

Janie Hampton

907

The Austerity Olympics: When the Games Came to London in 1948

10am / Christ Church: Festival Room 1 / £10

When the Olympics came to London in 1948, post-war Britain was in an economic crisis far worse than today. Blending Heath Robinson improvisation with the spirit of Ealing Comedy, competitors brought their own towels, slept in schools and travelled by Underground. Despite food rationing and terrible weather, great Olympians such as Emil Zatopek and Fanny Blankers-Koen attracted cheering Londoners to Wembley Stadium.

Janie Hampton's meticulous research brings the era of 'Make-do and Mend' to life with songs, anecdotes and original artefacts. *The Austerity Olympics* was shortlisted for the prestigious William Hill Sports Book of the Year and was described by Peter Kemp of The *Sunday Times* as 'incredibly heartening....absolutely fascinating.'

Bert and Dickie, a film starring Matt Smith based on this book, is the BBC's contribution to the Cultural Olympiad.

Janie Hampton



Tom Holland

913

In The Shadow Of The Sword: The Battle for Global Empire and the End of the Ancient World

10am / Corpus Christi College / £10

Historian Tom Holland chronicles the end of the ancient world ruled over by the Roman and Persian empires and the rise of Islam. In the sixth century, the Near East was divided between the two ancient empires, but 100 years later it was the Arabs that ruled. Holland examines how this happened. He uncovers the dramas and the horrors of this age and portrays the remarkable leaders who played a part in the transformation.

Holland is the author of three other acclaimed works of history, *Rubicon*, *Persian Fire*, and *Millennium: The Ending of the World and the Forging of Christendom*. He has also written a number of novels.

Tom Holland



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Lawyers to the Festival

Choral Matins 932

Speaker Andrew Motion

10am / Christ Church: Cathedral / FREE

The speaker at this special service for Palm Sunday is Andrew Motion, former Poet Laureate.

All are welcome.

Matthew Flinders 921

Defending Politics: Why Democracy Matters in the 21st Century

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

Have we, the public, become 'democratically decadent', taking for granted what the democratic process delivers for us? Why have we become distrustful of politicians and disillusioned about their power to deliver change and resolve social concerns? Matthew Flinders, professor of politics at the University of Sheffield, tackles these issues head on. He argues that democratic politics delivers far more than people acknowledge or understand. And he says the media, public, pressure groups, academics and politicians are part of the problem but also part of the cure.

Flinders has written a number of books on politics and government. He has acted as an adviser to the government of Thailand, and recently recorded a three-part series, *In Defence of Politics*, for BBC Radio 4.

Published by

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Francesca Kay and Will Wiles 935
talk to Rachel Hore

Writers Round Table

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

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

Francesca Kay, winner of the Orange Award for New Writers for *An Equal Stillness*, joins the table to discuss her new novel, *The Translation of the Bones*. Will Wiles will talk about his debut novel *Care of Wooden Floors*, described as a black comedy of death, destruction and interior decoration.

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

Will Wiles



Christ Church Cathedral



D J Taylor and Sadie Jones. 927
Chaired by Ross King

Historic Mystery: Enveloping the Reader in the Past

10am / Christ Church Cathedral School / £10

Two award-winning writers, D J Taylor and Sadie Jones, discuss the art of writing historical mystery – the importance of atmosphere and characterisation and of creating a storyline for modern readers whilst authentically recreating the past.

Taylor's new novel *Secondhand Daylight* is set in the 1930s and follows struggling writer James Ross in Soho as Mosley's Blackshirts prowl the streets. It is the sequel to *At The Chime of a City Clock* which won praise for its evocation of the sleazy side of 1930s London.

Jones's latest novel *The Uninvited Guests* is a mystery set in an Edwardian manor house in 1912. Her first work *The Outcast* won the Costa First Novel Award and was praised for its portrayal of the repressive social climate of the 1950s.

The event is chaired by Ross King, a novelist and art historian whose books include *Brunelleschi's Dome* and *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*.

D J Taylor



Sadie Jones



Photo: Charlie Hopkinson

Clare Beaton 931

The Secret Seahorse

10am / Christ Church: JCR / £5 Age 3-6

Clare Beaton has illustrated more than 25 books in fabric collage using felt, fabrics, buttons, sequins and other bric-a-brac.

She will be bringing original artwork and showing you how to create your very own fabric collage picture. Based on her popular book, *Secret Seahorse*, dive down amongst the sparkling seas and hide a seahorse amongst the fronds!

Clare Beaton



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Anne Tyler talks to Peter Kemp 917

The Beginner's Goodbye

11am / Sheldonian Theatre / £10 - £25

This is a very rare opportunity to see and hear the hugely popular Pulitzer-prize-winning US author Anne Tyler in the UK. Tyler is flying over from the US specially to talk to *The Sunday Times* chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp about her new novel, *The Beginner's Goodbye*, due to be published in April, and to accept the *Sunday Times* Award for Literary Excellence from the newspaper's literary editor Andrew Holgate.

The Beginner's Goodbye is a story about love and marriage and about two people so close they cannot be separated by death. Dorothy dies in an accident, leaving Aaron bereft. He keeps himself busy working for the family publishing firm, and then Dorothy starts to appear in the strangest places, at first for a short while, and then for longer. They talk and then they argue.

