FT Weekend OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

20 YEARS 1997–2016

Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th April 2016

Featuring

Ian McKellen
Mary McAleese
Richard Dawkins
Mary Beard
Lucy Worsley
Levison Wood
Jacqueline Wilson
Simon Sebag Montefiore
Joanne Harris
Jonathan Bate
Michael Moritz
Alan Ayckbourn
Dacia Maraini
A C Grayling
Claudia Roden
Ben Okri
Francesca Marciano
Frederic Raphael
Lucy Lethbridge
James Naughtie
HRH Princess Michael of Kent
Peter Frankopan
Gillian Tett
Michael Frayn
Joan Bakewell
Garry Kasparov
Asfa-Wossen Asserate
Madhur Jaffrey
Alec Russell
HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein
Chris Riddell
Elif Shafak
Frank Delaney
Julian Clary
Rebecca Abrams
Melvyn Bragg
Maureen Lipman
David Baddiel
Frances Hardinge
John Kay
Jewell Parker Rhodes
John Julius Norwich
Ken Hom
Louis de Bernières
Liz Pichon
Martin Sandbu
Will Gompertz
Lauren Child

Box Office 0870 343 1001 www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

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Front cover: Oxford skyline – Oxford Picture Library / www.cap-ox.com

This page: Worcester College – a new home of the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival

FT Weekend
OXFORD
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

20 YEARS 1997–2016

Director's welcome

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 20th Oxford Literary Festival – magnificently supported, for the third year, by our title sponsor, *FT Weekend*. The partnership with the *FT* has enabled the festival to reach global audiences and develop our international programme.

For the first time, BBC World Service will be broadcasting from the festival as part of the BBC's 'identity' season. They will have an exceptional line-up of speakers. Special editions of two flagship BBC World Service discussion programmes, *The Forum* and *Newshour Extra*, will be recorded at Oxford.

To mark the centenary of the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916, we are honoured to welcome Dr Mary McAleese, the former President of Ireland. She will discuss Anglo-Irish relations over the past 100 years. We are very grateful to HE Dan Mulhall, the Irish Ambassador, and to Lady Hatch for their support for the events on Irish literature and culture.

We welcome many distinguished figures for the programme on Italian literature and culture, including the eminent Italian novelist Dacia Maraini. We very much appreciate the assistance of HE Pasquale Terraciano, the Italian Ambassador, and the Italian Cultural Institute.

HSBC have been sponsoring the festival for eight years. Their series on leadership and women in society have become major features of the programme, and we are indebted to HSBC's UK and European chief executive, Antonio Simoes, for his enlightened patronage.

The festival includes exceptional speakers – Sir Ian McKellen giving the first Provost of Worcester's Lecture; Professor Mary Beard giving the Bodley Lecture; Sir Alan Ayckbourn receiving the honorary fellowship; Garry Kasparov talking about Putin's Russia; and Sir Michael Moritz focusing on leadership.

Worcester College is a new home of the festival. Its beautiful gardens and lake provide a wonderful backdrop. The Georgian hall, chapel and library, and the Linbury Building are the locations for dinners, tastings, talks and music – and the buttery and bar are the social focus. The Provost of Worcester, Professor Sir Jonathan Bate, and Lady Bate (Dr Paula Byrne) have been unstinting in their enthusiasm and generous in their welcome.

Andrea Reece, the director of the children's and young people's programme, has assembled a remarkable line-up – including Dame Jacqueline Wilson; Lauren Child; David Baddiel; Frances Hardinge; Julian Clary; Lucy Worsley; Kevin Crossley-Holland; and Chris Riddell.

We are particularly pleased to provide so many free events this year and to have maintained our commitment to offering a platform to many unknown and first-time writers.

Alone among the UK's leading literary festivals, Oxford receives no state or local authority funding. We rely entirely on the generosity of our sponsors and partners, and of our donors – led by Ian and Carol Sellars. We are deeply grateful to our many voluntary helpers and stewards for their tireless efforts.

We hope our 500 speakers and all our audiences will enjoy a memorable nine days of inspiring literary and cultural events, debates and discussions, and delicious food and drink, in entrancing university and college buildings.

Needless to say, we are already planning the outline of the 21st literary festival for Oxford in 2017.

Sally Dunsmore
Festival Director

FT WEEKEND
AND THE OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

FT Weekend is delighted to continue our partnership with the Oxford Literary Festival. As a global news organisation, we celebrate the power of the written word to delight, inform and inspire our readers, delivering the best stories and ideas from across the world.

For the past three decades, *FT Weekend* has continuously evolved and now includes the award-winning titles; *How To Spend It*, *FT Weekend* magazine; a greatly expanded *House and Home* section, *Life and Arts* and *FT Money*. **Readers can enjoy coverage wherever they are with our *FT Weekend* app – you can find it at app.ft.com/weekend**.

Our aim is to inspire our readers in all aspects of their lives – from cultural events to wine choices, from our celebrated book reviews to an intelligent look at global travel, property, style and culture. We are particularly pleased to bring our classic interview 'Lunch with the FT' to the Festival, hosting a live edition in the beautiful surroundings of Exeter College's 17th-century dining hall. 'Lunch with the FT' is a weekend institution, with interviews ranging from film stars to politicians, tycoons to writers, dissidents to lifestyle gurus. Conducted in the unforgiving proximity of a restaurant table, these encounters have a relaxed intimacy that often leads to candid conversation – so the 'live' version should be a fascinating event.

We look forward to welcoming you to Oxford for what promises to be the most exciting festival to date.

Alec Russell
Editor, FT Weekend

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HSBC
& THE OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

HSBC is proud to be the banking partner of the Oxford Literary Festival for an eighth year. This year we renew our sponsorship of the series on 'leadership' and 'women in society', past, present and future. I am also delighted that, to support our relationship with Alzheimer's Society, we will be running a special event which will give an insight into this devastating condition.

Our long association with the festival allows us to provide our customers with opportunities to hear inspiring speakers and experience stimulating events in one of the country's most beautiful and historic cities.

We look forward to welcoming all of our guests to Oxford, and are pleased to help stage such a memorable festival for the thousands who will be joining us for nine days of exceptional and inspiring talks, debates, lectures and events.

Antonio Simoes
Chief Executive Officer UK

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BODLEIAN LIBRARIES
& THE OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival from the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford. The Bodleian Libraries are once again delighted to be the cultural partner of the Festival. We will once more welcome the Festival to the Bodleian's magnificent and historic Divinity School – a 15th century building which hosted Parliament in the 17th century. For the second time we will welcome the Festival to the Weston Library – a recently renovated building which hosts the Bodleian's historic collections, services, and opportunities for research and engagement with the public.

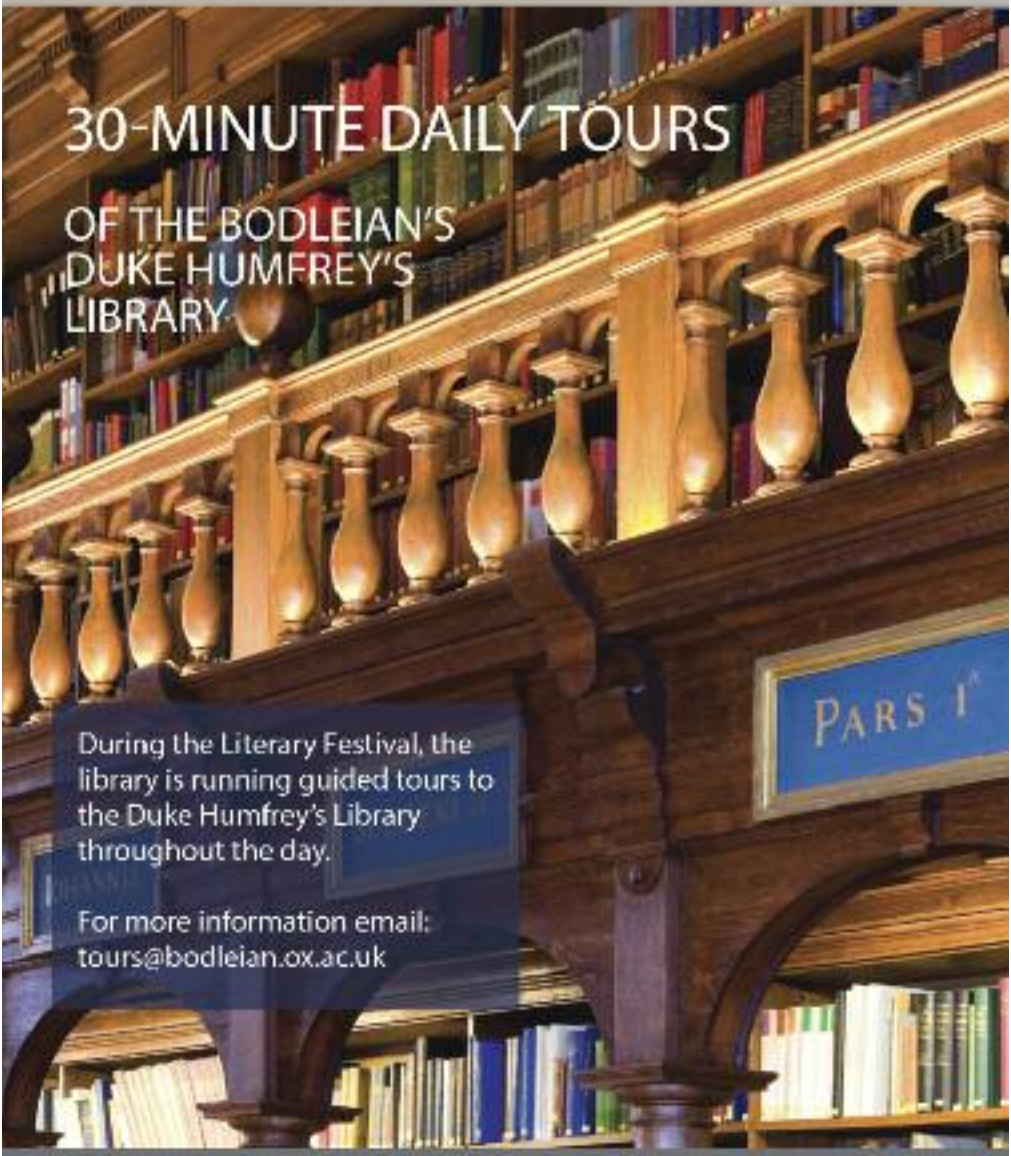
We hope Festival goers will enjoy attending talks in the lecture theatre, trying out the historic printing press in Blackwell Hall and find time to visit our superb exhibitions, including our newly opened exhibition *Bodleian Treasures*: *24 pairs* in The Treasury (supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust) and *Harold Wilson (*a display marking the centenary of the birth of Harold Wilson, Prime Minister 1964-70 and 1974-76). Then perhaps they can take time to reflect on the events of the day and enjoy a coffee in the Bodleian Café. The Bodleian's collections will feature prominently in the Festival, including our own publications.

The FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival is now one of the UK's leading cultural events, and the Bodleian is proud to be at the heart of it.

Richard Ovenden
Bodley's Librarian

Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES



30-MINUTE DAILY TOURS

OF THE BODLEIAN'S DUKE HUMFREY'S LIBRARY

During the Literary Festival, the library is running guided tours to the Duke Humfrey's Library throughout the day.

For more information email:
tours@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

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Graham Benson (Deputy Chairman)

Special Advisor
Tony Byrne

Director of Children's and Young People's Programme
Andrea Reece

Director of Academic Programmes
Professor Jem Poster

Executive Consultant – Film, Television and Theatre
Graham Benson

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Dr David Starkey
Sir Peter Stothard
Ian and Carol Sellars

Busts in Worcester College Library Photo: KT Bruce

OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

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Charity Registration Number: 1128820

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KT Bruce *www.ktbrucephotography.com*
Chris Andrews/Oxford Picture Library *www.cap.ox.com*

Festival Stewards
We also thank all the voluntary festival stewards for their time and generous support throughout the festival.

FT Weekend OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

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2017 FESTIVAL DATES
Saturday 25th March
to Sunday 2nd April

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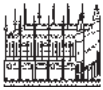

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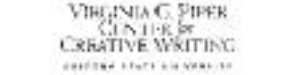

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KT Bruce Photography

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAMME

Nothing compares to the thrill of meeting writers in person and hearing them talk about their books. For the festival's 20th anniversary year, we have an extra special children's programme, designed to excite and inspire young audiences.

Star authors coming to Oxford to share their books with us include Jacqueline Wilson, who will be talking about some of her best-loved characters; the creator of the one and only Tom Gates, Liz Pichon; and the Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell, who will be drawing the answers to our questions. Chris will also be exploring creativity in a not-to-be-missed event hosted by award-winning author and founder of the **Freedom to Think** campaign, Jonathan Stroud.

Plus, Holly Webb will be taking us back to the Secret Garden, and Philip Ardagh and Axel Scheffler will be opening up the world of the Grunts. We're delighted too that historian Lucy Worsley is launching her brand new children's series Eliza Rose with a very special event at the Sheldonian Theatre. If it is laughs you are after, there will be jokes galore from Julian Clary and David Roberts as they introduce their brand new book *The Bolds to the Rescue*, and also from comedian and World Book Day author of *The Person Controller* David Baddiel.

We are welcoming some wonderful illustrators including award-winners Lauren Child and Emily Gravett, Steve Antony and Gary Northfield, and Oxford's own Ted Dewan. We are delighted that James Mayhew is returning to the festival with pianist Alexander Ardakov, this time to present a unique, family-friendly performance of Tchaikovsky's piano suite *The Seasons*, featuring live music and live painting. There will be music too as part of Jane Ray and Kevin Crossley-Holland's event, which will transport audiences to 18th-century Venice.

There are lots of opportunities to join in – check out our programme of weekday events for a variety of writing and illustrating workshops, there is no excuse

for being bored this holiday – and thinking is always allowed, especially at festival favourite Peter Worley's philosophy workshops. You can get to grips with the Bard in a special Shakespeare family workshop with actor, director and RSC artist Fi Ross and even have tea and cake while discussing murder with the authors of some of the best new crime fiction for young people.

For the very young, there are storytelling sessions, a chance to party with Kipper, and a minibeast hunt with CBBC star Jess French.

And as young adult literature continues to produce some of the most exciting new books of the moment we are delighted to welcome stars Sarah Crossan, Holly Bourne and Sita Brahmachari one weekend, and rising stars Nicole Burstein, Eve Ainsworth and C J Skuse the following. Another event brings together two of the finest authors writing for young people, Costa Award winner Frances Hardinge and Philip Reeve in a session that will open the world of the imagination.

With so many different events, there really is something for everyone. So come along, meet the authors and illustrators, explore the wonderful city of Oxford and its beautiful colleges, have fun at our special partner the Story Museum, and go home happy and inspired!

Andrea Reece

Director of young people's programme

Worcester College a new home of Oxford Literary Festival

Worcester College will be at the centre of a thriving new hub for this year's FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

The 18th-century college will host dozens of events, dinners, tours, a daily café, and an evening bar.

And festival-goers will have the opportunity to stay in college rooms, where many festival speakers will also be staying.

Surviving buildings from the medieval Gloucester College

The Provost's lodgings, Worcester College

Festival-goers can:

- book a Worcester College room through the festival website
- enjoy tea, coffee, wine, cakes, snacks and light lunches in the buttery 10am-5pm every day of the festival
- visit the college bar 5pm-10pm
- enjoy a tour of the 18th-century library and its important 17th and 18th-century collections. Book through the festival website and box office
- attend the many adult and children's events at the college including appearances by Booker winner Ben Okri, Spanish football writer Guillem Balagué and children's author Derek Landy
- take the festival's one-day The Writer's Art creative writing course, on Saturday 9 April, with Louis de Bernières, Joanne Harris and D J Taylor

Worcester College was founded in 1714 and incorporates buildings from the medieval Gloucester College. It has magnificent ranges of Georgian buildings and 26 acres of beautiful gardens including woodlands and a lake.

Worcester College Chapel

Worcester College Library

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Festival Ideas Partner

Oxford Martin School

The Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford is a world-leading centre of pioneering research that addresses global challenges.

We invest in research that cuts across disciplines to tackle a wide range of issues such as climate change, disease and inequality. We support novel, high risk and multidisciplinary projects that may not fit within conventional funding channels. We do this because breaking boundaries can produce results that could dramatically improve the wellbeing of this and future generations.

As Festival Ideas Partner, we host hundreds of events during the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival. In 2016, these will include:

- Professor Ian Goldin on his new book 'The Age of Discovery: navigating the risks and rewards of our new renaissance'
- Oxford Martin roundtable on the Future of Africa
- Oxford Martin panel discussion on migration and refugees

For a current list of all Oxford Martin School events during the festival, visit our website: www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk

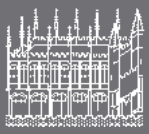
The Old Indian Institute, Broad Street, designed by Basil Champneys. It is now the home of the Oxford Martin School, a major venue for festival events.

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

A magical setting for events

DIVINITY SCHOOL ©ROBERT FAIRER



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Tours take place Monday-Friday, April 4-8 at 10.30am, 1pm and 4.30pm

Visit Duke Humfrey's medieval library, where generations of famous scholars have studied through the ages and which is still in use today

Duke Humfrey's Library was originally a library of manuscripts with a collection of scholastic and legal texts and a remarkable representation of the humanism of the Italian Renaissance. It was restored and brought back to magnificence by Thomas Bodley (1545 -1613).

This visit is organised by the Bodleian Libraries and lasts 30 minutes. There are lots of steps and stairs, and, we regret, no lift is available.

Please go to the Bodleian Library's ticket office, just inside the Great Gate on Catte Street approximately 5 minutes before your visit is due to start.

Oxford Picture Library / www.cap-ox.com

Duke Humfrey's Library

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

Worcester College Library Tour

Worcester College / £15

Tours take place Tuesday-Thursday, April 5-7 at 2pm

The Librarian of Worcester College, Mark Bainbridge, invites you to explore the college's 18-century library and its 17th and 18th-century collections.

The library has particularly strong 17th and 18th-century collections and is of special importance for the study of the English Civil War and Interregnum. It not only preserves the text of the Putney Debates, but also holds the William Clarke collection of 7,000 pamphlets and notebooks from the Civil War period. Another strength is the history of architecture. Visitors will see not only books, but also drawings by Inigo Jones, Nicholas Hawksmoor and others.

Access to the library is via a steep spiral staircase and limited. Suitable footwear should be worn. No stilettos.

Photo: KT Bruce

Worcester College Library

Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

The University of Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies will be opening its new site on Marston Road during the Oxford Literary Festival. Guests will be given guided tours around the building, which blends the traditional architectural features of Oxford and Islamic design.

Tours are free but please book to ensure your place. Any queries please contact **events@oxcis.ac.uk**.

Tours take place Wednesday-Saturday, April 6-9, at 3pm, 3.30pm and 4pm. There is an extra tour at 2.30pm on Saturday.

Alastair Lack

Literary Oxford with Alastair Lack

Sunday April 3 / 11am and Saturday April 9 / 2pm / Meet outside St John's College Lodge, St Giles / £25

SOLD OUT

Explore Oxford colleges and landmark buildings in the company of the poets A E Housman, AC Swinburne, Edward Thomas and Robert Bridges, as well as writers such as Dorothy Sayers, Graham Greene, Kingsley Amis and Barbara Pym – not forgetting J R R Tolkein and Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson). Starting from St John's College, where Housman and Philip Larkin were undergraduates, the walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

Alastair Lack

Film Oxford with Alastair Lack

Tuesday April 5 / 2pm
Meet outside Balliol College Lodge, Broad Street / £25

From *Charley's Aunt* to the latest episode of *Lewis*, Oxford has proved a magnet for filmmakers and filmgoers alike. Whether it is a Bollywood spectacular or Harry Potter, the streets and quadrangles of Oxford are a familiar background to numerous films. In this walk, explore the city that has provided the setting for films as diverse as *The Golden Compass* and *A Yank at Oxford* and hear about 'film' Oxonians such as Rosamund Pike, Emma Watson, Kris Kristofferson and Rowan Atkinson. The walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

Alastair Lack

Oxford Poets with Alastair Lack

Thursday April 7 / 2pm
Meet outside St John's College Lodge, St Giles/ £25

Oxford University produced a rich crop of poets in the 20th century – from First World War poets such as Robert Graves and Edmund Blunden, through the 'pylon poets' of the 1920s and 1930s (such as WH Auden and Louis MacNeice) to Philip Larkin, Keith Douglas and distinguished contemporary poets, not forgetting, of course, John Betjeman. Enjoy readings from their poetry and prose, from St John's College to Merton. This walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

Alastair Lack

Inspector Morse with Alastair Lack

Sunday April 10 / 11am

SOLD OUT

Meet outside Balliol College Lodge, Broad Street / £25

Mention Oxford and dreaming spires, and colleges and quadrangles come to mind – plus, of course, Inspector Morse. The television series featuring John Thaw was based on the novels of Oxford writer Colin Dexter and 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. This walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

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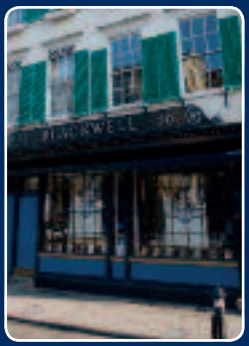

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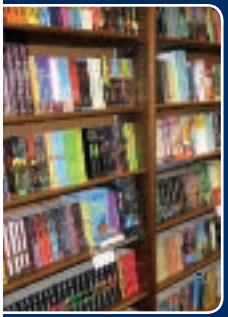

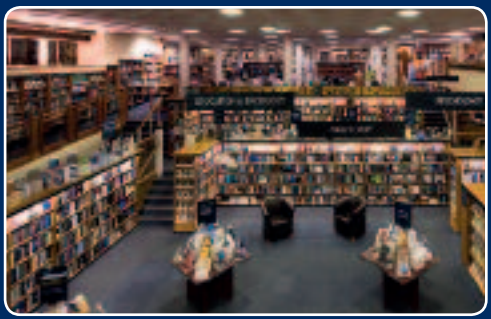

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St Hilda's College Writers' Day

at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival

Saturday 9th April 2016

Programme director: Nicolette Jones

Bound Feet Blues, 12pm

Yang-May Ooi talks about her book and one-woman West End show about the history of women's lives in China.

The Art of the Short Story, 2pm

With **Helen Simpson** (Cockfosters), **Frances Leviston** (shortlisted for the BBC's National Short Story Award) and **Kirsty Gunn** (My Katherine Mansfield Project).

Chaired by **Claire Armitstead** (Guardian Literary Editor).

The Improbability of Love, 4pm

Hannah Rothschild, Chair of the Board of the National Gallery, discusses her novel about the discovery of a lost Watteau.

Catullus's Bedspread, 6pm

Daisy Dunn on her biography: Catullus's Bedspread: The Life of Rome's Most Erotic Poet and her new translations of his poems.

All participants are alumnae of St Hilda's College.

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OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

BBC FOUR

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ARTS AND CULTURE

Steve Antony

Pandas, Doughnuts and the Queen's Handbag

10am / The Story Museum / £6 Age 4+

Join Steve Antony, one of the hottest picture book talents around, for this fun-filled session of art activities. Learn how to draw a panda who loves good manners (and doughnuts).

You will read stories together, chase after the Queen's hat and even get a sneak peek into the Queen's handbag.

Antony is a highly talented and versatile author-illustrator. He has had a passion for storytelling from an early age, but it was the MA in children's book illustration at Cambridge that enabled him to channel this passion. Since then, he has enjoyed creating picture books on a range of subjects from the Queen's hat to a war between rectangles and lizards. He aims to create picture books that are slightly 'off the wall', books that children (and adults) will laugh at, but most of all, books that he enjoys.

Jewell Parker Rhodes talks to Wendy Meddour

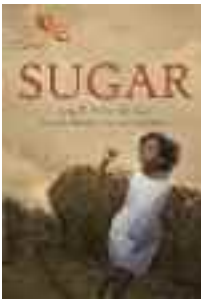
The Louisiana Girls Trilogy

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6 Age 8-12

Award-winning American writer Jewell Parker Rhodes talks to fellow writer Wendy Meddour about her Louisiana girls trilogy and about how she creates characters and stories that enthral the reader.

Rhodes writes for both adults and children. Her Louisiana girls trilogy of novels, *Sugar, Ninth Ward* and *Bayou Magic*, are all stories of young girls coming of age and finding the strength to overcome adversity. They are steeped in the folklore of the deep south of America and are hugely popular with young readers. *Ninth Ward*, set at the time of Hurricane Katrina, won a Parents' Choice Foundation Award and the Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award. *Sugar* won the Jane Addam's Children's Book Award and has been cited as a "notable children's book" by the American Library Association and as one of the "best children's books of the year" by Kirkus Reviews.

Rhodes' books for adults have won awards such as the American Book Award and the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence. She is Piper Endowed Chair of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University. Meddour is a writer and illustrator and author of the Wendy Quill children's series.



Alex Perry

New Africa: Confronting the False Prophets

10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Award-winning journalist and author Alex Perry joins a panel to debate his contention that Africa needs to rid itself of the false prophets of violent Islamism, dictatorship and western aid.

Perry spent seven years exploring Africa for his book, *The Rift: A New Africa Breaks Free*, during which he had a spell in a Zimbabwean jail, visited many wars and resigned as a magazine correspondent. The 'rift' with the west is one of many that Perry outlines. There are many others – involving pirates, al-Qaeda, cocaine smugglers and young revolutionaries – that will play a part in Africa's future. And he argues that the story of new Africa will not only change the lives of Africans but those of all of us.

Perry is a contributing editor at *Newsweek's* international edition and former *Time* journalist. He has won many awards for his journalism. His investigation into Boko Haram's beheadings was requested as evidence by the International Criminal Court, and he was convicted in Zimbabwe of being a 'determined and resourceful journalist'. His books include *Falling Off The Edge*, *Lifeblood*, *The Hunt for Boko Haram*, *Clooney's War*, *Cocaine Highway*, *Once Upon a Jihad*, *Democracy Isn't Working* and *Scotland the Brave*.

The debate is one of two Oxford Martin School Roundtable Talks.

Photo: Burlison Photography

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Simon Horobin

How English Became English: A Short History of a Global Language

10am / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Expert on English language Professor Simon Horobin explains how English came to be spoken by more than a billion people across the globe and how it evolved into the language we speak today.

Horobin shows how English continues to adapt today as it finds new speakers and uses. He asks whether changes in use of English are improvements or evidence that standards are slipping, and looks at the future for the language. Will standard English continue to dominate or are we seeing its replacement by a series of Englishes?

Horobin is professor of English language and literature at the University of Oxford. He is author of *Does Spelling Matter?* and other books on the history of English and the language of Chaucer.

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Paula Byrne talks to Plum Sykes

Kick: JFK's Forgotten Sister and Heir to Chatsworth

10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Biographer Paula Byrne previews her forthcoming book about Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, the vivacious and clever sister of JFK who charmed the English aristocracy but was almost erased from her family history.

Kathleen arrived in England in 1938 after her father was appointed ambassador. Byrne explains how her wit, aloofness and sexual charisma fascinated the British public. She met and fell in love with Britain's most eligible bachelor, William 'Billy' Cavendish, heir to the Duke of Devonshire and Chatsworth. The eventual marriage to Anglican Billy in 1944 met with the disapproval of the Catholic Kennedys. Billy died shortly afterwards in combat and Kick four years later in a plane crash. Byrne says Kick was more than just a sister to the famous Kennedy brothers. She was a force in her own right but one that was hidden from the family history.

Byrne is author of a number of biographical works including *Jane Austen and the Theatre*, *Perdita: The Life of Mary Robinson* and *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*. *Kick* will be published in May. Here Byrne talks to novelist and fashion journalist Victoria 'Plum' Sykes, author of *Bergdorf Blondes* and *The Debutante Divorcee* and former contributing editor on fashion for American *Vogue*.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Festival Ideas Partner

Jonathan Bate

Ted Hughes: The Unauthorised Life

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Biographer, critic, broadcaster and scholar Professor Sir Jonathan Bate talks about his new biography of one of the greatest poets and literary characters of the 20th century, Ted Hughes.

The former poet laureate wrote some of the finest poems of 20th-century English literature. He was equally at home writing prose and has been hailed as the greatest letter-writer since Keats. Hughes also had a huge zest for life and love and attracted much scandal. Bate spent five years in the Hughes archive, unearthing a wealth of new material, including unpublished poems, drafts and memorandums. He throws new light on Hughes's lifelong quest to come to terms with the suicide of his first wife and fellow poet Sylvia Plath. *Ted Hughes* was named a book of the year by the *Spectator, Daily Telegraph, Independent* and *Financial Times*.

'Manages to illuminate the poet's lowering literary presence' **Financial Times**

Bate is provost of Worcester College and professor of English at the University of Oxford. He is a renowned Shakespeare scholar and wrote a one-act play for Simon Callow, *Being Shakespeare*. His biography of John Clare won the Hawthornden Prize for Literature and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography. *Ted Hughes* was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize. He will also be in conversation with Sir Ian McKellen about Shakespeare on Sunday, April 3.

John Gordon Reid

The 4-Billion Year Story of Life on Earth

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

Join John Gordon-Reid on a spectacular voyage through the 4-billion year story of life on Earth, stopping off at some of the most significant evolutionary episodes that have most shaped the development of life on our planet.

Using a coat of many pockets, a series of everyday objects and a giant edition of the *What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History* (developed in partnership with the Natural History Museum) as a backdrop, this family talk is ideal for all curious individuals aged 5-105.

The *What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History* is part of a series of What on Earth books created by Christopher Lloyd. Gordon-Reid gives talks on the 4-billion year story of life on Earth and great moments in 10,000 years of science and engineering on Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. Lloyd gives talks on Magna Carta – 800 years in the fight for rights and freedoms, best moments in British history from the dinosaurs to the present day, and the complete plays of William Shakespeare on Thursday, April 7, Friday April 8, Saturday, April 9, and Sunday April 10.

All the talks are free and no ticket is required.

SOLD OUT

Lauren Child talks to Nicolette Jones

Ruby Redfort and Charlie and Lola

12 noon / The Story Museum / £6 Age 7+

Author and illustrator Lauren Child talks to *The Sunday Times* children's books editor Nicolette Jones about her books, characters and illustrations.

Child is one of the most talented children's book author/illustrators working today. She is creator of Charlie and Lola, Clarice Bean and Ruby Redfort, and has many award-winning books to her name, selling more than three million books in 19 countries. Her distinctive style is an entertaining mix of unruly, cartoony drawing, witty observation and bold page design that borrows more than a little from the advertising world and incorporates lots of retro 1950s styling and colours. She has been described as 'impossibly glamorous and reassuringly funny and unpretentious'.

Child has won many prizes, including the Smarties Prize (four times), the Kate Greenaway Medal and the Red House Children's Book Award. The *Charlie and Lola* television series won a Bafta in 2007. Child was appointed Artist for Peace by UNESCO in 2008 and spearheaded a project to raise money for UNESCO's Programme for the Education of Children in Need.

Photo: Polly Borland

Dana Arnold

A Short Book About Art

12 noon / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Leading art historian Professor Dana Arnold gives a jargon-free explanation of how art is made, interpreted and displayed and offers fresh insight into ways of thinking about art from different periods and cultures.

Arnold ranges from cave paintings to contemporary multimedia work, taking the reader through all the major approaches to making and understanding art.

Arnold is professor of architectural history at the University of Southampton and director of the Centre for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism. Her recent publications include *Re-presenting the Metropolis* and *The Georgian Country House: Architecture, Landscape and Society*.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Humphrey Burton talks to Gwenan Edwards

Menuhin: A Life

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Arts broadcaster and writer Humphrey Burton celebrates the centenary of the birth of world-famous violinist and conductor Yehudi Menuhin with a look back at his life and work.

Menuhin was born in New York to Russian Jewish immigrant parents. He gave his first recital at the age of eight and was world-famous five years later. Burton worked with Menuhin on many radio and television programmes including a 20-part radio series for Classic FM. He is also author of *Menuhin: A Life*. He explains why Menuhin was such an extraordinary human being and why he became one of the best-loved classical musicians of the last century. The event will be illustrated with examples of Menuhin's performances.

Burton spent two spells in charge of music and arts for the BBC, was a founder member of London Weekend Television and edited and presented the ITV arts series *Aquarius*. He was also a frequent collaborator with the American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein and wrote a biography of him. Here he talks to journalist and television presenter, including of the BBC Proms, Gwenan Edwards.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

Photo: Christina Burton

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Paolo Bacigalupi talks to Ed Finn

Storytelling and Climate Change

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Novelist Paolo Bacigalupi talks to academic Ed Finn about science fiction, imagination, climate change and the role of storytelling in inspiring change.

Bacigalupi is an accomplished short story writer, novelist, and essayist whose writing explores the intersection of emerging technology, political intrigue, and environmental change. In works such as *The Windup Girl*, his *Ship Breaker* series and his most recent book, *The Water Knife*, Bacigalupi has crafted evocative narratives of humanity coming to terms with the consequences of catastrophic environmental change.

Bacigalupi's debut novel, *The Windup Girl*, won the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, Compton Crook, and John W. Campbell Memorial Awards. His debut young adult novel, *Ship Breaker*, was a Micheal L. Printz Award winner and a National Book Award finalist. Many of his short stories have been included in 'best of' anthologies. Bacigalupi's latest novel, *The Water Knife*, is a near-future thriller focused on drought and climate change. Finn is co-editor of the award-winning anthology *Hieroglyph: Stories and Visions for a Better Future* and the director of the Center for Science and the Imagination at Arizona State University.

Paolo Bacigalupi

David Baddiel

The Person Controller

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15 Age 9+

Join author and comedian David Baddiel as he invites you into the hilarious world of his new children's book, *The Person Controller*.

Twins Fred and Ellie really like video games. And they are very good at them. It is just unfortunate they are not much good at anything else – like football, or dealing with the school bullies. Then, they meet the Mystery Man, who sends them a video game controller, unlike any other controller they have ever seen. Could this be the key to all their wildest dreams? Do not miss this event if you like video games, adventure stories, or laughing. Especially laughing.

Baddiel is a comedian, novelist, screenwriter and television/radio presenter, known for his partnership with fellow comedian Frank Skinner and for his work on *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*. He was a judge for the Guardian First Book Award in 2000 and the Man Booker Prize in 2002. He has written four novels for adults. His first children's novel, *The Parent Agency*, was the biggest selling children's debut of 2014.

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Katherine E Young and Rose Solari Chaired by Bill Heine

Wayfaring Strangers: Two American Poets on Identity Beyond Borders

2pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Two poets Katherine E Young and Rose Solari break the myth that Americans lack a sense of history.

Born into a young country whose national mythology emphasizes the individual, Americans are often accused of lacking a sense of history. But for Young and Solari, the present is a continual dialogue with the past. In *Day of the Border Guards*, which is set entirely in Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, Young balances the dangerous irrationalities of Soviet and Russian daily life against history, communing often with the great Russian writers of the past. Solari's third full-length collection, *The Last Girl*, ranges through landscapes both real and imaginary, from the Italy of her grandparents to the battle fields of Vietnam to the mythical island of Avalon, where the poet attempts to speak both with and through the dead. In each case, the resulting work is both personal in its passion and international in its scope.

Young's *Day of the Border Guards* was one of Beltway Poetry's 'Best Books of 2014' and received an Honorable Mention for the 2015 Brockman-Campbell Award. Young is also a translator of Russian poets Xenia Emelyanova, Inna Kabysh and Vladimir Kornilov. Solari is author of three collections of poetry, *The Last Girl, Orpheus in the Park,* and *Difficult Weather;* a one-act play, *Looking for Guenevere*; and a novel, *A Secret Woman*. She has lectured and taught writing workshops at many institutions including Kellogg College, Oxford. Her awards include the Randall Jarrell Poetry Prize, the Columbia Book Award for Poetry, and an EMMA Award for Excellence in Journalism.

