



Saturday 29th March to Sunday 6th April 2025



Miriam Margolyes



Abdulrazak Gurnah



Harriet Walter



Cressida Cowell



Ferran Adrià



Elif Shafak



Andi Oliver



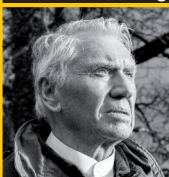
Alexander Armstrong



Ayaan Hirsi Ali



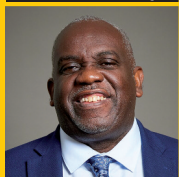
Samantha Harvey



Don McCullin



Yasmin Alibhai-Brown



Tony Sewell



Simon Armitage



Paterson Joseph

POCKET GUIDE

BLACKWELL'S
Festival on-site and
online bookseller



Exeter College
Home of the festival. Founded 1314



European Union

Box Office 0333 666 3366 • www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

Tickets

Tickets can be booked up to the last minute before the event:

- online at www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org
- by telephone on 0333 666 3366*
- at the door on the day if spaces remain (card payments only)

Note: there will be an information desk in Blackwell Hall this year but no festival box office on site. **Please book ahead where possible.**

We will be able to take card payments on the door if spaces remain available at events.

This pocket guide was correct at the time of going to press. Venues are sometimes subject to change, and a few more events may be added to the programme. See **STOP PRESS** on page 2 of this guide for some additional events that were still to be scheduled at time of publication. For all the latest times and venues, check our website at www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

See page 54 for events for children and young people.

General enquiries (except ticketing): 07931 560223.

Email: info@oxfordliteraryfestival.org

Ticket enquiries: tickets@oxfordliteraryfestival.org

Festival hub in Blackwell Hall There will be a festival hub in Blackwell Hall, Weston Library, Broad Street. The hall will host the festival information desk, a café, toilets, seating areas, exhibitions and some free talks.

Festival bookshop It will be open throughout the festival – browse a wide range of books by festival speakers and enjoy some refreshments from the coffee shop.

Blackwells pop-up bookshops You will find a book desk for buying the works of each author at individual festival events where you can have your copy signed by the author.



Festival 25 Appeal

We are the only one of the big literary festivals not to receive UK government or public grants and rely on private sponsors and donors. Please scan the QR code for more details and to donate now. Help us to secure the future of the festival.

The Festival is a registered Charity No. 1128820.

THE FESTIVAL AND FREE SPEECH

For 29 years the Oxford Literary Festival has been committed to freedom of speech, debate and diversity, maintaining a tradition of courteous dialogue, and allowing for contentious and difficult subjects to be publicly discussed and examined.

The Oxford Literary Festival is a place where intellectual curiosity is nurtured and standards are set. It is conceived as a platform for dialogue, where the big ideas of the world can be freely debated in an intellectual but congenial atmosphere. Attendees are given access to some of the world's leading thinkers and the opportunity to question and debate with them. In an era when there is an increasing desire to shut down free speech, the festival is a platform for free expression.

Over the decades we have welcomed speakers of every faith, and none; politicians and political thinkers of every persuasion; representatives of every minority and special interest group; as well as Nobel, Booker and Pulitzer prize winners, former presidents and premiers and leading figures in every field of literature, philosophy, the arts, science, technology and the environment, and human endeavour.

Each year, the festival stages a series of international programmes to celebrate the literature and culture of those countries or continents. These have included India, Africa, USA, Ireland, Spain, Italy and China. We believe that offering a diverse range of speakers, writers and thinkers is the key to promote authentic representation of other cultures. The multicultural character of the city and the university in Oxford provides a fitting backdrop. We see ourselves as a global and multicultural resource

For decades the festival has been subject to threats of boycotts, platforming, protests, disruptions and even physical violence. No invitation has ever been withdrawn.

We are greatly encouraged by the support of the many thousands of festival supporters each year who wish to hear dissenting voices on every topic, ask questions, meet the speakers and make up their own minds.

This is a tradition we will do everything to preserve and maintain.

STOP PRESS

The following events were added as the pocket guide went to press. .



MONDAY 31 MARCH

Sumit Paul-Choudhury

The Bright Side: Why Optimists Have the Power to Change the World

2pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 / (£8 student)

Astrophysicist-turned-journalist Sumit Paul-Choudhury says optimism is central to the human psyche and gives us an advantage both in life and the evolutionary race.

THURSDAY 3 APRIL

Andi Oliver talks to Paterson Joseph

The Oxford Brookes Chancellor's Conversation.

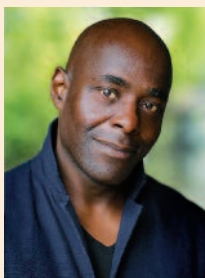
The Pepperpot Diaries: Stories From My Caribbean Table

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Chef and television presenter Andi Oliver talks about the part food plays in her life and about her long-anticipated first cookery book, *The Pepperpot Diaries*, in the first of a new annual conversation at the invitation of actor, writer and Oxford Brookes University Chancellor Paterson Joseph.



Andi Oliver



Paterson Joseph



The Spanish Embassy – London



Cervantes Institute London

PROGRAMME OF SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Please see the festival website for programme details.

LITERARY TOURS

SATURDAY 29 MARCH, WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL AND SATURDAY 5 APRIL

Literary Oxford with Alastair Lack

2pm / Meet outside St John's College Lodge, St Giles / £25

Walk lasts two hours

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

Oxford Poets with Alastair Lack

2pm / Meet outside St John's College Lodge, St Giles / £25

Walk lasts two hours

FRIDAY 4 April

Alastair Lack

The Oxford of Morse, Lewis and Endeavour

2pm / Meet outside St John's College Lodge, St Giles / £25

Walk lasts two hours

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY (Preview Event)



Joanna Lumley in conversation with Philip Lymbery
For the Love of Life

6.30pm Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

One of Britain's best-known actresses Dame Joanna Lumley talks about her love of life, of animals and the natural world, and about her animal welfare campaigning.

The Telegraph

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SATURDAY 29 MARCH

SEE PAGE 54 FOR CHILDREN'S EVENTS



Jem Poster



Sarah Burton

Jem Poster and Sarah Burton

Creative Writing Course:
Start Strongly, Finish in Style: Writing Beginnings and Endings in Fiction

9.30am / Trinity College / £90

'Begin at the beginning,' says the King to the White Rabbit in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, 'and go on till you come to the end; then stop.' As readers, we might regard the instruction as straightforward, perhaps even unnecessary. As writers, however, we'll be aware that the question of where (and how) a story begins and ends is a complex one, demanding careful thought. In this one-day course we will focus on beginnings and endings in ways that aspiring writers are likely to find helpful as they open and close their own narratives.

Andy Cato, Deborah Meaden and Philip Lymbery.

Chaired by Kate Humble

Why we Need More Compassion in our Food and Farming

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Musician, DJ and regenerative farmer Andy Cato, Dragons Den businesswoman and environmental campaigner Deborah Meaden and chief executive of Compassion in World Farming Philip Lymbery discuss why we need more compassionate farming, under the chairmanship of television presenter and farm owner Kate Humble.



Andy Cato



Deborah Meaden



Philip Lymbery



Kate Humble

Andy Thompson and Joey Giddings. Chaired by Cara Hunter

Repeat Offenders: 'It must be true, I saw it on TV'

10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

DI Andy Thompson and former crime scene investigator Joey Giddings return to the festival with crime fiction writer Cara Hunter to dissect the hilarious unrealities of television policework.



Andrew Thompson



Joey Giddings



Cara Hunter

Katherine Carter Churchill's Citadel: Chartwell and the Gatherings Before the Storm

10am / Brasenose College: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and curator of Churchill's one-time country home Chartwell House Katherine Carter explains how the war-time leader used meetings at his home to strengthen his fight against the Nazis.



Sam Mills Uneven: Nine Lives that Redefined Bisexuality

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Author Sam Mills says the stories of nine pioneering bisexual artists, writers and musicians change our understanding of the world's largest sexual minority.

Eric Kaufmann, Nicola Kelly, Keon West and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown. Chaired by Stephen Law

Oxford Debate: The Changing Landscape of Racism

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Politics lecturer professor Eric Kaufmann, journalists Nicola Kelly and Yasmin Alibhai Brown and social psychologist Professor Keon West discuss the changing face of racism.



Eric Kaufmann



Nicola Kelly



Keon West



Yasmin Alibhai-Brown



Ferran Adrià elBulli Today: Preserving the Legacy and Spirit of the World's Greatest Restaurant

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

One of the world's greatest chefs Ferran Adrià talks about his life, his elBulli restaurant that was named the world's best restaurant multiple times, and preserving the legacy of his groundbreaking cuisine.



Mick Herron

Running away with the Circus: Rereading John le Carré The Quest for Karla

12 noon / Harris Manchester College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Oxford-based thriller writer Mick Herron explains why he admires the spy novelist John Le Carré so much and looks at what makes his novels stand out from the rest.



Nussaibah Younis

Nussaibah Younis and Jonathan Coe
Festival Debuts: Fundamentally

12 noon / Brasenose College:
Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

Debut novelist Nussaibah Younis and established writer Jonathan Coe discuss their work including why Coe is an admirer of Younis's dark and humorous first work, *Fundamentally*, an exploration of love, family, religion, radicalism and belonging.



Simon Morrison Tchaikovsky's Empire: A New Life of Russia's Greatest Composer

12 noon / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Music historian Professor Simon Morrison takes a fresh look at the life of Russia's greatest composer Tchaikovsky and unsettles everything we thought we knew about the man.

Brian McGilloway talks to Tom Fletcher

Walking the Tightrope: Creating Fiction in Troubled Times

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Crime novelist Brian McGilloway talks about his writing career and his upcoming novel, *The One You Least Suspect*.



Brian McGilloway



Tom Fletcher



Nadhim Zahawi The Boy from Baghdad: My Journey from Waziriyah to Westminster

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Former secretary of state for education and Chancellor of the Exchequer Nadhim Zahawi looks back on a life that saw him forced from Iraq as a 12-year-old and rise to occupy one of the great offices of the British state.



Peter Boxall

The Possibility of Literature:
The Novel and the Politics of Form

2pm / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

One of Britain's leading literary scholars Professor Peter Boxall talks about the changing face of literary thinking of the last 25 years.