Tyler lives in Baltimore, where her novels are set. Her works include the Pulitzer-Prize-winning *Breathing Lessons* and a series of bestsellers, including *The Accidental Tourist*, *Saint Maybe*, *Back When We Were Grown-ups*, *The Amateur Marriage*, *Digging to America* and *Noah's Compass*. She has twice been shortlisted for the Orange prize and was shortlisted for the International Man Booker in 2011.

'2012 is the 25th year of the *Sunday Times* Award for Literary Excellence. Since 1987, the prize has been given to a remarkable range of authors, from Anthony Burgess, Muriel Spark and Margaret Atwood to Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney and John le Carré. I can think of no modern English-language author, though, who more deserves to be added to that list than Anne Tyler. The apparent effortlessness of her prose is matched by her empathy for her characters, the depth of her human understanding and the consistency of her literary vision. Readers the world over treasure Anne Tyler for the profound way she seems to peer into their hearts, and we are thrilled that she has decided to make this rare visit to the UK to accept the award.'

Andrew Holgate, *Sunday Times* literary editor

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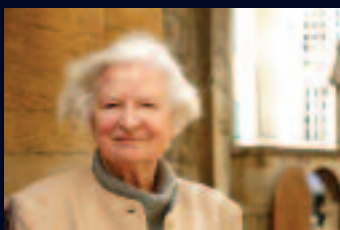
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DAVID SHEPHERD

THE SUNDAY TIMES OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL



The Festival Photographers



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Geraint Lewis: geraint@geraintlewis.com

Inspector Morse with Alastair Lack 928

**11am-1pm / Meet outside Balliol College Lodge,
Broad Street / £25**

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

Sponsored by the Macdonald Randolph Hotel



Christopher Lloyd 925

What on Earth Happened?

**11.10 / Christ Church: Next to Festival Cafe,
Meadows Marquee / FREE**

Journey through the entire history of the world with Christopher Lloyd using his amazing technicolour coat of 20 pockets and a giant edition of the highly acclaimed What on Earth? Wallbook as a backdrop. This is a 45-minute family show suitable for ages five to adult.

Sponsored by



Carvery Lunch 934

Family Carvery Lunch in Hogwarts Hall

12 noon / Christ Church: Hall / £27

£27 Two-course adults' menu

**£18 Two-course children's menu
(suitable for age 10 and under)**

Come and enjoy a traditional carvery Sunday lunch in Hall at Christ Church under the direction of head chef Chris Simms and hall manager Andrew Hedges.

Make your choice of roast beef or roast pork belly with all the trimmings from the carvery. This will be followed by a traditional British pudding, served to your table, with coffee to follow. Small portions of the same menu are available for children under 10 years of age.

The Hall reflects Christ Church's long association with children's literature. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was inspired and written in this college by Lewis Carroll. His portrait and the Alice Window can both be seen here. More recently, the Hall was used as the model for the dining hall of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films.

The carvery lunch will be served in two sittings. This is the first sitting at 12pm. Enjoy a leisurely lunch with family and friends. Each sitting is located in a separate section of the Great Hall – so there are no time pressures.

150 places



Alice Window,
Christ Church
Great Hall

Andrew Motion

922

Silver: A Sequel to Treasure Island**12 noon / Christ Church: Master's Garden
Marquee / £10**

Former poet laureate Sir Andrew Motion discusses *Silver*, his eagerly awaited sequel to Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. *Silver* is due to be published in April and picks up the story in 1802 at an inn run by Jim Hawkins and his son young Jim. Young Jim is visited by a mysterious girl called Natty who has a request from her father, Long John Silver. The pirate wants the pair to sail to Treasure Island in search of silver, and so the pair set off in the footsteps of their fathers to meet with some thrilling adventures.

Sir Andrew was poet laureate from 1999 until 2003. He is professor of creative writing at Royal Holloway, University of London, and was knighted for his services to literature in 2009. He has published many works of poetry, biography and fiction. His most recent works include *The Cinder Path*, a collection of poems; *Ways of Life: On Places, Painters and Poets*, a collection of essays; and *In the Blood: A Memoir of my Childhood*.

Sponsored by The Oxford Times.

The Oxford Times

Katherine Rundell

910

The Joy of Writing, Reading and Cartwheels**12 noon / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £5
Age 9+**

Katherine Rundell is the author of *The Girl Savage* and the youngest fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. Come along and hear her talk about how books are made, from first sitting down with a head full of ideas to the fantastic fun of writing blurbs. She will discuss why poetry is better than coffee, where ideas might come from – her best ones happen when she is doing handstands against the wall – and why she begins each day with a cartwheel. Because, in fact, reading is almost exactly the same as cartwheeling: it turns the world upside down, and leaves you breathless.



Sponsored by



Andrew Gibson

919

I've always meant to read . . . *Ulysses*

12 noon / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Have you ever put this epic book aside as a 'maybe later'? A conversation with Andrew Gibson will transform your understanding of the book by putting it into its historical context and explaining its purpose. Gibson is a former trustee of the International James Joyce Foundation, permanent advisory editor to the *James Joyce Quarterly*, and director for 26 years of the London University seminar for research into *Ulysses* and its author. His works include two Oxford University Press books, *Joyce's Revenge* and *The Strong Spirit*, which is published in 2012. This event is part of a series on 'books I've always meant to read'.

