberg, James Martin Research Fellow at the Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford University; Donna Dickenson, philosopher and bioethicist, author of *Bioethics: All That Matters*.

*In partnership with the Oxford Martin School of the University of Oxford, Science Oxford and the Oxfordshire Science Festival*



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Kathleen Taylor

812

## The Brain Supremacy: Notes from Frontiers of Neuroscience

2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11

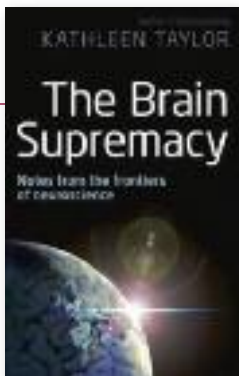
We are entering the era of the brain supremacy, says writer and researcher Dr Kathleen Taylor. Research funds are pouring into brain research but what does this relatively new science mean for us? Taylor looks at the promise of drugs that could boost our brain power, at the potential for more subtle marketing techniques and even at the prospect of machines that could read our minds. She looks at the science behind these claims and at how scientists look inside the human brain.

Taylor studied at Oxford and Stirling universities and is now a freelance writer and research visitor at the University of Oxford. Her two previous books are *Brainwashing and Cruelty*.

Kathleen Taylor



In partnership with the University of Oxford Alumni Office



Matthew Reynolds, Tim Leach, 825  
Thomas Mogford and Kerry Young,  
Chaired by Rachel Hore

## Writers Round Table

2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11

Four gifted story-tellers with acclaimed novels come together to discuss their own and each others' work, as well as the joys and sorrows of writing fiction.

Matthew Reynolds is author of *The World Was all Before Them*, a story of love and courage, risk and betrayal. Tim Leach's debut novel, *The Last King of Lydia*, imagines the rise and fall of Croesus, the richest man on earth, and shows how happiness can be elusive even for those who have everything. Thomas Mogford is author of a series of thrillers set in the Mediterranean. His hero, Sanguinetti, makes his debut in *Shadow of the Rock*, and is about to return in *The Sign of the Cross*. Kerry Young's first novel *Pao*, a tale of race, class, colour, love and ambition, was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award. Her second, *Gloria*, is published in 2013.

The discussion will be chaired by novelist Rachel Hore, author of *The Dream House*, *The Memory Garden* and *The Glass Painter's Daughter*, shortlisted for Romantic Novel of the Year 2010.



Matthew Reynolds



Thomas Mogford



Kerry Young

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MACDONALD  
RANDOLPH HOTEL



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Christopher Lloyd

836

### What on Earth? – The Story of Life on Earth over Four Billion Years

2pm / Christ Church: JCR / £6

Ages 6+

Join Christopher Lloyd on a spectacular voyage through the four-billion-year story of life on Earth using a coat of 14 pockets, a series of everyday objects and a giant edition of his *What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History* as a backdrop. Topics covered include the origins of life, bacteria, photosynthesis, endosymbiosis, sexual reproduction, fossil record, adaptation, amphibians & reptiles, fungi, pollination, biodiversity, mass extinctions, rock formation, plate tectonics, climate change, ice ages, human evolution and anthropocene.

Christopher will be available throughout the day from 10am onwards to answer questions and sign books. Family quizzes and other activities will also be available in between sessions.

Anne Applebaum

803

talks to Paul Blezard

### Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anne Applebaum explains how Communism was imposed across the societies in Eastern Europe following World War II. Applebaum uses a wide range of material, including new archives and interviews with those who lived through the time, to show how the Communists bullied, threatened and murdered their way to power. Personal stories of those who faced difficult decisions on whether to flee, fight or collaborate are woven into the narrative.

Applebaum won the Pulitzer Prize for her second book, *Gulag*, which described the lives of those incarcerated in labour camps. She is Phillippe Roman Professor at the London School of Economics and director of political studies at the Legatum Institute, and has worked as a writer and editor for *The Economist* and as deputy editor of *Spectator*.