James Canton and Kate Bradbury

Reconnecting with Nature in our own Backyards

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



James Canton



Kate Bradbury

Nature writer Dr James Canton and wildlife gardener Kate Bradbury explain that we can all do things in our own spaces to combat climate change and habitat loss and reconnect with the natural world.



Kate Summerscale

Kate Summerscale talks to Andrew Wilson The Peepshow: Behind the Walls of 10 Rillington Place

4pm / Oxford Martin School:
Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

The UK's top-selling true-crime-writer Kate Summerscale discusses her latest book, *The Peepshow: The Murders at 10 Rillington Place*, about the 1950s crimes of the serial killer and former policeman Reg Christie.

Miriam Margolyes talks to Philip Lymbery

Compassion for All Life:

The Peter Roberts Memorial Lecture

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Miriam Margolyes, a veteran of stage and screen, writer and an award-winning actress who achieved success on both sides of the Atlantic, comes back to her Oxford birthplace to deliver this year's Peter Roberts Memorial Lecture.



Miriam Margolyes



Gilbert Achcar

**The Arabs and the Holocaust:
The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives**

4pm / Harris Manchester College: Chapel

Political scientist Professor Gilbert Achcar discusses a new and revised edition of his ground-breaking work on the highly sensitive subject of the Arab world's responses to the Holocaust.



Petroc Trelawny Trelawny's Cornwall:
A Journey through Western Lands

4pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawny explains how he returned to his Cornish roots to rediscover where he grew up and find out if he still belonged there.



Tamsin Mather

Adventures in Volcanoland

4pm / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Volcanologist Professor Tamsin Mather talks about her travels to volcanoes across the globe and explains what these geological giants can teach us about our environment and climate change.



John Kiszely General Hastings 'Pug'
Ismay: Soldier, Statesman, Diplomat

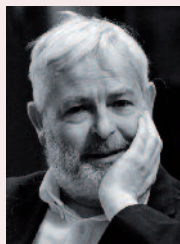
6pm / Brasenose College:
Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

Former Army leader Professor John Kiszely looks at the life of General Hastings 'Pug' Ismay, the unsung soldier who was at Churchill's side throughout the Second World War.

Jonathan Coe talks to Val McDermid

The Val McDermid Interview: The Proof of my Innocence

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)



Jonathan Coe



Val McDermid

Award-winning novelist Jonathan Coe discusses his latest novel, *The Proof of my Innocence*, a blisteringly funny political critique wrapped up in a murder mystery, and the art of crime writing with one of the UK's best known crime writers Val McDermid.



Josh Cohen All the Rage:
Why Anger Drives the World

6pm / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Psychologist and literary theorist Professor Josh Cohen says anger is a primary feeling and offers a new understanding of it so we can all handle the rage within us in an age of divisive social media, and stark political differences.

Nick Laird and Hannah Sullivan

Poetry Showcase: Up Late and Was it for This

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Nick Laird



Hannah Sullivan

Award-winning poets Nick Laird and Professor Hannah Sullivan read from their works including their latest collections *Up Late* and *Was it for This*.

Stuart Gillespie, Shireen Kassam and David Clough.

Chaired by Joy Carter

A Shopping List for Life: Eating for People, Animals and Planet

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Former food policy researcher Dr Stuart Gillespie, consultant haematologist Dr Shireen Kassam and theologian Dr David Clough explore how we can choose foods that optimise our own health, provide good lives for animals both wild and farmed, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, enrich our soils and biodiversity, and can be beneficial for farmers across the world.

Anna Whitelock and Lubaaba Al-Azami Seeds of Empire

6pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Anna Whitelock



Lubaaba Al-Azami

Historian and author professor Anna Whitelock and cultural historian Dr Lubaaba Al-Azami discuss how the early seeds of the British Empire were sown by fortune hunters and the first Stuart monarch.



Marlene Watson-Tara Opening Dinner

7.30pm / Exeter College: Hall / £130

Enjoy a delicious menu of vegan dishes specially devised for the dinner by the celebrated chef and writer Marlene Watson-Tara, co-Founder of The Human Ecology Project.

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

SEE PAGE 54 FOR CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Jem Poster and Sarah Burton Creative Writing Course:
Places and Spaces: Writing Location in Fiction

9.30am / Trinity College / £90

This one-day course will highlight the importance of place in writing, addressing such matters as factual research, remembered and imagined spaces and the creation of atmosphere. We will consider how place works in conjunction with other elements of a narrative, such as character, plot and atmosphere. We will also consider how and when descriptions of place are justified, and therefore most effective.

Henrietta Courtauld and Bridget Elworthy

Soil to Table: The Land Gardeners

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Gardening writers Henrietta Courtauld and Bridget Elworthy discuss the link between our soils and what we eat and explain how to cultivate soil to produce healthy food.



Henrietta Courtauld and Bridget Elworthy



Lionel Shriver *Mania: What if Calling Someone Stupid was Illegal*

10am / Trinity College: Auditorium / £15 (£8 student)

Bestselling novelist and journalist Lionel Shriver discusses her latest novel, *Mania*, a reflection on the policing of opinion and intellect that imagines a world in which intellectual meritocracy is a heresy.



Abdulrazak Gurnah
Theft and Honorary Fellowship

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah talks about his new novel, *Theft*, his first since the Nobel award, and receives the honorary fellowship of Oxford Literary Festival in recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature.



Marc Millon *Italy in a Wineglass: The Taste of Italy Including a Tasting*

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Food and travel writer Marc Millon explains how the story of Italy has always been entwined with that of wine and leads a tasting of some wines.



Ekow Eshun

The Strangers: Five Extraordinary Black Men and the Worlds That Made Them

12 noon / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Writer, broadcaster and curator Ekow Eshun looks at the lives of five black men separated by both centuries and continents and shows how they were all pioneers in their fields and sensitive and solitary individuals moving through a hostile world.

Emilie A. Caspar, Laurence Rees and Leor Zmigrod
Just Obeying Orders: The Science Behind Mass Murder and the Radical Mind

12 noon / Trinity College: Auditorium / £15 (£8 student)

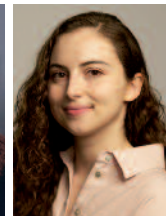
Neuroscientist Dr Emilie Caspar, political neuroscientist Dr Leor Zmigrod and historian Laurence Rees discuss what makes us follow orders and go from peacefully living together to carrying out violent and brutal acts.



Emilie A. Caspar



Laurence Rees



Leor Zmigrod

Janne Haaland Matlary and Rob Johnson
NATO and the Russian War in Ukraine

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Janne Haaland Matlary



Rob Johnson

Former Norwegian foreign minister Professor Janne Haaland Matlary and historian and director of Oxford's Changing Character of War Centre Professor Rob Johnson discuss how the NATO alliance can turn Moscow's war on Ukraine from a challenge into a basis for renewal.



Guy Leschziner *Seven Deadly Sins: The Biology of Being Human*

2pm / Oxford Martin School:
Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Neurologist Professor Guy Leschziner looks at the seven deadly sins and asks whether they do truly represent sin or simply reflect our intrinsic desire to survive and thrive.

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Justin Schlosberg, Tony Sewell and Zoe Strimpel.
Chaired by Stephen Law

Oxford Debates: Immigration and the 2024 Riots

2pm / Trinity College: Auditorium / £15 (£8 student)

Academic Professor Justin Schlosberg, educational consultant and life peer Lord Tony Sewell and journalist Zoe Strimpel debate the causes of the 2014 anti-immigration riots and ask who can be held responsible.



Justin Schlosberg

Tony Sewell

Zoe Strimpel

Stephen Law

Christine Dwyer Hickey and Molly Aitken

Irish Voices: Our London Lives and Bright I Burn

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Christine Dwyer
Hickey

Molly Aitken

Novelists Christine Dwyer Hickey and Molly Aitken discuss the Irish voice and the landscapes and history that inspire their work.

Philippe Sands talks to Richard Ovenden 38 Londres Street:

On Impunity, Pinochet in London and a Nazi in Patagonia



Philippe Sands

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15
 (£10-£8 student)

International lawyer Professor Philippe Sands describes his investigations into the post-war life of SS officer Walther Rauff in Chilean Patagonia and his connections to the Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Simon Jenkins A Short History of British Architecture:
 From Stonehenge to the Shard



2pm / Oxford Martin School:
 Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Former editor of *The Times* and leading conservationist Simon Jenkins looks at the history of architecture in Britain and says everyone is a consumer of architecture and it is important to understand it.

Antoine Laurain French Windows

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

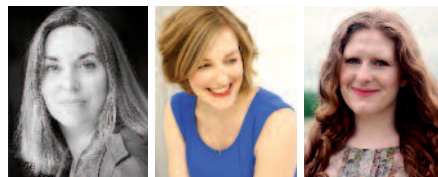
Award-winning French novelist Antoine Laurain talks about his new murder mystery, *French Windows*, described as reminiscent of Hitchcock with a Parisian heart.

Kate Kennedy, Cara Berridge and Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Cello: A Journey Through Silence to Sound

4pm / Trinity College: Auditorium / £15 (£8 student)

Join author and BBC broadcaster Dr Kate Kennedy, cellist Cara Berridge and composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad for *Cello: A Journey Through Silence to Sound*.



Kate Kennedy

Cara Berridge

Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Sonia Purnell Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life
 of Seduction, Intrigue and Power

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Biographer and journalist Sonia Purnell uncovers the story of Pamela Churchill Harriman's little understood impact on the seminal events of the 20th century.

Wolfgang Münchau Kaput: The End of the German Miracle

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and commentator Wolfgang Münchau argues that weaknesses in the German economy have been brewing for decades and dominance of industrial interests threatens to leave the country behind.

Susan Barker Old Soul

4pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist Susan Barker talks about her latest work, *Old Soul*, the sinister and unnerving story of a strange and mysterious woman who never ages and never dies but those around her do.

James Rebanks talks to Dinah Rose

President of Magdalen Lecture: The Place of Tides

5pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)



James Rebanks

Farmer and author James Rebanks explains how he travelled to the edge of the Arctic to spend a season with an ageing duck farmer and what it taught him about self-knowledge and forgiveness. And he reflects on his own life as a Lake District farmer and on the award-winning books it has inspired.