John Gordon Reid

Great Moments in 10,000 Years of Science and Engineering

2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

Join John Gordon-Reid on a jet-propelled narrative through some of the most significant discoveries ever made.

The story of how humans have reshaped the world over the last 10,000 years is the story of science and engineering. The talk, accompanied by a coat of many pockets and a giant edition of the *Wallbook of Science & Engineering*, also gets students to think about the unintended consequences of scientific endeavour with a set of golden globes and wooden spoons. This family talk is ideal for all curious individuals aged 5-105.

The What on Earth? Wallbook of Science & Engineering is part of a series of What on Earth books created by Christopher Lloyd. Gordon-Reid gives talks on the 4-billion year story of life on Earth and great moments in 10,000 years of science and engineering on Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. Lloyd gives talks on Magna Carta – 800 years in the fight for rights and freedoms, best moments in British history from the dinosaurs to the present day, and the complete plays of William Shakespeare on Thursday, April 7, Friday April 8, Saturday, April 9, and Sunday April 10.

All the talks are free and no ticket is required.

Katherine E Young

Rose Solari

Jacqueline Wilson

An Afternoon with Jacqueline Wilson

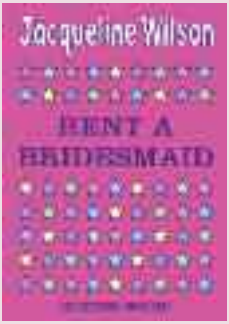
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15 Age 7+

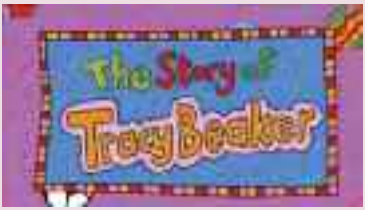
Enjoy an afternoon in the company of one of the nation's best-loved children's writers as she talks about her books and her life as a writer.

Jacqueline Wilson will be talking about some of her best-loved characters such as Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather as well as giving a sneak preview of her brand new book, *Rent-a-Bridesmaid*.

Wilson has sold more than 35 million books in the UK alone and won many awards. *The Illustrated Mum* won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award, and the Children's Book of the Year at the British Book Awards. *Double Act* won the Smarties Medal and the Children's Book Award. *The Story of Tracy Beaker* won the 2002 Blue Peter People's Choice Award. Wilson was Children's Laureate from 2005 to 2007.

Please note there will be no book signing after this event but books bought from the bookstall will contain printed bookplates.





THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

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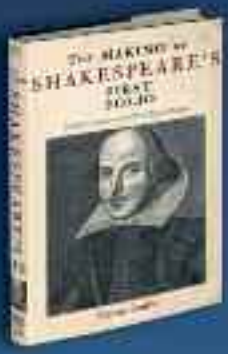

MON 4 APRIL, 12pm

Emma Smith

Shakespeare's First Folio: the Oxford story

TUES 5 APRIL, 12pm

Christina Hardyment

A literary tour of England's famous river

WED 6 APRIL, 12pm

Katherine Duncan-Jones

Images of Shakespeare

WED 6 APRIL, 4pm

Keith Small

Art, Theology and Formation of the Qur'ān

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SAT 9 APRIL, 12PM

Margaret Willes

The grace of plants: Shakespeare and botany

SAT 9 APRIL, 4PM

Stephen Harris

Plants and civilization

SUN 10 APRIL, 10AM

Melanie King

How we fell in love with caffeine

SUN 10 APRIL, 2PM

Susie Dent

A Drudge of Lexicographers: collective nouns, and who decides them

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Philip Reeve and Frances Hardinge talk to Philip Womack

A Journey Through Time and Imagination

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6 Age 8+

Two of our finest children's authors, this year's Costa Book Award winner Frances Hardinge and Philip Reeve, talk about their books and the influences on their writing.

Reeve has won many awards including the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Carnegie Medal. Hardinge too is a multi-award-winning author. Her most recent novel, *The Lie Tree*, was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and won the overall Costa Book Award. Both write books that are always surprising, always original and richly rewarding for readers of all ages.

Hardinge spent a large part of her childhood in a huge old house that inspired her to write strange stories from an early age. Her debut novel, *Fly by Night*, won huge critical acclaim and the Branford Boase Award. *The Lie Tree* is her seventh novel.

Reeve is a diverse and hugely talented author, best known for his multi-award-winning *Mortal Engines* quartet and Carnegie Medal-winning *Here Lies Arthur*. From richly layered writing for older readers to hilarious stories for junior readers, Reeve creates brilliantly inventive worlds and characters.

Here Reeve and Hardinge talk to Philip Womack, a contributing editor at the *Literary Review*, and a writer for *The Daily Telegraph*, and *The Guardian*. He leads workshops on Greek myth, Greek tragedy and how to write children's fiction for the How To Academy, and his books include *The Other Book, The Liberators, The Double Axe* and *The Darkening Path* trilogy.

Philip Reeve

Frances Hardinge

Steve Jones

No Need for Geniuses: Revolutionary Science in the Age of the Guillotine

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer Steve Jones explains how Paris at the time of the Revolution was the world capital of science and how many of its leading practitioners ended up on the guillotine.

Jones takes a sideways look at the city at the time of the revolution. Paris saw the first flight, the first estimate of the speed of light, the first lightning conductor and the invention of the tin can and the stethoscope. Antoine Lavoisier founded modern chemistry and physiology but ended up on the guillotine for his political activities, with the judge remarking that 'the Revolution has no need for geniuses'. Jones explains how wrong this was.

Jones is a senior research fellow at University College London. He gave the Reith lectures in 1991 and presented a BBC series on genetics and evolution in 1996. He frequently appears on radio and television.

Festival Ideas Partner

Frieda Hughes

Alternative Values

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Painter and poet Frieda Hughes reads some of the poems in her new collection *Alternative Values*, talks about their origins and illustrates them with slides of some of the paintings that also feature in the same book.

Hughes describes painting and poetry as the two driving forces of her life. She exhibits frequently and has used emotional and psychological elements of her poetry to accompany the images. *Alternative Values* is an illustrated collection of her most recent poems. It features 60 full-colour plates of abstract and figurative work recently shown at London's Belgravia Gallery.

Hughes will also read from some of her other poetry collections. Her first collection, *Wooroloo*, was named after the hamlet she lived in in Western Australia during the 1990s. It received a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation. Other collections are *Stonepicker*, *Waxworks*, *Forty-Five*, and the *The Book of Mirrors*.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Katherine Rundell talks to Nicolette Jones

Wild Wolves and Wilder Children

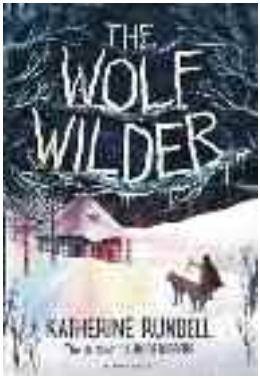
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6 Age 8+

Magical storyteller Katherine Rundell takes you deep into the forests of Russia for a story of wolves, courage and revolution.

Rundell is a talented young author who has won praise for her storytelling and breathtaking prose. She is a night climber and led readers across the rooftops of Paris in her award-winning book *Rooftoppers*. Her latest book is *The Wolf Wilder*.

'Wolves, like children, are not born to lead calm lives'.

Rundell spent her childhood in Africa and Europe and is now a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. She is the bestselling author of *The Girl Savage* and *Rooftoppers*, which won the Blue Peter Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and was shortlisted for many others. Here she talks to *The Sunday Times* children's books editor Nicolette Jones.



Michael A Stackpole and Joe Abercrombie

The Future of Fantasy

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Two authors of fantasy novels Michael A Stackpole and Joe Abercrombie discuss their genre from their different perspectives on either side of the Atlantic.

Stackpole and Abercrombie will talk about their visions of what the genre requires, the traditions that need to be maintained and those which have been overdone, and the challenges of trying to find new and interesting ways to deliver stories in a genre many feel is overcrowded and tired. They will also compare authors and work that are critical to understanding the genre's roots as well as those that point to its future.

Stackpole is the New York Times bestselling author of *I, Jedi* and *Rogue Squadron*. He has written more than 50 novels, from science fiction and fantasy to mysteries. He is best known for his work in the Star Wars, BattleTech and World of Warcraft universes. He is a writer in residence at the Virginia G Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University.

Abercrombie is the Sunday and New York Times bestselling author of *The First Law* and *Shattered Sea* trilogies. He spent ten years as a freelance film editor, but is now a full-time writer.

Michael A Stackpole

Joe Abercrombie

Gillian Tett

The Silo Effect

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Well-known financial journalist Gillian Tett explains how silos dominate the workplace and have the power to collapse businesses and destabilise the financial markets.

Tett says silos blind and confuse us and make us act in risky and damaging ways. Many organisations are organised around functional departments that restrict our thinking, leaving us locked in a silo and unable to break out and innovate. Tett draws on some high-profile examples to illustrate her case, from the New York Fire Department to Facebook, the Bank of England and Sony. Tett is assistant editor of the *Financial Times* and has covered financial markets over many years. She is also an anthropologist and uses her academic background to explore how individuals, teams and organisations end up working in silos.

Tett has worked for the *Financial Times* for 15 years. She won the British Press Awards Financial Journalist of the Year in 2008 and often appears on radio and television programmes such as *Today* and *Newsnight*.

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Harry Parker, David Savill and Janet Ellis. Chaired by Erica Wagner

Writers Roundtable

4pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Three debut novelists destined for big things – army veteran Harry Parker, journalist David Savill and actress and former *Blue Peter* presenter Janet Ellis – discuss their writing under the chairmanship of journalist, writer and literary critic Erica Wagner.

Former soldier and Afghanistan veteran Parker has won praise for his battlefield story of patriotism, heroism and humanism, *Anatomy of a Soldier*. The stories of the characters, including Captain Tom Barnes and two local boys caught up in the war, are told not as they see themselves but through a series of inanimate objects that surround them including boots, a helmet, a drone and an improvised explosive device.

Former BBC current affairs journalist Savill's first novel, *They are Trying to Break Your Heart*, ranges from the cruelties of the Bosnian War to the devastating tsunami that wreaked havoc in Thailand. It features Marko Novak, who has fled the Bosnian war after the death of his best friend, and Anya Teal, a human rights researcher seeking a Bosnian man with blood on his hands.

Ellis, a presenter of the BBC children's programme *Blue Peter* in the 1980s, has published *The Butcher's Hook*, a dark tale set in 18th-century London. Georgian London is seen through the eyes of Anne Jaccob, a young woman intent on defying her well-to-do parents' wishes and pursuing a passion for Fub, a butcher's apprentice.

Wagner is consulting literary editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and writer of short stories and a novel, *Seizure*. She has been a judge of the Booker, Orange, Whitbread First Novel, and Forward prizes.

Emily Gravett

Tidy

4pm / The Story Museum / £6 Age 6+

Star children's author and illustrator Emily Gravett tells how she became an illustrator and reads from her books, including her new one *Tidy*. You can also help her to create a brand new story live on stage.

Gravett is twice winner of the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal and the Nestlé Children's Book Prize Bronze Award for *Wolves* and *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears*. An author/illustrator of unique talent and tremendous skill, she has a host of critically acclaimed books to her name, including *Blue Chameleon, Wolf Won't Bite!* and *Again!*

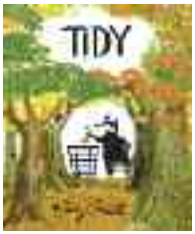

Photo: Gemma Day
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Dana Arnold

Art History: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Professor of architectural history Dana Arnold looks at all the major debates and issues in the field of art history. She also looks at the different ways of writing about art and at the changing boundaries of art history. Arnold is professor of architectural history at the University of Southampton and director of the Centre for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism. Her recent publications include *Re-presenting the Metropolis* and *The Georgian Country House: Architecture, Landscape and Society*.

Sponsored by

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A C Grayling

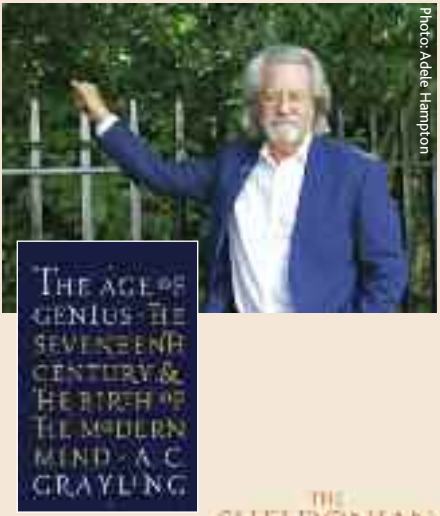
Progress in Troubled Times: Learning from The Age of Genius

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-25

Leading philosopher Professor A C Grayling explains what we can still learn from the greatest ever change in the mental outlook of humanity that took place in the 17th century.

In his latest book, *The Age of Genius*, Grayling describes the birth of the modern mind in the 17th century. He questions what happened to the human mind between 1605, when a crowd watching Shakespeare's *Macbeth* could believe that regicide would lead to ghosts bursting out of the ground, and 1649, when a crowd could watch the execution of a king. It was a period that saw science replacing alchemy and astrology and was the era of the likes of Galileo, Newton, Francis Bacon and Descartes. But what lessons does this era still hold for our troubled times?

Grayling is master of New College of the Humanities. He has written and edited more than 30 books on philosophy and other subjects including *The Good Book, Ideas That Matter, Liberty in the Age of Terror, To Set Prometheus Free, Friendship* and *The Challenge of Things*. He believes philosophy should take an active and useful role in society.



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Neil Levine

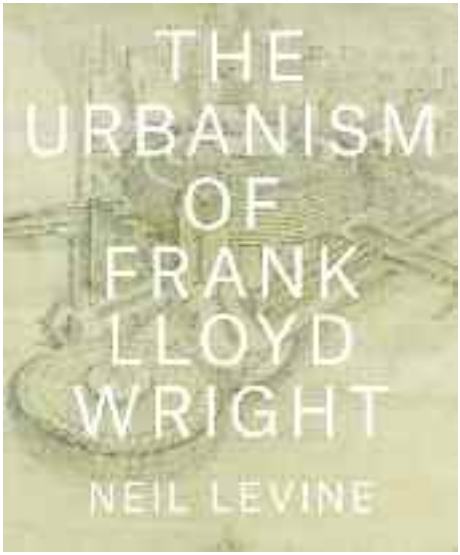
The Urbanism of Frank Lloyd Wright

6pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Harvard professor of art history and architecture Frank Levine explains why the architect Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the leading contributors to the creation of the modern city.

Levine seeks to overturn the conventional view of Wright as an architect who deplored the city and whose vision was limited to a utopian plan for a series of agrarian communities. He says his urbanism is demonstrated through a range of projects aimed at reforming residential neighbourhoods in Chicago at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries and later projects for commercial, mixed-use, civic and cultural centres in Chicago, Madison, Washington and Baghdad.

Levine is Emmet Blakeney Gleason Research Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. His books include *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* and *Modern Architecture: Representation and Reality*.



Sarah Crossan, Sita Brahmachari and Holly Bourne. Chaired by Anna James

Stars of Young Adult Fiction

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £6 Age 13+

Three of the very best writers for teenagers, Sarah Crossan, Sita Brahmachari and Holly Bourne join forces for a session guaranteed to entertain, to inspire, and to provoke debate and laughter.

The best young adult fiction captures your imagination and plays with your emotions like nothing you have read before. And we have assembled three of the very best writers who brilliantly describe that heady, thrilling stage in life when you are just working out who you are and what you want.

Crossan writes beautifully crafted novels about families, first love and the healing power of words. *The Weight of Water* and *Apple and Rain* were both shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, and her latest book *One* is already being described as one of the books of the year.

Sita Brahmachari won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize with her debut novel *Artichoke Hearts* and writes topical and moving novels about family, love, community, the tangled roots of history and searching for a place to call home.

Holly Bourne is a journalist and editor for TheSite.org, an advice and information website for young people. Her books include *The Manifesto on How to Be Interesting* and *Am I Normal Yet*, compassionate, sensitive and funny examinations of the good and bad of being a teenager.

Sarah Crossan

Sita Brahmachari

Holly Bourne

Anna James

Tom Bower

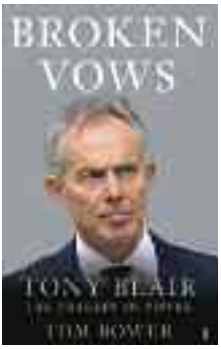
Broken Vows – Tony Blair: The Tragedy of Power

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Investigative journalist and historian Tom Bower looks at Tony Blair's decade in power and the years following his resignation and asks what went wrong for Labour's longest-serving premier.

Bower was among those excited by Blair's arrival in Downing Street in 1997. He has had unprecedented access to Whitehall officials, military officers and politicians for his story of the Blair years and of the extraordinary commercial empire Blair has built up since leaving office. Bower asks what the truth is behind Blair's claims of rebuilding schools, hospitals and welfare services, looks at why he opened the doors to mass immigration and questions why Blair has earned millions serving dictators despite being the same man who risked his government to take on Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein.

Bower is an investigative historian, journalist and broadcaster. He is a former producer and reporter for BBC television and author of biographies of Robert Maxwell, Mohammed Fayed, Gordon Brown, Richard Branson, Conrad Black, Bernie Ecclestone and Simon Cowell. His investigation into corruption in English football, *Broken Dreams*, won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year.



OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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Opening Festival Dinner

Celebrating the Programme of American Literature and Culture

7.30pm reception followed by dinner/ Bodleian Library: Divinity School / £120

Hosted by the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Arizona State University

To honour the exceptional contribution of the USA to world literature and culture, the festival's opening dinner brings together the distinguished novelists, writers and public figures from America who are speaking in Oxford over the first weekend.

The founding partners of the programme are The Bodleian Libraries and Arizona State University. The dinner is staged in the beautiful 15th-century Divinity School built for the teaching of theology.

Among those at the dinner will be the award-winning writer for children and adults Jewell Parker Rhodes; science fiction writer and essayist Paolo Bacigalupi; the founding director of the Center for Science and the Imagination at Arizona State University Ed Finn; fantasy authors Michael A Stackpole and Joe Abercrombie; transnational novelists Gail Tsukiyama and Xu Xi; and poets Katherine E Young and Rose Solari. Some other writers speaking over the weekend will also be at the dinner.

Divinity School ceiling

ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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PHOTO: MATT CHUNG

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light snacks and lunches.

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Jess French

Minibeast Adventure

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 SOLD OUT **Age 4+**

Get up close to some of the tickly little beasts that inhabit our gardens, parks and woods with Jess French, presenter of the CBeebies hit wildlife show *Minibeast Adventures*.

French will talk about life cycles, how to identify bugs and what makes each one special, before taking the audience on a special minibeast adventure in the beautiful grounds of Worcester College. (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

French is a passionate zoologist, naturalist and entomologist. She has a first-class degree in zoology and is midway through a degree in veterinary medicine and surgery. Throughout her studies, she has been involved with natural history television in animal handling, scientific advising and facilitating interactions between children and animals. In addition to presenting *Minibeast Adventures with Jess*, she has worked on *Live 'n' Deadly, Deadly Mission Madagascar, Springwatch* and *Micro Monsters 3D*.

Julia Copus

Harry the Hog and Candystripe Lil

10am / Ashmolean Museum / £6 **Age 3+**

Winner of the National Poetry Competition Julia Copus presents her fantastic picture books starring Harry the Hog and Candystripe Lil.

Copus whisks you off to Piggyback Hill to meet its magical inhabitants. Badger's having a hat party, and best friends Harry and Lil are invited. But just as Lil the shrew is fetching her favourite hat from the washing line, it blows away – too high to rescue. Harry says it's gone for good, but Lil has other ideas. Hear Copus read *The Shrew that Flew* out loud, find out what makes things fly, and discover the power of never saying never.

Copus has won First Prize in the National Poetry Competition and the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem (2010). She also writes for radio; her first play, *Eenie Meenie Macka Racka*, was awarded the BBC's Alfred Bradley prize. She is a reader for the Royal Literary Fund.

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Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

Pugs of the Frozen North

10am / The Story Museum / £6 Age 6+

Writer and illustrator double act Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre take you on a magical journey to the frozen North .

You'll be joined by brave sled-racers, noodle-eating yetis and 66 pugs. Learn how to defeat a hungry Kraken, discover the secrets of the 50 different kinds of snow and draw along with McIntyre as you go.

Reeve is a Carnegie medal-winning writer and author of the *Mortal Engines* quartet and *Here Lies Arthur*. McIntyre is an illustrator who has produced her own books, including *Dinosaur Police* and *There's a Shark in the Bath*, and has collaborated with Reeve and others on many more.

Patrick Guinness

Saving Ireland's Georgian Heritage

10am / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Historian and author Patrick Guinness explains the work he and his father Desmond have undertaken to preserve Ireland's Georgian heritage.

The Irish Georgian Society was founded in 1958 by Desmond and his late wife Mariga. It has since saved many buildings of architectural importance. Desmond was awarded the Europa Nostra in 2006 in recognition of the society's preservation activities. Patrick took on the role of president of the society in 2011. The society is currently carrying out restoration of the City Assembly House in Dublin. Once finished, it will be a cultural venue and house the society's headquarters. The City Assembly House was the first purpose-built public exhibition gallery in Ireland or Britain and possibly in Europe. It also served as Dublin City Hall.

Patrick Guinness is an heir of the Guinness business dynasty. He continues his father's business in real estate, is a financial analyst and formerly represented Sotheby's in Ireland. He is author of a biography of the founder of the Guinness brewing dynasty, Arthur Guinness, and has produced monographs on Irish history. Desmond and Mariga were married at Christ Church, Oxford.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

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Asfa-Wossen Asserate talks to Paul Blezard

King of Kings: The Triumph and Tragedy of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia

10am /Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Prince Asfa-Wossen Asserate talks about his colourful new biography of the life of his great-uncle Emperor Haile Selassie.

Asserate spent his childhood and adolescence in Ethiopia and was educated at the German School. He fled the 1974 revolution to Europe to continue his studies at Magdalen College, Cambridge, and the University of Tübingen and finally received his PhD in history from the University of Frankfurt. He knew the emperor well and gained an intimate insight into life in his controversial court. Selassie was a descendant of King Solomon who fought with the Allies during the Second World War and became the messiah of the Rastafarians. He was a reformer and an autocrat and a forerunner of African independence.

Asserate has lived in Germany since the 1970s. He is a corporate consultant and the author of the critically acclaimed German bestsellers *Manieren* (Manners) and *Deutsche Tugenden* (German Virtues). He is also the founder of Pactum Africanum, a German charitable foundation that promotes understanding between the Abrahamic religions.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

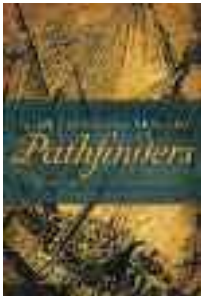
A Foot in the River: Why Our Lives Change – and the Limits of Evolution

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Award-winning and bestselling historian Professor Felipe Fernandez-Armesto explains why human cultures change with bewildering speed and argues that culture is exempt from the laws of evolution.

Fernandez-Armesto uses insights from a host of disciplines including history, biology, anthropology, archaeology, philosophy, sociology, ethology, zoology, primatology, psychology, linguistics, the cognitive sciences, and business studies to back his case that our behaviour is not ultimately determined by environment, genetics or scientific laws. It means, he says, that we can make or remake our world with the freedom of an unconstrained imagination.

Fernandez-Armesto is William P. Reynolds Professor of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame in the United States and previously spent much of his teaching career at Oxford. He is author of bestselling history books including *Civilizations; Millennium; 1492: The Year Our World Began;* and *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*, winner of the World History Association Prize.



John Gordon Reid

The 4-Billion Year Story of Life on Earth

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 11am, Saturday 2nd for full details.

Andy Griffiths

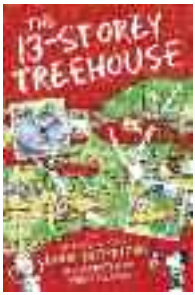
The 13-Storey Treehouse

12 noon / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 8+

Share a hilarious hour with multi-million-selling Australian author Andy Grifiths as he weaves his magic with stories of tree houses, psycho bums, and more.

Griffiths tops the list of writers to inspire a love of books in even the most reluctant readers. Travel with his characters into a world that is probably disgusting, definitely surprising, and loads of fun. Laughter is guaranteed; inspiration too.

Griffiths is one of Australia's most popular and well-loved children's authors. He has written more than 25 books, including short stories, comic novels, nonsense verse, picture books, plays and a creative writing guide for students and teachers. His series *The 13-Storey Treehouse* has just been published in this country and is already a massive hit with readers.



Holly Webb

Return to the Secret Garden

12 noon / The Story Museum / £6 Age 8+

Join bestselling author Holly Webb as she returns readers to the magical world of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic tale, *The Secret Garden*.

Return to the Secret Garden transports us to 1939 and reunites us with Misselthwaite Hall, where Emmie is far from happy to have been separated from her cat and sent to a huge old mansion. Webb will read from her new book and lead activities that will help readers discover the secrets of the house; a house that includes a garden . . . a very secret garden.

Webb started writing 11 years ago while working as a children's books editor. She now writes full time, and has written more than 90 books including *The Brave Kitten, A Tiger Tale,* and *Maisie Hitchins: The Case of the Blind Beetle*. She has a huge following among young readers, who love her books.

Simon Hall

1956, The World in Revolt

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Historian Simon Hall explains why 1956 was a year that changed our world every bit as much as the events of 1789 and 1848.

Hall says 1956 was a remarkable year that saw ordinary people speaking out and filling city streets and squares in an attempt to win their freedom. There were popular uprisings against Moscow in Poland and Hungary; in the American south and in South Africa black people were risking their lives and livelihoods in the struggle against institutionalised white supremacy; France and Britain faced the humiliation of Suez; and in Cuba Fidel Castro was plotting the overthrow of a dictator. It was also a year in which those in power fought back against the challenges.

Hall is a senior lecturer in American history and head of School of History at the University of Leeds. He has a particular expertise in the civil rights and black power movements of 1960s United States. He is also author of *Peace and Freedom: The Civil Rights and Antiwar Movements in the 1960s* and *Rethinking the American Anti-War Movement*.

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WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Avril Horner and Anne Rowe. Chaired by Helen Taylor

Living on Paper: Letters from Iris Murdoch 1934-1995

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

The editors of a new collection of the correspondence of one of the 20th-century's greatest writers, Iris Murdoch, discuss the author's life and enduring appeal.

In *Living on Paper: Letters from Iris Murdoch 1934-1995*, Professor Avril Horner and Dr Anne Rowe have drawn together Murdoch's most interesting and important letters written over more than 60 years. They reveal a young and unsure Murdoch struggling with philosophical issues, her anguish when a novel is not coming together, her involvement in world events, and her explorations of sensuality. The letters throw light on a complex personal life and Murdoch's tendency to live life on the edge of what was socially acceptable.

Horner is an emeritus professor of English at Kingston University and an expert in women's writing and Gothic fiction. She has also co-authored works on Edith Wharton and Daphne du Maurier. Rowe is associate professor in English literature at Kingston University and director of its Iris Murdoch Archive Project. She has published widely on Murdoch.

Discussions are chaired by Professor Helen Taylor, former head of English at Exeter University, who has written widely on American and English literature.

Avril Horner

Anne Rowe

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Michael Moritz

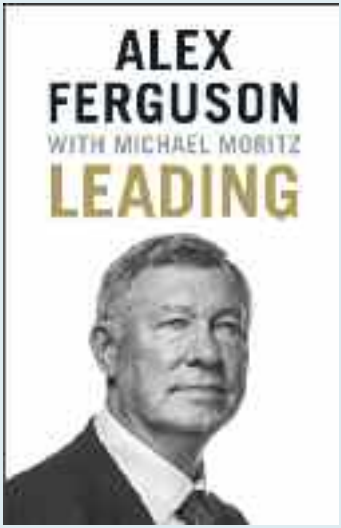
Sir Alex Ferguson and Leading to Success

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-£25

Renowned investor and writer Sir Michael Moritz talks about the collaboration with his friend and former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson on how to lead a business to success.

In *Leading*, Moritz and Ferguson distil the elements required to lead a team to the sort of world-class success enjoyed by Manchester United over a sustained period of time. They include the well-known elements of discipline, control, teamwork and motivation but also the less high-profile but no-less required elements of delegation, data analysis and dealing with failure. Moritz outlines the leadership skills shown by Ferguson and explains how they can be applied by anyone.

Moritz started as a journalist at *Time* magazine in the late 70s. He wrote the first book about Apple after being contacted by Steve Jobs, *The Little Kingdom: The Private Story of Apple Computer*. Moritz joined Sequoia Capital in California, rising to chairman in 2012. Sequoia has made alliances with young founders and made the first investments in companies such as Apple, Airbnb, Dropbox and WhatsApp. Moritz has studied many businesses, including Manchester United, in his quest to find out what makes them successful, and has sat on the boards of companies such as Google and PayPal. A Christ Church graduate and significant philanthropist, he has given $50 million to his former college and a further $75 million to the University of Oxford to support students from low-income families.



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Will Gompertz
Introduced by Steven Parissien

Think Like an Artist

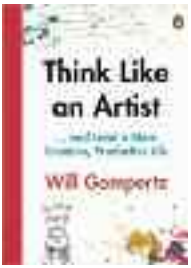
12 noon / Ashmolean Museum / £12

BBC arts editor Will Gompertz asks why some people find it easy to come up with brilliant ideas and how they turn those ideas into something worthwhile.

Gompertz says years of getting up close and personal to some of the world's most creative thinkers has taught him that there are a handful of traits common to them all. And he argues they are basic practices that we can all follow to help us to achieve great things too.

Gompertz is well known as the BBC arts editor. He was previously director of Tate Media, has written extensively for national newspapers and is author of *What Are You Looking At? 150 Years of Modern Art in the Blink of an Eye*.

Gompertz will be introduced by cultural and architectural historian Professor Steven Parissien, director of Compton Verney gallery and author of *The English Railway Station* and *The Life of the Automobile: A New History of the Motor Car*.



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Bart van Es

Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

English lecturer Bart van Es explores the full range of Shakespeare's comic writing. What is a Shakespeare comedy? How representative are their themes of mistaken identity, happy marriage and cross dressing of his work as a whole? van Es is a fellow in English at St Catherine's College, Oxford. He is author of *Spenser's Forms of History* and *Shakespeare in Company*.

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John Gordon Reid

Great Moments in 10,000 Years of Science and Engineering

2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 2pm, Saturday 2nd for full details

David Aaronovitch

SOLD OUT

Party Animals: My Family and Other Communists

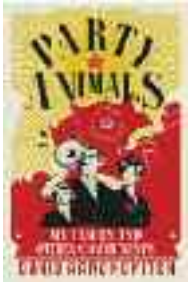
2pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Award-winning journalist and writer David Aaronovitch takes a look back at his own family history and that of the post-war British communist mind-set embodied by his parents.

Aaronovitch looks back at his own memories of growing up in a London communist family where society's usual heroes were their villains, where the Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was the embodiment of everything they could wish for and where they went to Socialist Sunday School rather than church. What emerges is an account of an ultimately doomed world set apart from the rest of post-war Britain and its modern legacies.

Aaronovitch was an active young communist and is a former left-wing president of the National Union of Students. Today, he is a regular columnist for *The Times* and author of *Paddling to Jerusalem: An Aquatic Tour of Our Small Country* and *Voodoo Histories: the Role of Conspiracy Theory in Modern History*. He is a winner of the Orwell Prize for Political Journalism and a What The Papers Say Columnist of the Year.

Photo: Nigel Barklie



Julian Clary and David Roberts

The Bolds to the Rescue

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15 Age 7+

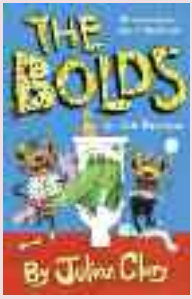
Comedian, entertainer and novelist Julian Clary and illustrator David Roberts introduce you to their new book, *The Bolds to the Rescue*, about a family of hyenas who live in a nice suburban house.

Do not miss this very special event. Clary will read from the book, Roberts will draw live, and hilarious jokes – courtesy of Mr Bold – will have you laughing like a hyena.

Clary is a comedian, entertainer and novelist who became a household name in the 1980s for his popular and unpredictable humour, silly clothes and make-up. He has appeared on many prime-time television shows including (winning) *Celebrity Big Brother, Strictly Come Dancing, QI,* and *Have I Got News for You*.

Roberts is an illustrator with a distinctive style who has collaborated with many of Britain's leading children's writers including Julia Donaldson, Sally Gardner, Philip Ardagh and Jacqueline Wilson. He is also creator of the Dirty Bertie books.

Photo: Eddie Botsio



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

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"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

"Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the 'Titanic' who waved off the dessert cart."

Erma Bombeck

"A man cannot make him laugh – but that's no marvel; he drinks no wine."

Shakespeare, Henry IV, pt II

"What I say is that, if a man really likes potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow."

A.A. Milne

"No man is lonely while eating spaghetti: it requires so much attention."

Christopher Marley

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Mel Fewster, The Oxford Mail

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PLEASE JOIN ROSE SOLARI AND KATHERINE E. YOUNG
FOR A READING AND DISCUSSION ON
WAYFARING STRANGERS: TWO AMERICAN POETS ON IDENTITY
BEYOND BORDERS

Saturday, April 2, at 2:00 p.m.

In Exeter College Chapel, chaired by the BBC's **Bill Heine**

Rose Solari is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently **The Last Girl**; the play, **Looking for Guenevere**; and a novel, **A Secret Woman**. Her awards include the Randall Jarrell Poetry Prize and an EMMA Award for Excellence in journalism.

Katherine E. Young is the author of the poetry collection **Day of the Border Guards**, a Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize finalist; an award-winning translator of Russian poets Xenia Emelyanova and Inna Kabysh; and a 2015 Hawthornden Fellow.

THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL'S AMERICAN WEEKEND, SPONSORED BY THE VIRGINIA G. PIPER CENTER FOR CREATIVE WRITING AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Alan Squire Publishing

The University of Arkansas PRESS

Helen Mort and Alan Buckley. Chaired by Andrea Macrae

The Body Beautiful

2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Poets Helen Mort and Alan Buckley explore our bodies and how we live through them. With poems about the prejudices faced by female rock climbers, the male gaze, our complex relationship with physical beauty, and the mystery of fire-eating, this event aims to give the body its own true voice.

Mort's first collection, *Division Street*, was shortlisted for the Costa and T S Eliot prizes and won the Fenton Aldeburgh Prize. She is the Douglas Caster Cultural Fellow at the University of Leeds and has a PhD from the University of Sheffield.

Buckley's pamphlet, *Shiver*, was a Poetry Book Society Choice. A second pamphlet, *The Long Haul*, is forthcoming. He works in Oxford as a psychotherapist, and as a school writer-in-residence for the charity First Story.

This event will be chaired by Dr Andrea Macrae, a senior lecturer in stylistics at Oxford Brookes University Department of English and Modern Languages.

Presented by Oxford Brookes University Poetry Centre, Department of English and Modern Languages.

Helen Mort

Alan Buckley

Presented by

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

David Blayney Brown

Artist and Empire

2pm / Ashmolean Museum / £12

Tate curator David Blayney Brown explains how artists have represented and responded to the dramas and tragedies of the British empire.

