

Julia Churchill and Leah Thaxton 202

## Bookcamp: How To Get a Children's Book Published

10am / The Queen's College / £25

Old friends on opposite sides of the fence, Leah Thaxton, publishing director of Egmont, publishers of Kristina Stephenson, Andy Stanton and J D Sharpe (all of whom are appearing at the festival), and Julia Churchill, of the Greenhouse Literary Agency, talk through everything you need to know about getting your children's book published. That ranges from what an agent does, to what a publisher looks for, and includes everything in between and afterwards. It is a 360-degree guide to writing, pitching and publishing your children's book – from younger fiction for ages five and up, right through to sophisticated young adult books. We welcome back this popular three-hour session, including your chance to ask questions. Fun, revealing and incisive.

Julia Churchill



The Queen's College  
Oxford



John Lanchester talks to Andrew Holgate 204

## Capital – The Story of a Global Crisis

10am / Corpus Christi College / £10

*Capital* is the outstanding new novel by Whitbread award-winning writer John Lanchester. It takes place on Pepys Road, an ordinary street in the capital that has seen a hundred years of fortunes won and lost. One day in December 2007, a card drops through each letterbox, bearing the message: We Want What You Have. *Capital* is a post-economic-crash, state-of-the-nation novel that tells the stories of the residents of Pepys Road. It is the story of one street, but also the story of a global crisis and how it has affected us all. Lanchester, author of *The Debt to Pleasure*, *Mr Phillips* and *Fragrant Harbour*, talks to *The Sunday Times* literary editor Andrew Holgate.

John Lanchester



Photo: Jason Bell

Corpus Christi  
College Oxford



Photo: KT Bruce

Peckwater Quad, Christ Church

Katy Darby and Kate Williams 205  
Chaired by Peter Conradi

Bringing the Past to Life: The Whore's Asylum and The Pleasures of Men

10am / Christ Church: Master's Garden  
Marquee / £10

Two darkly alluring novels set in the Victorian era form the backdrop to a discussion about the art of bringing the past to life. Authors and Oxford graduates Katy Darby and Kate Williams write about a world of murder, prostitutes, mystery, death and disease. In *The Whores' Asylum*, Darby, who studied at Somerville College, brings to life the seedy streets of Oxford's Jericho in 1887, where ill-lit taverns are haunted by drunkards and brazen women. Fellow Somerville graduate Williams is an expert on 18th and 19th-century history. She appears regularly on radio and TV, including as social historian on BBC's *Restoration Home*. Williams recreates 1840 Spitalfields in London for a tale of murder, *The Pleasures of Men*. Together, they discuss bringing the past to life.

The event is chaired by Peter Conradi, a journalist with *The Sunday Times* and co-author (with Mark Logue) of *The King's Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy*.

Katy Darby



Kate Williams



Matthew Sturgis 206

When in Rome – 2,000 Years of Sightseeing

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

Rome has been exciting visitors for 2,000 years but tourists from different ages have been drawn by different things. Matthew Sturgis takes a fresh perspective on the 'Eternal City' by considering what it was that, for example, drew Renaissance visitors, the Lords on their Grand Tour and the Victorians. Today, few seek out sights such as the Cloaca Maxima, Forum of Trajan, the bones of St Pancras or the reclining Cleopatra, but they were at one time or other among the great attractions of Rome and the world.

Sturgis, the author of a number of books, including biographies of Aubrey Beardsley and Walter Sickert, uses a wealth of sources to reclaim many forgotten aspects of Rome's history.

Matthew Sturgis



Marian Stamp Dawkins 213

## Why Animals Matter: Animal Consciousness, Animal Welfare and Human Well-Being

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

What can science tell us about the quality of life of animals? And are we justified in projecting human emotions on to animals? These are some of the questions examined by Marian Stamp Dawkins, professor of animal behaviour at the University of Oxford, in *Why Animals Matter*. She argues for a radical rethink about animal welfare, saying we should place less emphasis on the conscious experience of suffering in animals, and more emphasis on the importance of animal welfare to human health and well-being.

Dawkins looks at how animal welfare is important to food security and climate change and explores the latest evidence about animal consciousness and animal emotions.

Marian Stamp Dawkins



Published by

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Giles Andreae and Janet Cronin 219

## World of Happy

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

Football-playing tortoises! A knitting gorilla! Burping sharks! Join Giles Andreae, creator of cartoon character *Purple Ronnie* and author of *Giraffes Can't Dance*, and illustrator Janet Cronin for an hour of craft activities and hilarious and unexpected tales full of wisdom from the 13 little books of Andreae's World of Happy series. Adults will be amused too.