Anne Applebaum



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Gordon Bowker. 824  
Introduced by Gail Pirakis

Slightly Foxed Presents Gordon  
Bowker on Malcolm Lowry

4pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11

The literary quarterly *Slightly Foxed* aims to revive interest in forgotten books and authors. *Slightly Foxed* contributor Gordon Bowker has written biographies of Malcolm Lowry, Lawrence Durrell, George Orwell and James Joyce. He argues that biography should explore the consciousness of authors as well as the empirical reality of their lives, a task made easier in Lowry's case by the confessional nature of his writings.

Often fuelled by alcohol, Lowry set out deliberately to produce great novels, adopting the Blakean axiom, 'The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom.' With his first novel, *Ultramarine*, he produced a minor masterpiece, with *Under the Volcano* a work of genius. Critically acclaimed in America, Lowry is probably the least appreciated English literary genius.

Introduced by Gail Pirakis, editor of *Slightly Foxed*

Gordon Bowker

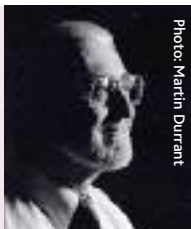


Photo: Martin Durant

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*Slightly Foxed*

Christopher Lloyd 836

What on Earth? The Saga of Sport  
from Ancient Greece to London 2012

4pm / Christ Church: JCR / £6 Ages 6+

Join Christopher Lloyd as he takes on a mind-boggling journey through three million years asking the simple, but intriguing question: why do people play sport? His quest takes him from the stone ages to the present day, covering a dizzying array of cultures from hunter-gathering cave people to the athletes of London 2012. During the talk Christopher invites members of his audience to pick everyday objects out of his multi-coloured coat of 10 pockets to make this a truly interactive, memorable workshop with a giant edition of his *What on Earth? Wallbook of Sport* as a backdrop. Topics covered include stone ages, hunter-gathering, Ancient Greece, Roman Empire, Islamic conquests, Aztecs, Tudors, Victorian, modern Olympic movement.

Christopher will be available throughout the day from 10am onwards to answer questions and sign books. Family quizzes and other activities will also be available in between sessions.

Christopher Lloyd



Joanne Harris

831

**A Cat, a Hat, and a Piece of String****4pm / Bodleian: Delegates Room / £25****The price of this event includes tea and cakes.**

Meet award-winning *Chocolat* author Joanne Harris in the intimate surroundings of the Delegates Room. There are only 23 places for this event at which Harris will discuss her latest collection of imaginative short stories *A Cat, a Hat, and a Piece of String*. They feature a house where it is Christmas all year, a ghost who lives on a Twitter timeline, a baby created with sugar, spice and lashings of cake, a girl in the Congo who rides rapids for a crust of bread, and Norse gods battling in Manhattan.

Harris is author of 13 novels including *Chocolat*, which was made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp, *Blackberry Wine*, and *Five Quarters of the Orange*. Her books have been published in more than 40 countries and have won a number of British and international awards.

Joanne Harris

*Sponsored by***The Landmark Trust**Bidisha, Rhiannon Lassiter  
and Abigail Gibbs

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**Are You Young Enough to Be Published?****4pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £6**

Three writers who were first published in their teens talk about the experience, how they came to find a publisher, the impact, and their subsequent writing careers. Bidisha, whose first book, *Seahorses*, sold for £15,000 and was written when she was 14, 20 years ago, has gone on to have a distinguished career in journalism, fiction and non-fiction. Rhiannon Lassiter, whose first novel, *Hex*, was published when she was 19, has written 11 further novels, of which her most recent is *Ghost of a Chance*. Abigail Gibbs's first book in The Dark Heroine series, *Dinner with a Vampire*, was first published online and received 16 million hits before she was signed up, at 18, for a two-book deal with HarperCollins (her book is now out in paperback). All three authors are or were Oxford undergraduates.