Blayney Brown is curator of British art 1790-1950 at the Tate, which is hosting a major new exhibition *Artist and Empire*. The exhibition and accompanying book look at how the story of life under British rule is told through various objects of art. These include paintings by well-known artists such as John Singer Sargent and Sidney Nolan, Benin bronze heads and Mughal miniatures. The various works range from a projection of British might to a representation or post-war imperial decline.

Artist and Empire runs at Tate Britain until April 10.

In association with

ASHMOLEAN

Bernard Minier

A Song for Drowned Souls

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

France's leading crime writer Bernard Minier introduces his latest murder mystery *A Song for Drowned Souls*.

The novel is the latest in a series featuring Commandant Servaz, who this time investigates the death of a professor found drowned in the bath in the quiet university town of Marsac in the Pyrenees. Chief suspect is the son of Servaz's university sweetheart, and he has to delve into his own past when she asks him to investigate.

Minier grew up in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. The three novels in the Servaz series, *The Frozen Dead*, *A Song for Drowned Souls* and *Don't Turn out the Lights*, were all bestsellers in France and translated into several languages including English. He is a two-time winner of the prestigious Prix Polar at the Cognac Crime Festival.

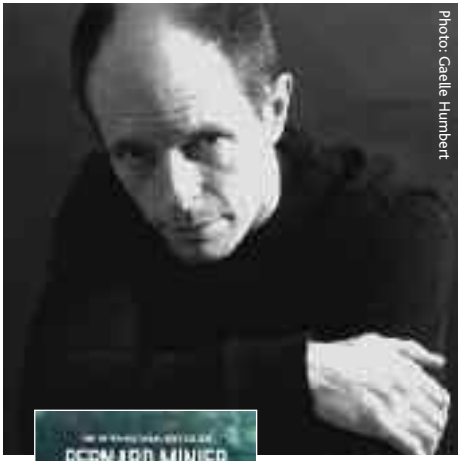


Photo: Gaelle Humbert

Sponsored by

Helen Margetts

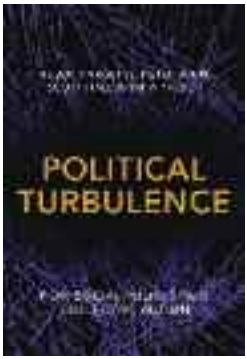
Political Turbulence: How Social Media Shape Collective Action

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Director of the Oxford Internet Institute Professor Helen Margetts explains how social media is giving rise to a new era of turbulent politics.

Margetts is co-author with political scientist Professor Peter John, data scientist Scott Hale and researcher in computational social science Taha Yasseri of *Political Turbulence: How Social Media Shape Collective Action*. They demonstrate how most attempts at collective action online fail but some give rise to huge mobilisations and even revolution. Those that succeed are unpredictable, unstable and often unsustainable. They argue that a new form of pluralistic democracy is emerging but one that is chaotic and turbulent.

Margetts is professor of society and the Internet and director of the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford.



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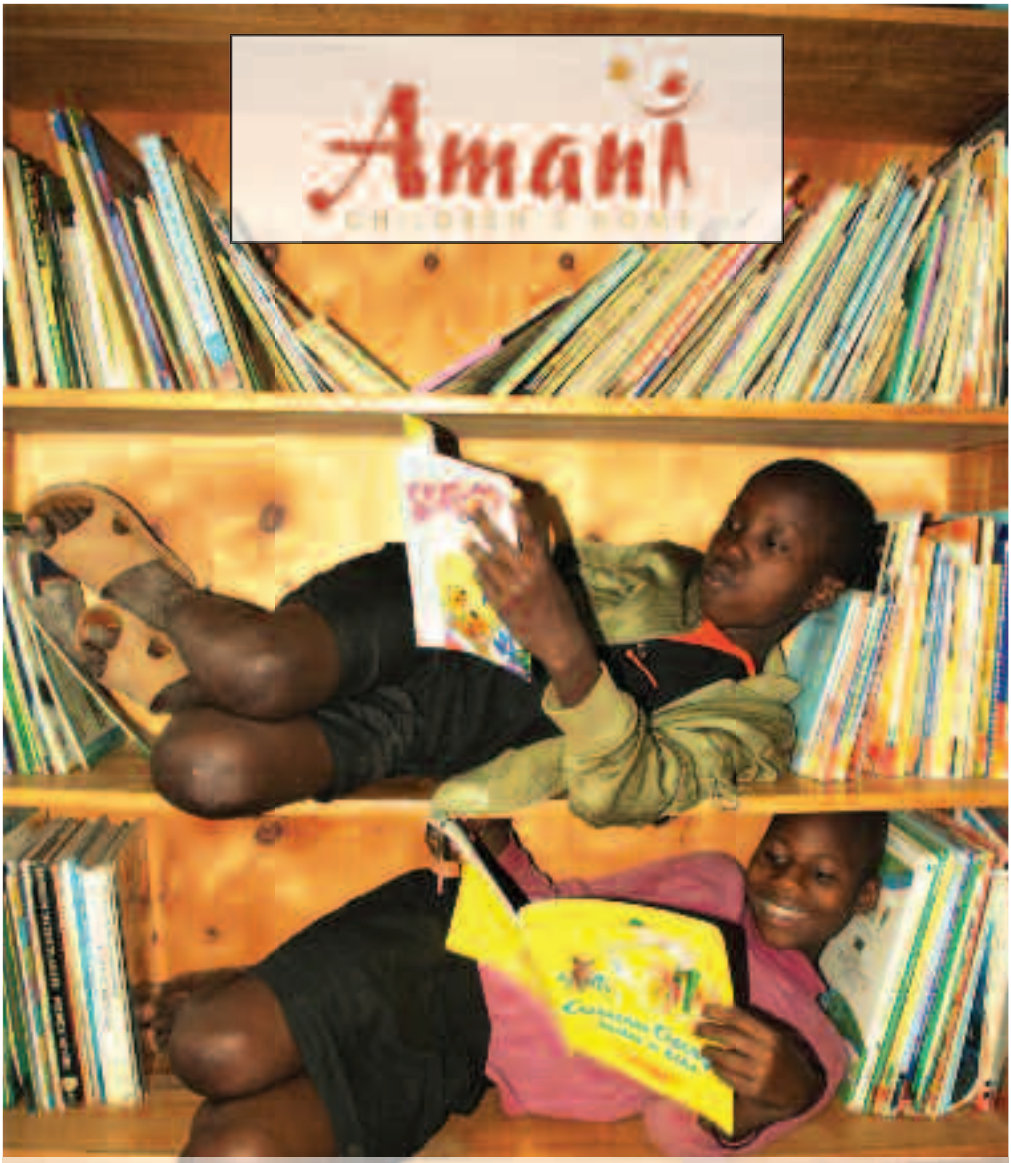

In Tanzania, poverty, neglect and abuse force thousands of children to leave their home and start living on the streets.

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BBC World Service comes to the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival

On **Sunday 3rd April** the BBC World Service will broadcast a special live programme on Identity from the **Oxford Literary Festival**. As part of the BBC Identity season, presenters Anu Anand, Jamie Coomarasamy and Jo Fidgen will be bringing you interviews, debates and discussions, featuring international authors and thinkers, performers and festival-goers.

Two flagship BBC World Service discussion programmes, **The Forum** and **Newshour Extra**, will also be relocating to Oxford to record special editions during the Festival.

The Forum recording **Sunday 3 April 1600**

Newshour Extra recording **Thursday 7 April 1600**

Tickets for all BBC events are free and you can apply for them all via the Oxford Literary Festival website

Limited spaces; early booking advised

BBC IDENTITY

A season of programmes, videos, shared audience experiences and social conversations – where we explore how we are all changing through globalization.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

Garry Kasparov and Asfa-Wossen Asserate talk to Jamie Coomarasamy

BBC World Service: Leaders and their People: Who's Really in Control?

Live radio event

2.15pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / Free

Do leaders shape their people's identity, or is it the other way around? And can it ever be said that we end up with the leaders we deserve? Jamie Coomarasamy and his panel explore the theme of changing identity in a globalising world, through the prism of power and the people. Guests will include the legendary Russian chess player turned pro-democracy campaigner Garry Kasparov, and the Ethiopian writer and historian Prince Asfa-Wossen Asserate.

Tickets for this live BBC World Service radio event are free but must be booked through the festival box office. This event will last an hour, with about 30 minutes of live broadcast. It forms part of a special two-hour live broadcast from the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Ian McKellen talks to Anu Anand

BBC World Service

Live radio event

2.45pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / Free

World-renowned actor and gay rights activist Sir Ian McKellen talks to Anu Anand about his life and work. McKellen is a multi-award winning actor, who is as well known for his film roles – Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings*, Magneto in the X-Men films, and Sherlock Holmes in *Mr Holmes* – as he is for his extensive stage and television work, spanning many decades. Since coming out in 1988, McKellen has frequently spoken and written about gay issues and continues to campaign for legal and social equality for gay people worldwide.

Tickets for this live BBC World Service radio event are free but must be booked through the festival box office. This event will last 45 minutes, with about 30 minutes of live broadcast. It forms part of a special two-hour live broadcast from the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Garry Kasparov

Asfa-Wossen Asserate

Jamie Coomarasamy

Ian McKellen

Anu Anand

Jessica Harris

Jewell Parker Rhodes

Jo Fidgen

Photo: Zeynel Abidin

Elif Shafak

Photo: KT Bruce

Nick Bostrom

Owen Bennett Jones

BBC World Service Events

Jessica Harris and Jewell Parker Rhodes talk to Jo Fidgen

BBC World Service: My Grandmother and Me
Live radio event

3.15pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / Free

Food, spirituality and female African American identity – acclaimed US writers Dr Jessica Harris and Dr Jewell Parker Rhodes reveal to Jo Fidgen what their grandmothers passed on to them, from culinary wisdom to a little bit of old-fashioned magic. Have those relationships shaped their own identities, and how is that reflected in their work? And right now, is what it means to be an African American woman changing?

Culinary historian Harris is the author of 12 books documenting the foods and foodways of the African Diaspora. Her most recent is *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*. Creative writing academic Parker Rhodes is an award winning author of adult and children's fiction, including The Marie Laveau Mystery Trilogy.

Tickets for this live BBC World Service radio event are free but must be booked through the festival box office. This event will last 45 minutes, with about 30 minutes of live broadcast. It forms part of a special two-hour live broadcast from the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Elif Shafak, Nick Bostrom and Ann Phoenix talk to Jo Fidgen

BBC World Service, The Forum: A Single world, Many Identities?
Radio recording

4.30pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / Free

Jo Fidgen traces the evolution of 21st-century identity with the bestselling Turkish novelist Elif Shafak, Nick Bostrom from Oxford's Future of Humanity Institute and Ann Phoenix from UCL's Institute of Education. Are technology and geopolitics conspiring to create a new type of human, unrecognisable to our forebears? Or are they simply allowing us to fulfil our true potential, unconstrained by biology and outdated social norms? Or, perhaps, this emphasis on change and diversity is obscuring what we share: our common humanity.

The Forum, a global exchange of ideas on BBC World Service radio, encourages comments from the audience during the recording so here is a chance to let the world hear your views. This episode of *The Forum* will be broadcast on BBC World Service on Tuesday 12 April. More details at **bbcworldservice.com/forum** Tickets for this event are free but must be booked through the festival box office.

7 THURSDAY APRIL 2016

BBC World Service, Newshour Extra

Should Britain be ashamed of its colonial past?
Radio recording

Thursday 7th April, 3.30pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / Free

Join Owen Bennett Jones and his guests for a debate to be broadcast on BBC World Service radio.

Across the world, student bodies have been asking universities to distance themselves from perceived historical symbols of oppression. Here in Oxford, the protests took the form of the 'Rhodes Must Fall' campaign, which began in South Africa and which targeted statues of Cecil Rhodes, an undoubted champion of Empire. How representative are these protests of current sentiments in Britain and its former colonies? How should Britain acknowledge this part of its identity? Should it apologise and pay reparations, or embrace its history with pride?

This episode of Newshour Extra will be broadcast on Friday 8 April. More details at **bbcworldservice.com/newshourextra**. This event will last two hours.
Tickets are free but must be booked through the festival box office.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THESE EVENTS ON SATURDAY 19th MARCH
BOX OFFICE: 0870 343 1001 www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

Gail Tsukiyama and Xu Xi chaired by Erica Wagner

Writing Without Borders

4pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Two bestselling American writers, Gail Tsukiyama and Xu Xi, discuss how their varied backgrounds have influenced their 'transnational' novels, poetry and essays. The writers' works are set across different cultures and in different nations, both today and in the past.

Tsukiyama was born in San Francisco to a Japanese father and a Chinese mother. She is a bestselling novelist and winner of the Academy of American Poets Award and the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award. Her novels include *A Hundred Flowers*, set at the start of the Chinese Cultural revolution in 1957, *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*, which follows the struggles of a Tokyo family during the Second World War and the immediate decades afterwards, and *Dreaming Water*, set in contemporary America.

Xu is an Indonesian-Chinese native of Hong Kong who became a US citizen at the age of 33. She is author of ten works of fiction and essays. Her newest novel, *That Man In Our Lives*, expands the fictional universe of three earlier novels – *Habit of a Foreign Sky, The Unwalled City* and *Hong Kong Rose* – locating New York as the perch from which to view the shifting balance of power between China and the US. Other recent titles are *Access: Thirteen Tales*, featuring mobile Chinese characters seeking identity in a global context and the novel, *Habit of a Foreign Sky*, revolving around mixed-race single mother Gail Szeto as she shuttles between New York, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. It was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize.

Discussions will be chaired by Erica Wagner, consulting literary editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, former literary editor of *The Times*, and writer of short stories and a novel, *Seizure*. She has been a judge of the Booker, Orange, Whitbread First Novel, and Forward prizes.

Gail Tsukiyama

Xu Xi

James Mayhew and Alexander Ardakov

Tchaikovsky's Piano Suite The Seasons: Live Storytelling, Art and Music

4pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £6 Age 6+

Picture book creator James Mayhew joins forces with pianist Alexander Ardakov for a unique, family-friendly performance of Tchaikovsky's piano suite *The Seasons* combined with storytelling and drawing.

Mayhew's events, for which he devises and performs concerts combining classical music, storytelling and art, are legendary. Here he will be painting live, accompanied by Ardakov, and storytelling as he goes.

Mayhew is the creator of the best-selling Katie and Ella Bella books and many other titles, and has been writing and illustrating for nearly 30 years. He has also collaborated with a wide range of writers and artists, including Philippa Pearce, Elisabeth Beresford, Jackie Morris and Clara Vulliamy. In 1994 he received the *New York Times* book illustration award for Jenny Koralek's *The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams*, while *Shakespeare's Storybook* (with Patrick Ryan) received the Aesop Accolade from the American Folklore Society in 2002. Mayhew has also written for BBC television.

Ardakov is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire and a prizewinner at the Viotti International competition in Italy. He is a professor of piano at Trinity College of Music in London and has performed in concert and held master classes in France, Germany, USA, Poland, Russia, Denmark and London. He has performed for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, and his extensive discography includes Rachmaninov's *Second Piano Concerto* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson.

James Mayhew

Alexander Ardakov

Garry Kasparov

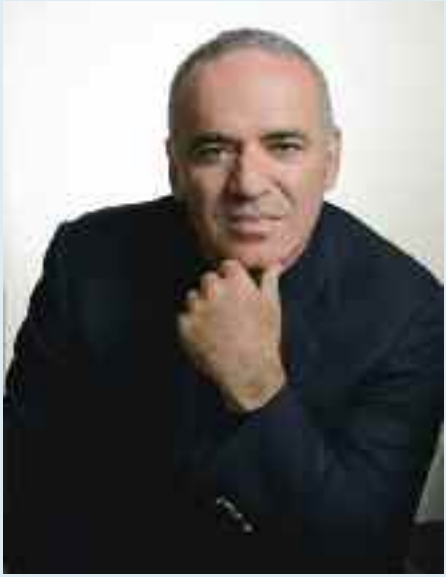
Winter is Coming: Why Vladimir Putin and the Enemies of the Free World Must be Stopped

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-£25

One of the greatest chess players of all time and leading pro-democracy Russian campaigner Garry Kasparov explains why he believes Vladimir Putin is a threat to democracy and global peace.

Kasparov retired from chess in 2005 to lead the pro-democracy opposition to Putin and is a longstanding critic of the Russian president. He argues that Putin is still fighting the Cold War while the Americans have long forgotten its lessons. Kasparov explains why he believes the world must make a forceful economic and diplomatic stand against Putin and not recognise him and negotiate with him.

Kasparov was the world's number one chess player for 20 years and considered by many to be the greatest of all time. He became the youngest ever undisputed world champion at the age of 22. Since retirement in 2005 he has devoted his time to politics and writing. He was forced to abandon his bid for the 2008 Russian presidency, blaming 'official obstruction'. In 2012, he succeeded Vaclav Havel as chairman of the Human Rights Foundation. He is also author of *How Life Imitates Chess*, which was translated into 26 languages, and many other works on chess. He currently lives in exile in New York.



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THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Rod Nordland

The Lovers: Love and Vengeance in Afghanistan

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Pulitzer Prize-winning *The New York Times* journalist Rod Nordland tells how he tracked down Afghanistan's real-life Romeo and Juliet to their mountain hideout and explains how they were prepared to risk everything for love.

Zakia, a Sunni, and Mohammed Ali, a Shia, grew up in the same village and played together as children. They later fell in love but were forbidden to see each other. When Nordland first came across them, Zakia was locked in a shelter. The two of them escaped and fled to the mountains, where they relied on the kindness of strangers for shelter and food. Nordland tracked them down and told their story in a series of articles, which eventually grew into a book. Nordland says the story throws light on the difficulties faced by women in Afghanistan. He also discovered that the young couple's actions were informed and motivated by the great Persian love stories that preceded them.

Nordland is correspondent-at-large for *The New York Times* in the Middle East and South Asia and was Kabul bureau chief for three years. He has won many awards including a share of the Pulitzer Prize for reporting in the US.

Derek Landy talks to Juno Dawson

Demon Road Desolation

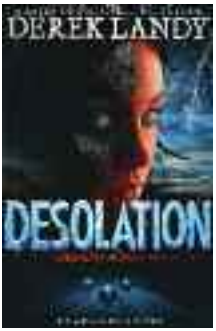
2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 12+

International bestselling children's author Derek Landy takes you on a thrilling road trip with his new Demon Road series of adventures.

Landy is author of the multi-award-winning Skulduggery Pleasant series. His brand new series, Demon Road, offers another thrilling helping of supernatural adventure and humour. Buckle up and enjoy the ride in the company of Landy as he reveals more about gorgeous demon Amber, her inscrutable bodyguard Miles and their race down America's Dark Highway. And be among the very first people in the UK to get your hands on the brand new book in the Demon Road series, *Desolation*.

The Skulduggery Pleasant series has been published in 35 languages and won many awards, including the Red House Children's Book Award and the Irish Book of the Decade. Landy says he was brought up on thrillers like *The Fly* and *The Wolfman*. *Demon Road* was born out of this lifelong love and incorporates elements from his favourite movies, Stephen King novels, modern urban legends and that classic sub-genre: the killer car.

Here Landy talks to Juno Dawson – formerly known as James – award-winning author of teenage thrillers *Hollow Pike*, *Cruel Summer*, *Say her Name* and *Under My Skin*.



OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Jo Cotterill and Cathy Brett

It's Electrigirl

4pm / The Story Museum / £6 Age 8+

Writer Jo Cotterill and illustrator Cathy Brett explain how they came up with their comic-strip superhero and show how you can draw your own superhero.

Electrigirl is a brand new 12-year-old superhero, primed with electrifying powers and an evil nemesis to defeat. Holly Sparkes is an ordinary girl until one day, high on a hillside, something extraordinary happens. Can she learn to harness her new powers whilst dealing with school bullies, her best friend going weird on her and a mysterious new mobile phone company arriving in the town? Can Holly save the world or will she have to settle for blowing up her own classroom?

Cotterill and Brett will explain how they came up with the idea for a book with comic strips, reveal how the look and storyline have changed from the first idea and teach you how to draw your own superhero. And there will be some interactive electrical experiments to make your hair stand on end.

Mike Goldsmith

Sound: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Acoustician and science writer Mike Goldsmith explains the science of sound and how sound waves are exploited in musical instruments. He explores sound in many different contexts – audible, inaudible, underwater and underground. Goldsmith is former head of acoustics at the National Physical Laboratory and author of *Discord: The Story of Noise* and more than 40 children's science books.

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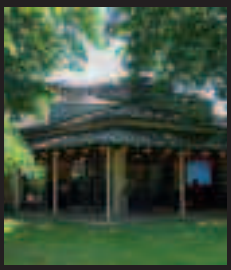

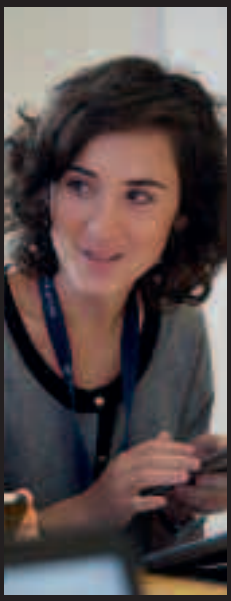

Ian McKellen talks to Jonathan Bate

Worcester College Provost's Lecture: Lives in Shakespeare

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-25

One of our greatest Shakespearean actors Sir Ian McKellen joins renowned Shakespearean scholar, broadcaster and critic Professor Sir Jonathan Bate to discuss their lives in Shakespeare.

The festival marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with a unique chance to hear McKellen talk about his relationship with the great plays with Bate, the author of *The Genius of Shakespeare* – described by the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Sir Peter Hall, as 'the best modern book on Shakespeare'.

Photo: Royal Shakespeare Company

McKellen is one of the best-known actors in the world, whose multiple honours include six Laurence Olivier Awards, a Tony Award, and a Golden Globe Award. His work spans film, including as Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings* and Magneto in the *X-Men* films, and stage. He frequently played lead Shakespearean roles at the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and at the National Theatre in the 1970s and 80s and returned to the RSC in 2007 to play King Lear. He has most recently been seen in two series of the ITV sitcom *Vicious* about an elderly gay couple who have been together for 50 years.

Bate is provost of Worcester College and professor of English at the University of Oxford. He is a renowned Shakespeare scholar and wrote a one-act play for Simon Callow, *Being Shakespeare*. His biography of John Clare won the Hawthornden Prize for Literature and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography. *Ted Hughes: The Unauthorised Life*, about which he speaks at another festival event, was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize.

Jonathan Bate

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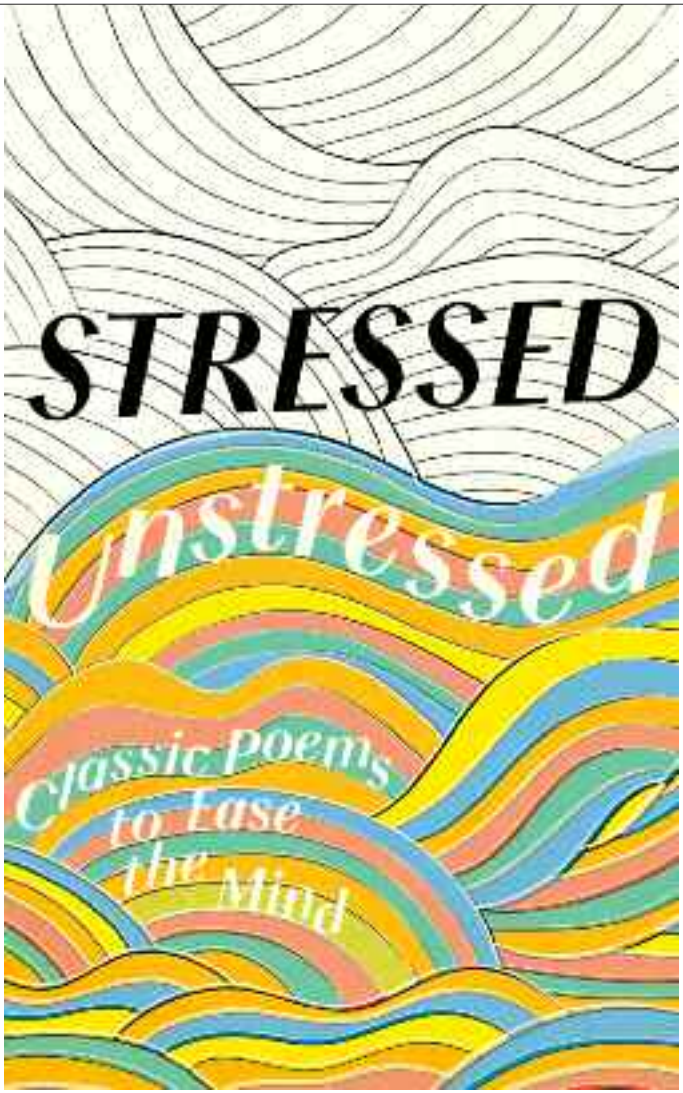

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Abi Elphinstone

The Shadow Keeper

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 8+

Fantasy adventure author Abi Elphinstone talks about the real-life adventures she went on to make her books happen and shows unusual and exciting objects – from catapults to fortune-telling balls – she used in the stories.

Elphinstone is author of *The Dreamsnatcher* and its sequel *The Shadow Keeper*. She will explain how she used her adventures for the plots in her book and how you can turn your own adventures into stories. They included abseiling into jungle caves, hang-gliding over Rio De Janeiro and living with the Kazakh Eagle Hunters in Mongolia.

Elphinstone says she spent most of her childhood in Scotland building dens, hiding in tree houses and running wild across the glens. She has worked as a teacher in Africa, Berkshire and London, and now teaches creative writing in schools and travels the world looking for her next stories.

Richard Bourke

Empire and Revolution: The Political Life of Edmund Burke

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Expert in the history of political thought Professor Richard Bourke reassesses the 18th-century thinker Edmund Burke and argues that the conventional picture of a man who backed tradition over progress is far from the truth.

Burke was an Irish statesman, orator and philosopher born in Dublin who grappled with many of the great issues of the day including the significance of the British Empire in India, advocating reconciliation with the American colonies, pressing for constitutional change in Ireland and entering the debate on the French revolution. Bourke says Burke was a deeply original thinker who applied Enlightenment thought and the ideas of such as Montesquieu, Rousseau and Hume to the events of his time.

Bourke is professor in the history of political thought and co-director of the Centre for the Study of the History of Political Thought at Queen Mary University of London. He is also author of *Peace in Ireland: The War of Ideas*.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

Supported by
Lady Hatch

Wendell Steavenson talks to Anthony Sattin

Circling The Square: Stories from the Egyptian Revolution

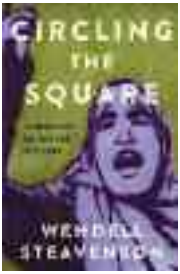
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Foreign correspondent Wendell Steavenson gives an account of the Egyptian Revolution and explains how the ordinary people of Cairo grappled with violence, bloodshed, hope and change.

Steavenson went to Egypt in January 2011 to cover events as Mubarak's three-decade rule of the country was coming to an end. She spent her time in Tahir Square witnessing how Egyptians from all walks of life came together to challenge the oppressive regime. Steavenson captures the story through a number of characters including a young man with homemade pistol, a reluctant leader cast into the spotlight, a Muslim Brotherhood politician trying to smooth a restless parliament, and a military intelligence officer convinced only the army can save the country.

Steavenson has spent 15 years reporting from the Middle East for the *New Yorker*, the *Guardian* and *Prospect* magazine. She is also author of *Stories I Stole* about post-Soviet Georgia and *The Weight of a Mustard Seed,* about life in Saddam's Iraq and the aftermath of the Iraq War. Here she talks to history and travel writer Anthony Sattin, author of *Gustave Flaubert and the Temptations of Egypt* and *Young Lawrence: a Portrait of the Legend as a Young Man*.

Photo: Adrien Jaulmes



OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
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Festival Ideas Partner

Emma Smith

Shakespeare's First Folio: The Oxford Story

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Shakespeare expert Dr Emma Smith looks at the Oxford story of the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, published in 1623 and known as the *First Folio*.

Copies of Shakespeare's *First Folio* have travelled far and wide since the book's publication. Smith focuses on the varied stories of copies in and around Oxford to understand the different meanings this book has gathered over four centuries. From the adventures of the Bodleian's copy in – and beyond – the library, to the impact of the *First Folio* on Shakespeare's great 18th-century interpreter David Garrick – find out why this iconic book matters, and more about how readers, performers, actors, collectors and scholars (as well as some wine glasses and cats) have left their mark on its pages.

Smith is a fellow and tutor in English at Hertford College, Oxford. She has published and lectured widely on Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

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LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Robert Gildea and David Drake talk to Andy Robertshaw

Fighters in the Shadow: Paris at War 1939-1944

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Two experts on French history and culture, Professor Robert Gildea and David Drake, discuss France under Nazi occupation. They look at the hardships faced by ordinary people and the choices they faced to collaborate or resist.

Gildea's new book, *Fighters in the Shadows*, is a story of the French resistance. He goes back to the testimonies of the resisters to find out who they were, what they believed in and what compelled them to fight against the Nazi occupation. He shows how many endured arrest, torture and deportation and highlights the female resisters neglected by history. Gildea is professor of modern history at the University of Oxford and author of *Marianne in Chains*, winner of the Wolfson History Prize, and Europe's 1968, *Voices of Revolt*.

Drake's *Paris at War 1939-1944* looks at life in Paris under the Nazis. He contrasts the life of working-class Parisians with the relative comforts of the rich, exposes activities of collaborationists and tracks the growth of resistance. His account is drawn from the diaries and reminiscences of people from all walks of life. Drake is a former head of French and modern languages at Middlesex University and former teacher at Paris VIII University. He has an international reputation as a Sartre scholar and is a former president of the UK Sartre Society. He was made a Chevalier dans l'ordre des palmes académiques for his contribution to promotion of French culture.

Here they talk to military historian Andy Robertshaw.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC

Robert Gildea

David Drake

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Eleanor Nesbitt

Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Lecturer Eleanor Nesbitt gives an introduction to Sikhism's meanings, beliefs, practices, rituals and festivals. The Sikh religion is the world's fifth largest religion and followed by 20 million people. Yet many of its followers are mistaken for Muslims. Nesbitt is a specialist in ethnographic investigation of religio-cultural continuity and change in UK Hindu, Sikh, and ethnically diverse Christian communities.

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Joseph Coelho

Werewolf Club Rules

2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 7+

Performance poet Joseph Coelho brings the poems from his award-winning collection *Werewolf Club Rules* off the page with a wonderful interactive performance that draws on a long theatrical background as a performer and playwright for the UK's top children's theatres.

Coelho has wowed sell-out audiences across the UK with his live events and workshops. His poetry has appeared in many anthologies and theatre productions. He has been beamed on to Cbeebies Rhyme Rocket to share his poem *Bug Stew* and won the CLiPPA (CLPE Poetry Award 2015). With over 12 years' experience engaging children with poetry through fun and creative means, he will not only offer up a menu of poems about school days, crazy scientists, artistic snails and werewolves, but will also get you wild about writing.

Photo: Hayley Madden

Tim Birkhead

The Most perfect Thing: Inside (and Outside) a Bird's Egg

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Expert in bird behaviour Professor Tim Birkhead explains everything you wanted to know about eggs – which end of an egg is laid first, why are the shapes different, why do some contain two yolks and why do the shell patterns vary?

Birkhead explains the science behind the miraculous construction of an egg – from the curiously pointed eggs of the guillemot that are so variable in pattern and colour that no two are the same, to the eggs of hens, cuckoos and many others.

Birkhead is a professor of animal behaviour and the history of science at the University of Sheffield who has travelled the world to understand the lives of birds. He is author of *Bird Sense*, which sold 40,000 copies across the world and was shortlisted for the Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Books. Other books include *Promiscuity, Great Auk Islands, The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Birds,* which won the McColvin medal, *The Red Canary*, which won the Consul Cremer Prize, and *The Wisdom of Birds*.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
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Festival Ideas Partner

Peter Frankopan

The Silk Roads: A New History of the World

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer and academic Dr Peter Frankopan reassesses the passage of world history and argues that the sun is setting on the Western world and it is now to the East that people are turning for adventure and riches.

Frankopan says in his latest book, *The Silk Roads*, that a region stretching from eastern Europe across central Asia and into India and China is taking centre stage in international politics, commerce and culture. And the change is now shaping the modern world. The region is not well known in the West but is where civilisation began. It is where the major religions were born and where the Silk Roads witnessed the passage of ideas, goods, disease and death. Frankopan says the Silk Roads are on the rise again.

Frankopan is a senior research fellow at Worcester College, Oxford, and director of the Centre for Byzantine Research at Oxford University. He has lectured at Cambridge, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, NYU, King's College London and the Institute of Historical Research. He is also author of *The First Crusade*.

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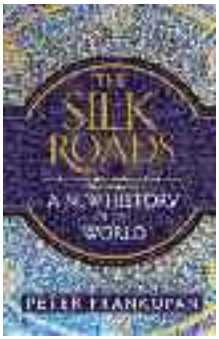
Dr Bettany Hughes, Daily Telegraph



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Nile Green

The Love of Strangers: What Six Muslim Students Learned in Jane Austen's England

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Historian Professor Nile Green explains how six Iranian students arrived in London in 1815 to master the modern science behind Europe's rise and how they managed to climb the social ladder in Regency London.

Green has drawn on the Persian diary of one of them, Mirza Salih, and the letters of his fellow students to show how they experienced both the low life and high life of London. They spent periods down and out following their abandonment by their chaperone, Captain Joseph D'Arcy, but charmed their way into society and on to the gossip pages. Green explains how there was a very serious intent behind their activities as they sought to acquire the knowledge to defend Iran against Russia, visiting observatories, hospitals and steam-powered factories, while Salih dreamed of being the first Muslim student at Oxford.

Green is professor of history at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His other books include *Sufism: A Global History*.

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Malcolm Graham and Edith Gollnast talk to Debbie Dance

Oxford Heritage Walks: On Foot from Catte Street to Parson's Pleasure

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Local historian Malcolm Graham and former city historic buildings officer Edith Gollnast talk to the director of Oxford Preservation Trust, Debbie Dance, about the third volume of their heritage walks series.

Oxford Heritage Walks is published by the trust, written by Graham, and illustrated by Gollnast. The books highlight some of Oxford's finest buildings, including those that are vulnerable, and record some of those that have been lost. Book three, *On Foot from Catte Street to Parson's Pleasure*, takes the reader from the heart of the city to its rural past. The books revise and expand on the much-loved Oxford heritage guides from the 1970s. The first two books in the series are *On Foot from Oxford Castle to St Giles* and *On Foot from Broad Street*.

Graham was head of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies before retiring and has published extensively on local history. Gollnast spent 35 years working with Oxford's historic buildings and areas in the city planning department. Dance has been director of Oxford Preservation Trust, a charity that owns more than 900 acres and listed buildings in and around the city, since 1999.

Malcolm Graham

Edith Gollnast

Catherine Hewitt

The Mistress of Paris: The 19th-century Courtesan Who Built an Empire on a Secret

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

First-time writer Catherine Hewitt tells the forgotten story of 19th-century Parisian courtesan Valtesse de la Bigne who inspired a painting by Manet, a novel by Zola and had rumoured affairs with the highest in the land.