Alexandra Harris and Hermione Lee

Writing Lives, Shaping Books

12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)



Alexandra Harris



Hermione Lee

Literary critic and cultural historian Professor Alexandra Harris and literary biographer Dame Professor Hermione Lee talk about their work and discuss questions of patterning, structure, handling of time and paths not taken.



Philip Hoare William Blake & The Sea Monsters of Love

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning writer Professor Philip Hoare looks at the reverberating influence of the poet, painter and printmaker William Blake who was unappreciated and considered mad in his own day.

Clare Chambers talks to Lucy Atkins Shy Creatures

12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Clare Chambers



Lucy Atkins

Novelist Clare Chambers discusses her latest work, *Shy Creatures*, a story of love, family and the joy of freedom.



Diarmaid MacCulloch

Diarmaid MacCulloch talks to Jane Shaw

Lower than the Angels:
A History of Sex and Christianity
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and broadcaster Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch seeks to calm fears and promote understanding with the 3,000-year story of Christians encountering sex, gender and family.

Jem Poster and Sarah Burton

Couldn't Put it Down: How Writers Keep Readers Reading

12 noon / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Novelists and creative writing teachers Professor Jem Poster and Sarah Burton talk about some of the pleasures and pitfalls of the writing craft in a session aimed at aspiring writers.



John S Tregoning Live Forever? A Curious Scientist's Guide to Wellness, Ageing and Death

12 noon / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Immunologist Professor John S Tregoning explains how we manage to stay alive despite the 17,000 diseases known to affect humans and the thousands of poisons, carcinogens and toxins in the environment and offers some insight into how we can live longer and healthier.



Barnaby Rogerson

The House Divided: Sunni, Shia and the Making of the Middle East

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Travel writer and historian Barnaby Rogerson looks back at the reasons for the 1,400-year divide between Sunni and Shia and how it has shaped and continues to shape the Middle East.



Simon Park Wreckers: Disaster in the Age of Discovery

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Cultural historian Professor Simon Park looks at the early age of imperialism with a fresh eye and finds an age of shipwrecks and marooned Europeans that reflected empires built on luck more than swashbuckling adventures.



Andrew Blick Could it Happen Here: The Day a Prime Minister Refuses to Resign

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Contemporary historian Professor Andrew Blick discusses whether our constitution is robust enough to withstand an authoritarian takeover.



Daisy Dunn The Missing Thread: A New History of the Ancient World Through the Women Who Shaped It

2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Classicist and historian Dr Daisy Dunn tells the story of 3,000 years of history through the women who helped to make it.

Roisin Dunnett and Francis Spufford

Festival Debuts. Raising New Voices: A Line You Have Traced

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Debut novelist Rosin Dunnett and established novelist Francis Spufford discuss their work including why Spufford admires and is championing Dunnett's writing.



Rosin Dunnett



Francis Spufford



Dani Robertson

All Through the Night: How Dark Skies Can Save Our World

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Renowned defender of dark skies Dani Robertson says we should all embrace the beauty and significance of darkness in a world increasingly dominated by artificial light.



Nigel Shadbolt As if Human: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Computer scientist Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt argues we can avert a disastrous and amoral future by assessing the decisions of artificial intelligence as if they came from a human.



Susana Monsó Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Philosopher Susana Monsó blends philosophical insight with the latest research on behavioural science and psychology to explain that when it comes to death or dying we are just another animal.



Martin Gayford How Painting Happens (and Why it Matters)

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and art critic Martin Gayford brings together the voices of artists past and present in an illustrated talk that throws new light on the painter's art.



Peter Lamont

Radical Thinking: How to see the Bigger Picture – with Magic

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Psychology historian and former professional magician Professor Peter Lamont explains how our thoughts are shaped by what we notice and how we interpret things and uses a bit of magic to illustrate his points.



Chloe Dalton

Raising Hare: The Heart-warming True Story of an Unlikely Friendship

4pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and foreign policy advisor Chloe Dalton tells how Covid lockdown turned her from a busy career-focused Londoner into the guardian of a baby hare in the heart of the countryside.



Tim Birkhead

The Great Auk: Its Extraordinary Life, Hideous Death and Mysterious Afterlife

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room/ £15 (£8 student)

Biologist and ornithologist Professor Tim Birkhead tells the story of The Great Auk, the first of the world's seabirds destroyed by human actions.



Diana Janney

A Man of Understanding

6pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist Diana Janney talks about her latest novel, *A Man of Understanding*, a story interlaced with philosophy, poetry and love about the search for a higher understanding for the self and others. Janney explains why she includes poetry in her novels and what it brings to them and the reader.



James Crossland
Fighting Bolsheviks, Fooling Nazis and Making History: the Extraordinary Life of Robert Bruce Lockhart

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor James Crossland tells the story of the unconventional British spy Robert Bruce Lockhart who conspired to bring down the communists after the Russian Revolution and later waged a war of ideas against the Fascists and Nazis.



Sinclair McKay Saint Petersburg: Sacrifice and Redemption in the City That Defied Hitler

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Author and critic Sinclair McKay tells the story of the great Russian city of Saint Petersburg, including its heroic resistance to Hitler's army.

Timothy Garton Ash talks to Chris Patten

The Inaugural Lord Patten Free Speech Lecture: Freedom of Expression is our Lifeblood

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)



Timothy Garton Ash



Chris Patten

Contemporary historian and Europe expert Professor Timothy Garton Ash discusses his desire for more and better freedom of expression in the first of a new series of annual festival lectures in which a leading figure is invited by Lord Chris Patten to discuss freedom of speech.



Vernon Bogdanor

Vernon Bogdanor talks to Andrew Blick
Making the Weather: Six Politicians Who Changed Modern Britain

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

One of Britain's best known constitutional and political historians Professor Sir Vernon Bogdanor picks out six post-war politicians who he says changed Britain more than any prime minister.



Nir Arielli
The Dead Sea: A 10,000 Year History
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor Nir Arielli tells the story of the Dead Sea and the civilisations that have lived on its shores from the end of the last Ice Age to today and makes a case for efforts to save it for the future.



Oliver Moody
Baltic: The Future of Europe

10am / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Foreign correspondent Oliver Moody looks at the nine Baltic countries and explains why the area is both critical to European security and increasingly a centre of political and military power.



Dorothy Armstrong Threads of Empire: A New History of the World in 12 Carpets

10am / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and expert in carpets Dr Dorothy Armstrong looks at the history of the world through the stories of a dozen carpets from those in the tombs of 5th-century BCE Scythian chieftains to those walked on in Yalta by the boots of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt.

Tim Coulson The Universal History of Us: The Science of Why we Exist

10am / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Biologist Professor Tim Coulson explains what science tells us about who we are, where we came from and what comes next.

Rowan Williams and Pele Cox

'The Heart by Way of the Breath to the Line': Poetry and Discussion in Memory of Robert Willis

10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Rowan Williams



Pele Cox

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Baron Rowan Williams and poet Pele Cox recite their own poems, poems by Robert Willis, and others of special meaning to them and discuss the continuing vitality of poetry in our spiritual and public lives.



Alister McGrath *Why We Believe: Understanding Ourselves in a Complex World*
12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Scientist and theologian Professor Alister McGrath argues that it is more important than ever today to have a system of belief in our lives.



Paul Morland *No One Left: Why the World Needs More Children*
12 noon / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Author, broadcaster and leading demographer Dr Paul Morland says too few babies are being born in the world for humanity to replace itself and the results will be a calamity for human-kind unless something is done.



Christina Hardyment *Alyce Chaucer: Fact and Fiction*
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and journalist Christina Hardyment talks about her Alyce Chaucer mystery novels based on the real-life great-granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, who lived in Oxfordshire.



Diana Darke *Islamesque: The Forgotten Craftsmen who Built Europe's Medieval Monuments*
12 noon / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Islamic scholar Diana Darke says masterpieces of medieval architecture should be recognised for what they are – Islamesque rather than Romanesque monuments.



Megan Davis *Bay of Thieves and Fighting Corruption*
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Anti-corruption campaigner Megan Davis talks about her experience of being a whistle blower in the financial sector, her work as an associate at Spotlight on Corruption and how it led to her writing a novel, *Bay of Thieves*.



Michael Downes *Story of the Century: Wagner and the Creation of the Ring*
12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Conductor and writer Michael Downes tells the fascinating story behind Richard Wagner's masterpiece, *Ring of the Nibelung*, and explains why the work matters.



Wendy Moore *Jack and Eve: Two Women In Love and At War*
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and author Wendy Moore tells the story of two suffragettes who lived wild and brave lives together during World War I and beyond and were leading examples of the suffragette movement, women's work in World War I and lesbian identity in the 20th century.



A N Wilson *Goethe: His Faustian Life*
2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning biographer, novelist and critic A N Wilson tells the story of German literary great Goethe and the work that dominated his life.

Barbara Sahakian and Christelle Langley *Brain Boost: Healthy Habits for a Happier Life*

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)
 Neuroscientists Dr Barbara Sahakian and Dr Christelle Langley explain how you can embrace simple lifestyle strategies that will improve your brain health, cognition and overall wellbeing.

Chris Atkins, Gen Glaister and Rob McKeon.
Chaired by Stephen Law

Oxford Debate: Banged Up: Perspectives of an Ex-prisoner, Ex-prison officer, and Parole Board Member

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

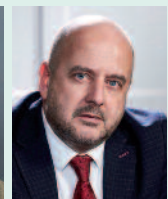
Ex-prison officer Gen Glaister, ex-prisoner Chris Atkins and Parole Board member Rob McKeon consider key questions about our criminal justice system, prisons and crime.



Chris Atkins



Gen Glaister



Rob McKeon



Kevin Crossley-Holland
New Leaves on an Old Tree

2pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Poet, novelist and translator Kevin Crossley-Holland talks about his writing life and a retrospective collection of his best writings.



Matt Cook Queer Beyond London: LGBTQ Stories from Four English Cities

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Leading LGBTQ historian Matt Cook tells the story of queer British history away from the bright lights of London.