Andrew Gibson



Kristina Stephenson

916

Songs, Secrets and Stinky Socks: Sir Charlie Returns

12 noon / Christ Church JCR / £5 **Ages 5-7**

Join bestselling author/illustrator and festival favourite Kristina Stephenson for a wonderful hour of interactive musical storytelling based on her latest book *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the Tale of the Terrible Secret*, complete with hilarious songs and silly sound effects.

Kristina Stephenson



Sponsored by



Anthony Sattin

923

Introduced by Jaromir Malek

Two Centuries of Travel in Egypt

12 noon / Christ Church: Cathedral School / £10

Journalist and acclaimed writer on history and travel Anthony Sattin returns to the festival to talk about two centuries of travel by westerners to Egypt.

In his work *A Winter on the Nile*, Sattin follows the 19th-century journeys in Egypt of Florence Nightingale and French novelist Gustave Flaubert. They both arrived in the country at the same time and before they shot to fame, one as a saviour of wounded soldiers and the other as the writer of *Madame Bovary*. *Lifting the Veil* tells the story of western travellers to Egypt from the explorer James Bruce in 1768 to the 1956 Suez Crisis.

Sattin is a journalist, broadcaster and writer whose main interest is the Middle East and Africa. He is a regular contributor to *The Sunday Times* travel and books pages. His TV appearances include the BBC series *The Tourist* and *The Thirties in Colour*. Sattin will be introduced by Dr Jaromir Malek, an Egyptologist and author who recently retired as keeper of the archives at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford.

Anthony Sattin



In association with The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies



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Adrian Levy and
Cathy Scott-Clark
Chaired by Patrick Jephson

242

The Meadow: Kidnapped in
Kashmir

12 noon / Corpus Christi College / £10

Journalists Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark tell the definitive story of the 1995 kidnapping in Kashmir of a group of backpackers and of how it changed the face of jihad and sowed the seeds for a war against the West. It is a story of a terrifying escape, secret letters and a horrific beheading.

Levy and Scott-Clark had access to diaries, letters, classified police reports and secret tape recordings of Indian government negotiations. They also spoke to some of the jihadis involved. Levy and Scott-Clark will discuss the story as well as wider questions about investigative journalism, its importance, whether it is a force for good and what drives people to take it up as a career.

The event is chaired by Patrick Jephson, an editor, broadcaster and *New York Times* bestselling author whose latest book, an introduction to Azerbaijan, is to be published later this year.

Corpus Christi
College Oxford

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Ian and Carol Sellars

Carvery Lunch

933

Family Carvery
Lunch in Hogwarts Hall

1pm / Christ Church: Hall / £27

£27 Two-course adults' menu

£18 Two-course children's menu

(suitable for age 10 and under)

Come and enjoy a traditional carvery Sunday lunch in Hall at Christ Church under the direction of head chef Chris Simms and hall manager, Andrew Hedges.

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The carvery lunch will be served in two sittings. This is the second sitting at 1pm. Enjoy a leisurely lunch with family and friends. Each sitting is located in a separate section of the Great Hall – so there are no time pressures.

150 places



Bill Manley

901

A Two-Hour Masterclass in Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Young or Old

2pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 1 / £15

An understanding of Egyptian hieroglyphs brings to life a world of fascinating monuments, kings and ancient society. In this two-hour masterclass aimed at anyone 12 or over, renowned Egyptologist Bill Manley takes a fresh and accessible approach to this ancient language, explaining the mysteries of hieroglyphs without jargon or technical terms. He assumes no knowledge of grammar or ancient languages and will guide you through inscriptions on a series of stelae, tombs and objects.

Manley has taught Egyptology and hieroglyphs for 20 years and is the author of several bestselling books on ancient Egypt.

Bill Manley



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Penelope Harper

904

Safari Stories: Storytelling and Craft with Lollipop and Grandpa

2pm / Christ Church: JCR / £5 **Ages 3-7**

Little Lollipop and her Grandpa are intrepid explorers, always on the lookout for the next adventure. On a safari round their back garden, they find all sorts of exciting things – there are Chimpan-trees, a Hippo-potta-compost, even a Croco-logus! Come and listen to author, broadcaster and storyteller Penelope Harper reading their stories, then help her make and decorate a giant garden for Lollipop and Grandpa.

Sponsored by



Alain de Botton

902

Religion for Atheists: A Non-Believers Guide to the Uses of Religion

2pm / Christ Church: Master's Garden Marquee / £10

Essayist Alain de Botton says the supernatural claims of religions are entirely false, but religions have much to teach the secular world. He steps into the sometimes acrimonious debate between atheists and believers and argues that atheists and agnostics should stop mocking religion. Instead, they should steal from religions the good ideas they have on how we should live and how we should run our communities. De Botton, whose works have been described as 'a philosophy of everyday life', says religion can help us to foster our relationships, to get more out of art, and to overcome feelings of envy and inadequacy.



Ali Bader, Inaam Kachachi and Samuel Shimon. 906

Chaired by Alastair Niven

Celebrating Iraqi Culture: A Nation Shaped by Conflict

2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Three leading Iraqi authors debate the impact of war on their country and its effect on the nation's cultural identity exactly nine years on from the allied invasion. Ali Bader, Inaam Kachachi and Samuel Shimon are all prestigious writers and have recently published novels that reflect on the state of the nation.