De la Bigne was born into poverty and raised in the squalid backstreets of Paris. So, how did she rise to own a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages and art that was the envy of connoisseurs across Europe? Rumoured affairs included with Napoleon III and the future Edward VII. She was painted by Manet and immortalised in Zola's scandalous novel *Nana*. Hewitt explains how de la Bigne had to become cultured to raise herself above a common prostitute and able to choose her clients. And she explains how she rejected marriage in favour of her independence and having her own income.

Hewitt came across de la Bigne whilst researching her PhD. her proposal for the biography was runner-up in the 2012 Biographers' Club Tony Lothian Competition for the best proposal by an uncommissioned, first-time biographer.

This event is part of the festival's forgotten women of history theme and also part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Neel Mukherjee and Richard Ovenden talk to Erica Wagner

Alan Garner, Author and Inspiration: A Discussion of Landscape and Legacy

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Booker-shortlisted author Neel Mukherjee and Bodley's librarian Richard Ovenden talk to critic and writer Erica Wagner about the author Alan Garner whose work is celebrated in a new collection of essays, *First Light*.

First Light is an anthology edited by Wagner that celebrates the work of Garner, whose fiction has transformed the way so many readers and writers think about literature and landscape. The Bodleian acquired Garner's literary archive in 2004. The talk will offer unique insights into the work of a writer who has found his rightful place among Oxford authors such as C S Lewis, J R R Tolkien, Joyce Cary, T E Lawrence, Barbara Pym and Philip Pullman. Ovenden and Mukherjee have both contributed to *First Light*.

Ovenden is Bodley's librarian and has also worked as deputy librarian and as keeper of special collections. Mukherjee's second novel, *The Lives of Others*, was shortlisted for the Booker prize, and his first, *Past Continuous*, was joint winner of India's top award for writing in English, the Vodafone-Crossword Award. Wagner is consulting literary editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and was literary editor of *The Times* between 1996 and 2013.

Peter Hainsworth and David Robey

Italian Literature: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Professors Peter Hainsworth and David Robey look at the recurring themes and issues in Italian literature from the Middle Ages to the present day. They look at regional identity, political disunity and the role of national language in authors such as Dante, Petrarch, Manzoni, Montale, and Calvino. Hainsworth is professor emeritus at the University of Oxford and Robey is professor of Italian at Reading University. They are co-editors of the *Oxford Companion to Italian Literature*.

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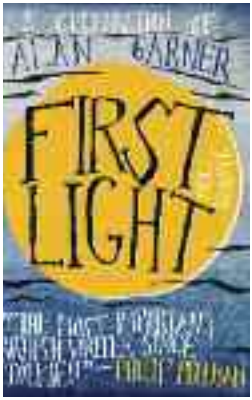
Neel Mukherjee



Richard Ovenden

Michael Frayn talks to John Thornhill

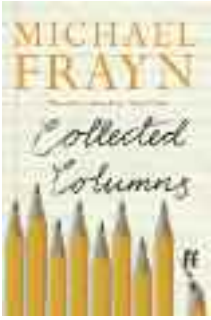
Collected Columns: 110 of the Finest and Funniest

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Novelist, playwright and well-known humourist Michael Frayn dips into some of the finest and funniest columns he has written over the years and talks about his life and work.

Frayn's latest work is a collection of 110 columns mainly written for *The Guardian* and *The Observer* over the last five decades. They are short, surreal and razor-sharp observations on human nature, sex, politics, manners and events of the day.

Frayn first established his reputation as a satirist writing for *The Guardian* and *The Observer* in the late 1950s. He went on to publish a number of plays and novels including the farce, *Noises Off*, dramas, *Copenhagen* and *Democracy*, and the novels *The Tin Men*, winner of the Somerset Maugham Prize, and *Spies*, winner of the Whitbread Best Novel Award. His most recent novel is *Skios*. Frayn has also written a number of non-fiction works including a memoir of his childhood and *The Human Touch: Our Part in the Creation of the Universe*. His screenplays include the film *Clockwise* starring John Cleese and he has also adapted and translated Chekov's major plays. Here he talks to John Thornhill, former deputy editor and now innovation editor of the *Financial Times*.



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Guillem Balague talks to Derek Holmes

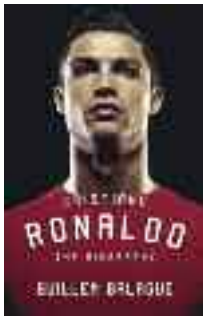
Cristiano Ronaldo: The Biography

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Renowned football journalist and commentator Guillem Balague talks about his new biography of the great Real Madrid and former Manchester United footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo's sporting feats are well known across the globe – the first player to win all four main Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Association awards in England; winner of the Ballon D'Or or FIFA World Player of the Year in 2008, 2013 and 2014; scorer of more than 500 goals for club and country; winner of three Premier Leagues and one FA Cup in England, one La Liga and two Copas del Rey in Spain, and two UEFA Champions Leagues. However, little is really known about the man off the pitch. Balague sheds light on how Ronaldo rose from his humble origins on the island of Madeira to become one of the greatest footballers ever seen and one of the most famous people on the planet.

Balague is well known as a commentator on Spanish football on Sky TV, appearing on both live match coverage and the weekly round-up show *Revista de la Liga*. He is UK correspondent for the Madrid sports newspaper AS and writes for *The Times*. His previous books include *Messi*, *Barça* and *Pep Guardiola*. Here he talks to fellow journalist Derek Holmes, a former editor of *The Oxford Times* and a lifelong Manchester United fan.



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The Oxford Times

Victor Gregg, Matthew Green and Rick Stroud talk to Andy Robertshaw

Aftershock: Soldiers Surviving Peace

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

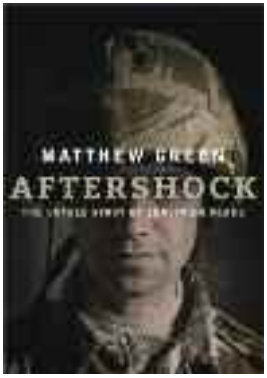
Second World War veteran Victor Gregg, his co-author Rick Stroud and war correspondent Matthew Green discuss the difficulties faced by soldiers as they struggle with traumatic memories of war.

Gregg joined the British Army in 1937 and served in Palestine and North Africa before fighting at the Battle of Arnhem and then surviving the bombing of Dresden as a prisoner of war. In the third part of his autobiographical trilogy, co-written with Stroud, *Soldier, Spy: A Survivor's Tale*, he tells how he made his way back to Britain at the end of the war and of his struggles with the traumatic memories of wartime experiences.

Green has reported from more than 30 countries for the *Financial Times* and *Reuters* including a spell embedded with US marines during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and time with UN forces in Afghanistan. In his book *Aftershock, the Untold Story of Surviving Peace*, he tells the story of veterans who have returned home after combat. Green interviewed soldiers, members of their families and medical professionals and asks why people who have been so well trained to fight find themselves ill-prepared for peace.

Stroud is an Emmy-winning writer and television director who has worked with the likes of Pierce Brosnan, John Hurt and Joanna Lumley. He is the author of *The Book of the Moon* and *The Phantom Army of Alamein: How the Camouflage Unit and Operation Bertram Hoodwinked Rommel*.

Here they talk to military historian Andy Robertshaw.



Victor Gregg

Photo: Gerard Collett

Matthew Green

Photo: Ben Gold

Rick Stroud

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Sue Black and Stevyn Colgan

How Social Media Saved the Home of WWII Code Breakers

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Co-authors Sue Black and Stevyn Colgan explain how Bletchley Park, the birthplace of computing, was saved by a thoroughly modern social media campaign enabled by the same technology.

Black and Colgan's book, *Saving Bletchley Park*, charts a 20-year campaign by hundreds of people to save the home of the World War II codebreakers, led by Alan Turing, as a heritage and education centre. It is a story about campaigners, veterans, computer geeks, Twitter and Stephen Fry. Black explains how she enlisted the comedian, actor and writer Stephen Fry to her campaign to save Bletchley Park via Twitter. Fry's tweets led to a burst of support for the campaign.

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Black is a senior research associate in the software systems engineering group of the Department of Computer Science at University College London and a founder of the ‹goto› Foundation to promote computer science. She has campaigned for more equality and support for women in tech and campaigned to save Bletchley Park and secure the Turing papers for the nation. Colgan is an author, illustrator, musician and speaker. He works as a writer/researcher on the BBC *Q!* series and is a regular contributor to the *Q!* books and annuals.

Photo: KT Bruce

In 2014 Philip Pullman received the Honorary Fellowship of the Festival at the Sheldonian Theatre, and is pictured here with the William Blake volume presented by The Folio Society.

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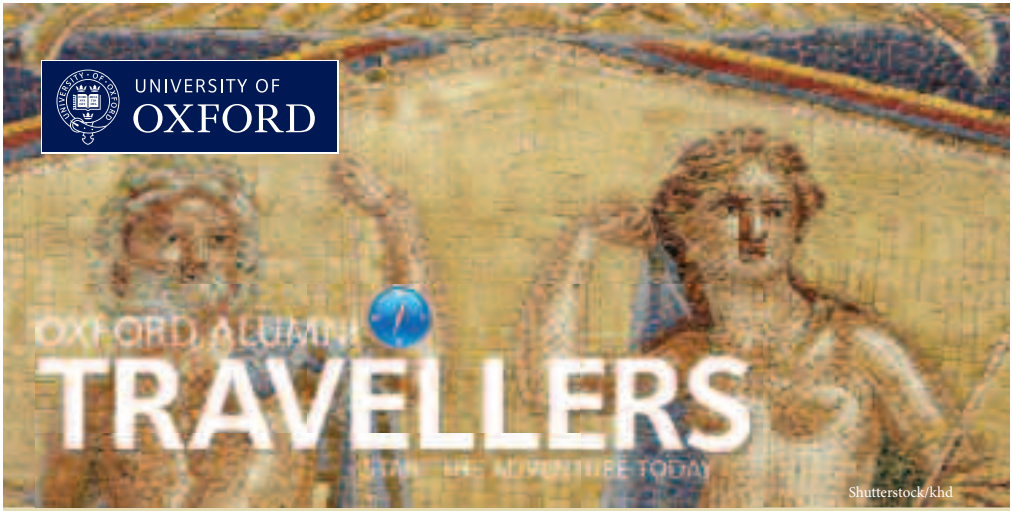

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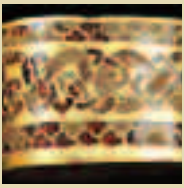

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Peter Worley

Philosophy Workshop with The If Man

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6
Age 8 – 14 years

Peter Worley, of the Philosophy Foundation, returns to the festival to take children on another interactive philosophical storytelling adventure.

The young philosophers will be shrunk, made to disappear, learn how to perform telepathy and telekinesis or make oranges and minds disappear. Worley promises to return them the correct size and visible. Although their minds might have been stretched a bit. This year, we are scheduling two sessions with Peter because of his popularity.

Worley is co-founder and chief executive of The Philosophy Foundation, an educational charity that is committed to bringing philosophy to the wider community, and in particular to schools.

Atinuke

African Storytelling

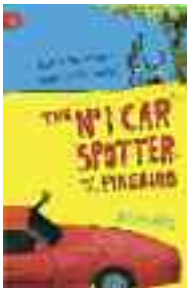
10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6
2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6

Nigerian-British author and traditional storyteller Atinuke conjures up the sights, sounds and atmosphere of life in Africa.

You will meet her main characters, Oluwalase Babatunde Benson, from *The No 1. Car Spotter*, and Anna Hibiscus, and hear tales that are not only centuries old, but have travelled across continents to reach you.

Born in Nigeria, Atinuke grew up in both Africa and the UK, and is now a professional storyteller living in Wales. Her first book, *Anna Hibiscus*, was published in October 2007, and was inspired by the Africa of her childhood.

Photo: Ian Taylor



Grevel Lindop

Charles Williams: The Third Inkling

10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Poet, writer and academic Professor Grevel Lindop talks about the life and work of Charles Williams, a central and controversial member of the Inklings group of Oxford writers that included C S Lewis and J R R Tolkein.

Lindop has written the first full biography of Williams, a novelist, poet, theologian, magician and guru. He explains why Williams was the strangest, most multi-talented and most controversial of the group. Williams was a pioneering fantasy writer who still has a cult following today. C S Lewis thought his poems on King Arthur and the Holy Grail were among the best poetry of the 20th century. Williams was, however, a person of contradictions, a theologian who was also deeply involved in the occult, experimented with magic and practised erotically tinged rituals. He developed a theory of 'romantic theology' that aimed at an approach to God through sexual love.

Lindop is a former professor of romantic and early Victorian studies and author of *The Opium-Eater: A Life of Thomas De Quincey, A Literary Guide to the Lake District,* and *Travels on the Dance Floor*. He has also published six collections of poetry.

Edwin Williamson

Cervantes and Don Quixote 400 Years On

12 noon / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Professor of Spanish Edwin Williamson looks at the life of Spanish novelist Cervantes, who died 400 years ago just 11 days before Shakespeare, and at the enduring power and influence of *Don Quixote*.

Cervantes' great novel is generally seen as laying the foundations of the modern novel. Williamson looks at the varied life of the author, including as a soldier, a slave of Muslim pirates, and tax collector for the Armada, and talks a little about the novel, *Don Quixote*.

Williamson holds the King Alfonso XIII Chair of Spanish at Oxford and has been a professorial fellow of Exeter College since 2003. His books include *The Penguin History of Latin America* and the biography, *Borges: A Life*. He has been awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to write a book on *Don Quixote* and how Cervantes came to write the first modern novel.

Tracy Chevalier talks to David Grylls

At the Edge of the Orchard

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Bestselling novelist Tracy Chevalier introduces her new novel *At the Edge of the Orchard*, the story of a man wrestling with his roots in 19th-century gold-rush California.

The novel follows Robert Goodenough, youngest son of apple growers James and Sadie Goodenough, who is haunted by the broken family he fled years earlier. He is drifting through California but eventually finds steady work with a plant collector. However, just as things seem settled he is forced to confront the brutal reason he left behind everything he loved.

Chevalier grew up in Washington DC but moved to England in 1984. Her 2000 novel, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, has sold more than four million copies and was made into a Bafta and Oscar-nominated film starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johansson. Her other novels include *Falling Angels*, *The Lady and the Unicorn*, *Burning Bright*, *Remarkable Creatures*, and *The Last Runaway*.

Here she talks to David Grylls, Associate Professor of Literature atthe University of Oxford.

Photo: Eammon McCabe

Sponsored by

Christina Hardyment

Writing the Thames

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Author and journalist Christina Hardyment looks at the story of the River Thames through prose, poetry and illustration, including the true story behind *Three Men in a Boat* and *The Wind in the Willows*.

From the time that Julius Caesar boasted of crossing the Thames in his Gallic Wars to Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy's 2012 celebration of the Queen's Jubilee progress along the river, historians, novelists, travellers, naturalists and poets have sung the praises or shivered at the darkness of England's famous river. Hardyment's generously illustrated talk, based on her new book *Writing the Thames*, offers descriptions of tours along it in search of the picturesque, thrillers by Dickens and Sax Rohmer that cast it as a 'highway of evil', ballads celebrating revels on the ice and diarists' records of botanical gardens on its banks and battles in its estuary. For good measure, she reveals the true story behind *Three Men in a Boat* and *The Wind in the Willows*.

Hardyment is author of many books including The *World of Arthur Ransome* and *Dream Babies*. She has also edited a series of anthologies including on pleasures of the garden and of the table. She sails an 11ft dinghy on the Thames.

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The English Heritage Lecture: Janina Ramirez

The Private Lives of the Saints: Power, Passion and Politics in Anglo Saxon England

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Photo: Juliana Johnston

Art historian and broadcaster Dr Janina Ramirez re-examines the lives of the saints and finds that they were far from the simple, pious figures we imagine. Instead, she finds the power players, king-makers and politicians of their day.

Ramirez looks at the art and literature that inspired the saints, the landscape and buildings that surrounded them and the world that mattered to them. She examines the lives of a dozen individuals, some well-known and others more obscure, all of whom had an impact in Anglo Saxon times and whose impact is still felt today. What emerges is a fascinating and new portrait of the Dark Ages.

Ramirez teaches history of art at the University of Oxford. She has presented and written six BBC history documentaries and is a regular guest on the BBC 4 series *Quizeum*.

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

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Andrew Robinson

Genius: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Author and lecturer Andrew Robinson looks at the work of familiar geniuses across the arts and sciences including Homer, Leonardo, Tolstoy, Marie Curie, Galileo, and Newton and explores the roles of talent, heredity, parenting, education, training, hard work, intelligence, personality, mental illness, inspiration and luck. Robinson is a visiting fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge and author of 20 books on the arts and the sciences.

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Tim Whitmarsh

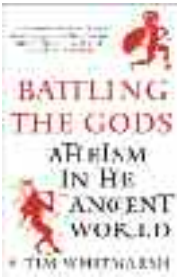
Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Classics expert Professor Tim Whitmarsh explains how atheism is far from a modern manifestation and that great writers, philosophers and thinkers were doubting the gods as far back as ancient Greece.

Whitmarsh tells the story of the first battle between orthodoxy and heresy that initially came to an end with the imposition of Christianity on the Roman Empire in 313. Many doubted the power of the gods in ancient Greece, arguing that history should be understood as a result of human action rather than of a divine purpose. They drew up theories of the universe based on matter and developed mathematical tools for understanding the world. These heretics were defended by great writers such as Epicurus, Lucretius, Cicero and Lucian.

Whitmarsh is A G Leventis Professor of Greek Culture at the University of Cambridge and a specialist in the world of the Greeks under the Roman Empire. He is author of several books on Greek literature and culture including *Narrative and Identity in the Ancient Greek Novel: Returning Romance*.



Tim Marshall

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything About Global Politics

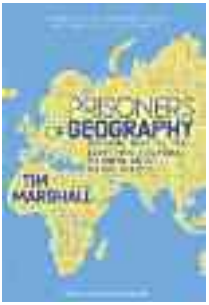
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Journalist, broadcaster and former diplomatic and foreign affairs editor for Sky News Tim Marshall gives a clear explanation of how geopolitics helps to shape world events and the decisions made by our leaders.

Marshall has spent 30 years reporting from 30 different countries and brings a lifetime of understanding of how geography constrains world leaders and impacts on world events. Marshall argues that geography is one of the most overlooked factors in history. The physical world and demographics always play a part in the choices made by world leaders. He points to the nation-building of history and present day conflicts in areas such as Ukraine, and highlights future areas of potential conflict such as Greenland and the Arctic.

Marshall has reported from wars in Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Israel, and has covered three US presidential elections. He has worked as a broadcaster for the BBC, LBC and Sky News. He is also author of a book on the Kosovo War, *Shadowplay*, and of *"Dirty Northern B*st*rds!" and Other Tales from the Terraces: The Story of Britain's Football Chants*. He now edits an international affairs web magazine.

Photo: Adrian Wells



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Alex Hourston talks to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: In My House

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

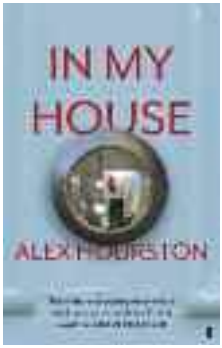
Alex Hourston talks to Jem Poster about her unsettling and highly original debut novel about an unlikely friendship between two very different women.

Fifty-seven-year-old Margaret Benson's path crosses with that of Anja, a teenage trafficking victim, and her world is radically transformed. As the friendship develops, questions emerge: who is Margaret hiding from, and what are Anja's true motives? And what is the cost of living a lie?

After 15 years' writing strategy for advertising agencies, Hourston took a break to go back to university and her first love, books. She completed a masters in English and started a PhD, but put it aside when the idea for this novel surfaced. She featured in *The Observer's* New Faces of Fiction in 2015.

Poet and novelist Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Photo: Jonathan Ring



Paul Cartledge

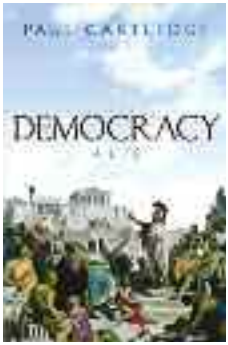
Democracy: A Life

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Expert in ancient Greece Professor Paul Cartledge explains the history of democracy and the differences between its ancient and modern forms.

Cartledge traces the roots of democracy back to ancient Greece and explains why many of the leading Greek thinkers were either ambivalent towards it or hostile to it. He says there was no single ancient Greek democracy and traces its development from 500BC to its height in 350BC and its decline at the hands of the Macedonians and ultimately the Romans.

Cartledge is A G Leventis Professor of Greek Culture Emeritus at the University of Cambridge. He is an honorary citizen of modern Sparta and holds the Gold Cross of the Order of Honor awarded by the President of Greece. His books include *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Ancient Greece* and *End of the Graeco-Persian Wars*.



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LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Andrew Robinson

Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Journalist and writer Andrew Robinson talks about the life and work of Einstein and argues that his universal appeal is only partially explained by his brilliant physics.

Robinson worked in association with the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on his new biography of the scientist who gave us the theory of relativity. He explains how Einstein's greatest discoveries have continued to influence scientific developments, including lasers, the theory of the big bang and theories of everything. And he looks at Einstein's life outside science, including encounters with the famous, such as Chaplin and Roosevelt, his love of music and his campaigns against nuclear weapons, anti-Semitism, McCarthyism, and social injustice.

Robinson writes for several newspapers and is a former literary editor of the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. He is author of a dozen books including *The Story of Measurement, Genius: A Very Short Introduction*, and biographies of Jean-François Champollion, Michael Ventris and Thomas Young.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

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SOLD OUT

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Tracy Chevalier and Claire Harman

Charlotte Bronte 200 Years On

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Novelist Tracy Chevalier and biographer Claire Harman look back at the life and legacy of Charlotte Bronte on the 200th anniversary of her birth in 1816.

The bicentenaries of the Bronte siblings are being marked by a five-year programme of events, starting with the celebration of Charlotte in 2016. Events include a new exhibition, *Charlotte Great and Small*, authored by Chevalier and due to open in February at the Bronte Parsonage Museum in Haworth. Chevalier is also editing a collection of short stories influenced by Charlotte's writing called *Reader, I Married Him*. Meanwhile, Harman has written a new biography, *Charlotte Bronte: A Life*, which paints Charlotte as a literary visionary, trailblazer of feminism and the driving force behind the whole family. Chevalier and Harman look back at the life of Charlotte and ask what her legacy is today.

Chevalier's 2000 novel, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, has sold more than four million copies and was made into a Bafta and Oscar-nominated film starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johansson. She talks about her most recent novel, *At the Edge of the Orchard*, at another festival event. Harman is an award-winning biographer. Her first book, *Sylvia Townsend Warner*, won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, and she has also written Fanny *Burney, Robert Louis Stevenson* and *Jane's Fame*.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

Claire Harman

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Claire Trévien, Harry Man, and Sarah Hesketh. Chaired by Niall Munro

A Poetry Reading

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Three of the most exciting and original voices working on the British poetry scene today come together to read some of their verse.

Claire Trévien is an Anglo-Breton poet, editor, reviewer, workshop leader and live literature producer. She is the author of the pamphlet *Low-Tide Lottery* and of *The Shipwrecked House*, which was longlisted in the Guardian First Book Award. She edits *Sabotage Reviews*, and in November 2013, she was the Poetry School's first digital poet-in-residence. Her second collection, *Astéronymes*, is published in March.

Harry Man won the 2014 Struga Poetry Evenings UNESCO Bridges of Struga Award and his pamphlet, *Lift*, was shortlisted for best pamphlet in the 2014 Saboteur Awards. He has collaborated on a number of projects, including with Kirsten Irving for *Auld Enemies*, curated by S J Fowler, and with illustrator Sophie Gainsley on *Finders Keepers*, which examines Britain's disappearing wildlife.

Sarah Hesketh's first full collection of poetry, *Napoleon's Travelling Bookshelf*, was highly commended in the Forward Prize 2010. In 2013 she was poet-in-residence with Age Concern, working with elderly people with dementia, and in 2014 she published *The Hard Word Box*, a collection of poems and interviews inspired by this experience. In 2015, she was commissioned by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to produce *Grains of Light*.

Photo: Bristi Chowdhury

Claire Trévien

The event will be chaired by Dr Niall Munro, director of the Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre and senior lecturer in American literature.

Presented by Oxford Brookes University Poetry Centre, Department of English and Modern Languages.

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Harry Man

Sarah Hesketh

Rana Mitter

Modern China: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

University of Oxford lecturer in the history and politics of modern China Rana Mitter offers the listener a variety of ways to understand the world's most populous nation with a short guide to the country's society, culture, economy, politics and art. Mitter is author of *The Manchurian Myth: Nationalism, Resistance and Collaboration in Modern China*, and *A Bitter Revolution: China's Struggle with the Modern World*.

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Ben Rawlence Chaired by Ian Goldin

City of Thorns: How Should we Deal with the Refugee Crisis

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

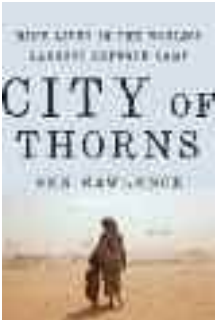
Author Ben Rawlence tells the harrowing stories of individuals who have sought sanctuary in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp and joins a panel discussion on what our politicians need to do to end the refugee crisis.

Rawlence spent four years getting to know Dadaab, an isolated city set in inhospitable desert where only thorn bushes grow. In *City of Thorns: Fear and Longing in the World's Largest Refugee Camp*, he tells the individual stories of those who have sought sanctuary there. They include the stories of Guled, a former child soldier who lives for football, and schoolgirl Kheyro, whose future depends on her education.

Rawlence is a writer who studied at the School of African and Oriental Studies in London. He has worked for the Social Science Research Council in the USA, the Liberal Democrats in the UK and the Civic United Front in Tanzania. His writing appears in many national newspapers and magazines.

The debate is one of two Oxford Martin School Roundtable Talks and will be chaired by the director of Oxford Martin School, Professor Ian Goldin, a former vice-president of the World Bank and former chief executive and managing director of the Development Bank of South Africa.

Photo: Jonny Donovan



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Festival Ideas Partner

Frank Delaney talks to Alex Goody

Re:Joyce

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Novelist, journalist and broadcaster Frank Delaney talks about his fellow countryman, the great Irish novelist, James Joyce.

Delaney's first book, *James Joyce's Odyssey*, was published in 1981 to critical acclaim and was a bestseller in the UK, the US and Ireland. More recently in 2010, he set off on his own odyssey to produce a short weekly podcast, *Re:Joyce*, to address Joyce's novel *Ulysses*. The weekly podcast is a phrase-by-phrase deconstruction of the text, is a 15-year project, and to date has attracted two million downloads.

Delaney was a newsreader for Irish state radio and television, then a BBC reporter in the early 1970s. He moved to London to work in arts broadcasting, creating the weekly *Bookshelf* programmes and *Word of Mouth* on Radio 4, and interviewing hundreds of leading authors. Delaney also wrote and presented for the *Omnibus* arts television programme, for a number of documentaries on leading writers including Joyce, and in the 1980s hosted his own late-night television series, *Frank Delaney on BBC2*. He has written more than 20 books, including novels and works of non-fiction, now lives in the US, and is currently a PhD student at Oxford Brookes University.

Here he talks to Dr Alex Goody, reader in 20th-century literature and research director at Oxford Brookes University.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

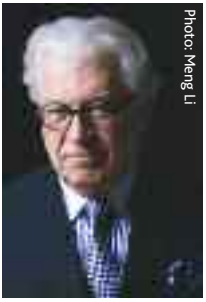
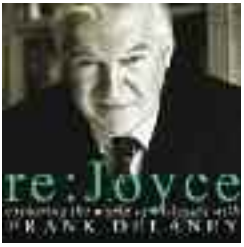


Photo: Meng Li



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Presented by OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Mary Beard talks to Richard Ovenden

Bodley Lecture: A Don's Life and Award of Bodley Medal

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-25

Britain's best known classicist Professor Mary Beard talks to Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden about her life and work and the public statements that have often seen her at the centre of controversy. Following the event she will receive the Bodley Medal given for outstanding contribution to the worlds of literature, arts, science and communication.

Beard holds a chair of classics at the University of Cambridge and is classics editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*. She is author of the Wolfson Award-winning *Pompeii: The Life of a Roman Town*, and many other works about the classical period. Her latest is *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*, a new look at Roman history that evaluates how the Romans thought of themselves and why they still matter to us. Her television work includes a BBC documentary on Pompeii and a three-part BBC series *Meet the Romans with Mary Beard*. She writes a widely read blog for *The Times, A Don's Life*.

Beard has been a powerful advocate for the public voice of women, from her now famous televised lecture 'Oh do shut up, Dear' to regular appearances on the BBC's *Question Time*. In the process, she has faced abuse for some of her public statements on such things as welcoming immigrant workers, the role of western foreign policy in destabilising the world order and providing a breeding ground for the very terrorism that the West so fears, and occasionally cycling the wrong way down a one-way street. She has spoken about the obligation of academics in particular to express opinions that may be unpopular.

Following this event, Beard will be presented with the Bodley Medal, which is awarded to those who have made a major contribution to the worlds of literature, arts, science and communication.

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The previous recipients of the Bodley Medal at the Festival have been: Sir Nicholas Hytner (2015), Ian McEwan (2014), Dame Hilary Mantel (2013) and Peter Carey (2012).

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Isy Suttie talks to Josie Long

The Actual One: How I Tried, and Failed, to Remain Twenty-something Forever

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Writer, comedian and actress Isy Suttie performs an abridged version of her The Actual One tour and talks with fellow writer and comedian Josie Long about the book behind the show.

Suttie will talk, do a reading and sings some songs accompanied by her guitar, followed by a question and answer session with Long.

The Actual One is about the moment that Suttie realised all her friends were growing up around her, getting mortgages, going to farmers' markets and having babies, while she was not. She decides to delay the onset of adulthood despite a close friend telling her the next man she meets will be 'the actual one'. Then, a bet with her mother leads to a mad scramble to find a boyfriend in a month.

Suttie is best known for playing the character Dobby in the sitcom, *Peep Show*. She is also winner of a gold Sony Radio Academy Award for her radio show, *Pearl and Dave*. Long is a writer and stand-up comedian. She has performed six stand-up shows at the Edinburgh festival and toured them around the UK.

Photo: Idil Sukan

Isy Suttie

Photo: Idil Sukan

Josie Long

Photo: KT Bruce

Speakers at the 2015 Festival included:

David Cameron
The Prime Minister delivered the inaugural Duke of Gloucester Lecture

Maki Mandela

Orhan Pamuk

Antony Beevor

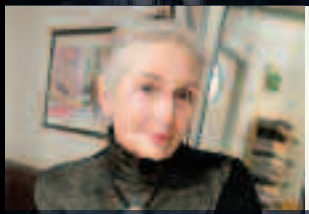
Sue MacGregor

Karl Jenkins

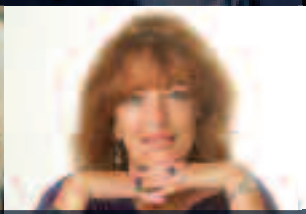
Alfred Brendel

Alexander Armstrong

Paul Gambaccini



Daphne Selfe



Bel Mooney

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John Fuller and Andrew Wynn Owen talk to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: AWOL – a Poetic Collaboration

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Established poet John Fuller and new voice Andrew Wynn Owen talk to fellow writer Jem Poster about *AWOL*, a collaborative collection.

Fuller is a poet, novelist and critic and emeritus fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. His first novel, *Flying to Nowhere*, won the Whitbread prize and was shortlisted for the Booker. His collections of poetry include *New Selected Poems 1983-2008*, *The Dice Cup*, and *Gravel in My Shoe*. Wynn Owen's first collection of poems, *Raspberries for the Ferry*, was published in 2014. He is a winner of the University of Oxford's Newdigate Prize and Lord Alfred Douglas Prize.

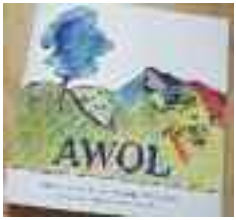
Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Photo: Paul Stuart

John Fuller

Photo: Marcos Avlonitis

Andrew Wynn Owen



Marcus Berkmann

Set Phasers to Stun: 50 Years of Star Trek

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Television critic and columnist Marcus Berkmann takes a look at the 50-year history of one of the most iconic science-fiction series of all time, *Star Trek*.

Berkmann looks back to the original *Star Trek* series, killed off after only three years, and explains how it rose again through the Hollywood movies and remains in rude health with today's retake. Along the way he seeks to answer some of the most important questions. Why did Kirk's shirt always get torn in a fight? What was the most number of times Uhuru said "Hailing frequencies open, sir" in an episode? And what is the worst insult in Klingon? His talk will be illustrated with clips from *Star Trek*.

Berkmann is a freelance journalist. He has been television critic for the *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express*, written sports columns for *Punch, The Independent on Sunday* and *Daily Express*, and had a long-running pop column in *The Spectator*. He now writes for *The Independent* magazine and *Private Eye* and is film critic of *The Oldie*. Berkmann is also author of *Rain Men and Zimmer Men, Fatherhood – The Truth,* and *A Shed of One's Own*.

Sally Bayley

The Private Life of the Diary from Pepys to Tweets

10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Writer, teacher and researcher Sally Bayley looks at the life of the diary through great diarists such as Virginia Woolf and Pepys and asks what the diary is for and what we should make of the 21st-century explosion of self-disclosure via online blogs and video and radio diaries.

Bayley says the traditional diary kept secrets and was a place for confessions. Woolf's diaries contain personal frustrations about her servants, comment on the passing of history and even on a solar eclipse. Today, young people are the most frequent users of online diaries or blogs and traditional diary writing is on the wane. Bayley says the large number of young people using this form is a clear indication of the role of a journal or diary – the search for an identity in relation to the world.

Bayley is a teaching and research fellow at the Rothermere American Institute and a lecturer in English at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. She has written widely on visual responses to literature including *Eye Rhymes: Sylvia Plath's Art of the Visual*, and is also author of *Home on the Horizon: America's Search for Space, from Emily Dickinson to Bob Dylan*.

Sophy Henn

Pandas and Bears

10am / The Story Museum / £6 Age 4+

Where Bear? author and illustrator Sophy Henn tells about her hilarious character Pom Pom Panda, who sometimes gets the grumps and likes to win at everything, and leads a make-and-do craft session.

Henn studied fashion and had a career as an art director in advertising before turning to writing and illustrating children's books. *Where Bear?*, her first book, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2015. She was also the World Book Day Illustrator for 2015.

Little Star

Little Star Writing Workshop

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6
2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6
Age: 7+

Little Star Writing run award-winning creative writing workshops for children aged 7+ with the aim of nurturing aspiring authors and reluctant writers, supporting individual ideas and expressions. Using a series of games, activities and group work in an inspiring and relaxed environment, they show children just how much fun writing can be. Last year's workshop sold out so we have two this year.

A N Wilson

The Book of People, How to Read the Bible

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Acclaimed biographer and novelist A N Wilson explores his own relationship to the Bible and that of other artists and thinkers throughout the ages.

Wilson says he has been thinking about and reading the Bible since he did a year of theology at university. Martin Luther King was reading it when he started the civil rights movement as was Michelangelo when he painted the Sistine Chapel. Wilson says the Bible is a seminal work of literature and he challenges the way fundamentalists, both believers and non-believers, have misused it.

Wilson is an award-winning biographer of, among others, Tolstoy, Dante, Betjeman, C S Lewis and Queen Victoria. He has written more than 20 novels including the Booker-longlisted *Winnie and Wolf* and *The Potter's Hand*.