Bidisha



Rhiannon Lassiter



Abigail Gibbs

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Fabian Picardo

834

Chief Minister of Gibraltar

## Deconstructing Self Determination

4pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £11

The right of a nation to determine its political future is inalienable. The United Nations' Charter is unequivocal. The theme is further developed in the resolutions of the General Assembly of the UN on decolonisation. In political terms, however, this position has been contested by Argentina (in relation to the Falklands) and Spain (in relation to Gibraltar). It is time to bust the myth that a sovereignty dispute over a territory can exclude the application of a fundamental human right to the people of the territory. The Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo MP sets out to deconstruct the arguments in legal, political and – perhaps most importantly – in human terms.

Picardo, who studied at Oriel College, Oxford, is leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party. In December 2011, he was elected Chief Minister of HM Government of Gibraltar.

Fabian Picardo

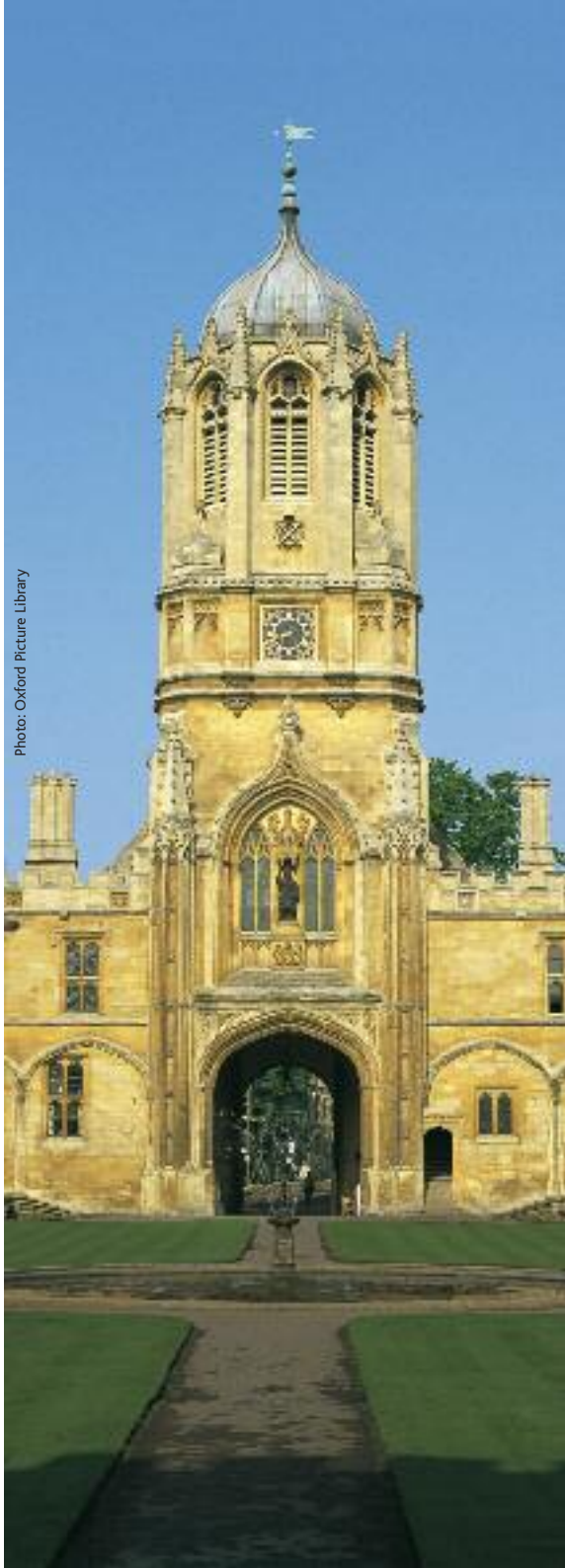


Photo: Oxford Picture Library

Adam Michnik

818

## Pitfalls on the Road to Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (Havel, Geremek, Chodorkowski)

5pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £11 - £25

The inaugural **Ratiu Democracy Lecture**, hosted by The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC, in association with Oxford Brookes University.