Merijn van de Laar How to Sleep Like a Caveman: Ancient Wisdom for a Better Night's Rest

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Sleep psychologist Dr Merijn van de Laar says sleep has barely changed since neolithic humans tossed and turned with worries about sabre-toothed tigers and offers solutions to get you sleeping better within three weeks.

Toby Wilkinson and Owen Rees. Chaired by Josephine Quinn Beyond Rome and Greece:

Egypt and the Far Edges of the Classical World

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Egyptologist Professor Toby Wilkinson and classical Greek historian Dr Owen Rees discuss what archaeological findings tell us about the classical world beyond Rome and Greece including the great flowering of Egyptian culture.



Jessica Hamel-Akré
The Art of Not Eating: A Doubtful History of Appetite and Desire

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and cultural strategy consultant Dr Jessica Hamel-Akré explores the deep roots of diet culture to uncover the origins of today's diet culture and her own troubled relationship with wanting.

David Torrance The Wild Men: The Remarkable Story of Britain's First Labour Government

4pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and constitutional expert David Torrance tells the story of the first UK Labour administration and the 'wild men' who shook up the establishment.

John Kay and Julia Hobsbawm

The Future of Work and Business

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and leading commentator on the future of work Julia Hobsbawm and leading economist and financial journalist Sir John Kay discuss the changing nature of work and business and what the future might hold for us.



Peter Conrad
Dickens the Enchanter: Inside the Explosive Imagination of the Great Storyteller

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Cultural critic and historian Professor Peter Conrad tells the story of Dickens's life through the characters, places and emotions conjured up across his work.

Mahmoud Muna and Matthew Teller

Daybreak in Gaza: Stories of Palestinian Lives and Culture

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Editors and writers Mahmoud Muna and Matthew Teller discuss a new collection of stories they have assembled about literature and culture in Gaza.



Mahmoud Muna

Matthew Teller



Sue Prideaux

Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Multi-award-winning biographer Sue Prideaux takes a fresh look at the life of the trailblazing post-Impressionist painter Paul Gauguin in this illustrated talk.

Violet Moller Inside the Stargazer's Palace: The Transformation of Science in 16th-Century Northern Europe

4pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian and podcaster Violet Moller explores the world of 16th-century science where magic mixed with mathematics and all knowledge was worth pursuing.



Gwyneth Lewis

Gwyneth Lewis talks to Kate Kennedy
Nightshade Mother: A Disentangling

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Wales's first national poet Gwyneth Lewis talks about her memoir of growing up at the hands of a coercive and controlling mother.

Daniel Susskind, Carissa Veliz, and Linda Eggert talk to David Edmonds The Morality of Artificial Intelligence

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Ethicist and editor of a new collection of essays on the morality of artificial intelligence (AI) David Edmonds leads a discussion with contributors to the volume, economist Professor Daniel Susskind, and philosophers and ethicists Professor Carissa Véliz and Linda Eggert.



Daniel Susskind



Carissa Veliz



Linda Eggert



David Edmonds

Philip Marsden Under A Metal Sky: A Journey Through Rocks

6pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Travel writer Philip Marsden looks at our troubled relationship with the natural world and reflects on our amazing ability to extract what we want from the earth and the dark consequences of that ability.



Robin Choudhury

The Beating Heart: The Art and Science of Our Most Vital Organ

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Cardiologist Professor Robin Choudhury explains how human perception of the heart and scientific understanding have developed over 2,500 years of history.

L R Lam, Tasha Suri, C L Clark and Sarah Rees Brennan

Breaking Boundaries: Queering Sci-Fi and Fantasy

6pm / Trinity College: Garden Room / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning authors L R Lam, Tasha Suri, C L Clark, and Sarah Rees Brennan explore how queerness and new representation are reshaping sci-fi and fantasy narratives.



Bettany Hughes The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Award-winning historian and broadcaster Bettany Hughes explores the seven wonders of the world and asks why we create and why we remember the wonder of others.

Keir Giles, Stephanie Baker and Mark Galeotti.

Chaired by Dominic Nicholls The Russian Threat: Why it has Grown and How to Fight Back

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Government adviser Keir Giles, academic Professor Mark Galeotti and journalist Stephanie Baker discuss the Russian threat and how to deal with Putin.



Keir Giles



Stephanie Baker



Mark Galeotti



Dominic Nicholls



Harriet Wistrich Sister in Law: Fighting for Justice in a System designed by Men

10am / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Well-known feminist lawyer Harriet Wistrich talks about some of her high-profile cases and explains why she believes the law is not fit for purpose for half the population.

Lyndal Roper

Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War

10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning historian Professor Lyndal Roper tells the story of the German peasants' War, the greatest popular uprising in western Europe before the French Revolution.

Simon Horobin C S Lewis's Oxford

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Expert in medieval literature Professor Simon Horobin looks at the role Oxford played in the work of C S Lewis and explains how it helps us to understand the author of the Narnia stories as a student, scholar and teacher.



Tim Tate To Catch a Spy:

How the Spycatcher Affair Brought MI5 in from the Cold

10am / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Documentary-maker, author and journalist Tim Tate tells the story of the British government's attempts to silence whistleblower Peter Wright and hide the truth about the country's intelligence services and political elites.



David Starkey A 21st Century Perspective: Our Life and Times Today

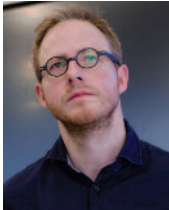
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Historian Dr David Starkey launches a new annual 'perspective' lecture at the festival in which a distinguished intellect is invited to give their views on the complex and confusing times in which we find ourselves today.

Helen Beebee and Philip Goff. Chaired by Tilda Storey Law
Oxford Debate: From Atoms to Awareness: What is Consciousness?



Helen Beebee



Philip Goff

12 noon / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Two leading philosophers of the mind Professor Helen Beebee and Professor Philip Goff discuss the nature of consciousness and how we experience it.



Jeremy Mynott
The Story of Nature: A Human History

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Naturalist Jeremy Mynott looks at the different ways humans have looked at and responded to the environment throughout history and explains how our attitudes to the natural world operate at a deep level.



Julie Bindel
Lesbians: Where are we Now?

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist, author and feminist campaigner Julie Bindel looks at what defines lesbian culture, love and friendship and asks why lesbians often face a particular hostility.

Rupert Shortt talks to Ayaan Hirsi Ali
The Eclipse of Christianity and Why it Matters

12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and author Rupert Shortt explains how Christianity's profile is fading in the present and argues that Europe's historic faith remains critical to the survival of a humane culture.

Tim Lankester Inside Thatcher's Monetarism Experiment: The Promise, the Failure, the Legacy

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Margaret Thatcher's first private secretary for economic affairs Sir Tim Lankester provides an inside account of the early years of the Thatcher government when the prime minister rejected the old orthodoxies and pursued a previously untried monetarist policy backed by only a few economists.



Vybar Cregan-Reid
We are What We Read

12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and academic Professor Vybar Cregan-Reid talks about the profound impact books have on shaping a life and makes a rallying call for books in a world where literature is being squeezed out of education.



A C Grayling

A C Grayling talks to Stephen Law
Discriminations: Achieving Peace in the Culture Wars

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Philosopher Professor A C Grayling looks at the state of our public culture and the chilling effect it is having on intellectual discourse.



Lamorna Ash
Don't Forget We're Here Forever: A New Generation's Search for Religion

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning writer and journalist Lamorna Ash explores why young people in Britain are turning to faith in an age of uncertainty.

Thomas Hale and Hannah Ritchie
Charting the Path to a Sustainable Planet

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Thomas Hale



Hannah Ritchie

Public policy expert Professor Thomas Hale and data scientist Dr Hannah Ritchie discuss how we can adapt to the biggest issues facing humankind such as climate change and environmental degradation.



Helen Joyce

Helen Joyce talks to Julie Bindel
Introduced by Gary Francione

Trans: Gender Identity and the New Battle for Women's Rights

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

SOLD OUT

Gender critical journalist and feminist campaigner Helen Joyce talks about her *Sunday Times* bestselling book on the transgender debate.



Paul Caruana Galizia

A Death in Malta: An Assassination and a Family's Quest for Justice

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist Paul Caruana Galizia talks about his family's quest for justice for his mother, Daphne, a reporter who was assassinated amid her efforts to investigate corruption in Malta.



Roberto Trotta Starborn: How the Stars Made Us – and Who We Would Be Without Them

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Theoretical physicist Professor Roberto Trotta looks at the fundamental connection between the stars and civilisation and explains how the night sky has shaped what it means to be human.



Rüdiger Görner In the Future of Yesterday: A Life of Stefan Zweig

2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Expert in German and Austrian literature Professor Rüdiger Görner takes a fresh look at the life of Austrian writer Stefan Zweig and assesses his considerable place in world literature and the Austro-Jewish tradition.



Andrew Robinson Einstein in Oxford

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Writer Andrew Robinson tells the story of Einstein's time in Oxford and uncovers a less familiar side to the world's most famous scientist.



Joe Tucker The Secret Painter

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Television scriptwriter Joe Tucker tells the story of his uncle, Eric Tucker, a shambolically dressed man who lived with his mother for nearly 80 years and amassed 500 of his own paintings without anyone realising the scope and quality of his ambition.



Rachel Shabi

Rachel Shabi talks to Yasmin Alibhai-Brown Off-White: The Truth about Antisemitism

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and broadcaster Rachel Shabi points to a hopeful way forward in an era when claims of antisemitism continue to distort our politics at home and abroad and make it impossible to discuss issues constructively.



Simon Ings Engineers of Human Souls: Four Writers who Changed Twentieth-Century Minds

4pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist and science writer Simon Ings looks at four writers who were lured to the centre of political action and established damaging and dangerous relationships with dictators.



Wendy Cope

Collected Poems: A Celebration of a Lifetime's Work

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

One of the UK's wittiest and best-loved poets Wendy Cope talks about her writing and her life to mark the publication of her collected poems.



Paul Collier Left Behind: A New Economics for Neglected Places

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Economist Professor Sir Paul Collier says 'left behind' places can be found across the world from South Yorkshire to Barranquilla in Colombia and asks why the poorest are falling further behind and what we can do about it.