Bader, author of ten novels who has previously been longlisted for the Arab Booker, the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, recently published *The Tobacco Keeper*. In it, a journalist and former member of Saddam's army returns to Baghdad to try to uncover the circumstances surrounding the death of a celebrated violinist.

Kachachi's *The American Granddaughter* was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in 2009. It features an Iraqi-American who returns to her homeland as an interpreter for US forces and finds herself torn between competing allegiances. Kachachi was born in Iraq but now lives in France. She writes for Arabic newspapers and has previously written three books.

In Shimon's *An Iraqi in Paris*, a young Iraqi writer sets out to become a Hollywood film maker but ends up as a refugee on the streets of Paris. Shimon is an Assyrian writer who was born in Iraq. He is assistant editor of *Banipal*, the leading magazine of Arabic literature in English.

The event is chaired by Dr Alastair Niven, principal of Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, and author of several books on post-colonial writing.



Samuel Shimon

Ali Bader

Supported by
Ian and Carol Sellars

Steve Bloom and Gill Lewis 909

Wildlife Tales: Sky Hawk and My Favourite Animals

2pm / Corpus Christi College / £5

Steve Bloom, distinguished wildlife photographer, and Gill Lewis, author of the acclaimed children's novel *Sky Hawk*, offer a spectacularly illustrated double presentation for lovers of animals and birds about the creatures that have inspired their work.

Bloom was born and raised in South Africa but now lives in the UK. He is the author of many photography books including *Living Africa* and *Spirit of the Wild*, and his latest children's books *My Favourite Animal Families* and *My Big Cats Journal*. *Sky Hawk*, which has been nominated for the 2012 Red House Book Awards, is Lewis's first novel. It is a wildlife adventure that tells of the battle to protect an osprey through the eyes of children.

Steve Bloom



Gill Lewis



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Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University

In recent years, Aberystwyth University has established itself as one of the leaders in the expanding field of Creative Writing Studies. In addition to an undergraduate degree in English and Creative Writing, the University offers two postgraduate degrees in the subject: the one-year MA in Creative Writing and the three-year PhD in Creative Writing.

Both are available in either full- or part-time mode. If you already have a first degree (in any subject) and are interested in exploring your potential as a writer within a firmly structured and imaginatively sustaining academic framework, please contact us at the address below for further information.

Facing the sea and surrounded to landward by rolling green hills in one of Britain's most notably unspoiled areas, Aberystwyth provides an inspiring environment for writers. With a 130-year history of academic excellence to its credit, the University blends traditional values with a thoughtfully progressive outlook. The Department of English was rated 'excellent' in the most recent teaching assessment exercise.

Further advantages of enrolling at Aberystwyth include access to the National Library of Wales (five minutes' walk from the English Department) and a thriving university-based Arts Centre.

For information on the MA and PhD programmes, please contact:

Ms Julie Roberts email: jxr@aber.ac.uk
Tel. (01970) 621946 (International: +44 1970 621946)

For information on the undergraduate degree, please contact:

Mrs June Baxter email: mjb@aber.ac.uk
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THAN A STRANGER... A FEAST IS BETTER THAN A MEAL!

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a truly unique offering.

- *n* 2. a concentrated bombardment
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Simon and Alex Scarrow 912

The Scarrow Brothers' Great Big Roman Quiz

2pm / Christ Church Cathedral School / £5

Age: 10+

Simon Scarrow has written many novels for adults set in Roman times. The second book in his new young adult series, *Gladiator: Streetfighter*, is now out, just as his brother Alex's young-adult science-fiction series *Time Riders* has a new volume also venturing into ancient history, *Gates of Rome*. Come along to an exciting event where both the Scarrows talk about the latest books in their adventure series. Get the low-down on the brothers and their books as they take it in turns to grill each other, followed by a high-octane, dynamic Great Big Roman Quiz.

Alex Scarrow



Sponsored by



Alastair Lack 929

Literary Oxford with Alastair Lack

2pm-4pm / Meet outside St. John's College, St Giles / £25

Explore Oxford colleges and landmark buildings in the company of the poets A E Housman, A C Swinburne, Edward Thomas and Robert Bridges, as well as writers such as Dorothy Sayers, Graham Greene, Kingsley Amis and Barbara Pym – not forgetting JRR Tolkien and Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson). The walk starts at St John's College, where Housman and Philip Larkin were undergraduates, and finishes at Christ Church.

Rachel Hore and D J Taylor. 920
Chaired by Katy Guest.

Can a book change your life?

2pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £10

'A book that will change your life'. Words that often appear on book covers today. But is it really possible for any book to have a life-changing effect on its reader? *Independent on Sunday* literary editor Katy Guest poses this question to novelist, biographer, reviewer and critic D J Taylor, and to novelist Rachel Hore, who teaches publishing at the University of East Anglia. Then it will be over to you the audience to share your experiences of books that affected your life – and also of those that did not live up to the promise on the cover.

Rachel Hore



Christopher Lloyd 926

What on Earth Evolved?

3.10 / Christ Church: Next to festival Cafe, Meadows Marquee / FREE

Join Christopher Lloyd and Dippy the Diplodocus on a whistle-stop voyage through four billion years of life on Earth flanked by a giant edition of the Natural History Museum's newly published *What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History*.

This is a 45-minute family show suitable for ages five to adult.