Giles Andreae



Photo: Martin Salter

Sponsored by



Michael Morpurgo talks to  
Paul Blezard 212

War Horse: The West End and  
Hollywood

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £6 – £15



Michael Morpurgo

We are delighted to welcome one of our most magical storytellers to this year's festival. Michael Morpurgo will talk about his highly acclaimed 1982 work *War Horse*, which was recently adapted into a hugely successful West End and Broadway production and has now been made into a big-budget film by Steven Spielberg. *War Horse* is set in World War I. It tells of Joey, the horse of a young boy Albert that is sold to the cavalry and taken to France. Joey's rider dies and the horse serves on both sides of the fighting before finding itself in No Man's Land. Albert, still too young to join the army, sets off to find Joey and bring the horse home.

Morpurgo, the third children's laureate (2003-2005), has written more than 120 books. His children's novels, which include *Private Peaceful*, *The Butterfly Lion*, and *The Wreck of the Zanzibar*, have won many awards both at home and abroad. Above all, they are loved by children and their parents. His most recent book is *Little Manfred*. It is the story of how a wooden Dachsund carved by a German prisoner of war for a British family came to be in the Imperial War Museum.

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Richard Fortey 226

Survivors: The Animals and Plants  
that Time has Left Behind

10am / Christ Church Cathedral School / £10

In this wonderful and eye-opening piece of scientific detective work, Richard Fortey takes us on a journey across the globe in search of traces of evolution in creatures that have survived from long ago. He follows the history of life on Earth not through fossils but through the living stories of plants and animals that have survived almost unchanged for millions of years. The writer's subjects range from algal mats dating back two billion years to the musk oxen survivors of the Ice Age.

Fortey is a former senior palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum. He has won acclaim for his engaging writing style and is author of several books including *The Hidden Landscape*, which won The Natural World Book of the Year.

'A true delight: full of awe-inspiring details . . . the book blends travel, history, reportage and science to create an unforgettable picture of our ancient earth.'  
Sunday Times

Richard Fortey



Dan Cruikshank and  
Cassian Harrison 245

## Tale of Two Cities

10am / Merton College / £10

Dan Cruikshank follows in the footsteps of two of London's greatest chroniclers to explore one of the most dramatic centuries in the history of the British capital in a BBC documentary.

The 17th century saw London plunged into a series of devastating disasters. The Civil War, a murderous plague and the destruction that was the Great Fire of London should have seen the small medieval city all but destroyed. Yet, somehow, London not only survived, but emerged as one of the wealthiest and most influential cities in Europe.

Using two remarkable surveys written at either end of this momentous century, Cruikshank discovers how a unique combination of innovation, ambition and the sheer spirit of enterprise saw Londoners thrive.

Engaging and revealing, Cruikshank's journey uncovers a London never seen before, delighting in the twists and turns of a century that laid the foundations of one of the most important cities on the planet.

After a screening from the programme, Cruikshank will be interviewed by Cassian Harrison, BBC commissioning executive producer, knowledge.

Dan Cruikshank



Presented by



Merton College  
Oxford

Literary Oxford with  
Alastair Lack 239

11am-1pm / Meet outside St John's College  
Lodge, 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 Hodgson). The walk starts at St John's College, where Housman and Philip Larkin were undergraduates, and finishes at Christ Church.

Christopher Lloyd 234

## What on Earth Happened?

11.10am / 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.

Lloyd is the founder of What on Earth Publishing. His books include What on Earth Happened? and What on Earth Evolved? He divides his time between writing, journalism and lecturing in schools, museums and at literary festivals.

Christopher Lloyd



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Matthew Collings and Mark Bell 244

## Turner's Thames

**12 noon / Merton College / £10**

As people flock from all around the globe to join the London Olympics this summer, a new BBC documentary presented by art critic Matthew Collings explores a home-grown talent of remarkable ability; a painter whose work remains one of the greatest bequests to the nation, and for whom the River Thames was an enduring inspiration.

Following a screening of clips from the film, Collings will talk to BBC commissioning editor arts, Mark Bell.

Matthew Collings



Mark Bell



Presented by



Clive Aslet

203

The Arts & Crafts Country House:  
From the Archives of Country Life**12 noon / Corpus Christi College / £10**

Clive Aslet draws on the archive of *Country Life* to showcase 25 major country houses designed by the foremost architects of the Arts and Crafts movement, including Lutyens, Webb, Williams-Ellis and Blow. The movement was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and was inspired by a vision of life based on the revival of traditional building crafts and use of local materials. *Country Life*, founded in 1897, championed the movement in a series of weekly articles accompanied by specially commissioned photographs. These now constitute a unique record of the Arts and Crafts houses.