Lorna Fergusson and Marcus Ferrar

Writers in Oxford

12 noon / Worcester College: Linbury Building / FREE

Meet a selection of locally based authors from Writers in Oxford, who have published fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's books.

The writers will offer advice to budding authors, share readings from their work, and celebrate writing life in Oxford – with all its rewards and challenges. Writers in Oxford was set up in 1992 by local members of the Society of Authors. It is open to authors who have published traditionally or self-published and are resident in Oxfordshire. Each year it arranges a mixture of 30 social events, talks and visits, with the aim of bringing writers together to get advice and help, network and learn, socialise and make friends.

This event is free but tickets should be booked through the usual outlets.

Lorna Fergusson

Marcus Ferrar

Tiffany Watt Smith

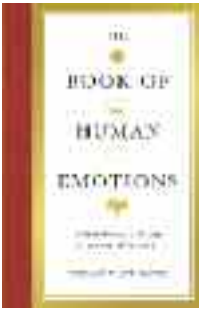
From Anger to Wanderlust: The Book of Human Emotion

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Researcher and 2014 BBC New Generation Thinker Tiffany Watt Smith takes an entertaining and thought-provoking A-Z look at human emotions.

Watt Smith draws on history, anthropology, science, art, literature, music and popular culture to explain a range of human emotions. They include gezellig – the Dutch word that explains the cosy feeling from being inside on a winter's night surrounded by food and good friends – and basorexia – the sudden urge to kiss someone. She explains how each emotion has its own story and how they influence every area of our lives.

Watt Smith is research fellow at the Queen Mary Centre for the History of the Emotions, and was a 2014 BBC New Generation Thinker. She worked as a theatre director for seven years including as associate director at Arcola Theatre and at the Royal Court.



OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Sophie Hannah, David Mark and Sarah Hilary

Finding your own Detective

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Three crime writers Sophie Hannah, David Mark and Sarah Hilary join forces to discuss how they create their detective characters and where they get their inspiration.

How do you make your detective interesting, do you put something of yourself into him or her and are they based on real-life characters?

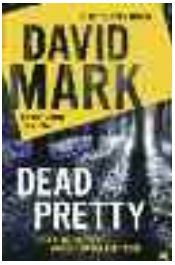
Hannah is an internationally bestselling author of crime fiction and a poet. She recently wrote a new Agatha Christie novel featuring Hercule Poirot, *The Monogram Murders*, approved by the Agatha Christie estate. Her new novel is *The Narrow Bed*. Mark's latest novel is *Dead Pretty*, the fifth in a series featuring DS Aector McAvoy, a Scottish policeman based in Hull's serious and organised crime unit. Hilary's first DI Marnie Rome novel, *Someone Else's Skin*, won the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year. The third, *Tastes Like Fear*, is out in April.

Sophie Hannah

Photo: art EAST

David Mark

Sarah Hilary



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Katherine Duncan-Jones

Images of Shakespeare

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Shakespeare expert Katherine Duncan-Jones asks what Shakespeare really looked like, offers a new perspective on his likenesses and explores the afterlife of images of the Bard.

The search for Shakespeare's image may have begun in his own lifetime, though there appears to be only one surviving image – a painting – from this period, and it is not a very polished work of art. Two other early images – the Stratford bust and the Droeshout engraving – have never inspired much admiration among art critics. Nonetheless, Shakespeare's huge fame has ensured that many versions of those images have been created, and Shakespeare's supposed likeness is widely imitated and universally recognised.

Duncan-Jones is an emeritus fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, and author of biographies of Sir Philip Sidney and Shakespeare, and of *Portraits of Shakespeare*.

Photo: Teresa Wood

Presented by

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Festival Cultural Partner

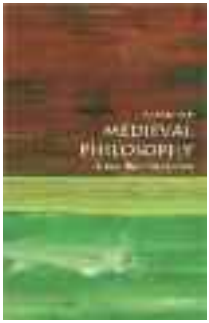
John Marenbon

Medieval Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

John Marenbon explains how medieval philosophy stretches far wider than the universities of Christian Europe and how the period was one of the most exciting in the history of thought. He discusses some of the key themes of universals; mind, body and mortality; foreknowledge and freedom; society and the best life. Marenbon has taught at Cambridge and the Sorbonne and currently holds a visiting appointment at Peking University. His books include *Pagans and Philosophers: The problem of paganism from Augustine to Leibniz* and *The Cambridge Companion to Boethius*.



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Samantha Herron talks to Iain Finlayson

The Djinn in the Skull: Stories from Hidden Morocco

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Author Samantha Herron introduces her new set of stories based in contemporary Morocco and inspired by her long immersion in the culture, language, traditions and storytelling of the country.

Herron fell in love with Morocco many years ago. It led her to study Arabic and spend time living with a Berber family of former nomads on the edge of the Sahara Desert. She was captivated by the ancient art of storytelling and began to capture the stories she was hearing. She then found herself imagining and composing her own stories, which she has just published in this new collection.

"Samantha Herron has succeeded triumphantly in doing what many Occidental writers have failed in for centuries – showing Morocco from the inside out. The stories she has so eloquently told are part of the 'real' Morocco, a kingdom that is so often invisible to visitors."
Tahir Shah, author of *The Caliph's House* and *In Arabian Nights*.

Herron's previous works include *Dardasha: Testimonies of Migration by Moroccan Women*. *The Djinn in the Skull: Stories from Hidden Morocco* is her first work of fiction.

Here she talks to writer and critic Iain Finlayson, author of *Tangier: City of the Dream* and books editor of *Saga* magazine.

Suzannah Lipscomb

BBC Four Premiere: Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Historian and television presenter Dr Suzannah Lipscomb explores the time when British people embraced modern design for the first time after years of austerity and self-denial and introduces some preview clips from her forthcoming BBC programme.

The look and feel of the post-war 1950s home – a 'modern' world of moulded plywood furniture, fibreglass, plastics and polyester – had its roots in the materials innovations of World War Two. In fact, no other war before or since has had such a profound effect on the technologies of our current life.

This bright new era encompassed a host of social changes, including higher living standards and improved technologies but, as Lipscomb discovers, there were also unexpected dangers lurking throughout the changing home.

Lipscomb is an historian, author, broadcaster and award-winning academic at New College of the Humanities. *Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home* is the fifth in a series of 'hidden killers' programmes for BBC Four. Lipscomb is also author of *The King is Dead: The Last Will and Testament of Henry VIII; 1536: The Year that Changed Henry VIII;* and *A Visitor's Companion to Tudor England*.

This event lasts one hour 15 minutes.

BBC FOUR

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Francesca Kay talks to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: The Long Room

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Award-winning novelist Francesca Kay talks to fellow writer Jem Poster about her new novel, *The Long Room*; set in 1980s London against the backdrop of the Cold War, it explores a mind under pressure and the power of the imagination.

Kay grew up in South East Asia and India, has lived in Jamaica, the United States and Germany and now lives in Oxford. Her first novel, *An Equal Stillness*, won the Orange Award for New Writers.

Poet and novelist Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

Francesca Kay

Jem Poster

Sponsored by HSBC Global banking partner

Hilary Gallo

The Power of Soft: How to get what you want without being a *****

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Business coach Hilary Gallo explains how years of experience have taught him that a soft approach with a strong principled core is the way to get success out of business negotiation.

Gallo says it is easy to 'armour up' when it comes to the challenges we face in life. It often insulates us from the truth and hides a more vulnerable core. The 'power of soft', he argues, can break through that armour and restore a balance. It is based on four key challenges, the 4 Ps – principles, power, people and perception.

Gallo spent 20 years handling complex negotiations for big organisations such as Clifford Chance, Accenture and Capgemini. He admits to negotiating with an iron fist in his early days but worked out that hard did not lead to success. He now works as a coach dealing with leadership and personal challenges.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Robin Ince

Reality Tunnel

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Actor, comedian and presenter of BBC Radio 4's The *Infinite Monkey Cage* Robin Ince tries to work out why we believe what we believe.

Ince digs out his own brain, or at least shows some scans of it, and guides you through its foibles, faults and idiosyncrasies. They may well be yours too.

"Robin Ince has said that this, his Reality Tunnel/(Almost) Farewell Show, will be his last tour before he gives up live stand-up, at least for a while, after 25 years in the game. Yet it's an evening so bursting with energy and ideas that you wonder if he's really going to be able to sit on his hands in self-imposed exile."
The Times

Ince is best known for presenting radio's *The Infinite Monkey Cage* with physicist Brian Cox. He has regularly toured with his own stand-up show and also worked with Ricky Gervais. He is an atheist and supports the Rationalist Association.

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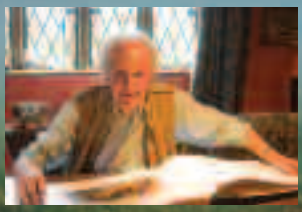

'This collection is a very rare opportunity indeed, it is the sort of book that is usually only published to commemorate an artist's work long after he is gone. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to choose and present my own selection from my life's work.'

DAVID SHEPHERD

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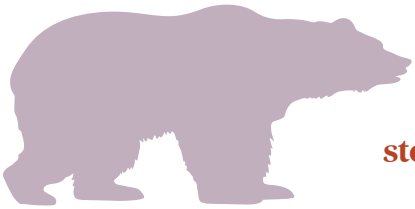

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Bryan Brown

John Henry Brookes: The Man Who Inspired a University

3pm / Taylor Institution: Meeting Room 2 / £12

Writer Bryan Brown looks at the life of John Henry Brookes, one of the 20th-century's most influential educational leaders and a driving force behind education in Oxford.

Brown looks at the early life of Brookes, the influential thinkers that shaped his views, his arts and crafts career and his struggles to create the Headington campus that has evolved into the university named in his honour. Brookes believed that education should be for all. He became vice-principal of the Oxford City Technical School and head of the School of Art in 1928 and exerted a major influence on the institution for 30 years.

Brown trained as a designer, and his life has been heavily influenced by Brookes. He led a campaign for Brookes's legacy to be recognised. Brown recommended the Oxford Brookes name when the university was established in 1992 and designed the Oxford Brookes University brand identity. Oxford Brookes University began life as the Oxford School of Art in 1865, when it occupied one room of the ground floor at the Taylor Institution in the centre of the city. As part of its 150th celebrations in 2015, the university commissioned the book that celebrates the life of the founding father.

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Lance Price and Andrew Whitehead. Chaired by Vijay Joshi

Can Narendra Modi Transform India

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Leading spin doctor and journalist Lance Price and former BBC Delhi correspondent Dr Andrew Whitehead discuss the rise of Narendra Modi to Prime Minister of India and ask whether he can transform the country.

Price and Whitehead discuss Modi's victory in the largest election campaign the world has ever seen – a masterclass in modern electioneering that broke new ground in use of social media and digital technologies. Modi took part in thousands of events and, to make sure he reached every town and village in such a vast country, his team created a life-size 3D hologram that was beamed to areas he could not reach in person. The pioneering techniques engaged millions of new, young voters and led Modi to a convincing victory. But can he now transform the country

Price is a former BBC political correspondent, deputy to Alastair Campbell in 10 Downing Street and Labour Party director of communications in the run-up to Tony Blair's 2001 General Election win. He is now a political strategy consultant and also author of *The Spin Doctor's Diary*.

Whitehead is a former BBC Delhi correspondent and now an honorary professor at the University of Nottingham and at Queen Mary, University of London and senior visiting research fellow at the King's India Institute in London. He is author of *A Mission in Kashmir*.

The event is chaired by Vijay Joshi, a reader in economics at the University of Oxford and co-author of *India's Search for Wealth and Power*.

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Paula Byrne

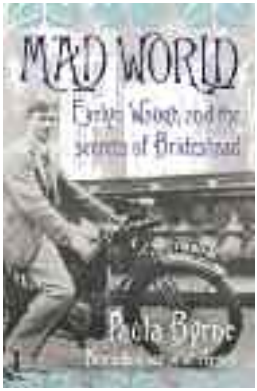
Evelyn Waugh: A Life 50 Years On

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Biographer Paula Byrne marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Evelyn Waugh with a talk about the life of the novelist and the enduring popularity of his work.

Byrne is author of *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*. In it she sets out to capture Waugh through the friendships that mattered to him and looks at how his great novel, *Brideshead Revisited*, encoded and transformed his own experiences.

She tells of Waugh's relationship with the aristocratic family that inspired the novel.



Liz Hodgkinson and Diana Cowell.

The First Sex Changes: How Laura Became Michael and Robert Became Roberta

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Liz Hodgkinson – author of a new book about the first woman to undergo a female-to-male sex change – and Diana Cowell – daughter of the first man to undergo a male-to-female sex change – discuss the interlinked stories and the impact of sex change on friends and families.

Hodgkinson is author of *From a Girl to a Man: How Laura Became Michael*. Laura was born into the Anglo-Irish aristocracy in 1915 and won a place at St Anne's College, Oxford. There she realised something was seriously wrong. A sympathetic doctor, Sir Harold Gillies, performed 13 operations on her to turn her into a man. The now Michael Dillon trained as a doctor and, after his love for former spitfire pilot Robert Cowell – later Roberta after a sex change – was not returned, he spent five years as a ship's doctor. He disappeared to become a Tibetan monk after his story was made public.

Robert Cowell was Diana's father. He abandoned his family in 1948 to undergo a sex change and the family never heard from him again. Diana was only ten when the sensational story was published in the *Picture Post*. Diana has been married four times, all ending in divorce. She made several attempts to contact Roberta but never received a reply. Diana took part in a television documentary this year, *Sex Change Spitfire Ace*, in which she explained her sadness in never knowing her father. Roberta, who died in 2011, always denied she was the father of Diana and her sister Anne.

Hodgkinson is a prolific writer who has published biographies, including *Alex Williams: the Survival of an Artist*, health books, lifestyle books and property guides. *From a Girl to a Man: How Laura Became Michael* led to the Channel 4 documentary *Sex Change Spitfire Ace* and has been optioned as a Hollywood film.

Diana Cowell is now aged 71. She is on a quest to find out as much as she can about the father who never wanted to know her.

Diana Cowell

Michael Collins

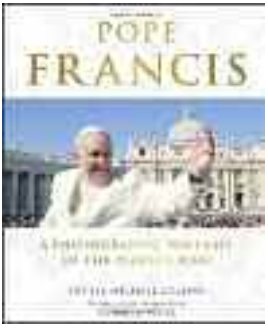
Pope Francis, a Portrait

4pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Writer, priest and former advisor to the Vatican Father Michael Collins looks at the life of Pope Francis, from his boyhood in Argentina to the daily workings of the papacy and the Holy City.

Collins is author of a new book, *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope*, which follows the Pope through a year of his life and includes 150 previously unpublished photographs. Collins gives a rare behind-the-scenes account of life for the Pope, both in his daily routines at the Vatican and during his international pastoral visits.

Collins served in two parishes in the Republic of Ireland before travelling to the Vatican for postgraduate studies. He has taught at The American University, John Cabot University and Duquesne University. He currently serves at St Mary's Church in Dublin. He writes regularly for *The Catholic Times* and the *Irish Times* and is author of a number of books including *Francis: Bishop of Rome, Good Pope John* and *John Paul II: The Path to Sainthood*. His lavishly illustrated book on the Vatican is regarded as a classic.



James Hamilton

A Strange Business – Making Art and Money in 19th-century Britain

4pm /Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Art historian and biographer James Hamilton brings to life the business of culture in 19th-century Britain in this illustrated talk.

Hamilton investigates the exchange between culture and business at a time when Britain became a centre for world commerce. It is a world peopled by the likes of Turner, Constable, Landseer, Coleridge, Wordsworth and Dickens, but also by patrons, financiers, collectors, industrialists, lawyers, publishers, dealers, auctioneers, hostesses, brothel-keepers, charlatans and quacks.

Hamilton is a former Alistair Horne Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, and former university curator at the University of Birmingham. He has curated a number of exhibitions in galleries at home and abroad and his biography of Turner was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Award.

Photo: Louise Thomas

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Keith Small

Art, Theology and Formation of the Qur'an

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Expert on Qur'an and New Testament manuscripts Rev Dr Keith Small explains how the Qur'an came to be in its present form and the relationship between written and oral versions of the text.

Muslims believe that, in the Qur'an, the eternal word of God entered time and space as text. This idea has influenced the decoration of the Qur'an as well as the uses of the Qur'an in recitation, medicine and mediation with the unseen world. This talk explores these issues.

Small has a PhD in Islamics and New Testament studies and is a manuscript consultant to the Bodleian Library. He is author of *Textual Criticism and Qu'ran Manuscripts*, the first book-length application to Qu'ran manuscripts of textual criticism used in studies of the Bible and ancient Western literature.

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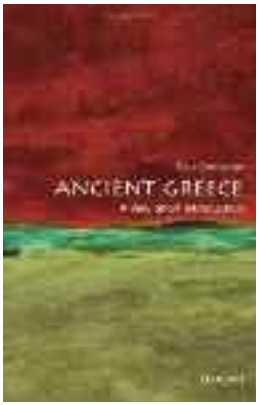
Paul Cartledge

Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Professor of Greek Paul Cartledge highlights the most important aspects of ancient Greek culture – religion, economics, politics, sexuality, slavery and freedom – through the histories of 11 cities. He looks at famous cities such as Athens and Sparta and lesser known ones such as Argos, Thebes, Syracuse in Sicily, and Alexandria in Egypt. Cartledge is the inaugural A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture at the University of Cambridge.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Jenny Balfour-Paul talks to A N Wilson

Deeper than Indigo: Tracing Thomas Machell, Forgotten Explorer

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Writer, artist, traveller and indigo expert Dr Jenny Balfour-Paul explains how she came across the 19th-century writer and traveller Thomas Machell and how, as she delved deeper into his life, she realised it echoed her own.

Balfour-Paul's quest began after she was shown a page of a handwritten diary by Machell containing a sketch, *Indigo planters after tiffin*. Machell set off on a merchant ship at 16 and travelled through the Middle East including India, Polynesia and China. He witnessed The Opium war at 17, became an indigo planter in Bengal, fell in love with a Polynesian chief's daughter and returned to Europe dressed as an Arab merchant. As she researched his life for her book, Balfour-Paul kept coming across coincidences – their shared passion for indigo, visits to the same area of Bengal and threat of pirate attack in the Red Sea. And the most extraordinary and strangest experience of all came as Balfour-Paul tried to fill in Machell's missing final years.

"One of the most remarkable books I have ever read" **A N Wilson**.

Balfour-Paul is the author of two books on indigo. She is an honorary research fellow at Exeter University and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Here she talks to novelist and biographer A N Wilson.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Jo Marchant

Cure: A Journey into the Science of Mind over Body

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Science writer Dr Jo Marchant looks at how science can explain and exploit the power of the mind over the body.

Marchant looks at the latest scientific research and asks whether those who turn to alternative medicine are on to something or are deluded; whether our thoughts, beliefs and emotions can influence physical health; and whether we can train our minds to heal our bodies. Marchant describes herself as an open-minded sceptic and provides an honest assessment of what works and what does not.

Marchant is an award-winning science journalist. She has a PhD in genetics and medical microbiology from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College in London, and an MSc in science communication from Imperial College London. She has worked as an editor at *New Scientist* and *Nature* and writes regularly for national newspapers and magazines. Her book, *Decoding the Heavens*, was shortlisted for the Royal Society Prize for Science Books.

Photo: Garry Simpson

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
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Elnathan John, Sarah Ladipo Manyika and Leye Adenle. Introduced by Ben Okri

New Voices of Nigeria

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

A group of authors and publishers join forces to discuss new Nigerian writing to mark the launch of Cassava Republic Press in the UK. The group will be introduced by Nigerian-born Booker Prize-winner Ben Okri.

Elnathan John is author of *Born on a Tuesday*, a debut novel that is a tale of brotherhood and tragedy set in modern Nigeria's complex religious landscape. Sarah Ladipo Manyika is author of *Like a Mule Bringing Ice Cream to the Sun*, a story of ageing, friendship and loss. Leye Adenle's *Easy Motion Tourist* is a crime novel featuring a feisty female protagonist taking on the dark criminal underworld of Lagos.

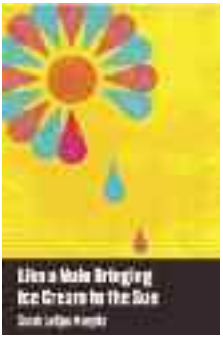
All three are published by Cassava Republic Press, which launches in the UK in April. Cassava was founded by Bibi Bakare-Yusuf. Bakare-Yusuf has been joined in the new UK venture by Emma Shercliff, former managing director of Macmillan English Campus and head of export sales at Hodder Education. Their aim is to introduce the best of Nigerian writing to UK audiences.

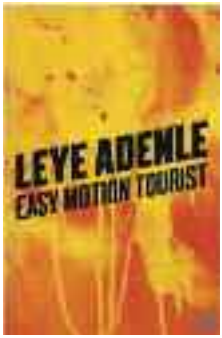
Elnathan John

Sarah Ladipo Manyika

Leye Adenle

Photo: KT Bruce
Ben Okri





OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
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Meg Rosoff talks to Rebecca Abrams

Jonathan Unleashed

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

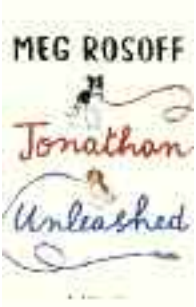
Novelist Meg Rosoff talks about her first work for adults, *Jonathan Unleashed*, a romantic comedy about a man trying to get his disordered life back on track.

Jonathan Trefoil lives in New York and works in advertising, has an unhinged boss, an apartment that is borderline illegal and a girlfriend who would like to marry someone like him only richer and more humorous. Rosoff's first foray into adult fiction has won rave reviews from the critics.

"Mordantly funny and searingly well written, her books read like Samuel Beckett on ecstasy" **The Times**.

Rosoff spent 15 years working in advertising before writing her first young adult novel, the million-selling *How I live Now*, winner of the Guardian Children's Prize and the Printz Award in the US. She is also author of *Just in Case*, *What I Was* and *Picture Me Gone*.

Here she talks to award-winning novelist and journalist Rebecca Abrams.



Festival Service of Compline

9pm / Worcester College: Chapel / Free

The ancient night-time service of Compline will be sung in Worcester College Chapel. Compline takes its name from a Latin word for 'completion' and is a peaceful, meditative way to end a busy day, with candle-light, chants, psalms, and prayers.

This service is free and no ticket is required.

The College Chapel was built in the 18th century. Dr George Clarke, Henry Keene and James Wyatt were responsible for different stages of its lengthy construction (1720–91), owing to shortage of funds. The interior columns and pilasters, the dome and the delicate foliage plastering are all Wyatt's work. His classical interior was insufficiently emphatic for the tastes of militant Victorian churchmen, and between 1864 and 1866 the chapel was redecorated by William Burges. It is highly unusual and decorative; being predominantly pink, the pews are decorated with carved animals, including kangaroos and whales, and the walls are riotously colourful, and include frescoes of dodos and peacocks. Its stained glass windows were to have been designed by John Everett Millais, but Burges rejected his designs and entrusted the work to Henry Holiday. Oscar Wilde said of the Chapel, "As a piece of simple decorative and beautiful art it is perfect, and the windows very artistic."

Early19th century watercolour of Worcester College, by TH Shepherd, with the Chapel on the right.

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Pictured the historic Garrison Library of Gibraltar – home of the Gibunco Gibraltar International Literary Festival

Iain Pears talks to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: Arcadia

10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

International bestselling author Iain Pears talks to fellow writer Jem Poster about his writing life and his extraordinary new novel, *Arcadia*, a complex, multi-faceted narrative set in 1960s Oxford.

Pears worked as a journalist variously for the BBC, Channel 4, Reuters and Germany's ZDF before taking up novel-writing. In addition to his bestselling novel, *An Instance of the Fingerpost*, he has written detective novels, a book of art history and an opera libretto.

Poet and novelist Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Photo: Lucinda Stevens

Tracey Corderoy

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 5+

Children's author Tracey Corderoy brings to life the two hapless robber dogs, Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam, and offers a special craft session.

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam will steal your heart, even if they are not very good at pinching anything else. Corderoy brings these thieving canines and their story of crime, cakes and bungled burglaries to life – a must for dog-lovers everywhere. Get ready to help her too in a special craft session.

Corderoy is a trained teacher and the author of the Shifty McGifty, Hubble Bubble, Granny Trouble and other hugely popular stories for young readers. She has a head happily crammed with countless ideas and stories for children.

Ruth Dudley Edwards, Frank Delaney and Dan Mulhall

The 1916 Easter Rising

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Award-winning writer Ruth Dudley Edwards, author and broadcaster Frank Delaney and the Ambassador of Ireland in London Dan Mulhall look back at the Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland and offer contrasting views on how far it helped to shape modern Ireland.

On Easter Sunday 1916, the members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood's military council put their names to the proclamation of the Irish Republic and declared themselves a provisional government independent of British rule. The insurrection was brutally quashed by the Government of Britain and Ireland and the seven were trialled by court martial and executed by firing squad. The Irish government is commemorating the centenary of the uprising with a series of events across the country. The aim is to explore and celebrate the complexity of the last 100 years of history in Ireland in a way that embraces all communities.

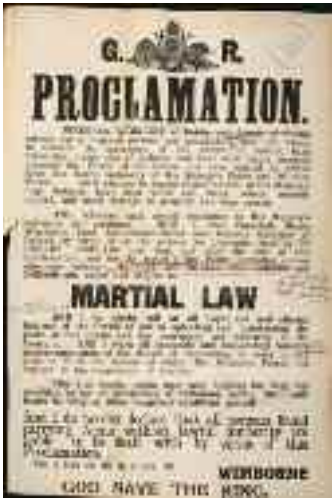
Dudley Edwards, a leading commentator on Irish affairs in both the UK and the Republic of Ireland and author of several works on Irish history, questions the legacy of the seven founding fathers of the Irish Republic in her new book, *The Seven: the Lives and Legacies of the Founding Fathers of the Irish Republic*.

Mulhall is the Ambassador of Ireland in London and co-editor with Eugenio Biagini of a new book to be published in March, *The Shaping of Modern Ireland: A Centenary Assessment*. It is the story of the period between the death of Charles Stewart Parnell in 1891 and the attainment of Irish independence in 1922, told through leading personalities who contributed to shaping modern Ireland.

Delaney is a former BBC reporter and newsreader on Irish state radio and television. He later moved into arts broadcasting, creating the weekly *Bookshelf* programmes and *Word of Mouth* on BBC Radio 4. He has written more than 20 books, including novels and works of non-fiction.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

The General Post Office, Dublin, after the Easter Rising 1916



The Bodleian Library has a free display of items on the 1916 Easter Rising in the Proscholium in the Old Schools Quadrangle.

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Christopher Lloyd

Magna Carta: 800 Years in the Fight for Rights and Freedoms

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

Join Christopher Lloyd on an epic ride through 800 years in the fight for freedoms and liberties, from the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215 to the present day.

Using a giant 8m-long timeline, specially commissioned by the Magna Carta Trust's 800th Committee, and a coat of many pockets containing key objects that serve as mnemonics, Lloyd will stop off at 10 key moments in the last 800 years, showing how today's ideas of freedom and liberty have developed through time. Lloyd uses a coat of many pockets. Each of the 10 pockets includes an object linked to one of the 10 most significant moments in the story of the evolution of freedoms and rights over 800 years. This family talk is ideal for all curious individuals aged 5 - 105.

The Magna Carta timeline is part of a series of What on Earth books created by Lloyd. John Gordon-Reid gives talks on the 4-billion year story of life on Earth and great moments in 10,000 years of science and engineering on Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. Lloyd gives talks on Magna Carta – 800 years in the fight for rights and freedoms, best moments in British history from the dinosaurs to the present day, and the complete plays of William Shakespeare on Thursday, April 7, Friday April 8, Saturday, April 9, and Sunday April 10.

All the talks are free and no ticket is required.

Martin Brown

Horrible Histories

12 noon / St John's: Auditorium / £6 Age 8+

Join Martin Brown for history with the nasty bits left in. The Horrible Histories illustrator presents his action-packed show full of jokes, drawing and fantastic facts. He will reveal secrets about illustrating the bestselling series, and show why everyone can draw.

The first Horrible History book, written by Terry Deary and illustrated by Brown, was published in 1993. The series went on to become a BAFTA award-winning CBBC show and stage show and there are now almost 100 books ranging from histories of the Romans and Greeks to the Stuarts, and the First World War.

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Emily Rose talks to Rebecca Abrams

The Murder of William of Norwich: The Origins of the Blood Libel in Medieval Europe

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Historian Dr Emily Rose explains how the so-called blood libel accusation of ritual murder against Jews arose in 12th-century England following the discovery of the mutilated body of William of Norwich outside the city's walls.

Rose explains why the Norwich Jews and one banker in particular were accused of the ritual murder of William and how the malevolent story of a ritual murder performed by Jews in imitation of the Crucifixion took hold and spread far beyond Norwich. She shows how the story continued to provoke instances of torture, death and expulsion of Jews centuries after its first appearance, and how it endures today despite the charge of ritual murder not withstanding historical scrutiny.

The Murder of William of Norwich has attracted widespread acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic.

'The Murder of William of Norwich is one the most stimulating pieces of serious historical storytelling I have read all year.' **The Sunday Times**

'A landmark of historical research into the grotesque 800-year history of blood-libel accusations.' **Wall Street Journal**

Rose is a historian who has taught at Johns Hopkins University, Villanova University, Princeton University, Rutgers University, and Baruch/CUNY. Here she talks to novelist and journalist Rebecca Abrams.

Anna Beer

Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Historian Anna Beer tells the story of eight women composers and asks tough questions about why the silencing of their legacy continues today.

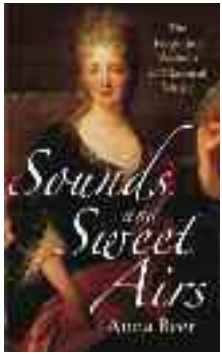
Beer ranges from 17th-century Florence to London in the Blitz as she uncovers the lives and works of eight exceptional artists. She asks why we no longer hear masterpieces such as Hensel's *The Year*, Caccini's arias and Boulanger's setting of *Psalm 130*. And she explains why Francesca Caccini, Barbara Strozzi, Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Marianna Martines, Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn), Clara Schumann, Lili Boulanger and Elizabeth Maconchy and their work deserve a better place in our cultural heritage. The talk will be accompanied by excerpts from their musical works.

Anna Beer is a cultural historian and biographer and fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford.

Her books include *Milton: Poet, Pamphleteer and Patriot*, and *Bess: the Life of Lady Ralegh, Wife to Sir Walter*.

This event is one of a series at this year's festival on forgotten women of history and part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

Photo: Jeff Overs



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LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Ian Goldin and Chris Kutarna

Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of Our New Renaissance

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Former vice-president of the World Bank Professor Ian Goldin and fellow author Chris Kutarna preview their forthcoming book about the risks and rewards of a new Renaissance taking place in our modern world.

The great names of Da Vinci, Galileo, Copernicus, Raphael and Michelangelo were the mark of an age that saw a rush of discovery, the breaking down of barriers of ignorance and a newly connected world both politically and economically. Goldin and Kutarna say that the same forces are at work today. We have better education and resources, the rate of innovation is doubling every year and there are great leaps in science, trade, migration and technology. They argue that the results this time could be greater, but the world faces many of the same dangers as Renaissance man, those of warring ideologies, fundamentalism, climate change and pandemic.

Goldin is director of the Oxford Martin School and professor of globalisation and development at the University of Oxford. He is a former vice-president of the World Bank and former chief executive of the development Bank of South Africa and advisor to Nelson Mandela. Kutarna is a fellow at the Oxford Martin School and holds a doctorate in politics from the University of Oxford.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

Photo: David Fisher

Ian Goldin

Chris Kutarna

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OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Christophe Galfard

The Universe in Your Hand: A Journey through Space, Time and Beyond

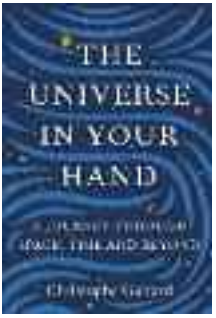
12 noon / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Popular French physicist Christophe Galfard uses storytelling instead of graphs and equations to explain complex ideas and principles such as quantum mechanics, general relativity, string theory and parallel realities.

In simple language Galfard explains what it is like on the surface of our dying sun, takes us to distant galaxies and shows what it is like to be in the deathly grip of a black hole. He looks deep into questions about the beginning of time, our place within the universe and the future of humanity.

Galfard was Stephen Hawking's graduate student between 2000 and 2006 when he researched the 'black hole information paradox'. He has co-authored books for children with Stephen and Lucy Hawking and has a passion for sharing science in an accessible way.

Photo: Astrid di Crollalanza & Farmarion



Inga Fraser

Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for a Modern World

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Tate Britain assistant curator Inga Fraser takes a look back at the career and work of the sculptor Barbara Hepworth and introduces a short documentary film.

Tate Britain carried the first major London retrospective of Hepworth's work since 1968 last year. Hepworth was one of the most successful sculptors in the world during the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibition, which featured more than 70 works, highlighted the different ways Hepworth presented her work both in the studio and in the landscape. This event includes a showing of a 16-minute documentary about Barbara Hepworth and her work, *Figures in a Landscape*, made in 1953 by Dudley Shaw Ashton.

Fraser helped to curate the exhibition.

Hepworth – *Figures in a Landscape* (BFI, 1953)

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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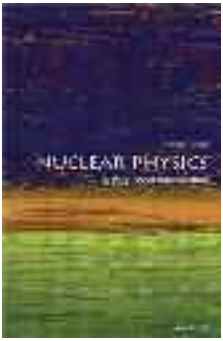
Frank Close

Nuclear Physics: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

World-renowned professor of physics Frank Close explains how nuclear physics has progressed since the discovery of the electron at the end of the 19th century and shows how it brings the physics of the stars down to Earth and provides us with important applications in areas such as medicine. Close is professor of physics at Oxford University and a former head of the Theoretical Physics Division at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.



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Ross Montgomery

Strange Worlds and Fun Characters: Writing Spellbinding Stories

2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 8+

Join the Costa Book Award-shortlisted author Ross Montgomery for a workshop on writing spellbinding stories.

Montgomery has written about a variety of subjects, including talking dogs, ravenous bears and raining biscuits. His new book, *Perijee and Me*, is a story of alien invasion with a typically original twist. Unlock your own stories in this special workshop in which Montgomery will help you make up your own strange worlds and fill them with fun characters.

Montgomery started writing stories as a teenager, when he really should have been doing homework, and continued doing so at university. After graduating, he experimented with working as a pig farmer and a postman before deciding to channel these skills into teaching at a primary school. His first novel, *Alex, the Dog and the Unopenable Door*, was published to huge critical acclaim. Nicolette Jones, of *The Sunday Times*, heralded him as 'a remarkable new comic voice'. *The Tornado Chaser* followed and was also very well received.

Sean B Carroll

Princeton University Press Lecture: The Serengeti Rules

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Award-winning biologist and author Sean B Carroll explains how pioneering scientists sought the answers to how life works and why their discoveries matter for our health and the health of our planet.

Carroll says one of the most important discoveries about the natural world is that everything is regulated. There are rules governing the amount of every molecule in our body and the numbers of plants and animals in the wild. This understanding has led to some life-saving medicines, and Carroll says it is now time to apply these same Serengeti rules to heal our ailing planet.

Carroll is an award-winning scientist and writer. He is vice-president for science education at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Allan Wilson Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and author of *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*, *Brave Genius*, and *Remarkable Creatures*.

Photo: Jeff Miller, University of Wisconsin

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WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Joanne Limburg and Kim Devereux

Women of History in Fiction

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Novelists Joanne Limburg and Kim Devereux discuss how the lives of women in history have been portrayed in fiction.