Sponsored by



Gaby Hinsliff, Martin Moore, 930
Lance Price and David Smith.
Chaired by Jean Seaton
Politics and the Press

4pm / Christ Church Cathedral School / £10

The courtroom drama of the Leveson Inquiry into press ethics has featured journalists, editors and victims of press intrusion in the lead roles – but the relationship between politicians and the press is also at the centre of events. A former national political editor, a campaigner for the public inquiry and historian of spin, a former spin doctor and journalist, and a Sunday Times journalist consider what the next act might be for politics and the press.

Gaby Hinsliff is the former political editor of *The Observer*. She is the author of *Half A Wife: The Working Family's Guide to Getting a Life Back*. Martin Moore is director of the Media Standards Trust and one of the founders of the Hacked Off campaign. He is also the author of *The Origins of Modern Spin*. Lance Price is a former journalist and former director of communications for the Labour Party. He is now a writer and broadcaster, and author of *The Spin Doctor's Diary* and *Where Power Lies: Prime Ministers v the Media*. David Smith is economics editor of *The Sunday Times* and regularly appears as a commentator on radio and television. Discussions will be chaired by Jean Seaton, director of the Orwell Prize.

Gaby Hinsliff



Sponsored by



Peter Carey talks to Peter Kemp 905

**The 2012 Bodley Lecture:
The Chemistry of Tears**

**Followed by Award of the
Bodley Medal to Peter Carey**

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15-50

One of the greatest living authors Peter Carey talks to *The Sunday Times* chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp on the eve of publication of his new novel, *The Chemistry of Tears*. This is a rare opportunity to hear the twice-Booker-winning author – and one not to be missed by festival-goers. Publication of Carey's new novel is a landmark literary event and follows the huge success of his last novel, *Parrot and Olivier in America*. *The Chemistry of Tears* is a rich tale with historical themes. Based in present-day London and 19th-century Germany, it follows museum conservator Catherine Gehrig as she mourns the loss of her lover of 13 years. Tasked with bringing a 19th-century mechanical creature back to life, she discovers the notebooks of the man who originally commissioned it. The stories are interwoven and together explore the mysteries of human invention, love, feeling, life and death.

At the end of this event, Carey will be presented with the Bodley Medal by Bodley's Librarian, Dr Sarah Thomas. The medal is awarded by the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the worlds of culture, science, and communication. Past winners include writer and actor Alan Bennett, film director Lord Richard Attenborough and inventor of the world wide web Sir Tim Berners-Lee.



Photo: Ashley Gilbertson

Presented by the Bodleian Library



Jon McGregor

908

This Isn't the Sort of Thing That Happens to Someone Like You

4pm / Corpus Christi College / £10

Acclaimed author and travelling salesman Jon McGregor will use photos, videos, maps and a suitcase full of props to perform and tell a selection of stories from his new book *This Isn't The Sort Of Thing That Happens To Someone Like You*. Short stories in the collection centre on events that you may not imagine happening to you, but sometimes do. A woman is almost killed when a sugar-beet crashes through her windscreen; a boy sets fire to a barn; a father is arrested when he tries to watch his daughter's nativity play; and a pair of labourers sit by a lake, talking of shovels and sex, while fighter planes fly overhead in preparation for war. The stories are delicate, dangerous and sometimes deeply funny. McGregor, winner of the Betty Trask Prize and Somerset Maugham Award, is author of three novels, *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things*, *So Many Ways to Begin* and *Even the Dogs*.

Jon McGregor



Photo: Dan Sinclair

Corpus Christi
College Oxford

Declan Kiberd

915

Chaired by Éóin Flannery

Culture and the Irish Future

4pm / Christ Church: Blur Boar / £10

Declan Kiberd is the Donald and Marilyn Keough Professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, USA, where he teaches in the English department and Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. He is one of the leading international authorities on the literature of Ireland, both in the English and the Irish languages, and has authored numerous influential articles and books, including: *Synge and the Irish Language*, *Men and Feminism in Irish Literature*, *Inventing Ireland*, *Irish Classics*, *The Irish Writer and the World*, and, most recently, *Ulysses and Us: The Art of Everyday Living* on Joyce's masterpiece.

The event is presented by Oxford Brookes University and chaired by Dr Éóin Flannery, of the university's Department of English and Modern Languages.

Éóin Flannery



Presented by Oxford Brookes University

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Liz Kessler, Gareth P Jones,
Simon Hart and Amanda Askew
Chaired by a Mystery Celebrity
Blue Peter Book Award

914

4.30pm / Christ Church: Hall / £6

Age 7+



Liz Kessler



Gareth P Jones



Simon Hart



Amanda Askew

The children's events at the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival reach their grand finale in the hall that was the model for Hogwarts Hall in the Harry Potter films. The four shortlisted authors in the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award will tell you about their outstanding books – Liz Kessler's time-travel story *A Year Without Autumn*; Gareth P Jones's hilarious tale of a teenage werewolf, *The Considine Curse*; Simon Hart's timely and fascinating *Countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games*; and the eyebrow-raising *Discover the Extreme Planet*, presented by its editor Amanda Askew. Entry is free to the first 50 Blue Peter badge holders accompanied by a paying adult. Booking is by phone only and you must show your badge on the door.



Lady Almina and the Real
Downton Abbey

109

12 noon / Corpus Christi College / £10

Millions of people tuned in to the first two series of *Downton Abbey* on ITV. One of the stars of the programme is Highclere Castle, a Victorian castle near Newbury, where the series was filmed. Highclere Castle is home to the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon.