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| 1 Blackwell's Festival Bookshop | 8 Pusey House |
| 2 Sheldonian Theatre | 9 Mathematical Institute |
| 3 Divinity School | 10 Worcester College |
| 4 Oxford Martin School
Lecture Theatre | 11 Lincoln College |
| 5 Oxford Martin School
Seminar Room | 12 Exeter College |
| 6 Weston Library – Festival Hub,
Information Desk, Lecture Theatre,
Blackwell Hall, Free Talks,
Exhibition Galleries, and Café
and Toilets | 13 New College |
| 7 Department for Continuing
Education | 14 Brasenose College |
| | 15 St John's College |
| | 16 Harris Manchester College |
| | 17 Reuben College |
| | 18 Trinity College |
| | 19 Bus Station |

Festival port and wine
tastings – in association
with Symington Family
Estates of Portugal.

See website for details


SYMINGTON
Family Estates

Wines of the Douro Valley



Elif Shafak

Elif Shafak talks to **David Isaac**
Provost of Worcester Lecture:
There are Rivers in the Sky

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15
(£10-£8 student)

Award-winning British-Turkish novelist Elif Shafak talks about her latest work, *There are Rivers in the Sky*, a sweeping story of love and loss, memory and erasure, hurt and healing set between the 19th century and modern times.



Simon Mayall **The House of War: The Struggle between Christendom and the Caliphate**

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Former soldier and government defence adviser on the Middle East Lieutenant General Sir Simon Mayall discusses some of the key battles and sieges between Christendom and the Caliphate and their religious and historical context.



Sjeng Scheijen **The Avant-Gardists: Artists in Revolt in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union 1917–1935**

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Curator and expert on Russian art Sjeng Scheijen tells the story of the Russian avant garde and how they transformed the modern world and survived a totalitarian regime, civil war, hunger and terror.

Stephen Law, Emma Swinn and Nigel Warburton.
Chaired by Gary Francione

Opening the Public Doors to Philosophical Debate

6pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Three philosophers, Dr Stephen Law, Emma Swinn and Nigel Warburton, discuss their approach to encouraging public discussion of philosophical issues and helping to democratise a notoriously inaccessible subject.



Emma Swinn



Nigel Warburton



Gary Francione



Nona Fernández **Memory and Truth: Stories from Chile's Dark Past**

10am / Harris Manchester College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Chilean actress, screenwriter and award-winning novelist Nona Fernández talks about the themes of historical memory and the haunting legacy of Chile's political past explored in her work.



Beaty Rubens **Listen In: How Radio Changed the Home**

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Radio producer and writer Beaty Rubens explains how the early years of radio between 1922 and 1939 transformed British life.

Mike Berners-Lee and Simon Sharpe

Honest Truths: What we must do to Tackle Climate Change

10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Mike Berners-Lee



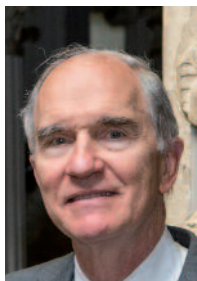
Simon Sharpe

Expert on sustainability and climate change Professor Mike Berners Lee and economist and climate champion Simon Sharpe discuss what urgently needs to change if we are to truly and honestly tackle the environmental threat to our planet.

Sheilagh Ogilvie **Controlling Contagion: Epidemics and Institutions from the Black Death to Covid**

10am / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Economic historian Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie looks at seven centuries of pandemics and explains how human institutions such as markets, states, communities, religions, guilds and families have helped to both control them and exacerbate them.



Bruce Boucher **John Soane's Cabinet of Curiosities: Reflections on an Architect and His Collection**

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Art historian and curator Professor Bruce Boucher explains how the collection of art and artefacts made by the architect Sir John Soane throws light on his personality and the psychology of collecting.



Marcus Chown *A Crack in Everything: How Black Holes Came in from the Cold*
12 noon / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Science writer and broadcaster Marcus Chown says the answer to mankind's most enduring questions – what is space? what is time? where did the universe come from? – may lie in black holes.



Santiago Roncagliolo
Life and Fear in Latin America
12 noon / Harris Manchester College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Peruvian novelist, screenwriter and journalist Santiago Roncagliolo talks about his work.



Motti Golani
Chaim Weizmann: A Biography
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor Motti Golani explains how the first president of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, built support for a Jewish state among influential statesmen and Jews around the world.



Patrick Curry *Art and Enchantment: How Wonder Works*
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Environmental philosopher Patrick Curry considers the experience of enchantment through art including through the experience and activity of painting, music, fiction and poetry.



Richard Reid
The African Revolution: A History of the Long Nineteenth Century
12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor Richard Reid discusses his panoramic history of Africa in the 19th century and explains how it was a period of revolution and cultural innovation for the continent's states, societies and economies.

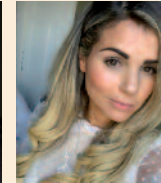
Simon Heffer, Marina Purkiss, Zoe Strimpel.
Chaired by Yasmin Alibhai Brown
Oxford Debate: You Ask the Questions

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Join our panel of leading political and media figures, Professor Simon Heffer, Marina Purkiss and Zoe Strimpel, for lively debate on topics of the day, chaired by Yasmin Alibhai Brown. Ticketholders are invited to email questions before the event, and Yasmin will pick a representative range for audience members to ask.



Simon Heffer



Marina Purkiss



Zoe Strimpel



Malachy Tallack
That Beautiful Atlantic Waltz

12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Author and singer-songwriter Malachy Tallack talks about his novel, *That Beautiful Atlantic Waltz*, and the accompanying music album with the same name.



Alpa Shah

Alpa Shah talks to Nick Higham *The Incarcerations: BK-16 and the Search for Democracy in India*

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Anthropologist Professor Alpa Shah discusses the incarceration of 16 human rights defenders in India and explains how it is a bellwether for the collapse of democracy in the country and marks an attack on key defenders of pillars of that democracy.



Ben Macintyre *The Siege*

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Journalist and multi-million-selling author Ben Macintyre tells the story of the siege of the Iranian Embassy in London in 1980 and the remarkable rescue led by the SAS.





Iona Heath

Iona Heath in conversation with Gavin Francis

John Berger: Ways of Learning

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Retired GP and past president of the Royal College of General practitioners Dr Iona Heath talks about the impact on her working life of the Booker Prize-winning novelist and critic John Berger.

John Heathershaw and Tena Prelec. Chaired by Oliver Bullough Indulging Kleptocracy: British Service Providers, Post-communist Elites, and the Enabling of Corruption

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



John Heathershaw



Tena Prelec

Experts in international affairs and corruption Professor John Heathershaw and Professor Tena Prelec discuss their analysis of how Western professionals have enabled kleptocratic elite networks and undermined the rule of law.



Ye Zhaoyan Nanjing 1937

2pm / Harris Manchester College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

One of China's bestselling and most acclaimed authors Ye Zhaoyan, known for *Nanjing 1937: A Love Story*, talks about his work.



Julie Summers British Vogue: The Biography of an Icon

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Curator and author Julie Summers tells the story of British *Vogue* magazine from its first issue in 1916 to the present day.



Pele Cox Vincent and the Poets

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Poet Pele Cox is joined by three actors to perform *Vincent and the Poets*, a production about the artist, his letters and his love of poetry first staged by Cox when she was artist in residence at the Royal Academy of Arts.



Robert Seethaler
The Café with No Name

2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

International bestselling Austrian novelist Robert Seethaler talks about his latest work, *The Café with no Name*, a story of how we carry each other through good and bad times and how even the most ordinary life is quite extraordinary.

Ian Collins Blythe Spirit: The Remarkable Life of Ronald Blythe



4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Writer and curator Ian Collins tells the story of the life of his close friend, the country writer Ronald Blythe, a prolific chronicler of rural and spiritual life, nature and literature who died at the age of 100 in 2023.

Mattias Desmet, Sunetra Gupta and Jolyon Maugham.
Chaired by Stephen Law Oxford Debate:
Covid and Corruption

4pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Clinical psychologist Professor Mattias Desmet, epidemiologist Professor Sunetra Gupta and tax barrister, writer and director of Good Law Project Jolyon Maugham look at what can be learned from the waste and loss experienced during the Covid pandemic.

The Oxford Brookes Chancellor's Conversation

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Chef and television presenter Andi Oliver talks to Oxford Brookes Chancellor, actor and writer Paterson Joseph. See [stop press](#) on page 2 of the guide for further details

Feryal Ali-Gauhar and Hani Yousuf.
Women Writers of Pakistani and Asian Heritage

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Feryal Ali-Gauhar



Hani Yousuf

Two writers, Feryal Ali-Gauhar and Hani Yousuf, discuss their work across fiction, film and journalism and the particular challenges they face as women writers of Pakistani and Asian heritage. Event chaired by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown.

Simon Heffer
Scarcely English: An A-Z of Assaults on Our Language

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Veteran *Telegraph* journalist Simon Heffer highlights some of the lazy and bad English in use today and makes a plea for a return to accuracy and elegance in our use of language.

Jo Harkin The Pretender

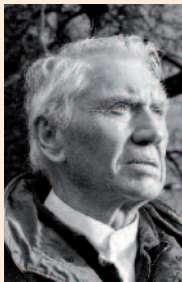
4pm / Harris Manchester College / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist Jo Harkin discusses her new work of historical fiction inspired by the true story of Lambert Simnel, a boy of humble origins who rose to become the figurehead of the Century Yorkist rebellion of 1487 and worked in Henry VII's court as a falconer.

Anthony Julius Abraham: The First Jew

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Author and lawyer Anthony Julius discusses his biography of Judaism's foundational figure Abraham, which describes two separate lives that are a version of the collective lives of the Jewish people.



Don McCullin

Don McCullin talks to Richard Ovenden
The Bodley Lecture and Award of the Bodley Medal: Life and Work

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Outstanding British photojournalist Sir Donald McCullin talks about his life and work in conversation with Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden and receives the Bodley Medal for his outstanding contribution to photography and journalism.

Eugene Rogan and Peter Hill

The Damascus Events and the Prophet of Reason

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historians of the Middle East Professor Eugene Rogan and Dr Peter Hill discuss the momentous outbreak of disorder in the Middle East in 1860 and the life of the Evangelical Protestant Mikha'il Mishaqa, who barely escaped death in the ensuing massacres.