Both Limburg and Devereux have written recent novels centred around the lives of well-known characters in history. Limburg's *A Want of Kindness* is about one of the most complex women in British history, Queen Anne. It follows her from the sickly ten-year-old child caught in a bawdy Restoration court to the mature woman who is transformed from an overlooked princess into the heir to the throne. Devereux's *Rembrandt's Mirror* explores the lives of the three women in Rembrandt's life through the eyes of one of them, his housemaid Hendrickje. Although shocked by initial goings-on in the house, she finds herself drawn to the artist.

Limburg has also published three volumes of poetry and a memoir about anxiety and poetry, *The Woman Who Thought Too Much*. Devereux is an award-winning short-film director and producer of documentaries.

Joanne Limburg

Photo: Bid Jones

Kim Devereux

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Gulwali Passarlay

The Lightless Sky: An Afghan Refugee Boy's Escape to a New Life

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Former child refugee Gulwali Passarlay tells how he fled Afganistan at the age of 12 and suffered hunger, brutality, prison and near death before making it to a new life in Britain, to a top university and to carrying the Olympic torch in 2012.

Passarlay was sent away at 12 after the death of his father in a gun battle with the US army. He was trafficked into Iran and endured great hardship and cruelty during a 12-month journey across Europe that nearly ended in drowning on a tiny boat in the Mediterranean. Once in Britain he was fostered, went to a good school and won a place at a top university. His memoir, *The Lightless Sky*, is his own extraordinary story, but it is also a story of adversity that is being repeated across the Middle East and Europe today.

Passarlay has devoted his time to education since arriving in Britain. He is now 21 and studying politics and international relations at the University of Manchester. He was a member of Bolton Youth Council and a member of Children in Care Council. He is a panel member of Youthforia, the North West youth forum, vice-president of the United Afghan Peace Movement and a commissioner of the Children's Commission on Child Poverty.

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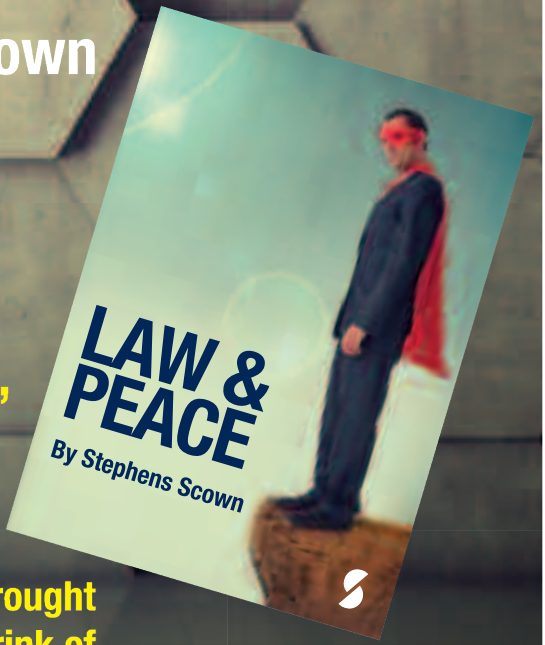
LAW & PEACE

By Stephens Scown



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Thursday 21 April, 7pm, National Portrait Gallery
Moira Buffini, Claire Harman, Rachel Joyce
Celebrating Charlotte Brontë
A playwright, a novelist and a biographer debate Brontë's significance on the bicentenary of her birth.

Saturday 7 May, 3.30pm, The British Library
Ben Aaronovitch, Sebastian Faulks, Gillian Slovo, Claire Tomalin, Louisa Young
Writing London
Five authors discuss their London-focused books, each of which has been the subject of the annual capital-wide Cityread London.

For full details and to book
rsliterature.org 020 7845 4679

Christopher Lloyd

Best Moments in British History from Dinosaurs to Present Day

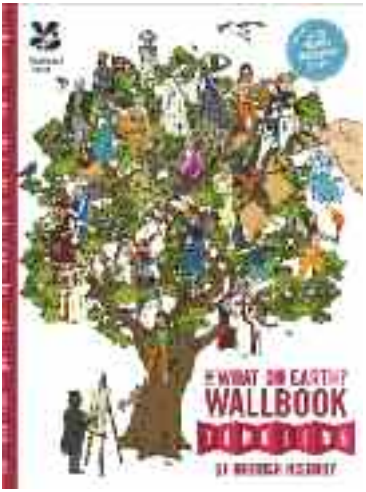
2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

Celebrate the launch of Christopher Lloyd and Andy Forshaw's latest Wallbook timeline, which details, in more than 1,000 pictures and captions, the amazing story of British history from the dinosaurs to the present day.

Backed up by a brilliant giant edition of the all-new *What on Earth? Wallbook of British History* and a brand new coat of many pockets, families can immerse themselves in our extraordinary island story through a series of everyday objects and beautifully illustrated moments through time. This family talk is ideal for all curious individuals aged 5 - 105.

The *What on Earth? Wallbook of British History* is part of a series of What on Earth books created by Lloyd. John Gordon-Reid gives talks on the 4-billion year story of life on Earth and great moments in 10,000 years of science and engineering on Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. Lloyd gives talks on Magna Carta – 800 years in the fight for rights and freedoms, best moments in British history from the dinosaurs to the present day, and the complete plays of William Shakespeare on Thursday, April 7, Friday April 8, Saturday, April 9, and Sunday April 10.

All the talks are free and no ticket is required.



James Naughtie

An Audience with James Naughtie

2pm / St John's: Auditorium / £12

One of Britain's best-known broadcasters and journalists James Naughtie talks about his life and career and his second novel *Paris Spring*.

Naughtie left his regular presenting duties on BBC radio 4's flagship news programme *Today* in December 2015 after 21 years as one of the main anchors of the show. He has spent a lifetime reporting politics on both sides of the Atlantic, anchoring every BBC radio UK election results programme since 1997 and working on every US presidential election since 1988.

Naughtie has recently applied his wealth of political experience into fiction writing. *Paris Spring* is a prequel to his first novel, *The Madness of July*, and finds his hero Will Flemyng in a 1968 Paris full of revolutionaries and spies. In the tumult of that Paris spring he gets news that threatens the closest relationship of his life, with his brother.

Naughtie began his career as a print journalist in Scotland before joining *The Washington Post* and then *The Guardian*. He moved into radio in 1986 and has been a presenter of the televised *BBC Proms*. He is also author of *The Rivals: The Intimate Story of a Political Marriage*, and *The Accidental American: Tony Blair and the Presidency*.

He is now a special correspondent for the BBC.

Julius Green

Curtain Up: Agatha Christie, a Life in Theatre

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Julius Green raises the curtain on Agatha Christie's towering contribution to popular theatre, an element of her work previously disregarded by biographers and historians.

Agatha Christie is the world's best-selling novelist, but less well-known today is her writing for the stage – an extraordinary repertoire of plays that firmly established her as the most successful female dramatist of all time. Green was granted unprecedented access to the Agatha Christie archive and to those of her producers and agents. His ground-breaking revelations about her work as a playwright include the discovery of several unpublished and unperformed scripts that add a fascinating layer to her remarkable story. This illustrated talk features extracts read by actors from Christie's work for the stage, including such classics as *Witness for the Prosecution* and *And Then There Were None*.

Green is a theatre producer and author of *Curtain Up – Agatha Christie, a Life in Theatre* and *How To Produce a West End Show*. He is an honorary research fellow at the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, University of London, and a former board member of the Society of London Theatre.

Tim Judah

In Wartime: Stories from Ukraine

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Foreign correspondent Tim Judah tells the story of the human side of conflict in Europe's second largest country, Ukraine.

Judah travelled from the Polish border in the west, through the capital city and to the eastern frontier near the Russian border. He spoke to the mothers, soldiers, businessmen, poets and politicians living through conflict and reveals a nation trapped between powerful political and historical forces.

'Visceral, gripping, heartbreaking'
Simon Sebag Montefiore

Judah is Balkans correspondent for *The Economist* and has reported on war in Ukraine for both *The Economist* and the *New York Review of Books*. He has covered many conflicts including the aftermath of communism in Eastern Europe, the Balkan Wars, Afghanistan and Iraq. He is also author of *Kosovo: War and Revenge*, *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* and *Bikila: Ethiopia's Barefoot Olympian*.

Photo: Timothy Costa

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Margaret Rayman and Lawrence Whalley

Dementia: How can we Protect Ourselves

4pm / St John's: Auditorium / £12

Two experts on dementia look at the causes of the disease and discuss ways in which we can protect ourselves against it and cope with the changes that aging brings.

Dementia affects nearly 35 million worldwide and there are 7.7 million new cases each year. Ageing populations mean dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease, has become a growing concern and a huge challenge for both carers and health services.

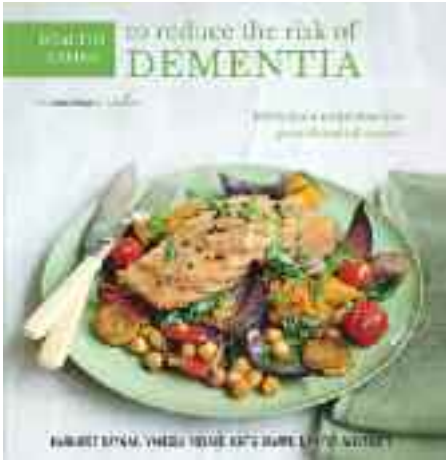
Margaret Rayman is professor of nutritional medicine at the University of Surrey and advocates a healthy lifestyle as one way to reduce the risk of dementia. In *Healthy Eating to Reduce the Risk of Dementia*, Rayman and a team of nutritional experts lay down some guidelines and offer 100 delicious recipes. Rayman created the UK's first university-level degree programme on nutritional medicine. She has been a judge on the BBC Food and Farming Awards for the last four years and gives speeches and lectures across the UK.

Margaret Rayman

Professor Lawrence Whalley is emeritus professor of mental health in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Aberdeen and honorary professor of research at the University of the Highlands and Islands. He is an expert on brain aging. In *Understanding Brain Aging and Dementia*, he outlines the cause of brain aging and explains how you can cope better with it.

HSBC employees have chosen the Alzheimer's Society as one of six national charities to be supported by the company in 2016 and 2017.

Lawrence Whalley



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Madhur Jaffrey, Jessica Harris and Jeremy Lee. Chaired by Donald Sloan

Matters of Taste

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Three renowned food experts, writers Madhur Jaffrey and Professor Jessica Harris and Quo Vadis head chef Jeremy Lee, discuss their personal food journeys with head of Oxford Gastronomica Donald Sloan.

Our culinary taste is an expression of our self-identity and shapes how we are perceived by others. No matter where life takes us, our culinary taste keeps us firmly rooted to our cultural origins. Jaffrey, Harris and Lee will reflect on food memories from childhood and consider what their lives in food have taught them about their own communities and those of others. They will also dwell on the broader role of food in society. Does it bind those displaced from their childhood or ancestral homes, and how can we maintain distinctive food cultures when free movement of people is commonplace?

Jaffrey is a world authority on Indian food, an award-winning actress and bestselling cookery writer. Her first book, *An Invitation to Indian Cookery*, was published in 1973 and her series for BBC television *Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery* made her a household name. She has appeared in over 20 films.

Harris is recognised as the USA's most influential scholar on the food and foodways of the African Diaspora, a topic on which she has written 12 acclaimed texts, the most recent being *High on the Hog: a culinary journey from Africa to America*. She is professor of English at Queens College, CUNY.

Lee is head chef at Quo Vadis in London's Soho. He is renowned for his resolutely British culinary repertoire, informed by meticulous research.

Sloan is head of the Oxford School of Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes University and chair of Oxford Gastronomica.

Photo: KT Bruce

Madhur Jaffrey

In association with

oxfordgastronomica

Francesca Stavrakopoulou

Sacred Sex and The Bible

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Writer, academic and broadcaster Professor Francesca Stavrakopoulou explores some of the raunchier themes in the Bible, from the erotic to the sexually explicit.

She will show how and why key themes, including the celebration of lovers' foreplay, the ritual power of sex, the pornographic exposure of the body, and the fetishisation of God's penis, played a major role in the theologies of the Bible – and how they continue to impact religions today. Stavrakopoulou has previously argued that God had a wife and that Eve had been unfairly maligned and was not responsible for the fall of man.

Stavrakopoulou is professor of the Hebrew Bible and ancient religion at the University of Exeter's Department of Theology and Religion. She presented the BBC TV series *Bible's Buried Secrets* and has contributed to a number of television documentaries and debates. Stavrakopoulou describes herself as an "atheist with a huge respect for religion". Her books include *Religious Diversity in Ancient Israel and Judah*.

Presented by

CFI CENTRE FOR INQUIRY

BBC World Service, Newshour Extra

Should Britain be ashamed of its colonial past?

Radio recording

Thursday 7th April, 3.30pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / Free

Join Owen Bennett Jones and his guests for a debate to be broadcast on BBC World Service radio.

Across the world student bodies have been asking universities to distance themselves from perceived historical symbols of oppression. Here in Oxford, the protests took the form of the 'Rhodes Must Fall' campaign, which began in South Africa and which targeted statues of Cecil Rhodes, an undoubted champion of Empire. How representative are these protests of current sentiments in Britain and its former colonies? How should Britain acknowledge this part of its identity? Should it apologise and pay reparations, or embrace its history with pride?

This episode of Newshour Extra will be broadcast on Friday 8 April. More details at **bbcworldservice.com/newshourextra**. This event will last two hours. Tickets are free but must be booked through the festival box office.

Owen Bennett Jones

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT ON SATURDAY 19th MARCH
BOX OFFICE: 0870 343 1001
www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

BBC WORLD SERVICE

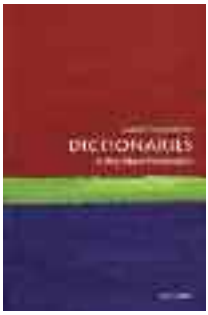
Lynda Mugglestone

Dictionaries: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

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



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Statue of Cecil Rhodes at Oriel College, Oxford

Robert Cumming, Carolyn Cumming and Catherine Porteous. Chaired by Philip Hook

My Dear BB – The Letters of Bernard Berenson and Kenneth Clark, 1925-59

6pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Robert and Carolyn Cumming, together with Catherine Porteous who was personal assistant for many years to Kenneth Clark, discuss the careers and friendship of Clark and the legendary connoisseur and critic Bernard Berenson.

Clark and Berenson met in Italy in 1925 when Clark was 22. They began a correspondence that lasted until Berenson's death in 1959 at the age of 94. The Cummings have edited the complete correspondence between these two most influential figures in the 20th-century art world. Their letters exchange views about art, politics, life, friends, family, collectors, books and travel. Berenson advised Clark on his career but, above all, the letters are a record of a deep and intimate friendship. Clark went on to be Keeper of the King's Pictures, director of the National Gallery and chairman of the Arts Council. He is particularly remembered for the pioneering television documentary series, *Civilisation*. Berenson was a penniless East European Jewish émigré to the USA. He established himself as the most eminent authority of his time on Renaissance art.

Robert Cumming has worked at the Tate gallery and at Christie's, where he set up the foremost international education programme on fine and decorative arts. Carolyn is a landscape garden designer, who studied in Florence. Porteous became Clark's personal assistant in the 1950s. The discussion is chaired by Philip Hook, author and senior director of Impressionist and Modern art at Sotheby's and a trustee of the London Library.

Melvyn Bragg

Now is the Time

6pm / St John's: Auditorium / £12

Writer and broadcaster Lord Melvyn Bragg introduces his latest novel, *Now is the Time*, a fictional recreation of the biggest rebellion in English history, the Peasants' Revolt.

Bragg paints a picture of the Peasants' Revolt on both the grand scale and through the central characters at the heart of the action. It is a story of a battle between the powerful and the seemingly powerless that took place at the end of May 1381 in the reign of the then 14-year-old King Richard II. The plague had returned, the king's coffers were empty and a draconian poll tax had been introduced but was widely evaded. A large force of common people entered London demanding freedom, equality and the uprooting of Church and state.

Bragg is a broadcaster and novelist particularly known for his work as editor and presenter of the long-running *The South Bank Show* arts programme on ITV. He is author of many award-winning novels including *Grace and Mary, The Hired Man, Without a City Wall, A Son of War* and *Crossing the Lines*. He also sits in the House of Lords as a Labour peer.

Mary McAleese talks to Dan Mulhall

The 1916 Easter Rising: Ireland and the UK 100 Years On

6pm / Oxford Town Hall / £12

Former President of Ireland Dr Mary McAleese marks the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin with a discussion with the Ambassador of Ireland in London Dan Mulhall on the causes of the event, the subsequent development of Ireland and on the evolution of Irish-UK relations.

McAleese is a Roman Catholic born in Belfast. Her family was forced to leave the area by loyalists when the troubles broke out. She has worked as a barrister and as a journalist and served as the eighth president of Ireland for two terms from 1997 to 2011 after succeeding Mary Robinson. She has described the theme of her presidency as 'building bridges'. This included efforts to reach out to the Unionist community in Northern Ireland. She played a big part in development of Irish-UK relations and hosted the Queen in 2011 for the historic first state visit of a British monarch to the Republic of Ireland.

Here she talks to Dr Dan Mulhall, who has been the Ambassador of Ireland in London since 2013. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland in 1978 and has seen postings in New Delhi, Vienna, Brussels, Edinburgh and Kuala Lumpur. Mulhall is also co-editor with Eugenio Biagini of a new book to be published in March, *The Shaping of Modern Ireland: A Centenary Assessment*.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

President McAleese introduces Seamus Heaney to HM The Queen at the State Banquet at Dublin Castle, May 2011.

Ambassador Dan Mulhall

Supported by
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Ben Okri talks to Paul Blezard

The Magic of Storytelling: A Fireside Chat by Candlelight

6pm / Worcester College: Provost's Lodgings / £12

The Provost of Worcester College Jonathan Bate and his wife Paula warmly welcome you to their 18th-century home for a fireside chat by candlelight between two old friends, Booker-winning author and poet Ben Okri and journalist and writer Paul Blezard.

In the first of what is to be an annual fireside chat in the Provost's Lodgings, Okri and Blezard will discuss life and the magical world of storytelling.

Okri is considered one of the foremost African writers of the post-modern period. At 21, he published his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, and in 1991, *The Famished Road,* which won the Booker Prize. The mixture of the real and the spiritual worlds, in which he particularly draws on the myths and beliefs of his African heritage, has often led Okri to be categorised as a magical realist, although it is a categorisation he rejects. His most recent novel is *The Age of Magic* and his most recent volume of poetry, *Wild*. He has also recently written a new book, *The Mystery Feast: Thoughts on Storytelling*, in which he discusses the purpose and meaning of stories.

Photo: KT Bruce

David Fickling, Jon Walter and Lisa Williamson

Great Children's Books, and How to Spot Them

6pm / The Story Museum / £6 Age 13 – adult

One of the most successful children's books editors of the modern age David Fickling tells what it is like to work with great authors, describes how to spot a good manuscript and explains how a good book can become great when author and editor work together.

Fickling has edited many of the modern children's classics including the *Northern Lights trilogy*, *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. He was the first to suggest Jacqueline Wilson turn her writing attention from teenagers to 9 year olds and paired her with Nick Sharratt. Four years ago he left giant Random House (now Penguin Random House) to set up his own company in Oxford, David Fickling Books. He will be joined on the panel by David Fickling Books authors Jon Walter, writer of the much praised *Close to the Wind* and *My Name's Not Friday,* and Lisa Williamson, whose debut novel *The Art of Being Normal* was one of the best-selling novels for teenagers of 2015.

David Fickling

Jon Walter

Lisa Williamson

Timothy Garton Ash and Mick Hume. Chaired by Stephen Law

In Defence of Free Speech

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Two of the strongest defenders of free speech, political writer Professor Timothy Garton Ash and journalist Mick Hume, debate the issues around freedom of expression under the chairmanship of philosopher Stephen Law.

How do we maintain freedom of expression in a society of different faith and cultures? Are there any taboos that we cannot talk about? How far can we go in challenging limits to our freedom of expression? What are the real threats to freedom of expression – dictatorship or a creeping self-censorship? And what are the implications of the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre for freedom of expression?

Garton Ash is a political writer and professor of European studies at the University of Oxford. Many of his thoughts on free speech are contained in a new collection of his writings, *Facts are Subversive*, and he has a new book, *Free Speech*, out in May. He is also director of the Dahrendorf Programme for the Study of Freedom and leads the Free Speech Debate project.

Hume is editor-at-large of online current affairs magazine *Spiked* and writes regularly on free speech for many national newspapers. In his new book, *Trigger Warning: Is the Fear of Being Offensive Killing Free Speech?*, he argues that unfettered freedom of expression is the most important liberty of all despite the problems it brings.

Law is senior lecturer in philosophy at Heythrop College, University of London. He is also a well-known atheist and humanist writer and blogger.

Photo: Susan Taylor Photography

Timothy Garton Ash

Mick Hume

Presented by

Claudia Roden

Claudia Roden: 80th Birthday Party

7pm /Oxford Brookes University: Brookes Restaurant / £130

Join one of the world's best-known food writers Claudia Roden for her 80th birthday party and enjoy a meal prepared by the acclaimed Spanish chef Josè Pizarro. The evening will include a canapés and drinks reception and a three-course meal. Dress code: business suits/evening wear.

Roden was born and brought up in Cairo. Her bestselling *A Book of Middle Eastern Food* revolutionised attitudes to the cuisine of the Middle East when it was published in 1968. Her work has always been characterised by a particular interest in the social and historical background to the food she is writing about and has received great critical acclaim. Other works include *Mediterranean Cookery with Claudia Roden*, *The Food of Spain* and *The Food of Italy*. Roden is winner of many awards, including six Glenfiddich awards, two Andre Simon awards, four World Gourmand awards, the James Beard Best Cookbook of the Year award in the USA, and the National Jewish Book Award in the USA.

Pizarro worked in the award-winning Meson de Doña Filo in Madrid before moving to London. He opened his first restaurant, Josè Tapas Bar, in 2011, followed by Pizarro Restaurant later that year, and a third restaurant in the Broadgate Circle development in the City last year.

The evening is organised by Oxford Gastronomica, a specialist centre for the study of food, drink and culture that works to enhance our relationship with food and drink and to celebrate their place in our lives, and hosted by Donald Sloan, head of the Oxford School of Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes University and chair of Oxford Gastronomica.

Photo: Tony French

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Kevin Crossley-Holland talks to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: The Breaking Hour

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Novelist and poet Kevin Crossley-Holland talks to fellow writer Jem Poster about his poetry, with particular emphasis on his most recent collection, *The Breaking Hour*.

Crossley-Holland is an award-winning children's author, best known for his Arthur trilogy; the first volume in the series, *The Seeing Stone*, won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award. He won the prestigious Carnegie Medal for *Storm* and was shortlisted for Gatty's Tale. He has also translated *Beowulf* from the Anglo-Saxon. He talks about his latest children's book, *Heartsong*, at another festival event.

Poet and novelist Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Thomas Pakenham

The Company of Trees

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Historian and bestselling writer Thomas Pakenham shares his love of trees and the story of his efforts to establish a large arboretum at his family estate in Tullynally, Ireland.

Pakenham talks of his plantings at Tullynally, his visits to other parks and plantations and of his seed-hunting trips abroad. He recounts his travels to the Tibetan border to satisfy his passion for the magnolia and his trips to Eastern Patagonia to see the remaining giant monkey puzzle trees, and tells how his own Chinese garden was planted entirely with seeds from south-west China. The stories encompass fears about climate change and disease and hope for the future.

Pakenham is author of several critically acclaimed books including *The Year of Liberty, The Boer War* and *The Scramble for Africa*. He is also author and photographer of the bestselling *Meetings with Remarkable Trees, Remarkable Trees of the World* and *In Search of Remarkable Trees: On Safari in Southern Africa*. Pakenham is the son of Labour minister and social reformer Frank Longford and Elizabeth Longford. Among his siblings are writer Lady Antonia Fraser, who was married to Harold Pinter, and novelist Lady Rachel Billington, who also talks at the festival about her new novel *Glory: A Story of Gallipoli*.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Lucy Letherland

Globe-trotting through an Atlas of Adventures

10am / The Story Museum / £6 Age 7+

Bring your pencils and paper and your spirit of adventure to help illustrator Lucy Letherland create a world map in this fun-filled children's drawing workshop.

You will be inspired by more than 100 world adventures from the four corners of the globe in Letherland's award-winning book, *Atlas of Adventures*.

Letherland is an illustrator based in London. Her work is strongly led by humour and narrative, creating a playful, graphic quality. *Atlas of Adventures* is Letherland's first book for children and won the 2015 Educational Writers' Award.

Lucy Lethbridge

Spit and Polish

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Writer Lucy Lethbridge explains the old skills and tricks used to keep a house clean and says we can still learn something from the best and simplest of them.

In *Spit and Polish*, Lethbridge goes back to the 19th-century home when it required an army of servants to keep a big house clean and tidy. She says the way we keep our homes looking good may have changed, but there is much to be gained by going back to the old techniques and skills and embracing them. She looks at how to get rid of water marks or heat rings on polished wood, the anti-bacterial qualities of vinegar, use of lemon juice to clear limescale and provides a bit of social history along the way.

Lethbridge is author of a number of children's books including Blue Peter non-fiction award-winner, *Who was Linda Lovelace?* Her adult work of social history *Servants: A Downstairs View of Twentieth-century Britain* was widely praised. She reviews books for *FT Weekend*.

Photo: Kiloran Howard

Christopher Lloyd

The Complete Plays of William Shakespeare

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

How many plays did Shakespeare write? Which feature ghosts? Which are non-fiction and which are made up? Join Christopher Lloyd on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death on a ride through the roller coaster world of human emotion using an all-new coat with different coloured pockets to represent jealousy (green), anger (red), riches (gold), love (purple), terror (white) and magic (black).

Using the new *What on Earth? Wallbook of Shakespeare*, published in collaboration with The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, this talk explores the world of Shakespeare as a gateway to the entire spectrum of human nature. This family talk is ideal for all curious individuals aged 5 - 105.

The *What on Earth? Wallbook of Shakespeare* is part of a series of What on Earth books created by Lloyd. John Gordon-Reid gives talks on the 4-billion year story of life on Earth and great moments in 10,000 years of science and engineering on Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3. Lloyd gives talks on Magna Carta – 800 years in the fight for rights and freedoms, best moments in British history from the dinosaurs to the present day, and the complete plays of William Shakespeare on Thursday, April 7, Friday April 8, Saturday, April 9, and Sunday April 10.

All the talks are free and no ticket is required.

Tony De Saulles

Horrible Science

12.00 noon / Museum of Natural History / £6

Age 8+

Join Horrible Science illustrator Tony de Saulles in this horribly scientific and hilarious event. You'll return home with a head full of horrible and squishy ideas about what to draw next, and some fun science facts too.

Horrible Science are sister books to the Horrible Histories series and celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2016. They are written by Nick Arnold and illustrated by de Saulles. They are now a major television series on CITV starring Ben Miller.

Helena Attlee, Rudolf von Freyberg and Benedikta von Freyberg

The Land Where Lemons Grow: The Story of Italy and its Citrus Fruit

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Writer Helena Attlee discusses the curious history of citrus-growing in Italy with leading Sicilian citrus farmers Rudolf and Benedikta von Freyberg.

Attlee's book, *The Land Where Lemons Grow*, tells a history of Italy through its citrus-growing from the arrival of citrons in second century Calabria to the Slow Food movement of today. It's a story of history, recipes, horticulture and art that ranges from use of citrus oil in perfumes to the violence of the battle of Oranges in Ivrea, the earliest manifestations of the Mafia in lemon gardens outside Palermo and ongoing links between organised crime and the citrus industry.

Attlee is author of four books about Italian gardens and others about gardens around the world. She has worked in Italy for nearly 30 years. The von Freybergs own the San Giorgio citrus estate in Sicily where they have been growing the island's unique blood oranges for 30 years.

This event is part of Italian day at the festival. A citrus-themed dinner based on recipes from Helena Attlee's book and overseen by the renowned cookery writer Claudia Roden will be held at Worcester College on Friday evening.

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Polly Bagnall and Sally Beck

Ferguson's Gang: the Remarkable Story of the National Trust Gangsters

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Polly Bagnall and Sally Beck reveal the true story of the Ferguson's Gang, an eccentric and anonymous group of women in the 1920s and 30s who were instrumental in the National Trust's fight to save areas such as Cornwall and the Lake District for future generations.

The gang raised huge sums for the trust and delivered them in strange ways, including Victorian coins in a fake pineapple, a hundred pound note in a cigar and £500 with a bottle of homemade sloe gin. Their exploits were reported in the press and, when they made a national appeal for the National Trust, it received a huge response. Bagnall and Beck explain how the campaigners hid behind pseudonyms such as Bill Stickers, Red Biddy, the Bludy Beershop and Sister Agatha, and took their real names to the grave. The two uncovered the real identities and stories behind the women who combined a sense of purpose with a sense of mischief.

Bagnall was born at the National Trust property, Shalford Mill in Surrey. Her grandfather, John Macgregor, was a member of the Ferguson's Gang and known by the pseudonym Artichoke. He restored the derelict mill and other properties in the 1930s. Beck is a national newspaper and magazine journalist.

Polly Bagnall

Daniel Rose

The Harlem Educational Activities Fund

12 noon / Worcester College:
Linbury Building / £12

New York property developer and philanthropist Daniel Rose talks about the acclaimed Harlem Educational Activities Fund he founded in 1989 and which has helped young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully apply to and graduate from leading US colleges and universities.

The Harlem Educational Activities Fund is a mentoring programme that guides inner city children towards becoming college graduates. Its approach is based on instilling values and student learning rather than on the quality of teaching. Around 90% of its students have gone on to colleges and universities and graduated successfully. The junior high school chess teams in Harlem have ranked first in the nation.

Rose is chairman of Rose Associates Inc, the property development and management business. He has developed properties such as the award-winning Pentagon City complex in Arlington and the One Financial Center office tower in Boston. He has also served as an expert adviser to the Secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and as consultant to the Commissioner of Education, US Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He endowed the Daniel Rose Chair in Urban Economics at MIT – America's first in urban economics.

Catherine Fletcher

The Black Prince of Florence: The Spectacular Life and Treacherous World of Alessandro de' Medici

12 noon / Oxford Martin School:
Seminar Room / £12

Historian and adviser to the BBC's *Wolf Hall* series Professor Catherine Fletcher uncovers a tale of assassination, spying and betrayal in Renaissance Italy.

Fletcher explains how the bastard son of a Medici duke and a half-negro maidservant, Alessandro de' Medici, was able to ride into 16th-century Florence and rule the city. He successfully confronts bloody family rivalries and hostility from Italy's oligarchs and reasserts the Medici grip on the city state. Six years later he is murdered in another man's bed by his cousin. Fletcher's account is the first retelling of Alessandro's life in 200 years, and it sheds new light on a world of fabulous wealth, illicit sex, betrayal and vendetta.

Fletcher first worked in politics and the media before returning to university for a PhD in Renaissance history. She is associate professor in history and heritage at Swansea University, author of *The Divorce of Henry VIII: The Untold Story* and *Diplomacy in Renaissance Rome*, and advised the BBC on its adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*.

Festival Ideas Partner

Jim Lee talks to Paul Blezard

Life in B&W

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

World-renowned fashion photographer and film director Jim Lee talks about a life that saw the child of MI5 spies become a sought-after fashion photographer of the 60s and 70s and latterly also a director of commercials and full-length feature films.

Lee reflects on the most important moments of his life; leaving the UK for an uncertain future in Australia at 17; the police arriving at his front door to tell him his son, Orlando, was dead; the day he directed his first movie; the day he discovered his father was a spy; the day he died and miraculously returned to life after 19 days in a coma. Beyond all these, he says the most memorable event in his life was the day he pawned the Leica camera his father gave him, bought a saddle with the proceeds and set off for the Australian outback to find a horse and realise his dream of being a cowboy.

Lee is a photographer and film director based in London. His early work forms part of the permanent collections at the V&A and his work is regularly exhibited at galleries around the world.

Photo: Graham Harrison / www.grahamharrison.com

At the 2011 festival HRH the Princess Royal, President of Save the Children, launched the festival's Programme of African Literature and Culture, with Nigerian Booker prize winner Ben Okri.

Princess Michael of Kent

Quicksilver: A Novel (Anjou 3)

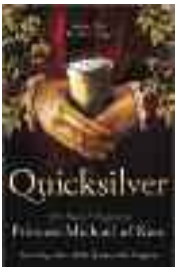
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Bestselling author Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent talks about the third and final volume of her Anjou trilogy, *Quicksilver*.

The story centres on merchant Jacques Coeur, a fiercely ambitious man of humble origins. He rises to become a trusted confidante and champion of the Anjou royal family and one of the richest and most powerful figures in 15th-century France. He is particularly close to Yolande, Queen of the Four Kingdoms, and the beautiful Agnès Sorel. The stories of the three intertwine in devastating fashion and Jacques' ambition and generosity prove to be his downfall.

The Princess is author of five previous books, *The Serpent and the Moon: Two Rivals for the Love of a Renaissance King*, *Crowned in a Far Country: Portraits of Eight Royal Brides*, *Cupid and the King: Five Royal Paramours*, *The Queen of Four Kingdoms*, and *Agnès Sorel Mistress of Beauty*. Her Royal Highness has been lecturing on historical topics for more than 25 years.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.



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Festival Ideas Partner

Timothy Walker

Plants: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden Timothy Walker gives a concise account of the nature of plants, their variety and classification, their evolution and their practical value. He stresses the need for conservation. Walker has been director of the Botanic Garden for more than 20 years.

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Louie Stowell

Astronaut's Handbook

2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 9+

Louie Stowell will take you to space and back, revealing fascinating details about life in orbit, from how to become an astronaut to how you go to the toilet on a space station.

With British astronaut Major Tim Peake now orbiting in space 250 miles above Earth on the International Space Station, this event is all about our journey to the stars. Packed with information, your career as an astronaut could take off here.

Stowell is author of the *Usborne Official Astronaut's Handbook*, which answers all the questions you need to know about being an astronaut and contains a special message from Tim Peake.

Paul Williams

Cristina Odone

The Case for Character and Values

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Journalist and writer Cristina Odone sets out the case for a new values-led agenda to counter the 'bad ideas' of the likes of so-called Islamic State, Vladimir Putin and far-right organisations such as France's Front National.

Odone is director of a new Centre for Character and Values that will be launched by the Legatum Institute in early 2016. She argues that we are losing the high ground to people who believe more strongly in their bad ideas than we do in our good ones. The new centre will be based on the twin pillars of advocacy and inquiry and will make the intellectual case for a values-led agenda across multiple sectors.

Odone has been editor of the *Catholic Herald*, deputy editor of the *New Statesman*, and television critic for *The Daily Telegraph*. She is now a columnist for The *Daily Telegraph* and a contributor to radio and television programmes including *Question Time*. She has written four novels *The Shrine, A Perfect Wife, The Dilemmas of Harriet Carew* and *The Good Divorce Guide*. The Legatum Institute is an international think tank and educational charity that aims to promote prosperity by revitalising capitalism and democracy.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Rachel Billington

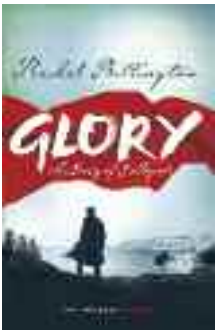
Glory: A Story of Gallipoli

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Novelist Lady Rachel Billington introduces her latest work, *Glory: A Story of Gallipoli*, a novel about the men and women affected by the ill-fated World War I campaign of 100 years ago and inspired by her own family history.