Aslet, who was editor of *Country Life* for 13 years and is now editor-at-large, explains how the Arts and Crafts movement is still influencing architects today.

Clive Aslet



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Tim Jeal

208

## Explorers of the Nile: The Triumph and Tragedy of a Great Victorian Adventure

**12 Noon / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10**

Seven Victorian adventurers braved spear wounds, malaria, flesh-eating ulcers and illness as they competed to find the source of the White Nile – the last great challenge in the field of land exploration.

Tim Jeal uncovers the extraordinary characters at the heart of this drama and explains what drove them to brave so many physically and psychologically damaging experiences in their quest.

Jeal is the author of acclaimed biographies of Livingstone and Baden-Powell. His memoir *Swimming with My Father* was shortlisted for the PEN Ackerley Prize for Autobiography. His biography of Henry Morton Stanley was named *Sunday Times* Biography of the Year and won the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Biography in 2007.

'Tim Jeal's masterly book ... can safely supplant Alan Moorehead's 1960 classic, *The White Nile* ... Jeal also knows how to tell a fabulous story, and he lets old-fashioned epic adventure sit at the heart of his fine book.' –*Sunday Times*

Tim Jeal



Photo: Matthew Lewin

Presented by *The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies*



Axel Scheffler

209

## Pip and Posy with Axel Scheffler

**12 Noon / Christ Church JCR / £5 For ages 2-5**

Join Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler as he introduces his newest characters Pip and Posy. Good friends (most of the time!) this charming pair, Pip (a rabbit) and Posy (a mouse) negotiate the trials and tribulations of toddlers' lives, and will delight toddlers and parents alike. There will be live drawing and storytelling, and maybe even a personal appearance from Pip and Posy themselves.

Axel Scheffler



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Richard O Smith

215

## Oxford Student Pranks

**12 noon / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £10**

If you have ever complained about students, be grateful that you did not live in Oxford in past centuries. Richard O Smith has delved into the archives to retell student mischief and mayhem from the 13th to the 21st century. He recalls the greatest stunts and practical jokes in the University of Oxford's history, including those by Oscar Wilde, Percy Shelley and Richard Burton. His witty and often hilarious talk highlights the competing debauchery between town and gown over the last 800 years. Smith is a writer for Radio 4's *The Now Show* and writes the popular *The Oxford Times* column Oxford Examined.

Richard O Smith



Mackenzie Crook

222

### From Hollywood Star to Children's Author

**12 noon / Christ Church: Hall / £5    Age 7+**

Actor Mackenzie Crook, star of the film *Pirates of the Caribbean*, BBC TV's *The Office* and the stage show *Jerusalem*, introduces his debut novel for children, *The Windvale Sprites*, which he illustrated himself. Funny, charming and occasionally dark, it tells the story of Asa, a young boy who discovers a mysterious creature after the big storm of 1987. Come and hear all about Mackenzie's passion for writing, drawing and acting.

Mackenzie Crook



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Adam Nicolson

225

### The Gentry: Stories of the English

**12 noon / Christ Church: Master's Garden Marquee / £10**

The landed gentry have made England what it is, argues award-winning author Adam Nicolson. The virtues of honesty, affability, courtesy and liberality all had their origins in the life of the gentry. Nicolson looks at the history of 14 English families from 1400 to the present day. Some of the families are divided by politics, some took different sides during the Reformation and others destroyed their inheritance through reckless gambling or investments. Nicolson, a winner of the Somerset Maugham Award, writes on history, travel and the environment. His works include *Sissinghurst*, *Power and Glory* and *Seamanship*. He lives at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent.

Adam Nicolson



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Lawyers to the Festival



Stephen Landrigan and Qais Akbar Omar  
Chaired by Alastair Niven

228

## Shakespeare in Kabul

**12 noon / Christ Church Cathedral School / £10**

Stephen Landrigan and Qais Akbar Omar helped to stage a remarkable production of *Love's Labour's Lost* in Afghanistan in 2006. Landrigan, an aid worker and playwright, adapted the script, while Omar, a writer and carpet designer, was assistant director. The play was performed by Afghan actors in the Dari language, and it was the first time in a generation that men and women appeared on the stage together.

Landrigan and Omar explain how the actors adapted Shakespeare to their own tradition of epic poetry and describe the challenges in putting on a production. They also offer a glimpse into an Afghan cultural life that is rarely seen on the news.