Gavin Francis The Bridge Between Worlds:

A Brief History of Connection

6pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning writer and GP Dr Gavin Francis looks at bridges through the ages, both man-made and natural, and explains how they both unite and divide us.



Mai Jia

Mai Jia talks to Angus Phillips
China Lecture: China and the Spy Novel

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Multi-million selling Chinese spy novelist Mai Jia talks about his books and their screen adaptations.

César Merchán-Hamann

Jewish Languages and Book Culture

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Bodleian curator César Merchán-Hamann discusses the major collection of texts in Judeo languages held by the Bodleian Libraries and what they tell us about the vibrant culture of the Jewish diaspora.

Nathan Robinson and Edward Fishman
Trump, America and the Future World Order

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)



Nathan Robinson



Edward Fishman

US journalist and commentator Nathan Robinson and world expert on economic statecraft and sanctions Edward Fishman discuss the US's place and role in the world and what the Trump presidency may have in store for us.

Zoe Strimpel. Chaired by Stephen Law

Oxford Debate:

Is Britain Broken? If it is, how do we fix it?

10am / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist Zoe Strimpel and a panel debate whether Britain is broken and, if it is, how do we go about fixing it?

James Logan and John Gwynne.

Chaired by Grace Khuri

In Tolkien's Wake: The Future of Epic Fantasy

10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Fantasy writers James Logan and John Gwynne explore the lasting legacy of Tolkien and discuss the future of epic fantasy.

Joseph Conlon Origins: The Cosmos in Verse

10am / Brasenose College:

Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

Theoretical physicist Joseph Conlon explains how he is following in the tradition of early scientists and poets by drawing on his scientific expertise to write two long-form poems on the origins of our universe.

Andrea di Robilant This Earthly Globe: A Venetian Geographer and the Quest to Map the World

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and writer Andrea di Robilant tells the story of the little-known 16th-century Venetian public servant Giovambattista Ramusio whose work can be considered as the birth of modern geography.



Artemis Cooper

Artemis Cooper talks to Miles Young

What makes a great non-fiction book? And just why it matters

12 noon / New College: MacGregor Matthews room / £15 (£8 student)

Artemis Cooper, the chair of the Pol Roger Duff Cooper Prize for non-fiction, discusses what makes great histories and biographies stand out from the crowd, with the 2025 winner, and the Warden of New College, Miles Young.

Azzedine T Downes The Couscous Chronicles: Stories of Food, Love, and Donkeys from a Life between Cultures

12 noon / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

International leader in the fight for animal welfare Azzedine T Downes looks back on a nomadic life that saw him immersed in the cultures of Morocco, Eastern Europe, Northwest Africa, Israel, and his native United States, and talks about his groundbreaking work for wildlife.

Bruno Mações World-Builders: Technology and the New Geopolitics

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Portuguese journalist, politician and writer Bruno Mações offers a new way to understand global events by arguing that geopolitics has become a contest not to control territory but to create territory.



Phil Tinline Ghosts of Iron Mountain

12 noon / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Producer and radio presenter Phil Tinline looks at the origins of modern US conspiracy theories in *The Report from Iron Mountain* and explains why millions of Americans still see the government as an evil deep state today.

Ronald Hutton and Alice Hunt. Chaired by Daniel Brooks Oliver Cromwell and a British Revolution

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)



Ronald Hutton



Alice Hunt

Historians Professor Ronald Hutton and Professor Alice Hunt discuss Oliver Cromwell and the cataclysmic events of the 17th century when Britain briefly became a republic.



Sigrd Rausing And the Walls Became the World All Around

12 noon / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Author and publisher Sigrd Rausing explains how she helped her dying friend, the celebrated Swedish writer Johanna Ekström, finish her final book.

T J Clark Those Passions: On Art and Politics

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Internationally renowned art historian Professor T J Clark discusses the relationship between art and politics since the 15th century that has been a consistent theme of his writing.



Andrew Ziminski Church Going: A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles

12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Stonemason and church conservator Andrew Ziminski says the quietness of today's churches belies a past when they were the busiest and most prominent buildings of their day. They now offer as close an encounter with the past as you can get.



Adam Frost For the Love of Plants

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter Adam Frost reflects on the plants that have shaped him and takes some questions from festival-goers.

Fabio Barry Amphion's Lyre: How Poems Became Buildings

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Architectural historian Fabio Barry says architecture and poetry have always mirrored each other by analogy. While some pre-modern theorists applauded the capacity of poetry to 'paint' a picture of a building, others recognised that poets had to construct descriptions to describe constructions.

Anna Beer and Manjiri Prabhu

Murder and Mystery among the Dreaming Spires

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Anna Beer



Manjiri Prabhu

Crime writers Dr Anna Beer and Dr Manjiri Prabhu discuss their latest murder mysteries and their literary themes and setting among the dreaming spires of Oxford.

Matthew Goodwin, Justin Schlosberg.
Chaired by Stephen Law

Oxford Debate: Rising Fascism?

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Political commentator Matthew Goodwin and academic Professor Justin Schlosberg debate the nature of fascism and whether concern about an apparent rise is justified.



Matthew Goodwin



Justin Schlosberg



Guillem Balagué Making a Messi

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Well-known sports journalist and biographer of the world's football greats Guillem Balagué explores the unique characteristics that have made Messi the greatest footballer in the history of the sport.



Luis García Montero

The World so Often: Poetry Readings with Luis García Montero

2pm / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

One of Spain's greatest living poets Luis García Montero discusses his work and reads some of his poems. This event will be in Spanish with a translator and an actor reading the poems in English alongside the Spanish readings.



Rod Dreher

Rod Dreher talks to Iain McGilchrist
Living in Wonder: Finding Mystery and Meaning in a Secular Age

2pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

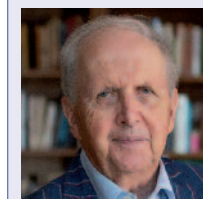
Journalist and author Rod Dreher says the West has become closed to the idea that the universe contains the supernatural but argues that we might just find it under our noses.



Sailesh Rao There is a Planet B

2pm / Bodleian: Convocation House / £15 (£8 student)

Founder of Climate Healers Dr Sailesh Rao says greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture are being largely ignored and urges a switch from a Planet A mindset, where the objective is to preserve civilisation as we know it, to a Planet B mindset, where the objective is to restore life as we knew it.



Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith talks to Nick Higham

An Audience with Alexander McCall Smith

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Join one of the world's favourite storytellers, Alexander McCall Smith, to be transported to a small dating agency in Edinburgh's New Town, the setting for the latest novel in his new *Perfect Passion Company* series, *Looking for You*, to Germany to meet the hilarious Professor Dr Moritz-Maria Von Igelfeld and finally to Botswana to catch up with Mma Ramotswa and the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*.



Nick Higham



Colin Jones

The Shortest History of France

4pm / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

Cultural historian Professor Colin Jones ranges from the Roman defeat of the Gauls to the presidency of Emmanuel Macron to unpick the myths behind French culture and explain how the country has been shaped by forces beyond its borders as much as by those within them.

David Gann talks to Jim Mellon

Jim Mellon Future Tech Interview:

The Promise of Limitless Energy

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



David Gann



Jim Mellon

Innovation and technology leader and former chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority Professor David Gann talks to businessman and investor Jim Mellon about nuclear fusion and the opportunities it holds for the world.



Ian Goldin
The Shortest History of Migration
 4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Expert on globalisation and migration Professor Ian Goldin explains how migration has shaped human progress and been a catalyst for the development of knowledge and civilisations since the emergence of early humans.



John Suchet In Search of Beethoven
 4pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Classic FM presenter and former well-known journalist and newscaster John Suchet weaves together the story of his own life and that of Beethoven and explains how new information is throwing light on the composer's life.



Sarah Ogilvie The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes who created the Oxford English Dictionary
 4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Lexicographer Dr Sarah Ogilvie explains how the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) relied not just on experts but also on members of the public, including three murderers, Karl Marx's daughter and a vegetarian vicar.



Frank Moya Pons History and Culture of Dominican Republic
 6pm / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £15 (£8 student)

Historian, academic and politician Dr Frank Moya Pons talks about the history and culture of the Dominican Republic.

Michelle Paver and Ally Wilkes. Chaired by Neil McRobert
The Frozen Frontier: Facing the Unseen



Michelle Paver



Ally Wilkes

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Acclaimed novelists Michelle Paver and Ally Wilkes and *Talking Scared* podcast host Neil McRobert delve into the chilling world of supernatural horror. What happens when you venture too far into the icy wilderness?



Iain McGilchrist

Iain McGilchrist talks to Charles Foster The Matter with Things: Our Brains, Our Delusions, and the Unmaking of the World
 6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Neuropsychologist Dr Iain McGilchrist talks about his two-volume work, *The Matter with Things*, in which he addresses major questions about who we are and how we can understand consciousness, matter, space and time.

Ian Williams and Michael Sheridan
Facing up to Xi Jinping and the new China



Ian Williams



Michael Sheridan

6pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Veteran foreign correspondents Ian Williams and Michael Sheridan discuss modern day China and how the new UK government should face up to the challenges it presents.



Nick Trend
What Art can tell us about Love
 6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and art historian Nick Trend uncovers the love affairs that inspired some of the world's great art masterpieces.

Snezana Lawrence, Charlotte Mullins and Nigel Warburton. Chaired by Heather McCallum

Sparking Curiosity: Big Ideas that Have Shaped World
 6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Three authors in the Yale University Press Little Histories series, mathematician Dr Snezana Lawrence, art critic Dr Charlotte Mullins and philosopher Dr Nigel Warburton each give a short talk to mark the 20th anniversary of publication of the series in English.



Snezana Lawrence



Charlotte Mullins



Nigel Warburton

Festival Evensong

6pm / Pusey House: Chapel / Free

The event is free and no booking is required.

Gary Francione, Anna Charlton, Bill Tara and Marlene Watson-Tara Why Vegan? Creating a Healthy Future for Human and Non-Human Life.