Glory is the story of Arthur Tarrant, an Oxford graduate destined for his uncle's law firm, who leaves behind his fiancée Sylvia and joins the army. He finds himself in Gallipoli where his life becomes entwined with that of Fred Chaffey, a country boy from Dorset. The story recounts the fatal errors of army leaders, the heroism of the men, their relationships and their struggles to understand the horrifying situation.

Billington is author of 20 novels, nine books for children and a number of non-fiction works. She is a regular reviewer and feature writer, co-editor of *Inside Time*, the national newspaper for prisoners, and vice-president of English PEN.



Ian Goldin

The Pursuit of Development, Economic Growth, Social Change and Ideas

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre/ £12

Former vice-president of the World Bank Professor Ian Goldin looks at what we mean by development and what citizens, governments and the international community can do to encourage it.

Goldin explains how the notion of development has expanded from the original focus on incomes and economic growth to a much broader interpretation. He considers the contributions made by education, health, gender and equity, and argues that it is also necessary take into account the rule of law, the role of institutions, and sustainability and environmental concerns.

Goldin is director of the Oxford Martin School and professor of globalisation and development at the University of Oxford. He is a former vice-president of the World Bank and former chief executive of the development Bank of South Africa and advisor to Nelson Mandela.

Photo: David Fisher Photography

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Gaia Servadio

Opera as a Great Substitute for the Novel

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Writer, historian and broadcaster Gaia Servadio explains how the text and lyrics, or librettos, written for the great Italian operas can be considered great literary works in themselves.

Servadio says the librettos have often been disregarded. Three that librettist Da Ponte wrote with Mozart were masterpieces. Servadio explains how many of the librettists of their day were more famous and better paid than the composers. Among them were wonderful characters and witty adventurers who travelled the world. Their collaborations with the composers were very close and many of them were good friends with the leading composers. This event will be illustrated by some of the music discussed.

Servadio is an Italian novelist, essayist and broadcaster who lives in London and has published more than 30 works. She has worked for *Il Mondo*, *La Stampa*, *il Corriere della Sera*, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, the *Observer* and the *Telegraph Group*. She has written extensively on opera including *The Real Traviata* and two biographies of Rossini. She wrote and appeared in a BBC documentary on Verdi.

Christopher Lloyd

Best Moments in British History from Dinosaurs to Present Day

2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 2pm, Thursday 7th, for full details

Frederick Muller talks to Paul Blezard

Orson Welles and Chimes at Midnight

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

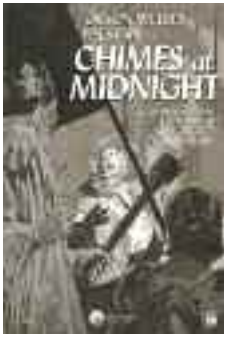
Producer Frederick Muller talks about his work with Orson Welles on one of his best-known films, *Chimes at Midnight*, followed by a showing of the movie.

Muller worked as film editor on two of Welles's movies, *Chimes at Midnight* and *The Trial*. He explains what it was like to work with Welles, how their relationship got off on a stormy footing before settling down, and how Welles would never consider a film finished.

Discussions will be followed by a full screening of *Chimes at Midnight*. The 1966 film is considered one of Welles's masterpieces. He directed it and starred in it as Sir John Falstaff. The plot centres on Shakespeare's recurring character of Falstaff and his father-son relationship with Prince Hal. Welles said the core theme of the film was the betrayal of friendship.

Muller is owner of Eldorado Films. He has worked on many famous films including Nicolas Roeg's *Don't Look Now*, set in Venice, and Franco Zefferelli's semi-autobiographical *Tea with Mussolini*. Here he talks to writer and journalist Paul Blezard.

This event lasts three hours.



Joan Bakewell

Stop the Clocks: Thoughts on What I Leave Behind

4pm / Museum of Natural History / £12

Veteran broadcaster, journalist and writer Dame Joan Bakewell reflects on her life as one of the most recognised and outspoken public figures of recent decades.

Bakewell is now in her 80s and has had spells variously as a teacher, writer, broadcaster, the government's voice of older people, chair of the theatre company Shared Experience, president of Birkbeck College and Labour peer. She looks back at what her family has given her, the times she grew up in, and the lessons of politics, lovers and betrayal. Bakewell also reflects on family, friends and literature today and on what she will leave behind.

Bakewell was brought up in Stockport and went to grammar school. She is author of two novels, *All The Nice Girls* and *She's Leaving Home*, and an autobiography, *The Centre of the Bed*, which touches on her affair with Harold Pinter. She worked on various television programmes before coming to the fore as presenter of the long-running discussion series *Heart of the Matter*.

Photo: Sukey Pannell

Sponsored by

Philip Gross talks to Jem Poster

Conversations with Writers: Love Songs of Carbon

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Prize-winning poet Philip Gross talks to fellow writer Jem Poster about his recent collection, *Love Songs of Carbon*, a remarkable celebration of human love in the face of entropy and decay.

A number of his collections, including *Love Songs of Carbon*, have been Poetry Book Society recommendations, and in 2010 he was winner of both the prestigious T. S. Eliot Prize and the Wales Book of the Year Award. A substantial collection of his work, *Changes of Address: Poems 1980-1998*, was published in 2001.

Poet and novelist Poster is emeritus professor of creative writing, Aberystwyth University, and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Edward Lucas

Cyberphobia: Identity, Trust, Security and the Internet

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Journalist and writer Edward Lucas gives an alarming account of how easy it is for cyber-criminals and those intent on mischief to get access to our online lives and identities.

Lucas explains that cyberspace is not as secure as we might think and that our passwords are no barrier to those intent on getting past them without us knowing. He shows how the rapid growth of the Internet over the last 20 years has created a space for those seeking invisibility. And he shows how secrecy and privacy are not possible for individuals or corporations. With increasing dependence on the Internet, Lucas says this threat to our security is never going to diminish. He explains the best defence strategies and argues that we are moving into a post-digital age where face-to-face communication will be the only interaction that matters.

Lucas is a senior editor at *The Economist* and an expert in energy, intelligence and cyber-security. He covered Eastern Europe for more than 20 years, including the final years of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of Putin. He is also author of *The New Cold War, Deception*, and *The Snowden Operation*.

Photo: Robert Kowalewski

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John Julius Norwich

SOLD OUT

Sicily: A Short History from the Ancient Greeks to Cosa Nostra

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer and broadcaster Viscount John Julius Norwich explains how a visit to Sicily in 1961 first inspired him to be a writer and how his latest book is the result of half a century of fascination with the island.

Norwich says the Strait of Messina dividing Italy and Sicily may only be a few miles but the island itself is a world apart from its parent country. He tries to uncover the dark enigma at the heart of an island that has witnessed erupting volcanoes, the assassination of Byzantine emperors, Nelson's affair with Emma Hamilton and the rise of the Mafia. The island has been fought over and occupied by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Goths, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, Spaniards and the French for thousands of years, says Norwich, but has never properly belonged to any of them.

Norwich is author of many popular works of history including *The Normans in Sicily, A History of Venice* and a three-volume history of the Byzantine Empire. He has written and presented 30 historical documentaries for television. Norwich is the son of the celebrated society figures, politician and diplomat Duff Cooper and lady Diana Cooper, and has written about his family in *Darling Monster: The Letters of Lady Diana Cooper to her Son John Julius Norwich 1939-1952* and *The Duff Cooper Diaries: 1915-1951*.

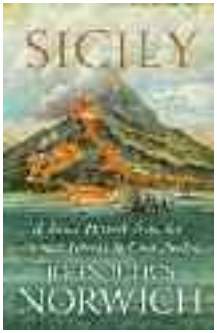

Photo: Camilla Panufnik

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William Richards

Racalia: The Story of an Olive Estate

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Former solicitor William Richards explains how he inherited a family estate in Sicily and built up an olive-growing farm.

Richards qualified as a solicitor in 1968 and practised until his retirement in 1999. He was a regular visitor to his father's cousin in Italy, Manfred Pedicini. Pedicini put back the Sicilian assets of his grandfather and Richards' great-grandfather, Joshua Whitaker, following the Second World War. These assets included Villa Ingham at Racalia. The Whitakers were part owners of the Ingham & Whitaker & Co business that produced and sold Marsala wines and generated a huge fortune.

Pedicini adopted Richards as his son so he could inherit the estate. Following his retirement in 1999, Richards began planting olive trees at Racalia. The estate now has 2015 trees producing 4500 litres of olive oil a year for the UK and Italian markets.

There will be an opportunity to taste and purchase the estate's olive oil following the talk.

Villa Racalia

Peter Hainsworth and David Robey

Dante: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Professors Peter Hainsworth and David Robey look at why Dante is such a vital point of reference for modern writers inside and outside Italy. They explain the meaning of the poet's masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*. Hainsworth is professor emeritus at the University of Oxford and Robey is professor of Italian at Reading University. They are co-editors of the *Oxford Companion to Italian Literature*.

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Joanne Harris

Different Class

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Bestselling novelist Joanne Harris introduces her new and dark psychological thriller, *Different Class*.

The novel follows Latin master Roy Straitley, a teacher who has seen it all in his 30 years at a North Yorkshire grammar school. A new broom has arrived at the struggling school and, while Straitley does his best to resist the accompanying modernisation, a shadow of the past stirs in the shape of a troublemaking boy who still haunts the teacher's dreams 20 years on.

Harris has written bestselling novels across a range of genres including *Chocolat*, which was made into an Oscar-winning movie starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. Other work includes the fantasy novels based on Norse myth, *Runemarks, Runelight* and *The Gospel of Loki*, and the Malbry cycle of dark psychological thrillers, *Gentlemen & Players* and *Blueeyedboy*.

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LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Tim Spector

The Diet Myth

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

One of our leading nutrition experts Professor Tim Spector takes a radical new look at the connection between our guts and our health and says we should stop listening to diet fads.

Spector uses latest cutting-edge science and his own research and case studies to show that we are missing one vital link between our diets and our health – the work done by thousands of previously unknown microbes in our guts. He argues that we will only overcome confusion about our diets and restore a healthy balance if we understand the actions of those microbes. It is by embracing diversity rather than fad diets that we will regain the balance of our ancestors.

Spector is professor of genetic epidemiology at King's College London and hon consultant physician at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, and is often consulted by television and media for his views on diet. He leads the largest microbiome project in the UK, which is using genetic sequencing to study the bacteria in the guts of 5,000 twins.

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Nick Barnard

Making Ethical Business a Success

6pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Successful entrepreneur and co-founder of Rude Health Nick Barnard explains how to make a success of creating and running an ethical business.

Barnard founded the healthy food and drinks company Rude Health with his wife Camilla in 2005. It has since grown rapidly, winning awards for taste and ethical standards, including six Soil Association Organic Food Awards and 15 Great Taste Awards. Rude Health is also recognised in CoolBrands list of Britain's trendiest brands. Barnard has also founded the pioneering online pet store petspark.com and is an advisor to Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch community farms.

Barnard also joins a healthy eating panel with Madeleine Shaw and Calgary Avansino on Saturday April 9 to talk about his recipe book, *Eat Right*, in which he celebrates the traditional and inherited values of using an ever changing seasonal variety of natural ingredients.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Nicholas Parsons talks to Paul Blezard

Welcome to Just a Minute: A Celebration of Britain's Best Loved Radio

6pm / Museum of Natural History / £12

Broadcaster and entertainer Nicholas Parsons celebrates the best and most hilarious moments from six decades and 900 episodes of Radio 4's hugely popular *Just a Minute* show, in which panel members are challenged to speak for one minute without repetition or deviation on any subject that comes up.

Parsons, presenter of *Just a Minute*, and the only person never to have missed a show, has written the very first *Just a Minute Book*. He tells the story of the show from its inauspicious first pilot, through television and stage versions, to today's version, which pulls in 2.51 million listeners every week.

Highlights of the show have included Kenneth Williams' funny battles with Sheila Hancock, Paul Merton's flights of fancy, Clement Freud's acerbic wit, Julian Clary's innuendo, Jenny Eclair's brutal honesty, Gyles Brandreth's monologues, Graham Norton's celebrity gossip and Sue Perkins' infectious enthusiasm. Parsons explains how the show has welcomed more than 200 entertainers to its panel and how it has adapted over the years as each new generation of entertainers has joined.

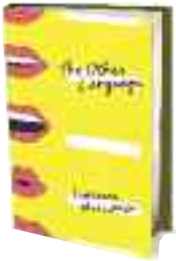
Parsons first came to the fore in the late 50s in a comedy partnership with Arthur Haynes. Alongside *Just a Minute*, he is well known for presenting *Sale of the Century* and for his chat show at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Francesca Marciano

The Other Language

6pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Acclaimed Italian novelist and Oscar-nominated script writer Francesca Marciano talks about her new collection of short stories *The Other Language*. Marciano left Rome at 21 to live in New York for 10 years. She then spent a decade in Kenya, which inspired her first novel, *Rules of the Wild*. All her books are written in English. Her second novel, *Cassa Rossa*, is set in Puglia, and her third, *The End of Manners*, reflects on the time she spent in Afghanistan.



'Marciano's stories are never less than engaging.'
Erica Wagner, *The New York Times*

Claudia Roden

Dinner: The Land Where Lemons Grow

Guest of Honour HRH Princess Michael of Kent
In the presence of The Italian Ambassador
HE Pasquale Q Terracciano

8pm reception 8.45pm dinner /
Worcester College: Hall / £130 / Business suits

Celebrated food writer Claudia Roden creates a citrus-themed menu based on Helena Attlee's book, *The Land Where Lemons Grow: The Story of Italy and its Citrus Fruit*. The price includes a drinks reception in the 18th-century Provost's Lodgings and a three-course meal with wines and coffee.

The dinner is in celebration of a series of Italian-themed events at this year's festival which include Attlee discussing the curious history of citrus-growing in Italy with leading Sicilian citrus farmers Rudolf and Benedikta von Freyberg. *The Land Where Lemons Grow* tells a history of Italy through its citrus-growing, from the arrival of citrons in second-century Calabria to the Slow Food movement of today.

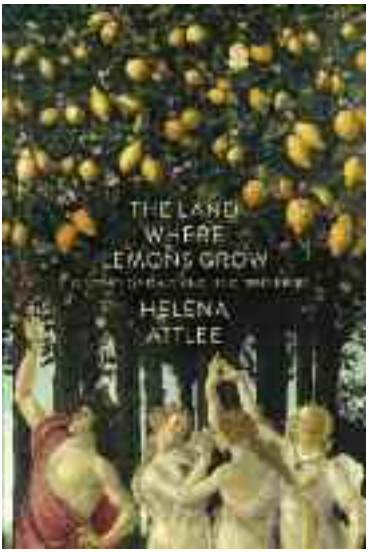
Roden is winner of many awards, including six Glenfiddich awards, two Andre Simon awards, four World Gourmand awards, the James Beard Best Cookbook of the Year award in the USA, and the National Jewish Book Award in the USA. Her classic books include *The Food of Italy and A Book of Middle Eastern Food*. She speaks about her life and work at another festival event, and her 80th birthday is celebrated at a festival dinner on Thursday.

The Hall, Worcester College

In association with the Italian Cultural Institute

Photo: Jason Lowe

Claudia Roden



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Jessica Harris
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Juliet Sear
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"KT is individual and brilliant." Nicholas Parsons

"Her pictures have it all... creativity, humour, charm and insight."

John Harris, President of the Oxford Literary Festival

Jem Poster, Louis de Bernières, Joanne Harris and D J Taylor

The Writer's Art: a Masterclass with 4 Leading Novelists

9am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £40-£70

Join leading writers Jem Poster, Louis de Bernières, Joanne Harris and D J Taylor for a full-day or half-day masterclass in the writer's art.

This event is for aspiring writers and curious readers. Perhaps you want to know more about the process of writing in order to enhance your own creative work; or perhaps you are simply curious about the thoughts and working lives of writers. You will be able to hear and question practising authors on matters relating to their complex and fascinating vocation.

The day will consist of four 75-minute sessions, chaired by Jem Poster, who will also contribute one of the talks. The other three talks will be given by Louis de Bernières, Joanne Harris and D J Taylor, who will all provide insights into their own writing lives and, in the process, clarify issues of interest to anyone who wants to understand the writer's art.

Festival-goers can book the whole day or the morning or afternoon session. The cost includes coffee/tea in the morning and afternoon breaks. Lunch is available to buy at Worcester College Buttery.

Morning sessions	
9.00-10.15	Jem Poster
coffee break	
11.00-12.15	Louis de Bernières
lunch break	
Afternoon sessions	
2.00- 3.15	Joanne Harris
coffee break	
4.00-5.15	D J Taylor

Poster is the author of two novels, *Courting Shadows* and *Rifling Paradise*, as well as a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light*. He is a former professor of creative writing at Aberystwyth University, is currently programme advisor to the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education's MSt in creative writing and director of its International Summer Programme in Creative Writing; he is an affiliated lecturer of the institute. Poster is director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

de Bernières published his first novel in 1990 and was selected by *Granta* magazine as one of the 20 Best of Young British Novelists in 1993. *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Novel and *A Partisan's Daughter* was shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award. *Notwithstanding: Stories from an English Village* was published in 2009. His first collection of poetry, *Imagining Alexandria: Poems in Memory of Constantinos Cavafis*, was published in 2013 and his latest novel, *The Dust That Falls From Dreams*, appeared in 2015.

Harris's third novel, *Chocolat*, was made into an Oscar-nominated film, starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. Since then she has written 15 more novels (including *Blackberry Wine, Five Quarters of the Orange, The Coastliners, Holy Fools, Gentlemen and Players, The Lollipop Shoes* and *Runelight*) two collections of short stories and three cookbooks. Her books are now published in over 50 countries and have won a number of British and international awards.

D J Taylor is the author of two acclaimed biographies, *Thackeray*, and *Orwell: The Life*, which won the Whitbread Biography Prize in 2003. He has written 11 novels, the most recent being *The Windsor Faction*, joint winner of the Sidewise Award for Alternate History, *Derby Day*, long-listed for the Man Booker Prize, *At the Chime of a City Clock, Ask Alice* and *Kept: A Victorian Mystery*. His journalism appears in *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday, The Guardian, The Tablet, The Spectator* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Jem Poster

Louis de Bernières

Joanne Harris

D J Taylor

Cerrie Burnell

Harper and the Secret Umbrella

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £6 Age 6+

Children's TV presenter Cerrie Burnell talks about her wonderful new series following the adventures of Harper and her scarlet umbrella.

Told with Cerrie's trademark beauty and wonder, prepare to be whisked away to a very magical world of stories.

"Once there was a girl called Harper who had a rare musical gift. She heard songs on the wind, rhythms on the rain and hope in the beat of a butterfly's wing."

Burnell is a CBeebies presenter. She was named in *The Observer's* top ten children's presenters and was in *The Guardian's* 2011 list of most inspirational women. She is also author of two children's picture books, *Snowflakes* and *Mermaid*.

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Ingrid Seward

The Queen's Speech

10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Royal journalist Ingrid Seward explains how the speeches of Queen Elizabeth II shed light on the thoughts and personality of the longest reigning monarch in British history.

While some critics have dismissed the Queen's speeches as bland fare, Seward argues that speeches such as the traditional Christmas address to the nation have been subtly revealing of her character and response to adversity. Seward looks at the first broadcast of the teenage Princess Elizabeth to a war-torn nation in 1940, through to the *annus horribilis* and on to the speeches of today. Seward explains how the Queen has addressed issues such as the role of women in society, the challenges faced by early immigrants, the space age and the Internet era. She picks out the most important moments in Elizabeth's life and shows how she responded to them.

Seward is editor-in-chief of *Majesty*, a monthly magazine that covers the activities of royal families from around the world. She is author of more than a dozen books on the British royal family, including *Diana; William & Harry; The Queen and Di; The Last Great Edwardian Lady;* and *A Century of Royal Children*. Seward is internationally acknowledged as an expert on royalty and regularly appears on radio and television to provide insight into the life of the royals.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Patti Boulaye talks to Paul Blezard

The Faith of a Child: The Autobiography of Patti Boulaye

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

International singing star and actress Patti Boulaye talks about her life and her new book, *The Faith of a Child: The Autobiography of Patti Boulaye*, which recounts her childhood in Nigeria during the Biafra War.

Boulaye was born Patricia Ngozi Ebigwei into a strict Catholic family in Nigeria. She survived the Biafra War and set off for the United Kingdom at 16 to become a nun. During a sightseeing trip, she stood in a queue for what she thought was Madame Tussauds but turned out to be for an audition for the original West End production of *Hair*. She won a part, launching a singing and acting career that has seen her appear in several West End musicals, win the ITV talent show *New Faces*, appear in the biggest grossing African film ever, *Bisi, Daughter of the River*, and release nine albums and 25 singles. She was one of the leading black British entertainers of the 1970s and 1980s and had her own show on Channel 4.

Today, much of Boulaye's focus is on charity work, in particular the charity she founded, Support for Africa. It has built five clinics in rural Africa and a school with Prince Harry's charity, Sentebale, in Lesotho. She regularly performs in and directs major sell-out concerts for her charity at the Royal Albert Hall featuring acts such as Cliff Richard and Boney M. Boulaye was awarded an OBE last year for her charity work. She has recently been seen on the BBC 2 series, *The Real Marigold Hotel*, where she was part of an all-star cast that included Miriam Margoyles, Wayne Sleep and Jan Leeming taken to India for three weeks to see if they would consider retiring there. Here she talks to writer and journalist Paul Blezard.

Photo: KT Bruce

DJ Taylor

The Prose Factory: Literary Life in Britain Since 1918

10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Novelist, biographer and literary critic DJ Taylor takes a look at the UK's literary history of the last 100 years, from the battle between traditionalists and modernists to the infighting of the 1930s, the post-war new man and the modern creative writing degrees and media dons.

Taylor explores the many influences on literary life over the last century and how they have shaped our reading preferences. He looks at the taste of highbrow critics and the taste of ordinary book buyers reading the bestsellers of their day. And he looks at the personalities, including the star reviewers, the sniping critics, editors and the Arts Council functionaries. Taylor finds a world that is changing rapidly and one in which writers find it harder to make a living and critical authority is giving way to the world of Twitter, Facebook and the blogosphere.

Taylor writes regularly on books for a host of national newspapers and magazines. He is also a biographer and novelist. His *Orwell: the Life* won the Whitbread prize for Biography and his most recent novel, *The Windsor Faction*, was joint winner of the Sidewise Award for Alternate History.

Jonathan Stroud, Chris Riddell, Abi Elphinstone and Alex Wheatle

The Great British Creative Challenge

10am /Bodleian: Divinity School / £6 Age 8+

Four authors explain how they unlock their creativity and spark their imagination. What did they create when they were young? And why do they believe everyone should have more free time in their lives to explore, invent and dream?

With the help of the audience, the panel will create models and artwork live on stage, and every audience member will get a free creative pack to take home afterwards to invent their own creations.

'Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up' **Pablo Picasso**

Jonathan Stroud is the founder of the creativity campaign, Freedom to Think. He is author of the Lockwood & Co series and the Bartimaeus Sequence. Chris Riddell is the Children's Laureate and author of the Costa Book Award-winning *Goth Girl*. Abi Elphinstone is author of fantasy adventure novels *The Dreamsnatcher* and *The Shadow Keeper*, and Alex Wheatle is author of *Brixton Rock*, *The Dirty South* and *Brenton Brown*.

Jonathan Stroud

Photo: Walter White

Alex Wheatle

Christopher Lloyd

Magna Carta: 800 Years in the Fight for Rights and Freedoms

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 11am, Thursday 7th, for full details

William Chislett

Should Turkey join the European Union?

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Writer and journalist William Chislett looks at Turkey's long and winding road to European Union membership, which began in 2005 when it set out on its accession process.

Turkey's situation at the crossroads of world affairs means membership would have profound consequences. Chislett explains how the membership process is in a special category of its own because of the country's huge size, economic under development and Muslim religion. The main stumbling block to negotiations is Ankara's refusal to extend its customs union with the EU and open its ports and airports to Greek-Cypriot traffic. The creeping authoritarianism of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has also been criticised.

Chislett, a former foreign correspondent for *The Times* and the *Financial Times*, lives in Madrid and writes about Turkey and Spain for the Real Instituto Elcano, whose honorary president is King Felipe VI. He has published two books on Turkey. He speaks at another event at the festival on how Spain has changed 80 years after the start of its 1936-39 Civil War.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
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Calgary Avansino, Madeleine Shaw and Nick Barnard

Eating your Way to Health and Wellbeing

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Three advocates of healthy eating, journalist and *Vogue* contributing editor Calgary Avansino, nutritional health coach Madeleine Shaw, and co-founder of Rude Health Nick Barnard discuss their different approaches to diet and how we can have a healthy relationship with ourselves and our food.

In her new book, *Keep it Real: Healthy doesn't have to be Hard*, Avansino argues we should eat more wholefoods, vegetables and plants, limit sugar, cut out processed food and swap out dairy, wheat and animal fat. Shaw argues similarly in *Get the Glow* and *Ready Steady Glow* that eating foods that do not contain refined sugar and wheat, combined with thinking positively, can help to heal gut issues and increase vitality. In his book, *Eat Right*, Barnard celebrates the traditional and inherited values of using an ever changing seasonal variety of natural ingredients. All three demonstrate how you can practise what they preach with recipes based on their outlook on diet.

Avansino was raised a vegetarian by health-conscious parents in the United States. She is well known as an advocate of healthy living and argues that having a plant-based diet does not mean waving goodbye to your favourite meals. Shaw was used to waking up feeling bloated and unhealthy because of her diet but a spell helping to run a health café was a revelation. She began to eat meat and good fats and within a week or two her vitality and health returned. She is now a trained nutritional health coach, food blogger and creative cook. Barnard is an entrepreneur who co-founded the healthy food and drinks company Rude Health and the online pet store petspark.com. He also gives another festival talk on creating a successful ethical business.

Calgary Avansino

This event forms part of a series by Oxford Gastronomica.

Margaret Willes

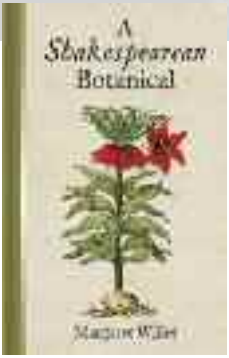
The Grace of Plants: Shakespeare and Botany

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Author and former publisher Margaret Willes talks about plant references in Shakespeare with help from exquisite hand-drawn illustrations from a copy of John Gerard's 1597 herbal held in the Bodleian.

Shakespeare refers to the 'powerful grace' of plants in *Romeo and Juliet*, and it is clear from his works that he was familiar with a wide range of botany: flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables. Falstaff invites the sky to rain potatoes, newly introduced to Elizabethan England and thought to be an aphrodisiac, while Lady Capulet orders quinces for Juliet's marriage feast to aid fertility. In her talk about Shakespeare's references to plants, Willes also calls upon the exquisite hand-coloured illustrations from the copy of John Gerard's 1597 herbal in the Bodleian Library.

Willes is a former publisher and author of *A Shakespearean Botanical; Pick of the Bunch: The Story of Twelve Treasured Flowers;* and *The Making of the English Gardener: Plants, Books and Inspiration 1560–1660*.



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John Kay and Joris Luyendijk

Heart of the City: What is Really Wrong with our Financial System

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Financial Times columnist and academic Professor John Kay and anthropologist Joris Luyendijk look at the culture at the heart of the City and argue that it is time for change in the financial world.

Kay and Luyendijk discuss what they see as an alarming culture at the heart of the UK's financial system. They look at what has gone wrong and argue that it is time to put an end to banker bashing and to encourage reform from within. And they warn that the politics of today could be sending us back to the light-touch regulation that was behind the 2008 financial crisis.

Kay is author of *Other People's Money: the Real Business of Finance*. He says he believes in good banks and effective asset managers, but they are not what he finds in today's financial world. He argues the finance sector spends too little time looking for new investment opportunities and looking after its existing ones and too much time secondary-market dealing in existing assets. Kay is visiting professor of economics at the London School of Economics and a fellow of St John's College, Oxford. He is a director of several public companies, writes a weekly column in the *Financial Times*, and is author of nine previous books, including with Mervyn King *The British Tax System*.

Luyendijk is author of *Swimming with Sharks: My Journey into the World of the Bankers*. He is an anthropologist and knew little about bankers until he was assigned to investigate the financial sector for the *Guardian*. He spoke to more than 200 hundred city insiders at all levels and uncovered what he says are the perverse incentives at the heart of the City. Luyendijk has also written three books about the Middle East, including *Hello Everybody*.

John Kay

Photo: Fjodor Buis
Joris Luyendijk

Lucy Worsley

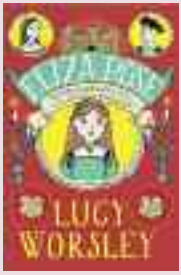
Eliza Rose, Maid of Honour at the court of Henry VIII

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15 Age 11+

Popular historian, television presenter and Tudor specialist Lucy Worsley introduces her brand new children's novel set at the court of Henry VIII.

Eliza Rose tells the story of maid of honour Eliza Camperdowne and of Katherine Howard, Henry's fifth wife. "I wrote my story out of a sense of burning injustice at the unfairness of the horrible execution of Katherine Howard," says Lucy, "I'd like to think that it might inspire some budding future curator of Hampton Court Palace, just as I was inspired in my own day by Jean Plaidy's novels for young people."

Worsley is chief curator at Historic Royal Palaces, the independent charity that runs the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace. She has published non-fiction books on architecture, palace life and, most recently, the history of murder. They include *If Walls Could Talk: An Intimate History of the Home*, which became a bestseller in America after being chosen for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club. She also presents documentaries for the BBC, including the recent *Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance* series with Len Goodman of *Strictly Come Dancing*, and *Britain's Tudor Treasure* with David Starkey. *Eliza Rose* is the first in a new series of books for children.



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Yang-May Ooi

Bound Feet Blues – Doing the Unimaginable

12 noon / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer and performer Yang-May Ooi explores what led women to do the unimaginable in breaking and binding their daughters' feet for the sake of beauty – and why the ancient Chinese practice of footbinding is still relevant in modern times.

Ooi draws from the themes of love and courage in her one-woman show, *Bound Feet Blues – A Life Told in Shoes*, inspired by her great-grandmother who had bound feet, and discusses what it means to do the unimaginable today. She will also perform a short extract from her show.

Ooi is a bestselling author, TEDx speaker and acclaimed writer and performer of Chinese-Malaysian heritage. She is author of the novels, *The Flame Tree* and *Mindgame*, and of a memoir, *Bound Street Blues*. The show. *Bound Feet Blues – A Life told in Shoes*, performed in Malaysian English and Standard English, interweaves the story of her great-grandmother and Ooi's own search for her sexual identity. Its three-week run in the West End was largely sold out and has been described as "stunning, moving, memorable and beautiful".

Ooi is a graduate of St Hilda's College and this event is part of St Hilda's day at the festival.

Antonia Hodgson, Robyn Young and Jason Hewitt

Three Writers Talk About Their Work

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Three writers of historical fiction, Antonia Hodgson, Robyn Young and Jason Hewitt join to talk about their writing under the watchful eye of journalist and writer Lucy Atkins.

Hodgson is author of the CWA Historical Dagger winner *The Devil in the Marshalsea* and its sequel *The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins*. The latter finds its hero Thomas Hawkins being dragged to the gallows through the streets of 18th-century London, charged with a murder of which he is innocent. The novel is based loosely on actual events.

Young is the bestselling author of the Bretheren trilogy, set during the Crusades, and the Insurrection trilogy, set in the time of Kind Edward and Robert the Bruce. The first book in her next New World Rising series is due out in the summer and is set a decade after the end of the War of the Roses.

Hewitt is a novelist and playwright. His first novel, *The Dynamite Room*, was set during World War II. His latest, *Devastation Road*, is set in Europe during the dying days of the same conflict.

Antonia Hodgson

Robyn Young

Jason Hewitt

Stephen Smith

Taxation: A Very Short Introduction

1.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Economics professor Stephen Smith explains how taxes have real effects on people and the economy that policy-makers have to balance. He says decisions about taxation would be improved if the public had a better understanding of the role of tax and the nature and effect of different taxes. Smith is a professor of economics at University College London and a former deputy director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

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Helen Simpson, Frances Leviston and Kirsty Gunn. Chaired by Claire Armitstead.

The Art of the Short Story

2pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Three notable writers of short stories, Helen Simpson, Frances Leviston and Kirsty Gunn explore their approaches to the writing of short stories.

Simpson has a new collection of short stories out, *Cockfosters*, that deal with ageing, ambition and the patterns of repetition and renewal found in long friendships and marriages. It is Simpson's sixth collection of short stories. Her work has received the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, the Hawthornden Prize and the E M Forster Award.

Leviston is a poet who has published two collections of verse, *Public Dream* – shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize – and *Disinformation*. Her recent short story, *Broderie Anglaise*, was shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award and broadcast on radio.

Gunn's most recent collection of short stories, *Infidelities*, was shortlisted for the Edge Hill Prize and the Frank O'Connor Award. She has won many awards, including the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and has just published a new book on the writer Katherine Mansfield.

Discussions will be chaired by Claire Armitstead, literary editor of *The Guardian*.

All four are graduates of St Hilda's College, and this event is part of St Hilda's day at the festival.

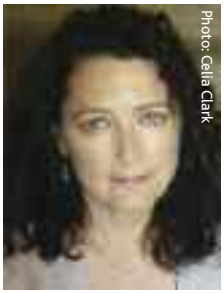
Photo: Celia Clark

Helen Simpson

Frances Leviston

Kirsty Gunn

Claire Armitstead

St Hilda's College

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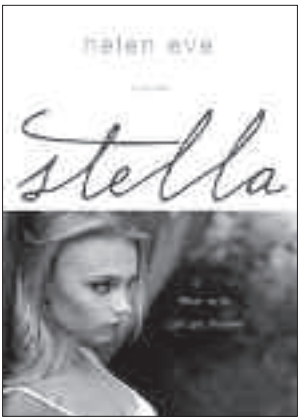

Helen Eve, Stella,
Pan/MacMillan UK/US 2014

Catherine Chanter, The Well,
Canongate (UK) Simon & Schuster (US), 2015

Kit de Waal, pictured with Philip Pullman at the 2013 Brookes MA Showcase, signed a major three-book (2014) deal with Penguin (UK)/Viking (US)

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Kevin Crossley-Holland, Jane Ray and Flavia Hirte

Heartsong: A Storybook Duet

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £6 Age 7+

Travel to 18th-century Venice with author-illustrator team Kevin Crossley-Holland and Jane Ray and explore stories of the city's famous orphanage, the Ospedale della Pietà, and its music master Antonio Vivaldi.

A few scribbled notes in Ray's sketchbook made during an afternoon in the Vivaldi Museum in Venice inspired the beautiful *Heartsong*. Ray filled her sketchbook with drawings – shadows and reflections, the soft greeny-grey of the water, the face of an abandoned little girl. They in turn inspired Crossley-Holland to write about one of the Ospedale's orphans in a story filled with silence, magic and music. Hear them talk about their book, see Ray's sketches and illustrations and listen to some live music, including passages from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* played on the flute by Flavia Hirte.

Ray has illustrated numerous children's books, including *Fairy Tales* by Berlie Doherty, *The King of Capri* by Jeanette Winterson, *The Lost Happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy and *Moonbird* by Joyce Dunbar. She has also written her own stories including *Can You Catch a Mermaid?*, *The Dolls House Fairy* and *Ahmed and the Feather Girl*.