An exploration of post-communist realities for Eastern Europe, including a critique of the new political elite and reflections on the (in)ability to deal with a troubled past, such as the destiny of the Jewish community.

As one of the most active members of the Polish opposition to its communist regime, Adam Michnik's efforts, including his central role in the Polish Round Table Talks, hastened national elections, the rise of the Solidarity movement, and subsequent freedoms for Central and Eastern European nations. He is still an active historian, essayist and public intellectual and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the left-leaning Polish national newspaper. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including Knight of the Legion of Honour and European of the Year.



The formation of the annual Ratiu Democracy Lecture is inspired by the work of Ion Ratiu (1917-2000), democratically elected leader of the World Union of Free Romanians, tireless campaigner for human rights, and one of the most outspoken and consistent voices of opposition to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Oxford Brookes University has worked collaboratively with the Ratiu Center for Democracy since 2008.



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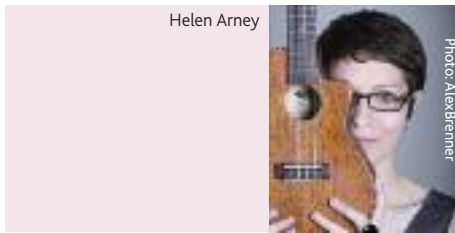
Helen Arney, Andrew Pontzen, 807  
Adam Rutherford, Kevin Fong,  
Mae Martin and Suzie Sheehy

Death or Glory: A Fusion of  
Stand-up Comedy and Science

5.15pm / Corpus Christi / £20.00 including wine  
(£40 with Science and the Future, save £5)

For ages 16+

Your host is geek songstress and comedian Helen Arney of Edinburgh Fringe favourites *Festival of the Spoken Nerd*. Also staring death in the face and seeing the funny side will be fellow escapees from Radio 4's *Infinite Monkey Cage* Andrew Pontzen, Adam Rutherford and Kevin Fong, plus award-winning Canadian comedian Mae Martin, and Suzie Sheehy, who puts the fizz into particle physics.



*In partnership with the Oxford Martin School  
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Corpus Christi  
College Oxford



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Malcolm Gaskill 832

Witchcraft: 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.

Reader in early modern history at the University of East Anglia Malcolm Gaskill shows how witchcraft has meant different things to different people and how in every age it has raised questions about the distinction between fantasy and reality and faith and proof.



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Mikhail Shishkin, Irina Prokhorova 801  
and Andrei Makine.  
Chaired by Oliver Ready

Culture and Politics in Russia Today

6pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £11

Mikhail Shishkin is one of Russia's greatest contemporary writers and the first person to win all three of Russia's major literary awards. He is already well known in Europe, and his novel, *The Light and the Dark*, will see him published for the first time in the English language when it appears in March.

Irina Prokhorova is sister to the Russian billionaire turned independent presidential candidate Mikhail Prokhorov. She is a cultural historian, literary critic, director of the *New Literary Observer* magazine and co-founder of the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation. An English translation of *1990: Russians Remember a Turning Point* edited by Prokhorova is published in March.

Novelist Andrei Makine was born in Siberia but writes in French. He has lived in France since being granted political asylum in 1987 and has won the Prix Goncourt and the Prix Medici. His novels have all been translated into English. Although no longer considering himself a Russian, Makine's latest work, *Brief Loves that Live Forever*, is a brief love story set in Soviet Russia.

The panel will be chaired by Dr Oliver Ready, research fellow in Russian Society and Culture, at St Antony's College, Oxford, and a Russian literary translator.