9.30am / Reuben College / £65

The media is filled with bad news about the health implications of the food we eat. The direct connections between our diet and disease are overwhelming. What can we do? This one-day workshop explores the practical approach to changing our relationship with food from sickness to health, from violence to peace, and from hopelessness to sustainability.

Ashley Jackson Oxford's War 1939-1945

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor Ashley Jackson uncovers the extraordinary and hidden role Oxford played in World War II and the impact it had on the university.



Richard Coles

Richard Coles talks to Triona Adams
Murder under the Mistletoe

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15
(£10-£8 student)

Writer, broadcaster and Anglican priest Rev Richard Coles talks about his life and his latest Canon Clement novella, *Murder under the Mistletoe*.

Darrin McMahon Equality: The History of an Elusive Idea

12 noon / Oxford Martin School:
Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Professor Darrin McMahon looks at the history of equality and how we continually reimagine it and asks why it matters.

Anthony Seldon, Paul Johnson, Meg Russell and John Kampfner The Conservative Effect, 2010–2024. 14 Wasted Years?

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Historian Sir Anthony Seldon discusses a new collection of essays on the 14 years of Conservative government with some of the contributors, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies Professor Paul Johnson, politics lecturer Professor Meg Russell and writer and journalist John Kampfner.



Anthony Seldon



Paul Johnson



Meg Russell



John Kampfner



Kelly Grovier

How Banksy Saved Art History

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Art critic, feature writer and poet Kelly Grovier says Banksy is much more than the world's most famous urban artist, he is also one of the most perceptive art historians of our age.



Michel Brahic

Michel Brahic talks to Irene Tracey.

Vice-chancellor's Lecture:

Power of Prions

12 noon / Oxford University Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 3 / £13.50 (£7 student)

Scientist and expert in brain infections Professor Michel Brahic explains recent discoveries about a family of proteins called prions that are being linked with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other diseases.



Saqib Qureshi

Being Muslim Today: Reclaiming the Faith from Orthodoxy and Islamophobia

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Author and film producer Dr Saqib Qureshi looks at the twin perils of Islamic orthodoxy and Islamophobia and says both misinterpret the faith and its origins.

Tracy Chevalier The Glassmaker

12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Bestselling historical novelist Tracy Chevalier talks about her new work, *The Glassmaker*, a story set in 15th-century Venice but which skips across time.

David Goodhart The Care Dilemma:

How to Care Enough in the Age of Sex Equality

2pm / University of Oxford Mathematical Institute:
Lecture Theatre 3 / £15 (£8 student)

Founding editor of *Prospect* magazine and policy analyst David Goodhart argues for new policies that support gender equality while also recognising the importance of stable families and community life.



Irenosen Okojie

Irenosen Okojie talks to

Ellah P Wakatama Curandera

2pm / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

British Nigerian novelist Irenosen Okojie talks about her latest work, *Curandera*, a story that explores shamanism, desire, betrayal and friendship across time and dimensions.



Jordi Pigem

Jordi Pigem talks to Iain McGilchrist
Consciousness or Collapse

2pm / Oxford Martin School:
Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Catalan philosopher and writer Dr Jordi Pigem talks about his new book in which he asks where we should turn to find direction in a world clouded by propaganda and digital mirages.

Shannon Monaghan To Die with Such Men: Frontline Stories from Ukraine's International Legion

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian of modern war Dr Shannon Monaghan tells the story of western volunteers fighting Russia on the frontline in the Ukrainian International Legion.



Simon Armitage

Simon Armitage in conversation with Rebecca Jones An Audience with Poet Laureate Simon Armitage

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Poet laureate Simon Armitage talks about his writing life and about a new collection of poems, *Blossomise*, that celebrates the transformations of spring.



Tony Juniper

Tony Juniper talks to Tom Heap
Just Earth: How a Fairer World will save the Planet

2pm / Pusey House:
Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Environmentalist and chair of Natural England Tony Juniper says climate collapse affects the most vulnerable but inequality is not only about who is affected the most it is also the main obstacle that has been blocking action for decades.



Graham Brady

Graham Brady talks to Anthony Seldon Kingmaker: Secrets, Lies, and the Truth about Five Prime Ministers

4pm / University of Oxford Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 1 / £15 (£8 student)

The man at the centre of the dismissal and election of recent prime ministers Lord Graham Brady lifts the lid on inner goings-on at Westminster as David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak came and went as leaders of the Conservative Party and the country.

John Kampfner

The UK and Germany: Our Changing Relationship

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Writer, journalist and foreign affairs specialist John Kampfner says the UK Prime Minister's recent trip to Germany to sign a declaration on deepening ties is a sign of the changing relationship between the two countries.



Louisa Treger The Paris Muse

4pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist Louisa Treger talks about her fictionalised account of the love affair between Pablo Picasso and the French photographer, painter and poet Dora Maar.

Masud Husain Our Brains, Our Selves: What a Neurologist's Patients Taught Him About the Brain

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Neurologist Professor Masud Husain explains how our brains make us who we are and how that identity can be changed or even restored.



Carlo Greppi

A Man of Few Words: The Bricklayer of Auschwitz who Saved Primo Levi

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

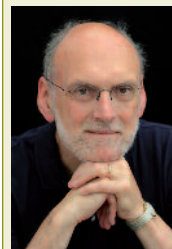
Historian Carlo Greppi tells the story of Lorenzo Perrone, a bricklayer who risked his life for six months to smuggle in the food and clothing renowned chemist and writer Primo Levi needed to survive in Auschwitz.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Nigel Biggar and Matthew Goodwin. Chaired by Gary Francione

Oxford Debates: Woke and Free Speech: Universities and Beyond

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, moral philosopher and theologian Professor Nigel Biggar and political commentator and researcher on populism Matthew Goodwin debate one of the most divisive issues of our time, the nature of wokeness and free speech inside and outside universities.



Nigel Biggar



Georgina Howard In the Footsteps of Smugglers: My Life on a Basque Mountain

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Journalist and linguist Georgina Howard recounts her life as a single mother raising a daughter in a remote Basque community full of smugglers and rituals with pagan origins.

SATURDAY 5 APRIL (continued)

Daniel Light and Mick Conefrey

Triumph and Tragedy: The Lure of the Mountains

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Daniel Light



Mick Conefrey

Mountaineer Daniel Light and mountaineering documentary maker Mick Conefrey discuss the early days of mountaineering including the story of George Mallory and his ill-fated Everest expedition of 1924.



Robert D Kaplan The American Lecture. Wasteland: A World in Permanent Crisis

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Writer, journalist and former Pentagon advisor Robert D Kaplan explains how we are entering a new era of global cataclysm with a deadly mix of war, climate change, great power rivalry, rapid technological advancement and the end of empire.



Tom Heap Land Smart: How to Give People and Nature the Space to Thrive

6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

BBC *Countryfile* and *Sky News* presenter Tom Heap argues that we need to urgently change our relationship with the land and start to use it more cleverly to give both humanity and nature space to thrive.

Samantha Shannon in conversation with Saara El-Arifi

Crafting Immersive Worlds

6pm / Pusey House: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Samantha Shannon



Saara El-Arifi

Acclaimed author of the bestselling Bone Season series Samantha Shannon talks about the fifth instalment, *Dark Mirror*, and the craft of writing fantasy in conversation with Saara El-Arifi, author of *Faebound*.

Marlene Watson-Tara Closing Dinner

7.30pm / 7:30pm / Exeter College: Hall / £130

Enjoy a delicious menu of vegan dishes specially devised for the dinner by the celebrated chef and writer Marlene Watson-Tara, co-Founder of The Human Ecology Project.

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

SEE PAGE 54 FOR CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Funmi Fetto and Jendella Benson Festival Debuts: Hail Mary

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Debut writer Funmi Fetto and established novelist Jendella Benson discuss their work including why Benson admires and is championing Fetto's writing.

Jan Brokken Baltic Souls: Remarkable Life Stories from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Award-winning writer Jan Brokken mixes stories of his own travels to the Balkans with a look at the cultural richness and social diversity of the region and tales of personal tragedy over eight centuries.



Samantha Harvey Orbital

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)

Winner of the 2024 Booker Prize Samantha Harvey talks about her winning novel, *Orbital*, a story that takes place over a single day in the life of six astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Felix Flicker and Femi Fadugba Physics and Storytelling

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)



Felix Flicker



Femi Fadugba

Two physicists who put storytelling at the heart of their work, Dr Felix Flicker and sci-fi novelist Femi Fadugba, discuss storytelling in physics and how they use it to educate and entertain their readers.



Ilan Pappé

Ilan Pappé talks to Eugene Rogan

Conflict in the Middle East and the Pro-Israel Lobby

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

One of the best-known historians of the Middle East Professor Ilan Pappé explains the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict and shows how pro-Israel lobbying groups have influenced policy in Britain and the US.

James Kinross Dark Matter:

The New Science of the Microbiome

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Surgeon and lecturer Dr James Kinross explains new understanding about the complex eco-system of bacteria, viruses and microbes in our bodies and how it is vital for our health and wellbeing.

Nicholas Money Mushrooms, and Medicines:
Our Lifelong Relationship with Fungi

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Biologist Professor Nicholas Money says we are navigating a world with fungi and explains how they operate in our bodies, how we interact with them in the wider environment and their vital role in supporting life and treating disease.

Margarita García Robayo and Juan Sebastián Cárdenas
Voices of Colombia

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)



Margarita García Robayo



Juan Sebastián Cárdenas

Two Colombian writers, Margarita García Robayo and Juan Sebastián Cárdenas, talk about their work and the Colombian voice.

Adam Zamoyski Izabela the Valiant: The Story of an
Indomitable Polish Princess

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historian Adam Zamoyski tells the story of the Polish princess, Izabela Czartoryska, who was a pioneer of education and whose life touched many of the great figures of 18th and 19th-century Europe.

Danny Dorling

Seven Children: Inequality and Britain's Next Generation

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Social scientist Professor Danny Dorling imagines the lives of seven typical five-year-olds across different income brackets in the UK and finds that even the best-off of the seven is dis-advantaged today.

Janet Todd Living with Jane Austen

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £15 (£8 student)

Novelist and academic Professor Janet Todd marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen by showing how Austen has inspired and challenged her personally through different phases of her life.