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

Stephen Landrigan



Qais Akbar Omar



Menaka PP Bora

236

## Dance, Manuscript and Gestures: A Lecture-performance of Indian Sanskrit Manuscripts

**12 noon / Bodleian Library: Divinity  
School / £10**

Oxford ethnomusicologist and award-winning dance artist Menaka PP Bora will present an innovative lecture-performance drawn from academic research on Bodleian Sanskrit manuscripts, including a rare 16th-century text, and classical performance traditions of India. Some examples of the Sanskrit manuscript collection will be on display to accompany the lecture-performance.

Menaka is Wingate Scholar-Artiste, Faculty of Music, University of Oxford.

Menaka PP Bora



*Presented by The Bodleian Library*



Bodleian Libraries

Craig Brown, Eleanor Bron  
and Simon Callow 231

One on One

12.30pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10 - £25



Craig Brown, Eleanor Bron  
and Simon Callow

Craig Brown's *One on One* was chosen as their 'book of the year' by, among many others, Julian Barnes, Polly Samson, A N Wilson, Philip Hensher and Miranda Seymour. It is a joyous daisy-chain of 101 true encounters between the famous and the infamous (Rudyard Kipling meets Mark Twain meets Helen Keller meets Martha Graham meets Madonna, etc).

'It is partly a karmic parlour game, partly a dance to the music of chaos – and only the genius of Craig Brown could have produced it.' Hermione Eyre, Evening Standard

Brown, a critic and satirist, probably best known for his work in *Private Eye*, is joined by Eleanor Bron, stage, film and television actress and author, and by Simon Callow, acclaimed actor, writer and theatre director. Bron and Callow will be reading the parts of Marilyn Monroe, Nikita Khrushchev, The Queen Mother, TS Eliot and many others.

This event will last one hour 15 minutes.

Sponsored by *The Mogford Group*



THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

Stephen Smith 227

Environmental Economics:  
A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Christ Church: Meadows Marquee  
Bookshop / FREE

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

Stephen Smith, professor of economics at University College, London, discusses environmental issues including pollution control, reducing environmental damage, and global climate-change policies, answering questions about how we should balance environmental and economic considerations, and what form government policies should take.

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Max Hastings

207

## All Hell Let Loose: The World at War 1939-1945

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

What was it like to live through the Second World War? In this universally acclaimed book, one of our greatest living journalists and historians Sir Max Hastings sets out to answer this question with an immensely powerful portrayal of the triumphs and tragedies of ordinary people, both military and civilian. He explores both the meaning of the conflict for its participants and the bigger picture. He argues that the Nazis displayed 'stunning incompetence' in the conduct of the war and that the navies of the UK and the US were the outstanding fighting services.

Hastings is the author of more than 20 books, many of them about the Second World War. He is a former editor-in-chief of the *Daily Telegraph* and former editor of the *London Evening Standard*.

'This is the book he was born to write: a work of staggering scope and erudition, narrated with supreme fluency and insight, it is unquestionably the best single-volume history of the war ever written' – Dominic Sandbrook, *Sunday Times*

Max Hastings



Photo: AP Press Assoc Images

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Lawyers to the Festival

Nicholas Kenyon

210

## The City of London: Architectural Tradition & Innovation in the Square Mile

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

Sir Nicholas Kenyon gathers together some of the leading authorities on London's architecture for a journey through the history of the 'Square Mile'. London has been England's capital for nearly 2,000 years. It has seen the rise of the Romans, when it became a thriving military base; the Great Fire, which destroyed 13,500 buildings; the Blitz; and has been reborn today with its towering skyscrapers. *The City of London* focuses on eight different districts of the Square Mile and celebrates in words and pictures the buildings, public squares and gardens. It is edited by Sir Nicholas, managing director of the Barbican Centre and a former controller of BBC Radio 3 and director of the BBC Proms.

Nicholas Kenyon



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The Landmark Trust

Sarah Raven

217

## Wild Flowers

**2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10**

Writer and broadcaster Sarah Raven travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles to find 500 beautiful wild flowers for her latest book, which was named the 2011 Sunday Times Gardening Book of the Year. She describes trips to see pulsatillas, fritillaries, bluebells, wild garlic, harebells, forget-me-nots, foxgloves, deadly nightshade, orchids and many more. Raven, who has been a regular on the BBC's *Gardeners' World* and runs her own cookery and gardening school, shows how to identify the plant families and how the wild flowers are adapted to their environment. The book is illustrated by the work of Jonathan Buckley, an award-winning garden and plant photographer.