Mikhail Shishkin

Irina Prokhorova

Andrei Makine



Supported by

*Ian and Carol Sellars*

Sally Gardner and Annabel Pitcher 820  
Chaired by Nicolette Jones

Maggot Moon and Ketchup Clouds

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

Two of our finest writers for young adults discuss their new novels and the themes that run through them.

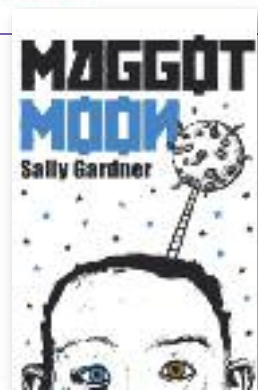
Sally Gardner's *Maggot Moon* won the 2012 Costa Children's Book Prize. The novel is set in an alternative 1950s and is a story of courage, friendship and rebellion, featuring dyslexic Standish Treadwell and Gramps who live with the undesirables in zone 7, under the brutal regime of the Motherland. Gardner's works have been translated into 22 languages and have sold more than two million in the UK alone.

Annabel Pitcher's *Ketchup Clouds* is a tale of love and betrayal centred around 15-year-old Zoe who has a dark and terrible secret she cannot confess to anyone. She tells her story in letters to an American criminal locked up on death row. Pitcher is also author of *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*.

Sally Gardner



Sponsored by



Susann Pasztor and  
Katharina Hagena

832

## A Fabulous Liar and The Taste of Apple Seeds

6pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £11



Two German authors discuss the tradition of family sagas and the dark secrets hidden between generations. Both Susan Pasztor and Katharina Hagena have debut novels that explore the dark secrets hidden in family histories.

Pasztor has worked as a freelance journalist, author, copywriter and translator. Her first novel, *A Fabulous Liar*, finds the children of Holocaust survivor Joschi Molnar marking what would have been his 100th birthday 30 years after his death. They remember the man none of them really knew, and the reunion leads to tall tales, fights, confessions and laughter.

Hagena has lectured at Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Hamburg and written on James Joyce. Her debut novel, *The Taste of Apple Seeds*, follows Iris, who inherits her grandmother's home along with her family's darkest secrets.

Susann Pasztor



Photo: Jutta Panke

Katharina Hagena



William Dalrymple

821

Hosted by Antonio Simoes, HSBC

## Closing Festival Dinner: Sacred India

6.45pm / Christ Church: Hall / £120



6.45pm Reception, 7.15pm

Dinner in Christ Church Hall.

£120 (includes reception, dinner, wines and signed copy of William Dalrymple's *Nine Lives*).

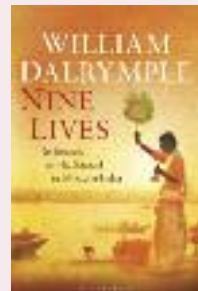
Dress Code – Black Tie.

Bestselling historian and travel writer William Dalrymple is the speaker for our closing festival dinner in the fantastic surroundings of Christ Church.


Dinner will be in the Great Hall of Christ Church, a college that has inspired many writers including *Alice in Wonderland* author Lewis Carroll, or Charles Dodgson as he was known in college. The college continues to inspire today, the Great Hall being the model for Hogwarts's Hall in the Harry Potter movies. The evening's food will be prepared by Christ Church executive chef Chris Simms and his team.

Following dinner, Dalrymple will talk about his book *Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India*. It was Dalrymple's first travel book in a decade and it explores, through nine different lives, how traditional forms of religious life in South Asia have been transformed by rapid change.

Dalrymple is a multi-award-winning historian, travel writer and broadcaster famed for the narrative skill he has brought to his bestselling works including *In Xanadu*; *City of Djinn*s; *From the Holy Mountains*; *The Age of Kali*; *White Mughals*; and *The Return of a King*. He also appears at another festival event to talk about *The Return of a King*.



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It has once again been a great pleasure to work with The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival to assist in enhancing the festival experience. We wish the festival every success for 2013.

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