Marietje Schaake The Tech Coup: How
to Save Democracy from Silicon Valley

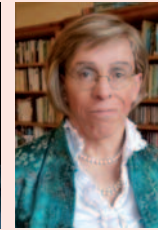
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Policy analyst and former Dutch MEP Marietje Schaake says the rise of unregulated technology is bad news for democracies and citizens and argues for changes to empower politicians and citizens.

**Constantine Sandis and Sophie Grace Chappell. Chaired
by Diarmaid MacCulloch** In Defence of Trans Realities



Constantine Sandis



Sophie Grace Chappell

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-£15 (£10-£8 student)

Philosopher, theatre director, and playwright Professor Constantine Sandis and philosopher, poet, and mountaineer Professor Sophie Grace Chappell discuss the realities of being transgender and societal understanding of gender concepts.

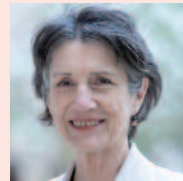
Rachel Joyce talks to Lucy Atkins The Homemade God

2pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Million-selling novelist Rachel Joyce talks about her latest work, *The Homemade God*, a story about memory, identity, grief, healing and sibling bonds.

Harriet Walter She Speaks: What Shakespeare's Women
Might have Said

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £20-15 (£10-£8 student)



Dame Harriet Walter, known for roles in *Succession* and *Killing Eve* and as a Shakespearean actor, reimagines what some of the Bard's great women characters might have secretly been thinking and lets them speak their minds. Walter will be interviewed and the event will be interspersed with readings from the book.

Helen Fry and Kate Vigurs Secret Women Spies:
The Hidden Stories of Two World Wars

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Historians Helen Fry and Dr Kate Vigurs discuss the role of women in the intelligence services during two world wars and explain how they often defied conventions of the time to take on demanding and dangerous roles behind enemy lines.

Kathryn Sutherland Jane Austen in 41 Objects

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £15 (£8 student)

Researcher Kathryn Sutherland provides some fascinating insights into the life of Jane Austen through a series of objects that crossed her path in life and afterwards.

Thomas Levenson

So Very Small: How Humans Discovered the Microcosmos

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £15 (£8 student)

Science writer and broadcaster Professor Thomas Levenson explains how humans discovered and defeated germs and why we may still lose the war against infectious diseases.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR NEW EVENTS.

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

Mel Taylor-Bessent

Race to Imagination Island: Writing Masterclass

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8

Join Mel Taylor-Bessent, creator of the *WriteForFunWithMTB* YouTube channel, author of the *Christmas Carrolls* trilogy, and her latest series, *Race to Imagination Island*, for this creative writing masterclass. Drawing on Taylor-Bessent's years of experience leading creative writing workshops, this masterclass will be packed with expert tips, writing development prompts, new ideas plus fun and games. Tickets are limited to 30 for this must-have workshop for budding young writers. **Ages: 7-11**



Jessie Burton Hidden Treasure

12 noon / Pusey House: Chapel / £8

Join internationally bestselling author Jessie Burton as she talks about her magical new book for young readers, *Hidden Treasure*.

Age: 9+

Jessie Burton

Cressida Cowell Dragon Tales

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10

Meet multi-million-copy selling, award-winning author and former children's laureate Cressida Cowell, creator of the *How to Train Your Dragon*, *The Wizards of Once* and the *Which Way to Anywhere* series. *How to Train Your Dragon* was turned into a Dreamworks film.

Cowell will introduce her newest book *Dragon Tales: Short Story Collection* and gives a sneak peek of *How to Train your Dragon School*, the brand-new spin off series publishing in May, ahead of a new film in June. **Age 7+**



Matty Long

Super Happy Magic Forest

2pm / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £8

Join award-winning author and illustrator Matty Long for an interactive *Super Happy Magic Forest* reading and drawing session. **Age 5+**



Katherine Webber and Sarah Underwood

The Incredible Captain of Fates and Gentlest of Wild Things

4pm / Brasenose College: Amersi Lecture Room / £8



Katherine Webber



Sarah Underwood

Join Katherine Webber and Sarah Underwood, two of the biggest voices in young adult fiction, as they chat about their romantic fantasy novels. Together they will explore monstrous magic, myth and fairytale, swoony romances, and give a behind-the-scenes look at being young adult writers.

Age: 14+

Robin Stevens The Most Unladylike Puzzle Book

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8



Join the detectives from Robin Stevens' bestselling *Murder Most Unladylike* and *Ministry of Unladylike Activity* series as she shares her top tips for mystery-solving and code-cracking to mark the publication of her latest book, *The Most Unladylike Puzzle Book*. Bring your detective skills and join Stevens at this event, whether you're part of the Detective Society, a Ministry Member or just want to enjoy the party. **Age: 9+**

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

Alexander Armstrong Evenfall: The Golden Linnet

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £10



Go on an interactive quest with actor, comedian, television presenter and singer Alexander Armstrong as he introduces *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet*, his epic debut children's book bursting with ancient magic, secret societies, and fearsome foes. In this adventure-packed event, you will solve riddles and puzzles, create the perfect villain, and discover Armstrong's top tips to write your own thrilling adventures.

At the end, discover if you have what it takes to become part of *Evenfall's* ancient secret society, the Order of the Evening.. **Age 8+**

Joseph Coelho

Goodnight, Starry Night: Bedtime Poems Inspired by Works of Art

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8

Former-Children's Laureate and award-winning author Joseph Coelho reads some cosy poems perfect for exploring sleep. **Age: 3+**



EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SATURDAY 5 APRIL



Matt Bothwell Astrophysics for Supervillains: The Great Alien Hunt
10am / Oxford University Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 3 / £8
 How do you travel in style across the galaxy? What do aliens really look like? What is the Fermi paradox and why should we care about it? Find out the answers with Dr Matt Bothwell and his Supervillain Academy: the magnificently morbid school for young bad folks-in-training. **Age 9+**



Isabel Thomas The Bedtime Book of Even More Impossible Questions
10am / Pusey House: Chapel / £8
 Has a slug ever been to space? When did life begin? Why do we have two nostrils? Following on from *The Bedtime Book of Impossible Questions*, science writer Isabel Thomas provides even more answers to the weird, wonderful and downright dumbfounding questions that buzz around children's brains at bedtime. Why do we need eyebrows? Could I swim in ice cream? What makes water wet? Help explore the answers with interactive experiments and bring your own bamboozling brainteasers for a chance to star in Thomas's next book. **Age 7+**

Rob Biddulph Draw with Rob: Vehicles
12 noon / Oxford University Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 1 / £8

Join bestselling and multi-award-winning author and illustrator Rob Biddulph, the creative star behind the viral and phenomenal #DrawWithRob videos, for a fun-packed event for all the family. Rob will bring to life his award-winning books, including his latest *My First Draw With Rob: Vehicles*, and everyone will learn how to draw one of Rob's amazing illustrations, so please do come with some paper, or a sketch book and pencils and pens. **Age 4+**



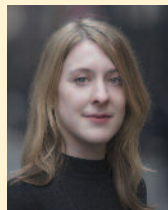
Korky Paul Winnie and Wilbur
2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free
 Bestselling illustrator Korky Paul brings Winnie and Wilbur to life with live drawing, lots of audience participation, Q&As, sound effects, and, of course, a special reading of Winnie and Wilbur's latest story *Winnie's Witchy Bedtime*. *Winnie and Wilbur* has sold over ten million copies and been published in more than 44 languages. This free session is ideal for children **aged 4+**. No ticket required, just turn up on the day.



Neill Cameron The Phoenix: The Great Comic Book Draw Off
2pm / Oxford University: Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 1 / £8
 Join Neill Cameron and a host of incredible comic creators for the first ever Phoenix and Oxford Literary Festival Comic Book Draw-Off. With live competitions, awesome draw-alongs and incredible prizes, it's the must-see event for comic books fans. **Ages 7-14**

Katherine Woodfine, Sufiya Ahmed and Patrice Lawrence The Joy of Mystery
4pm / Oxford University Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 3 / £8

Join Katherine Woodfine, Sufiya Ahmed and Patrice Lawrence to explore the joy of mystery novels and their various books, from Edwardian murder, to World War II spies and unsolved contemporary mystery. A mystery and murder panel for all budding detectives and soon-to-be sleuths. **Age 8+**



Katherine Woodfine



Sufiya Ahmed



Patrice Lawrence

Liz Hyder and Tom de Freston. Chaired by Kiran Millwood Hargrave The Twelve
6pm / Oxford University Mathematical Institute: Lecture Theatre 3 / £8



Liz Hyder



Tom de Freston

Join author and illustrator of *The Twelve*, Liz Hyder and Tom de Freston, as they discuss their collaboration and wider art and writing with bestselling author Kiran Millwood Hargrave. **Age 9+**

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SUNDAY 6 APRIL



Frances Hardinge
 Ghosts and Ghouls, Magic and Murder
 10am / Department for Continuing Education:
 Lecture Theatre / £8

Join Frances Hardinge to explore her latest titles and all the fascinating facets of her award winning, bestselling books. From ghosts and ghouls to magic and murder, this is a not-to-be-missed chance to see one of the country's most exciting writers.

Age 9+

Cornelia Funke and Emma Carroll.
 Chaired by **Carolyn McGlone**
 Mystery and Intrigue from Houdini to the Green Kingdom

12 noon / Department for Continuing Education:
 Lecture Theatre / £8

Join bestselling authors Cornelia Funke and Emma Carroll as they discuss mystery and intrigue in their latest novels, their writing careers and all things children's books. Age 8+



Cornelia Funke



Emma Carroll



Carolyn McGlone

Piers Torday, Pari Thomson and Anna James.
 Chaired by **Sam Leith** Exploring Magical Worlds

4pm / Department for Continuing Education: Lecture Theatre / £8

Join award-winning and bestselling authors Piers Torday, Pari Thomson and Anna James for a discussion of fantasy writing and their newest novels. Age 8+



Piers Torday



Pari Thomson



Anna James



Sam Leith

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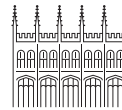
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Sir Christopher Wren's 17th-century Sheldonian Theatre



The 17th-century Exeter College Great Hall – venue for the festival opening and closing dinners



Worcester College 18th-century main quad



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