Sarah Raven



Photo: Jonathan Buckley

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**FLORIS**  
LONDON

Mei Matsuoka

218

## The Great Sheep Shenanigans

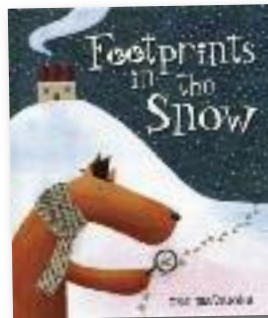
**2pm / Christ Church JCR / £5****Ages 4-6**

Mei Matsuoka is one of the most exciting young illustrators in the UK today (see [www.meimatsuoka.com](http://www.meimatsuoka.com)). Her picturebooks include *Footprints in the Snow*, *Burger Boy*, *The Great Dog Bottom Swap*, and *Tell Me a Story Mummy*, and she is here to tell you all about her latest hilarious story, *The Great Sheep Shenanigans*. And she will teach you how to make your very own sheep pom pom.

Mei Matsuoka



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Jay Griffiths talks to Jem Poster 221

## Wild: An Elemental Journey

2pm / Christ Church Cathedral School / £10

In her prizewinning *Wild: An Elemental Journey* Jay Griffiths produced a remarkable evocation of the songlines of the earth, the result of long journeys among indigenous cultures. The book came out in 2007 to tremendous acclaim: it has been praised by, among others, John Berger, Richard Mabey and Philip Pullman. Five years on, its concerns are equally pertinent and even more pressing. She will be discussing her work and views with novelist and poet Jem Poster.

Caroline Lawrence 224

## Historical Detective: Roman Mysteries and Western Mysteries

2pm / Corpus Christi College / £5 Age 9+

Caroline Lawrence is an historical detective. She travels back in time by using artefacts as clues and primary sources as her witnesses to re-create the 'scenes of the crimes' that fascinate her and are described in her Roman Mysteries and Western Mysteries series of books. In an exciting, illustrated talk, Caroline will tell how her research has taken her to exotic places to meet fascinating people and witness jaw-dropping events. And, for no extra charge, she will let you in on her secrets of writing plot and character.

Caroline Lawrence



Sponsored by



Ruth Richardson talks to Will Gompertz 233

## Dickens and the Workhouse: Oliver Twist and the London Poor

2pm / The Queen's College / £10

Historian Ruth Richardson talks to BBC arts editor Will Gompertz about her new book on the discovery that, as a young man, Dickens lived only yards away from a major London workhouse. The discovery made headlines and led to a campaign to save the workhouse from demolition.

Richardson, affiliated scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge, and visiting professor in humanities, Hong Kong University, did a lot of the detective work on the workhouse. She tells the story of the find and reveals how important the two periods spent living in this area of London were for Dickens' writing career.

Ruth Richardson



Photo: Jane Willgoose

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The Queen's College  
Oxford

Michael Hughes and  
Katherine Bosworth

237

**Titanic Calling: Wireless  
Communications during the  
Great Disaster**

2 pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £10

The role of wireless is an often-overlooked aspect of the story of the Titanic. Published to mark the centenary of the sinking, *Titanic Calling* draws on the Marconi Archives in the Bodleian Library to recount the fateful events of April 1912, from the first warnings of ice to the brief and poignant messages of the survivors.

The author, Michael Hughes, and co-editor, Katherine Bosworth, discuss the effectiveness of the use of wireless as the disaster unfolded. There is no doubt that it was instrumental in the rescue effort, but was there a failure to communicate ice warnings, and did this relatively new technology help or hinder as events unfolded?

Presented by *The Bodleian Library*



Bodleian Libraries



A C Grayling and Roger Scruton 220

**The Oxford Debate: Do We Need  
God to Survive?**

3pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10-£25



A C Grayling

Roger Scruton

Two of our leading philosophers lock horns on the question of God and whether we need Him to avoid destroying our culture and ourselves. Roger Scruton, a visiting professor and research fellow at a number of universities and institutes, and A C Grayling, a former professor of philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London, and now Master of the New College of Humanities, go head to head in the 2012 Oxford Debate.

Scruton's new book, published on the eve of the festival, is *The Face of God*. In it, he aims to show how atheist culture and a turning away from God is self destructive for us and our culture. Scruton is a writer and philosopher who specialises in aesthetics, particularly in relation to music and architecture. He has published more than 30 books including *Culture Counts: Faith and Feeling in a World Besieged* and *England: An Elegy*.

Grayling is president elect of the British Humanist Association. His latest work, *The Good Book*, is described as a 'secular bible'. It draws on many ancient traditions and civilisations to offer a compendium of secular wisdom. Grayling has written more than 20 books on philosophy including *Ideas That Matter*, *Liberty in the Age of Terror* and *To Set Prometheus Free*.