Lady Fiona Carnarvon, the eighth countess, uncovers the story behind the real Downton Abbey – and it proves to be even more remarkable than fiction. The book covers the same period as the first two series of Downton Abbey. It begins in 1894 with the marriage of 19-year-old Lady Almina into the Carnarvon family and covers the period of the Great War.

Lady Carnarvon provides a fascinating insight into what life was really like upstairs and downstairs at Highclere.

Lady Fiona Carnarvon



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STAYING AT CHRIST CHURCH

Those staying at Christ Church

May enter via Tom Tower at all times.

Stay at Christ Church

The Festival has arranged for visitors to stay at Christ Church, one of Oxford's largest colleges, in the heart of the historic city, and where most of the festival events are taking place.

To book accommodation at Christ Church at special festival rates, please go to:

www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

All bookings should be made on-line. If you are experiencing technical difficulties please follow the *Any Questions* link on the website. If you need to enquire about your booking please follow the instructions on your confirmation email. For any other enquiries please call our helpline number – 01865 286848 – which is available on weekdays between 9am and 1pm and 2pm and 5pm.

If Christ Church is full, accommodation can be booked at nearby historic colleges.

Access for the disabled at Christ Church

Please see Accessibility and Safety on pages 218–219 for full information. There is a map on page 223 showing the disabled access points.



The North Wall
Arts Centre

THEATRE



26 May, 2pm & 7pm

The Girl with the Iron Claws by The Wrong Crowd

A captivating, dark fairy-tale for young and old.
Tickets £10 and £7

31 May, 1 & 2 June, 8pm

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Photo: KT Bruce



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ARRIVAL, ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY

The festival mainly takes place in Christ Church, with other venues at Corpus Christi, Merton College, the Sheldonian Theatre, the Bodleian Library, and Queen's College. The festival's address is Christ Church, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1DP. The main festival marquee is just south of Christ Church in the Meadows, off St Aldate's. We recommend visitors going to Corpus Christi events to enter via the festival marquee.

Arriving

By train

Oxford is well served from all areas of the country, and the station is a 20-minute walk or five-minute taxi-drive from the festival.

By coach

The coach station at Gloucester Green is a 15-minute walk from the festival. The London buses stop either outside Christ Church, in St Aldate's, or in High Street, depending on the provider.

By car

Street parking is extremely limited. The closest public car park is the Westgate Car Park, which is a five-minute walk from the festival. Park and ride is very efficient, and the buses from the Redbridge park and ride stop outside the festival.

Disabled badge holder designated parking is available in Oriel Square (adjacent to Canterbury Gate) and in St Aldate's (immediately to the south of Tom Gate).

Festival-goers with limited ambulant ability may be dropped off and picked up from the entrance to the marquee, accessed via the cobbled road, 75 yards to the south of Tom Gate, or at Tom Gate itself for events taking place in the Junior Common Room, Music Room, Festival Rooms 1 & 2, the McKenna Room, Hall, the Cathedral and Blue Boar Lecture Theatre.

These are strictly drop-off/pick-up points only: car parking is not available on the festival site at Christ Church.

Accessibility and safety

Christ Church has introduced a number of measures to support visitors with disabilities and further improvements are being actively planned and programmed. If you require further detailed information, please consult the Christ Church website www.chch.ox.ac where an Access to Christ Church leaflet is available and may be downloaded. You are also welcome to contact the Christ Church Porters' Lodge (01865 276150 and 01865 276151).

Entrances, Quads and Gardens

The main access to the festival is via the War Memorial Garden on St Aldate's. There is ramped access within the War Memorial Garden, leading to the level area of the Broad Walk and the entrance to the festival marquee. Please take care when crossing the vehicular route that traverses this entrance.

There is ramped access to Tom Quad from St Aldate's via Tom Gate. Visitors attending events in the Music Room and Junior Common Room are welcome to enter via Tom Gate.

Accessible Toilets

Wheelchair user unisex accessible toilets are provided adjacent to the Festival Marquee, at Blue Boar Lecture Theatre and in Tom Quad (beneath the Hall). Please ask a festival volunteer or college custodian for directions.

Induction Loops for the Hard of Hearing

Induction loops for hearing aid users are provided in sections of the Master's Garden Marquee, in Blue Boar Lecture Theatre, the Cathedral, Festival Room 2, Corpus Christi College's MBI Al Jaber Building, Merton College's TS Eliot Theatre, Queen's College The Shulman Auditorium, the Divinity School, Convocation House and the main auditorium of the Sheldonian Theatre.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome. Other dogs are not permitted.

Paths and Lighting

Christ Church is a historic building that has grown over several centuries. It was not built in line with contemporary building norms. Buildings and external areas are maintained to a good standard, but please note that level walking surfaces may not be encountered everywhere. The college maintains levels of lighting appropriate to the environment. Festival-goers are asked to take special care at all times.

Comments and Suggestions and the Disability Equality Scheme

In accordance with good practice, Christ Church operates a Disability Equality Scheme. This is kept under active review, taking into account the views of visitors and others. Comments and suggestions are welcomed at any time, and may be directed to the Steward of Christ Church by letter, telephone (01865 286580) or e-mail (steward@chch.ox.ac.uk).