THE  
SHELDONIAN  
THEATRE

Sponsored by

**The Oxford Times**



Christopher Lloyd

235

## What on Earth Evolved?

**3.10pm / 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.

Lloyd is the founder of What on Earth Publishing. His books include *What on Earth Happened?* and *What on Earth Evolved?* He divides his time between writing, journalism and lecturing in schools, museums and at literary festivals.

*Sponsored by*



Fiona MacCarthy

201

talks to Colin Harrison

## The Last Pre-Raphaelite: Edward Burne-Jones and the Victorian Imagination

**4pm / Corpus Christi College / £10**

The work of renowned artist Edward Burne-Jones is all around us – on Christmas cards, in stained glass windows and in art galleries. Broadcaster and critic Fiona MacCarthy re-evaluates his art and life and explains his battle against vicious public hostility, the susceptibility to female beauty that inspired his art but would ruin his marriage, and how he was dogged by ill health and depression. She also explores the rift with his great friend and collaborator William Morris.

MacCarthy is one of the leading biographers in Britain today. Her biography of William Morris won two literary awards and she was awarded the OBE for services to literature in 2009. She will be talking to Colin Harrison, senior assistant keeper of Western art at the Ashmolean Museum.

Fiona MacCarthy



Robin Farquhar-Thomson

*Presented by the Ashmolean*



*Sponsored by*



Phil George and Steven Clarke 243

## Shakespeare: The King's Man

**4pm / Merton College / £10**

A new three-part BBC series presented by world-renowned American scholar James Shapiro re-examines the work of the world's greatest playwright during the troubled first decade of the reign of King James.

This is not the familiar Shakespeare of the time of Elizabeth, but the dark, complex Jacobean Shakespeare, at the height of his powers in truly turbulent times.

These 10 years mark an extraordinary 'Jacobean moment', argues Shapiro, a lost decade sandwiched between the high romance of Elizabeth and the cataclysm of the Civil War. Yet it produced many of the high points of English culture, from the masterworks of Jacobean theatre to the King James Bible to the work of John Donne. In government, science and finance, this was a decade that marked the beginnings of the modern British state, and saw Shakespeare's countrymen sow the seeds of Empire.

Shapiro casts a fascinating new light on Shakespeare's finest Jacobean works, including *Measure For Measure*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Coriolanus* and *The Winter's Tale*.

After a screening from the film, Phil George, the creative director of the production company Green Bay Media, talks with Steven Clarke, the film's producer/director.



Phil George and Steven Clarke

*Presented by*

Bruce Hood 214

## The Self Illusion

**4pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10**

Who are we? We may believe that we are an independent, coherent self – an individual inside our head who thinks, watches, wonders and dreams. But this is an illusion, argues Bruce Hood, professor of developmental psychology at Bristol University and the 2011 Royal Institution Christmas lecturer. In *The Self Illusion*, he reveals that we learn to become our self as children, while as adults we develop and elaborate this story – a narrative that our brain creates. Prof Hood concludes that the 'self' is an illusion we must continue to embrace to live happily in human society. And be prepared: he is planning to challenge the brains of the audience with a few puzzles.

Bruce Hood



Alistair Darling  
talks to Vernon Bogdanor

216

Back from the Brink:  
1000 Days at No 11

4pm / Christ Church: Master's Garden  
Marquee / £10

Back from the Brink tells the gripping story of Alistair Darling's one thousand days in Number 11 Downing Street. As Chancellor, he had to avert the collapse of RBS hours before the cash machines would have

ceased to function; at the eleventh hour he stopped Barclays from acquiring Lehman Brothers in order to protect UK taxpayers; he used anti-terror legislation to stop Icelandic banks from withdrawing funds from British banks. From crisis talks in Washington to dramatic meetings with the titans of international banking, to dealing with the massive political and economic fallout in the UK, Darling places the reader in the rooms where the destinies of millions weighed heavily on the shoulders of a few. Here he gives a candid account of life in the Downing Street pressure cooker and his relationship with Gordon Brown during the last years of New Labour.

Alistair Darling is the Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South West, successively Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Transport, and Scotland. In 2006 he served as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, before Gordon Brown promoted him to Chancellor in 2007, a post he held until the change of government in May 2010.

He will be talking to Vernon Bogdanor, research professor, Institute of Contemporary History, King's College, London, and a former professor of government at Oxford University. His books include *The Coalition and the Constitution*.

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Photo: Mundo MacLeod

Kapka Kassabova talks to  
David Freeman

223

Twelve Minutes of Love: A Life  
Through Tango

4pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £10

Novelist and poet Kapka Kassabova has long been captivated by the tango. To tango fanatics, it is more than a dance – it is a way of life. Kassabova talks to literary journalist and broadcaster David Freeman about her life and how the tango has run through it. She describes the tango as 'the international anthem of the existentially, romantically and culturally sick'. Tango music will be woven into the discussion.