Fire Safety Evacuation

To ensure safe evacuation of wheelchair users in case of emergency, it may occasionally be necessary to place a limit on the number of wheelchair users at a given event. Evac-chairs are provided and duty volunteers trained to assist. A safety briefing for all festival-goers is provided at the start of each event.

Venue Accessibility

- **Cathedral:** there is ramped access to and level going throughout the Cathedral. An induction loop is provided for hearing aid users.
- **The Hall and the McKenna Room:** these areas are accessed via a flight of 25 stone steps with a stone balustrade to each side and a large landing. From the top of the steps, there is a further step into the McKenna Room and a further two steps into the Ante Hall, from which point level going access to the Hall is available. A wheelchair user platform lift has been introduced: this is located beneath the Hall stairs and is reached from the level-going upper level of Tom Quad. This lift accommodates one wheelchair user and a carer or companion. Detailed operating instructions are provided and the duty custodian will be glad to provide assistance. (A local portable ramp provides wheelchair user access from the Ante Hall to the McKenna Room).
- **Festival Room 1:** this is on the first floor and not wheelchair user accessible. It is reached up a flight of 28 steps, with handrail to one side and a half landing.
- **Festival Room 2:** this is on the ground floor and ramped and stepped access are provided.
- **Master's Garden Marquee:** there is level-going access from the Broad Walk.
- **Music Room and Junior Common Room:** although located at ground floor level, there is stepped access to these rooms. Wheelchair users booking events are asked to provide advance notification so that a temporary ramp may be provided.
- **The Lee Building including the Freind Room:** this is approached across a cobbled quadrangle and accessed up a flight of 10 steps. Rooms at upper levels within the Lee Building are not accessible to wheelchair users; stairclimber access to the Freind Room will gladly be provided: advance notice is requested so that suitable arrangements can be made.
- **The Kitchen:** this is wheelchair user accessible from the kitchen yard, access to which will gladly be provided, subject to advance notice.
- **Christ Church Library:** Events held in the Upper Library are not accessible to wheelchair users. There are three steps up from the exterior level going to the ground floor lobby which is reached through a very heavy inward opening timber door. Ascent to the Upper Library is by a flight of 40 (21 then 19) smooth stone steps without nosings and with a single handrail. These steps can be slippery and care should be taken. An induction loop for hearing aid users is available.



Oxford Access Audits Ltd

A specialist consultancy helping businesses, organisations and institutions to meet their obligations to people with disabilities.

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www.accessibilityoxford.co.uk

ARRIVAL, ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY

- **The MBI Al Jaber Building in Corpus Christi College:** there is level-going access for wheelchair users via the college's principal entrance in Merton Street. Directional signage is provided within the Corpus Christi College precincts. It will be noted that, within Christ Church, stepped and ramped access from the upper level walkway in Tom Quad into the Cathedral Garden is provided: part of this route is, however, not suitable for wheelchair users and the directions given above are recommended. An induction loop for hearing aid users is available.
- **Christ Church Cathedral School (William Walton Hall):** this is on the west side of St Aldate's, opposite the festival's main entrance. Level-going access to the William Walton Hall is provided via Brewer Street and the school's playground.
- **The Sheldonian Theatre:** this is fully accessible to wheelchair users from Broad Street and then through door E to the main hall. Wheelchair users are normally offered places within the central 'D' at ground level. A wheelchair user accessible toilet is provided at ground level close to the entrance. An induction loop system is provided in the main auditorium for hearing aid users.
- **The Bodleian Library (Divinity Schools and Convocation House):** badge holder designated parking is provided in Broad Street. Works are currently in hand to improve accessibility. For further information please contact the disability librarian, Teresa Pedrosa on 01865 283861. An induction loop for hearing aid users is available.
- **Merton College and the TS Eliot Theatre:** level-going wheelchair user access is provided from Rose Lane. There are designated wheelchair user spaces within the theatre and the accessible lift is provided to the upper level. A wheelchair user accessible toilet is provided. An induction loop system is provided for hearing aid users.
- **Oriel College (Senior Library):** there are 40 steps to the Senior Library with no lift or stairclimber. Visitors with limited ambulant ability are advised to call ahead to secure a parking space directly outside the college in Oriel Square where there are five spaces. Telephone: 01865 276555.
- **The Queen's College (The Shulman Auditorium):** situated on the main college site and has level access. The auditorium has accessible toilet facilities and wheelchair space at the front of the tiered seating. The auditorium is fitted with an induction loop. Wheelchair access is via the Library Gate in Queen's Lane. Please contact the lodge in advance on (01865) 279120 to gain access via Library Gate.





The Radcliffe Camera – Bodleian Library

Prior to the Festival (up to 2pm on Friday 23rd March)

Tickets can be bought as follows:

- **In person:** Tickets can be booked at the box office at Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LW. The box office opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm
- **By telephone:** Please call: 0870 343 1001. The box office opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm
- **Online:** Please visit www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org
- **NB:** No fax bookings can be accepted

All tickets booked **prior to Thursday 8 March**, either by telephone or online, will be mailed on Thursday 8 March. Tickets will not be posted outside the UK.

Tickets booked **between Thursday 8 March and Monday 19 March** will be posted immediately, unless requested for collection at the festival box office at Christ Church.

Tickets booked after **Monday 19 March** can only be collected from the festival box office at Christ Church.

A £1.50 handling charge is added to the total cost for all credit/debit card bookings, plus 60p postage charge if applicable. The online booking fee is 20p per ticket plus 60p postage charge.

Children's Events

- Ticket prices shown are for children and adults. There are no concessions. Children under two are admitted free.
- Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult (aged 18 or over); the festival cannot accept responsibility for the safety of unaccompanied children. The accompanying adult must have a valid ticket.
- Children over 13 cannot be responsible for younger children, although they may attend events alone as long as they are taken to and collected from the specific event venue.

Please note

Disabled access: please check with the box office for each event.

Unless otherwise stated, events and panel discussions last one hour.

The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival reserves the right to alter the programme or substitute writers if circumstances dictate. Tickets are not refundable and cannot be exchanged.

During the Festival

Tickets can be bought as follows:

- **In person:** At the festival box office in the Meadows Marquee, Christ Church.
- **By telephone:** Please call: 0870 343 1001.
- **Online:** Tickets are available to book online until 4pm the day before each event.

All tickets booked by telephone during the festival will be available for collection at the festival box office.

A handling charge of £1.50 is added to the total cost for all credit/debit card bookings.

Festival box office opening hours are:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| • Saturday 24 March | 9am to 6.30pm |
| • Sunday 25 March | 9am to 4.30pm |
| • Monday 26 March | 11am to 6.30pm |
| • Tuesday 27 March | 9am to 8.00pm |
| • Wednesday 28 March | 9am to 8.00pm |
| • Thursday 29 March | 9am to 8.00pm |
| • Friday 30 March | 9am to 6.30pm |
| • Saturday 31 March | 9am to 6.30pm |
| • Sunday 1 April | 9am to 4pm |

Immediately prior to events

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the festival box office in the Meadows Marquee immediately prior to events, and at the door for events at The Sheldonian, Bodleian, Oriel, Queen's and Merton Colleges.

Concessions and Discounts

- Friends of the Festival receive a £1.00 concession on tickets to adult events and walks, up to a maximum of five tickets
- Book tickets for five or more events in the same transaction and get a 15% discount (not applicable on dinners)
- Schools and youth groups get a concessionary rate of £1 off, plus one in every 15 tickets free
- Only one reduction applies per ticket
- No reductions apply to children's events



- 1 Festival Box Office
- 2 Blackwell Festival Bookshop
- 3 Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts
- 4 Master's Garden Marquee
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CHRIST CHURCH FESTIVAL MEADOWS MARQUEE

Free public entry every day

Entrance

Entrance by the Meadows Gate in St Aldates.

Festival Box Office

Ticket office and information desk.

The place to go for information on events, where to find venues, and everything to make your visit to the festival as easy and enjoyable as possible.

Plus you can find out how to become a Friend of the Festival.

HSBC Premier stand

Blackwell's Festival Bookshop

The extensive festival bookshop stocks a full range of festival authors' books, including signed copies from events you may have missed.

Book signings are in the bookshop after talks and events in the Master's Garden Marquee.

VSI

Very short, but perfectly formed 'soap box' lectures in the Blackwell Festival Bookshop every day.

OUP Children's Writers and Illustrators

Jamie's Fabulous Feasts

Located beyond the festival bookshop – the café and restaurant will be serving delicious food and meals throughout the day. See opposite page for details.

Hendricks Gin Tasting

Library Bar

Presentation of Hendrick's Gin with complimentary samples.

Cava and Wine Bar

Castillo Perelada pay bar – fine cavas and wines from Catalunya – presented by The Feathers Hotel, Woodstock.

The East India Company Fine Foods Stand

A selection of their outstanding teas, coffees, chocolates and speciality products on sale throughout the festival.

Kindle stall

An opportunity to view and buy the all-new Kindle – the world's best-selling e-reader.

Blackwell's Festival Bookshop



JAMIE OLIVER'S FABULOUS FEASTS

JAMIE OLIVER'S FABULOUS FEASTS FOR THE 2012 OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

Jamie's road food lover, *Fabulous Feasts*, are thrilled to be putting their stamp on this year's Oxford Literary Festival and we would love for you to join us. Jamie is a firm believer that – like all good books – food should be both expressive and something that can be enjoyed by everyone.

The menu devised for this year's event brings about Jamie's passion for top quality, honest ingredients, sourced locally and to exceptionally high welfare standards. *Fabulous Feasts* place a real emphasis

on promoting products that support British or smaller producers, as well as dishes that show off seasonal foods and lesser known cuts of meat.

A beautifully prepared and presented two course menu, including a glass of wine, is £25 per person. To book your lunch, please call our (friendly!) booking line on 02869 323100 or email the team: marketing@jamieoliver.co.uk

After all, it takes a better than a know, a friend is better than a stranger and a feast is better than a meal!



Photography courtesy of Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts



“When I was earning my pocket money as a kid at my Dad's pub, I always loved working on special events and this is really what inspired Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts. It's an opportunity for me to be involved in the sort of catering I'm passionate about – bringing people together and making an occasion truly memorable.”

Jamie





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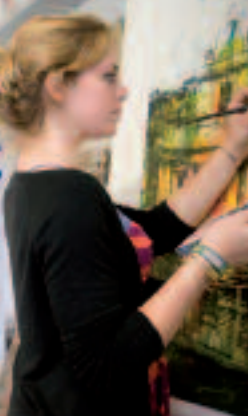


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