Kassabova, who now lives in Scotland, grew up in Bulgaria and has variously lived in New Zealand, Marseilles and Berlin. Her latest work is a memoir *Twelve Minutes of Love, A Tango Story*. She has also written poetry and novels including the recently published *Villa Pacifica*.

Kapka Kassabova



Photo: Liz March

Brian Aldiss

240

An Exile on Planet earth

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £10

The master of science fiction, Brian Aldiss, presents personal and revealing reflections from his new book *An Exile on Planet Earth* and discusses the influences behind his writing. The book is a collection of essays showing how the circumstances and events of his childhood have been translated into his work.

Aldiss is a celebrated science-fiction writer but is also known as a poet, mainstream novelist, science fiction historian and critic.

*Presented by the Bodleian Library*



Bodleian Libraries

Kate Clanchy 229  
 Chaired by Steve Matthews  
 Other Worlds in Oxford

**4pm / The Queen's College / £7**

Oxford's city poet Kate Clanchy will lead a session of poetry reading and discussion that will include Oxford poets, young and old, celebrating the different heritages around Oxford. It will tie in with a project Clanchy is doing with Oxford's Story Museum. Clanchy is a poet, script-writer, prose artist and creative-writing fellow at Oxford Brookes University. She has won numerous awards including the BBC National Short Story Award, the Writers' Guild Award, the Forward Poetry Prize (twice) and the Scottish Arts Council Book Award.

The event is presented by Oxford Brookes University and will be chaired by Professor Steve Matthews, director of the poetry centre at the university's Department of English and Modern Languages.

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The Queen's College  
 Oxford

Joanne Harris, Francesca Simon 230  
 and Kevin Crossley-Holland.  
 Chaired by Paul Blezard

Norse Code: Writers Inspired by  
 Norse Myths and Legends

**4pm / Christ Church Hall / £6** Age 9+

Three celebrated authors discuss the Norse influences on their work. Francesca Simon's comical adventure *The Sleeping Army* explores what Britain would be like if we still worshipped Norse gods today. Joanne Harris's fantastical *Runelight*, the second volume of her Runemarks series, also imagines our society shaped by the Vikings rather than by the Romans. And Kevin Crossley-Holland is the author of *The Penguin Book of Norse Myths*, and of the Viking saga *Bracelet of Bones*.

The event is chaired by author and broadcaster Paul Blezard.

Joanne Harris



Francesca Simon



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Kate Williams

241

## Young Elizabeth: The Making of our Queen

4pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 1 / £10

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 60 years on the throne this summer. To mark the Diamond Jubilee, Kate Williams has written the first book to focus on the Queen's early life before she acceded to the throne. Williams looks at the sheltered upbringing of a princess who did not know she was destined to be Queen. She examines the relationships with her father, her domineering mother and with her nanny, Marion 'Crawfie' Crawford. And she explains the profound impact of the abdication crisis when Elizabeth, at the age of 11, suddenly found herself heir to the throne.

Williams is a biographer, novelist and historian who appears regularly on radio and TV, including as social historian on BBC's *Restoration Home*. She has written biographies about Emma Hamilton and the young Queen Victoria, and a historical novel, *The Pleasures of Men*.

Kate Williams



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Lawyers to the Festival

Sir Alan Parker talks to  
Graham Benson

211

## A Life in Film

5.30pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10 - £25

Sir Alan Parker is one of the most distinguished and celebrated figures in contemporary British cinema with a remarkable body of work, made both in the UK and the USA over 30-plus years. His work includes the controversial *Midnight Express*, *Fame*, *Angel Heart*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Bugsy Malone*, *The Commitments*, *Evita* and *Angela's Ashes*.



Sir Alan was born in North London and started work as a copywriter in the vibrant world of 1960s advertising, soon graduating to writing and directing commercials. These included the unforgettable series of Cinzano advertisements with Joan Collins and Leonard Rossiter. Sir Alan was nominated for best director Oscar for both *Midnight Express* and *Mississippi Burning*, and he has received numerous other international awards. He has been chairman of both the British Film Institute and the UK Film Council and has been a persistent observer and critic of the British film establishment. He is also celebrated for his incisive and hilarious cartoons.

Sir Alan will be in conversation with Graham Benson, a trustee of the Oxford Literary Festival and its film, television and theatre consultant. During a 35-year career, Benson has produced *Fox*, Ruth Rendell's TV mysteries, Mike Leigh's *Meantime* and Jon Amiel's *Queen of Hearts*. He is a former chairman of both BAFTA and PACT and currently chairs Screen South.

Graham Benson



THE  
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Simon Callow

238

### Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World

5.30pm / Christ Church: Master's Garden  
Marquee / £10

Acclaimed actor and writer Simon Callow talks about the Dickens who was driven as much by performance and showmanship as by literary endeavour. His new biography, *Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World*, explores the central importance of the theatre to the life of the greatest storyteller in the English language. Dickens was obsessed with the stage, beginning with his early years as a child entertainer in Portsmouth. He was a great mimic who wrote, acted in and stage-managed plays. And, says Callow, his imaginative writing was theatrical, both in terms of plot and characterisation.

Callow is an actor, writer and director who has appeared in many films, including *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. He played Dickens in a hugely successful one-man show *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* on the London stage and on Broadway.

Simon Callow



After Eight with Adrian Snell

232

### Beyond Words: A Reflective Service with Contemporary Music and Conversation

8pm / Christ Church: Cathedral / FREE

Musician Adrian Snell joins the sub-dean of Christ Church, Edmund Newell, to explore the effect of music therapy on those who cannot use words. After a long and successful international career as a performer and recording artist, and perhaps best-known for his album *The Passion* (recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and premiered on BBC Radio 1), Adrian Snell has focused increasingly on music therapy. This service draws on his work with children and adults with severe learning disabilities in the UK and Albania. All are welcome to attend this act of worship lasting approximately one hour. There is a retiring collection but no admission charge.

Adrian Snell



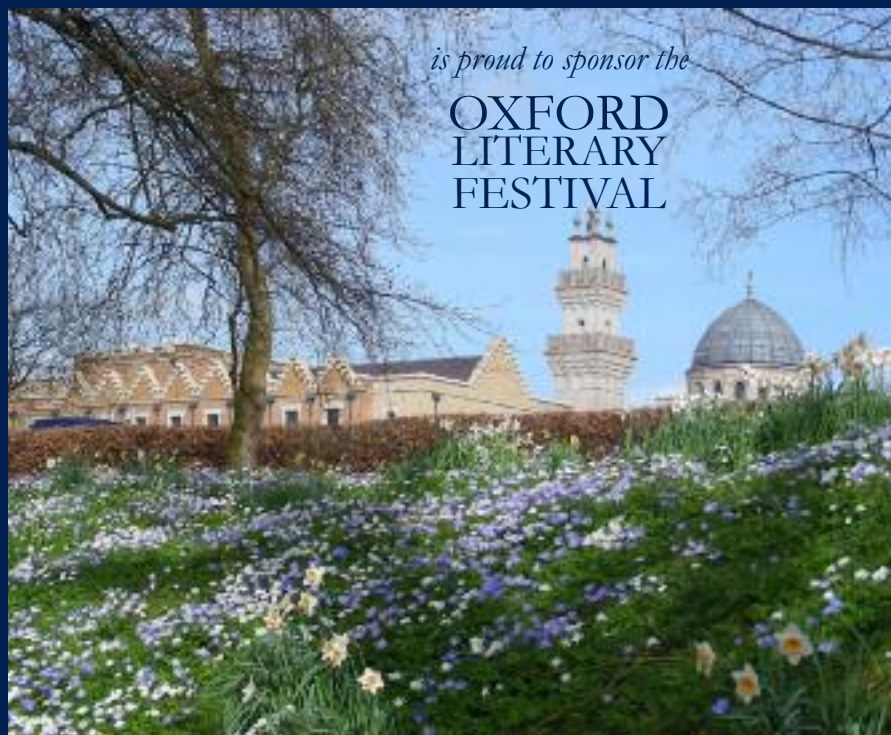
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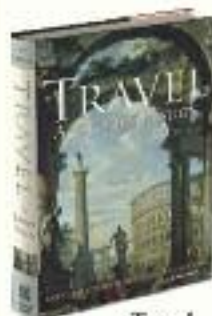
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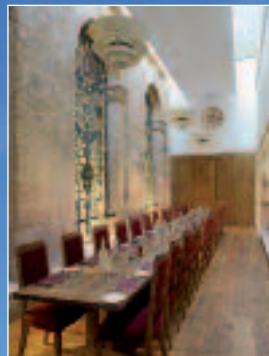
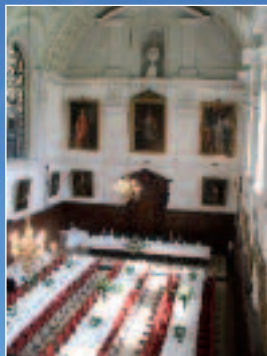


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