Crossley-Holland's Arthur trilogy was translated into 25 languages and has sold well over one million copies. He is a poet, historical novelist for children and authority on traditional tale who has presented many BBC radio programmes and is a frequent speaker at schools and libraries. He is the president of the School Library Association, a patron of the Society of Storytelling, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Jane Ray

Flavia Hirte

Rebecca Abrams

Finding your Story, The Art of Narrative In Business

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Novelist, journalist and business coach Rebecca Abrams explains how understanding the architecture of storytelling is essential to good business, and explores ways of harnessing strong storytelling to the service of authentic and effective business.

The need for clear, compelling stories is greater than ever in the increasingly complex worlds in which we live and work. In business, effective stories help create purpose and focus for ourselves, our teams, and our clients. But how do you know if your stories are having the effect you want? How can you be true to your own story while crafting stories for professional purposes? What are the ethics of story-telling in highly competitive settings? Find out in this lecture if your leadership story needs a tweak, a second draft, or a radical rewrite.

Abrams is an award-winning author and journalist. Her novel, *Touching Distance*, was shortlisted for the McKitterick Prize for Literature, and her forthcoming book, *The Jewish Journey: 4000 years in 22 Objects*, will be published by the Ashmolean in 2016. Abrams is a regular reviewer for the *Financial Times* and former columnist on the *Daily Telegraph*, teaches on the executive education programmes at the Said Business School and is a core tutor on the masters in creative writing at the University of Oxford.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Adam Sisman

John Le Carré: The Biography

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

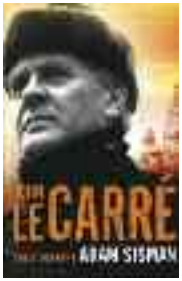
Biographer Adam Sisman explains how he uncovered the real man behind John Le Carré, the author of some of the bestselling and most influential novels of the last 50 years.

Sisman had exclusive access to David Cornwell, the writer behind the John Le Carré pen name, and to his private archive, his friends, enemies, ex-lovers and ex-intelligence colleagues. The result is an insightful biography that finds the origins for the themes of love and abandonment in Le Carré's fiction in a difficult childhood when he was left in the sole care of his conman father. Sisman recounts Cornwell's recruitment by MI5 and MI6, his marriages and his emergence as the master of the spy novel. He also explores the human significance of espionage reflected in Cornwell's life and work, including of betrayal, love and the need for forgiveness.

Sisman has written biographies of AJP Taylor and Hugh Trevor-Roper. His *Boswell's Presumptuous Task* was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize and won the US National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography. Le Carré appeared at the 2010 Oxford Literary Festival.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

Photo: Jonathan Ring



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Liz Pichon

Tom Gates: Top of the Class

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15 Age 6+

Tom Gates comes to Oxford. Festival favourite bestselling author Liz Pichon is ready to turn Oxford into the brilliant world of Tom Gates.

Pichon will read from the latest Tom Gates book, *Tom Gates: Top of the Class*, as well as from other favourite adventures, *Extra Special Treats* and *Genius Ideas*. She will also lead fun-packed quizzes and show you how to doodle just like Tom. Doodling materials will be supplied.

Pichon studied graphic design and has worked as an art director. The Tom Gates series of books has sold a million in the UK alone and been translated into 36 languages. *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, The Red House Book Award Best Book for Young Readers and the Waterstone¹s Best Fiction for 5-12 year olds Prize.

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Nicholas Parsons

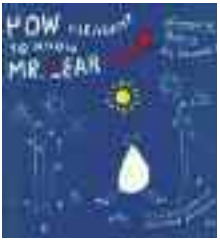
How Pleasant to Know Mr Lear

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Broadcaster and entertainer Nicholas Parsons presents a portrait of the nonsensical genius Edward Lear and conveys a rounded picture of the man's amazing life and unusual personality. He illustrates Lear's remarkable fantasy world though skillful and sympathetic delivery of his highly imaginative and delightful nonsense verse.

This event is based on Parsons' one man show on Lear, who is best remembered for his nonsense verse including *The Owl and the Pussycat, The Jumblies*, *The Pobble* and *The Dong with the Luminous Nose*. Parsons will give a picture of Lear's life, background, family and work and deliver poems to illustrate how they arose naturally out of the fantasy world he created to survive the difficulties of his personal life.

Parsons has worked in every branch of show business including serious acting, comedy performance, stand-up and cabaret. He first made his name in 1960s television in partnership with fellow comedian Arthur Haynes. Parsons is best known as the host for 48 years of BBC radio 4's *Just a Minute*, and as presenter of television's *Sale of the Century*, which ran for 14 years. He starred in the West End of London in a number of plays and musicals. He can be seen at another festival event on the history of *Just a Minute*.



Christopher Lloyd

Best Moments in British History from Dinosaurs to Present Day

2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 2pm, Thursday 7th, for full details

Martin Scurr and Cosmo Scurr. Chaired by Jane Haynes

Doctors Dissected

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Experienced GP and *Daily Mail* columnist Martin Scurr and his doctor son Cosmo Scurr discuss with psychotherapist Jane Haynes how doctors deal with life, death and the intimate details of their patients on a daily basis and how their roles are changing in the new NHS.

Haynes and Martin Scurr interviewed doctors to find out what made them join the profession and what they think of their role in the modern NHS. The result is a book, *Doctors Dissected*, that is both a contemplation on the changes in the NHS and an exploration of the doctor's often difficult relationship with both the profession and patient. One of the key doctors featured in the book was Cosmo Scurr.

Haynes is a relational psychotherapist and partner in intheconsultingroom.com. She originally trained as an actor but decided to train as a Jungian psychoanalyst after reading *The Divided Self*. She is also author of *Who is it that can tell me who I am? The journal of a Psychotherapist*. Martin Scurr has spent 40 years as a GP and writes the Ask the Doctor column for the *Daily Mail*. Cosmo Scurr is a fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. He is about to take up a post as an air ambulance doctor.

Martin Scurr

Jane Haynes

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Chris Riddell

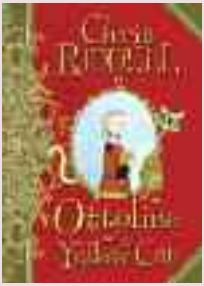
Ask the Laureate

4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £6-£15

Meet the new Children's Laureate Chris Riddell, hear about his love of drawing and watch him draw the answers to your questions.

On his appointment to the post, Riddell said he wanted to show everyone how much fun you can have with a pencil, so he will be drawing the answers to your questions. The lucky questioners will take their doodle-answers home with them, a unique piece of art from one of our greatest illustrators.

Riddell is the genius behind a vast range of books loved by children and adults, including *Alienography*, the *Ottoline* series, and the Costa Book Award-winning *Goth Girl* series. He also illustrated Paul Stewart's The Edge Chronicles and Russell Brand's *Pied Piper of Hamelin*. He has twice won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal and still manages to produce political cartoons for *The Observer*.



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Frederic Raphael talks to David Pryce-Jones

Anti-Semitism

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Novelist and screenwriter Frederic Raphael talks to fellow writer David Pryce-Jones about two thousand years of persecution of the Jews and explains how the Jewish religion continues to thrive despite this history of violence.

Raphael was born into a Jewish family, and a fight against anti-Semitism has been a consistent theme of his life and writing. He has written *Anti-Semitism* as part of a new *Provocations* series of short polemics by leading voices in contemporary culture. He looks back over 2,000 years to explain why people have been killing Jews for so long. He says anti-Judaism mutated into anti-Semitism and has now mutated into anti-Israelism.

Raphael has written more than 20 novels. He won an Oscar for his screenplay for *Darling* and he was named Royal Television Society Writer of the Year for his BBC adaptation of his novel, *The Glittering Prizes*. He talks about his memoir, *Going Up: To Cambridge and Beyond*, at a second festival event. Pryce-Jones is a novelist, former literary editor of the *Financial Times* and *The Spectator*, and author of *Betrayal: France, the Arabs, and the Jews*, and *The Closed Circle*.

John Harris

Gin and Tonic Tasting

4pm / Worcester College: Hall / £23

Join John Harris for the festival's annual gin and tonic tasting. The pursuit of excellence in well-flavoured aperitifs is the goal of the annual tasting, an event now attracting a cult following of dogged researchers of all adult ages, hot on the trail of botanical bounty and the perfect pick-me-up.

Gin, the sophisticated cocktail ingredient with a vibrant history, has made a great journey to become Britain's favourite spirit aperitif. Today, this versatile, restorative beverage offers an astonishing range of flavours, fragrances and varieties. Britain is still home to the world's best dry gins, a reputation enhanced by a proliferation of innovative boutique products, challenged by continental newcomers, and enhanced by a sparkling new range of tonics.

This is another great opportunity to advance the frontiers of knowledge and appreciation, again in pursuit of the perfect balance between gin strength and tonic flavour. The findings of previous G&T seminars will be re-evaluated, but further research is always required. So, please step forward and join Harris, festival president and gin enthusiast, who leads a tasting of contrasting gins, flavoured by mysterious botanicals and exotic fruits. Discover your favourite G&T combination – and remember to come on the bus.

John Harris is president of the Literary Festival and Steward Emeritus of Christ Church.

This responsibly run event, which usually lasts up to 90 minutes, is open to participants aged 21 and above – proof of age may be required.

Photo: KT Bruce

Stephen Harris

Plants and Civilization

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Plant curator Stephen Harris explains the important role played by plants in civilization and how much we depend on products derived from them.

Plants are fundamental to the food we eat, the medicines we take; even the air we breathe. We daily come into contact with products derived from more than 50 different plant species. Some of these plants are native to Britain; the vast majority have been introduced. We depend on plants or plant products that have migrated to our shores. Harris describes how plants have played important roles in the development of western civilization ranging from farming, medical and bureaucratic systems, through economics, transportation and energy to science and art.

Harris is Druce Curator of the Oxford University Herbaria and a university research lecturer. He is author of *What Have Plants Ever Done for Us? Western Civilization in Fifty Plants*.

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Hannah Rothschild talks to Nicolette Jones

The Improbability of Love

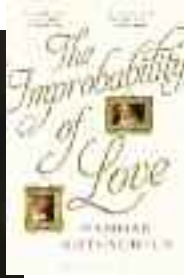
4pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer and film director Hannah Rothschild talks about her novel, *The Improbability of Love*, which explores the confusion and turmoil of life and both the depths to which the human soul can sink and the heights to which it can soar.

The title takes its name from a lost masterpiece by 18th-century French painter, Antoine Watteau found by the hero Annie McDee in a second-hand shop. Annie is alone after the ending of a relationship and in a dead-end job. She sets out to discover the true identity of the painting and finds herself pursued by a series of characters who would do anything to possess the painting.

Rothschild's documentary films have appeared on the BBC and the American cable channel HBO. She has written scripts for director Ridley Scott and Working Title Films. Rothschild is also author of *The Baroness: The Search for Nica the Rebellious Rothschild*, the story of her great-aunt Pannonica Rothschild, who rejected her comfortable family circumstances to become a jazz philanthropist. Here she talks to Nicolette Jones, children's books editor of *The Sunday Times*.

Rothschild and Jones are graduates of St Hilda's College and this event is part of St Hilda's day at the festival.



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The Festival is organised by

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Shipping off Gibraltar with Morocco in the background – Vilhelme Melbye, 19th century

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Boyd Tonkin

The Gibraltar Lecture: Gibraltar in Literature and Poetry

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Journalist and former literary editor of *The Independent* Boyd Tonkin takes a look at how Gibraltar has featured in literature and poetry over the years.

Gibraltar is only a small territory of 30,000 people but its position at the entrance to the Mediterranean and its varied history has made it a melting pot for culture. Gibraltar features heavily in one of the greatest novels ever written in English, James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Molly Bloom remembers her girlhood in Gibraltar "the sea the sea crimson sometimes like fire and the glorious sunsets and the figtrees in the Alameda gardens . . . and Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls". The territory also features in poems by Tennyson, Browning and Yeats, and in Anthony Burgess's novel, *A Vision of Battlements*; Jules Verne's satirical novel, *Gil Bralta*r; Mark Twain's *The Innocents Abroad*; and most recently in John Le Carré's novel *A Delicate Truth*.

Tonkin is a senior writer and columnist at *The Independent* and former literary editor of the newspaper. He has been a judge of the Booker Prize, the Whitbread biography award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize and the David Cohen Prize. He often appears on BBC arts and current affairs programmes.

The Gibraltar Lecture is delivered each year at the festival and takes the form of an address, an 'in conversation' or a debate. The lecture is devoted to matters of major cultural, historical or international importance, at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar. The inaugural Gibraltar Lecture was given in 2014 by Ben Okri. Last year's lecture was given by Professor Frank Close.

The Hon. Samantha Sacramento MP, Minister for Tourism, Social Services, Equality and Housing, HM Government of Gibraltar. Minister Sacramento will introduce the event.

HM Government of Gibraltar

Boyd Tonkin

James Joyce

WB Yeats

Anthony Burgess

John Le Carré

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GIBUNCO GROUP 50 years 1965-2015

Claudia Roden talks to Donald Sloan

A Musical Menu: Memories of a Lifetime in Food

4pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

World-renowned cookery writer Claudia Roden talks to the head of Oxford Gastronomica Donald Sloan about her life and career in food. Roden will select six pieces of music that inspire her memories and that will be played at the event.

Roden was born and brought up in Cairo. Her bestselling *A Book of Middle Eastern Food* revolutionised attitudes to the cuisine of the Middle East when it was published in 1968. Her work has always been characterised by a particular interest in the social and historical background to the food she is writing about and has received great critical acclaim. Other works include *Mediterranean Cookery with Claudia Roden*, *The Food of Spain* and *The Food of Italy*. Roden is winner of many awards, including six Glenfiddich awards, two Andre Simon awards, four World Gourmand awards, the James Beard Best Cookbook of the Year award in the USA, and the National Jewish Book Award in the USA.

A dinner to mark Roden's 80th birthday and her lifetime contribution to the world of food and culture will be held at Oxford Brookes restaurant on Thursday, and Roden also prepares a citrus-themed menu for a dinner at Worcester College to celebrate the festival's Italian day on Friday.

Sloan is head of the Oxford School of Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes University and chair of Oxford Gastronomica, a specialist centre for the study of food, drink and culture that works to enhance our relationship with food and drink and to celebrate their place in our lives.

This session forms part of a series by Oxford Gastronomica.

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Gordon Corera

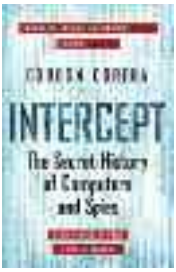
Intercept: The Secret History of Computers and Spies

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera takes a look at computers and spies, from the breaking of the Nazi codes at Bletchley Park to the controversial espionage of today's internet age.

Corera explains how the work of Turing and others at Bletchley Park in the Second World War led to the birth of electronic espionage and helped to win that war. It led to the spy hunting of the Cold War years and to today's data-driven pursuit of terrorists and industrial-scale cyber espionage against corporations. Corera has gathered stories from heads of state, hackers and spies on all sides to show how computers and spies are shaping our future.

Corera is the BBC's security correspondent and has presented major BBC documentaries on GCHQ, the US National Security Agency and cyber security. He is author of *The Art of Betrayal: Life and Death in the British Secret Service and Shopping for Bombs: The Rise and Fall of the AQ Khan Network*.



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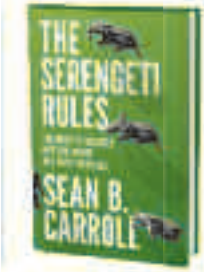

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Ritchie Robertson

Goethe: A Very Short Introduction

5.15pm / Blackwell's Marquee / Free

Welcome to a Very Short Introduction soapbox. A short talk lasting 15 minutes from an expert in the field. The talk is free and takes place in Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre.

Professor of German Ritchie Robertson looks at the life and work of Germany's greatest writer, Goethe. He looks at the key themes in his work of love, nature, religion and tragedy, and explains how much of his art came out of turbulent personal conflicts. Robertson is Taylor Professor of German at the University of Oxford and a translator of several German authors for Oxford World's Classics and Penguin Classics.

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STOP PRESS

Lunch with the FT: guest speaker to be confirmed introduced by Alec Russell

12.30pm / Exeter College Hall / £75

Join the editor of *FT Weekend* Alec Russell for lunch in the beautiful surroundings of Exeter College's 17th-century dining hall. Proceedings start with a Prosecco reception at 12.30pm, followed by a two-course lunch with wine at 1.00pm and a talk and conversation over coffee at 2.15pm.

Lunch with the FT is a regular feature in the *Financial Times* in which an interview is conducted with a well-known figure at a restaurant table. Past interviewees include Angela Merkel, Martin Amis, George Soros, Sean 'P Diddy' Combs, Angelina Jolie and Jimmy Carter. In every case, the operative word is lunch, and the reader is brought to the table to listen in on unguarded conversation in a convivial atmosphere.

Exeter College Hall, 1614

Alec Russell, editor of FT Weekend

FT Weekend Experience a different world

See website for further details

Eve Ainsworth, Nicole Burstein and C J Skuse. Chaired by Geraldine Brennan

Rising Stars of Young Adult Fiction

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £6 **Age 12+**

Three of the hottest new young adult authors – Eve Ainsworth, Nicole Burstein and C J Skuse – talk about their books and writing at the start of what will undoubtedly be very successful careers.

Young adult remains one of the most exciting literary genres. Many of the most talented new authors are writing for young adults, and many of the most talked about new books are published for young people.

Ainsworth's *Seven Days* is the gripping story of two girls – bully and bullied – and is nominated for the Carnegie Medal; her new book, *Crush*, is another powerful story, examining love at its most addictive and destructive. Burstein's *Supergirl* is a superhero story from the sidekick's point of view and a wise and warm story of friendship and self-belief. *Monster* by C J Skuse also examines girls' friendships and animosities against a dark and dangerous background, successfully mixing tension with some very sharp humour.

Discussions will be chaired by journalist and children's books reviewer Geraldine Brennan.

Eve Ainsworth

Nicole Burstein

CJ Skuse

Geraldine Brennan

Daisy Dunn

Catullus's Bedspread: The Life of Rome's Most Erotic Poet

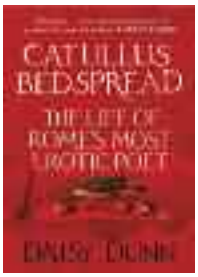
6pm / Jesus College: Lecture Theatre / £12

Biographer and translator Daisy Dunn tells the story of Rome's first modern poet, Catullus, a dandy who fell in love with another man's wife and wrote some of the greatest poems of the era out of the experience.

The life and poetry of Catullus was filled with love, loss, political conflict and a desire for escape. Dunn follows him from his native Verona to Rome and describes the indulgences and sexual mores of the time. She describes his passionate affair with the married Clodia and her betrayal of him with another man, a betrayal which resulted in Catallus's most famous work *Poem 64*, a lyrical story of a lover's desertion told through a picture on a bedspread. Dunn follows Catullus on his brief period of escape before his early death at 30.

Dunn is a classics scholar and writes and reviews for many publications. Alongside her biography of Catallus, she has published her new translations, *The Poems of Catallus*.

Dunn is a graduate of St Hilda's College and this event is part of St Hilda's day at the festival.



St Hilda's College

Richard Dawkins and Yan Wong

The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Life

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-£25

Bestselling author of *The Selfish Gene* Professor Richard Dawkins and fellow evolutionary biologist and television presenter Dr Yan Wong talk about the new updated version of their original work on evolution, *The Ancestor's Tale*.

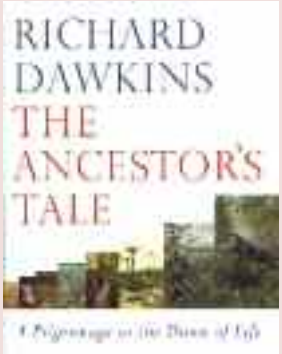
The book was originally published in 2004. It is a pilgrimage back in time through four billion years to the origin of life. Dawkins and Wong take the reader on a reverse journey from human kind back to the microbial beginnings of life. The original work featured 40 tales of meetings with fellow modern animals, plants, fungi and bacteria, all tracing their origins back in time. The new version has been updated with three new tales, new diagrams and includes new scientific discoveries of the last decade.

Dawkins is an evolutionary biologist who rose to public fame with his book *The Selfish Gene*. He is a noted atheist and patron of the British Humanist Association. Among his other popular books are *The God Delusion* and *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*. In 2013, he was voted the world's top thinker in a poll of 10,000 readers of *Prospect* magazine.

Wong acted as researcher and co-author on *The Ancestor's Tale* and is best known for his role as a presenter on the BBC's *Bang Goes the Theory*.

Richard Dawkins

Yan Wong



THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Andrew Gant

O Sing Unto the Lord: A History of English Church Music

6pm / Worcester College: Chapel / £12

Composer, choirmaster, teacher and writer Dr Andrew Gant talks about his new account of English church music from its Anglo Saxon origins to the present day. Discussions will be illustrated by some music.

Gant explains how people made and listened to church music and the role it played in their lives, demonstrating how it reflected historical and cultural change from the mysteries of Mass to the Reformation anthem, Puritanism, Victorian bombast and the fractured world of the 20th century. He considers why church music remains so popular today and frequently tops the classical charts.

Gant has directed leading choirs including The Guards' Chapel, Worcester College Oxford, and Her Majesty's Chapel Royal. He led the Chapel Royal choir at many major events, including the funeral of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011. He lectures in music at St Peter's College and St Edmund Hall in Oxford, and is also author of *Christmas Carols: From Village Green to Church Choir*.

Photo: Katie Vandyck

Arkady Ostrovsky and Luke Harding

Post-Gorbachev Russia: Where is the Country Headed?

6.30pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

A panel of writers looks at what has happened to Russia since the days of the last president of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' and ask where Vladimir Putin and modern Russia are headed today.

What are the motives behind Putin's leadership of Russia and where is he taking the country? How should the West react to Putin, and what does the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko tell us about Russia and relations with the West.

Arkady Ostrovsky is a Russian-born British journalist who has spent 15 years reporting from Moscow for the *Financial Times* and *The Economist*. In *The Invention of Russia: The Journey from Gorbachev's Freedom to Putin's War*, he traces the history of modern Russia and explains how the country now bears little relation to the one that embraced freedom in the late 1980s.

Luke Harding is a foreign correspondent for *The Guardian*. His book, *Mafia State*, describes his experience of working as a journalist in Putin's Russia. In *A very Expensive Poison*, he tells the inside story of the death of Litvinenko and explains why it marked the beginning of decline in Russia's relations with the West.

Arkady Ostrovsky

Luke Harding

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Peter Frankopan, Itamar Srulovich, Sarit Packer. With Juliet Sear

20th Anniversary Dinner: Hosted by Francesca McDonagh, HSBC

7:30pm reception, 8:30pm dinner in Keble College Hall. Price of £150 includes reception, dinner, wines and a signed copy of Peter Frankopan's The Silk Roads. Dress code: black tie.

Join writer and academic Dr Peter Frankopan for a dinner themed on his new work *The Silk Roads* and overseen by two of the brightest young talents in the London restaurant scene, Itamar Srulovich and Sarit Packer. They will prepare an Eastern feast with dishes we might have eaten had we travelled along the silk roads.

The dinner takes place in the magnificent Victorian Gothic dining hall of Keble College, and you will be welcomed with a Negroni cocktail.

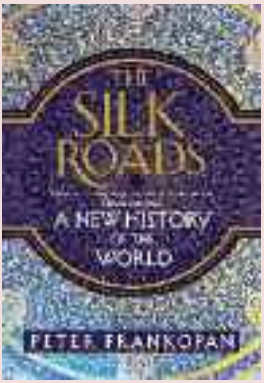
The food will be prepared by the Keble chefs overseen by Srulovich and Packer, the husband-and-wife team behind one of London's most talked about restaurants, Honey & Co. The two met while working in a restaurant in their home country of Israel. Their restaurant, which prepares food based on what they grew up with in Israel, has won praise from leading critics including AA Gill in *The Sunday Times* and Jay Rayner in *The Observer*. Their first book, *Honey & Co: Food from the Middle East*, was The Sunday Times Food Book of the Year 2014 and won the Guild of Food Writers Jeremy Round Award for Best First Book 2015.

Dinner will be followed by a talk by Frankopan on *The Silk Roads*. In it, he reassesses the passage of world history and argues that the sun is setting on the Western world and it is now to the East that people are turning for adventure and riches. The region is not well known in the West but is where civilisation began. It is where the major religions were born and where the Silk Roads witnessed the passage of ideas, goods, disease and death. Frankopan says the Silk Roads are on the rise again.

To mark the festival's 20th anniversary, Juliet Sear, a leading cake designer and author of *Cakeology*, will design and prepare a Shakespeare cake and guests will be able to take a piece home.

Sarit Packer and Itamar Srulovich

Peter Frankopan



Francesca McDonagh, Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management UK and Europe, HSBC Bank Plc

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Frederic Raphael

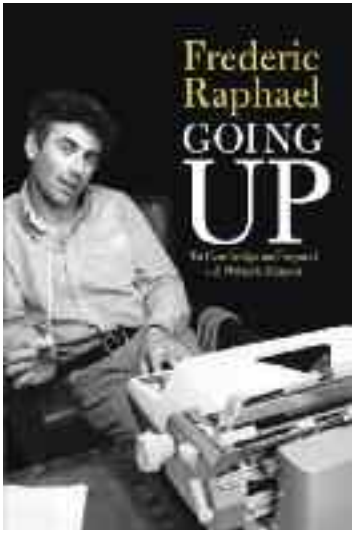
Going Up: To Cambridge and Beyond

10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Celebrated novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter Frederic Raphael talks about his memoir, *Going Up: To Cambridge and Beyond*.

Raphael talks about early life in Chicago, emigration to England when he was seven, education at Charterhouse and Cambridge and a glittering writing career that has taken in Hollywood and France. Cambridge has held a central place in Raphael's career. His most celebrated novel, *The Glittering Prizes*, and its sequels follow the lives and aspirations of a group of Cambridge students into middle age. *The Glittering Prizes* was made into a six-part BBC series for which Raphael won a Royal Television Society Writer of the Year award. He also won an Oscar for his screenplay for the 1965 movie *Darling*.

Raphael is author of more than 20 novels and has been a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature since 1964. He appears at a second festival event to talk about his recent book on the persecution of Jews.



OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Festival Ideas Partner

Liz Fost

Storytelling with Kipper

10am / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 3+

Join storyteller Liz Fost and have fun with everyone's favourite, Kipper. There will be stories, songs, games and much more based on Mick Inkpen's much-loved Kipper stories.

Curious, warm-hearted and ever optimistic, Kipper is loved by children across the world, and his adventures have grown to be one of the most successful series for very young children. There are now more than 30 different Kipper books, including *Kipper's A – Z* which won the Smarties Prize silver medal. The stories inspired the BAFTA-winning television series in which Kipper was voiced by Martin Clunes. The books are written and illustrated by Mick Inkpen, and publisher Hachette Children's Books is celebrating 25 years of Kipper.

Fost is a professional actor and children's storyteller. She makes regular appearances at schools, libraries and at literary festivals up and down the country. She has appeared in numerous television programmes including *The Shiny Show, Numberjacks* and *Dr Who* and was a regular presenter on *Playdays*.

■ Children's and Young People's Event

Lucy Beresford and Leila Segal

Voices of Freedom: Fighting Oppression of Women

10am / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Writers Lucy Beresford and Leila Segal look at the rights of women in countries where they are oppressed and discuss the issues of enslavement and trafficking.

What does the future hold for women who have no voice and no rights, and what can we in the West do to help?

Beresford is a novelist, broadcaster and psychotherapist. Her latest novel, *Invisible Threads*, is about a psychotherapist, Sara, seeking to find the truth about the death of her husband in a terrorist attack in India. She discovers Devardasi, an illegal practice where women act as prostitutes at temple. She also learns of a man who was active in rescuing trafficked women in London, and then finds out this was her husband.

Segal is director of Voice of Freedom, a group that works with formerly trafficked women. *Breathe: Stories from Cuba* is a debut collection of stories based on her time living in Havana. Voice of Freedom helps women who have escaped their captors and sometimes given evidence against them to use words and photography to talk about their lives.

Lucy Beresford

Leila Segal

Mary Keen and Sue Dickinson. Chaired by Steven Parissien

Paradise and Plenty: A Rothschild Family Garden

10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Writer and garden designer Mary Keen and Lord Rothschild's renowned head gardener Sue Dickinson provide an insight into the famous productive garden at Lord Rothschild's private house, Eythrope in Buckinghamshire.

The garden has been kept intensely private until now but, in *Paradise and Plenty*, Keen opens a window on to it for the first time and on the work done by Dickinson. Keen shows how many of the techniques used at the garden are old and have fallen out of general favour. Others have been developed more recently. The garden still produces the year-round fruit, vegetables and flowers for a country house, and Keen and Dickinson explain how it has the power to both wow you and to show how to garden productively.

Keen is a garden designer who has worked in England, USA, France and Corfu on many gardens of distinction including at Eythrope. She is a regular contributor on gardens to *The Daily Telegraph, Garden* magazine, *Gardens Illustrated* and the *Spectator*. Dickinson trained at Waterperry Horticultural School and has worked at Sissinghurst. She has been Lord Rothschild's head gardener for 25 years and is one of the UK's most highly regarded gardeners.

Discussions will be chaired by cultural and architectural historian Professor Steven Parissien, director of Compton Verney gallery and author of *The English Railway Station* and *The Life of the Automobile: A New History of the Motor Car*.

Mary Keen

Sue Dickinson

Photo: Vivian Russell

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Simon Sebag Montefiore

The Romanovs 1613-1918

10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-£25

Bestselling historian and broadcaster Dr Simon Sebag Montefiore tells how one family turned a war-ruined principality into one of the world's greatest empires and how their influence is still felt in modern Russia.

Sebag Montefiore tells the story of 20 tsars and tsarinas who ruthlessly built a holy empire but whose lives were overshadowed by palace conspiracies, family rivalries, sexual decadence and wild extravagance. Six of the tsars were murdered and all of them lived in fear for their lives. The cast includes Peter the Great, who tortured his own son to death, Catherine the Great, who overthrew her own husband and was murdered shortly after, and Rasputin. Sebag Montefiore draws on new archival research for a work that is both a universal study of power and a portrait of an empire that continues to define Russia today.

Sebag Montefiore's bestselling books have been published in 40 languages and include *Stalin: the Court of the Red Tsar*, winner of the History Book of the Year, and *Young Stalin*, winner of the Costa Biography award. *Jerusalem: the Biography* was a number one bestseller and winner of the Jewish Book of the Year prize. He has written and presented a number of series for the BBC including *Jerusalem: Making of a Holy City, Rome: History of the Eternal City* and *Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities*.

Photo: Ian Jones

The Cororonation of Tsar Nicholas II, May 1896

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Warren Dockter and David Lough. Chaired by Ashley Jackson

Winston Churchill: The Hidden Side

10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Biographers Dr Warren Dockter and David Lough discuss the hidden sides to the life and character of Britain's great wartime leader Winston Churchill revealed in their latest books.

Dockter's discovery of a letter to Churchill from his future sister-in-law Lady Gwendoline Bertie while researching his book, *Churchill and the Islamic World*, was widely reported in the media last year. In it, Lady Gwendoline urges Churchill: "Please don't become converted to Islam; I have noticed in your disposition a tendency to orientalise Pasha-like tendencies." In *No More Champagne: Churchill and his Money*, shortlisted for the Longman-History Today Book Prize 2016, Lough lifts the lid on Churchill's business affairs and his precarious finances. Together, the two throw new light on the thoughts and private life of Britain's most celebrated 20th-century statesman.

Dockter is a research fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, and has written widely on Churchill. Lough studied history at Oxford before starting a career in financial markets and going on to found a business that advises families on investments and tax planning.

The event will be chaired by Professor Ashley Jackson, an expert in imperial and military history.

This event is part of the festival's leadership programme sponsored by HSBC.

Warren Dockter

Photo: Martin Barraud

David Lough

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Melanie King

Tea, Coffee & Chocolate: How We Fell in Love with Caffeine

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer Melanie King explains how we fell in love with caffeine and explores the centuries-old debate about their supposed benefits and harmfulness.

Three beverages arrived in England in the 1650s from faraway, exotic places: tea from China, coffee from the Middle East and chocolate from Mesoamerica. Physicians, diarists and politicians were quick to comment on their supposed benefits and alleged harmfulness, using newspapers, pamphlets and handbills both to promote and denounce their sudden popularity. Others seized the opportunity to serve the growing appetite for these newly discovered drinks by setting up coffee houses or encouraging one-upmanship in increasingly elaborate tea-drinking ceremonies. How did the rowdy and often comical initial reception of these drinks form the roots of today's enduring caffeine culture? King will share some of the lesser known facts of how we fell in love with caffeine.

King is also author of *Secrets in a Dead Fish: The World War I Spying Game* and *Can Onions Cure Ear-ache?*

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Festival Cultural Partner

Christopher Lloyd

The Complete Plays of William Shakespeare

11am / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 11am, Friday 8th, for full details

Fiona Ross

When Shall we Three Meet Again

12 noon / The Story Museum / £6 Age 9+

Join actor, director and Royal Shakespeare Company artist Fiona Ross and plunge into the world of *Macbeth*.

This will be a very lively, action-packed session and you will be unpacking the plot and themes of the play, as well as exploring the characters. Deliver some of Shakespeare's most famous lines and look out for toil and trouble aplenty. No previous acting experience or knowledge of the play is required.

Places are limited to 30. Children and adults must each buy a ticket for this workshop. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

This event lasts one hour 15 minutes.

Mick Conefrey

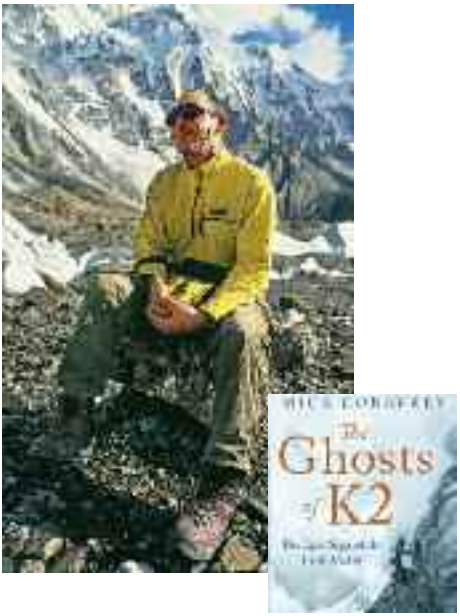
The Ghosts of K2

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Documentary film-maker Mick Conefrey tells the story of ill-fated and disastrous early attempts to climb the world's second highest mountain K2, known as the Savage Mountain due to the extreme difficulty of ascent, and shows clips from his award-winning film *The Ghosts of K2*.

K2 is 800 feet lower than Everest but a far harder climb. Conefrey looks at the early attempts made by the drug-addicted occultist Aleister Crowley and the wealthy Italian Duke of Abruzzi, the expeditions of 1939 and 1952 involving the brilliant but tortured American expedition leader Charlie Houston and the first successful and hugely controversial attempt made in 1954 by an Italian expedition. Conefrey has based his book on exclusive interviews with surviving team members and their families and on access to diaries and letters held in archives around the world.

Conefrey is author of the award-winning *Adventurer's Handbook* and an internationally recognised documentary film-maker. He has won many awards for his films on mountaineering and exploration including for his BBC film *The Race for Everest*.



Alan Ayckbourn talks to Paul Allen

Festival Honorary Fellowship: A Life in Theatre

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-25

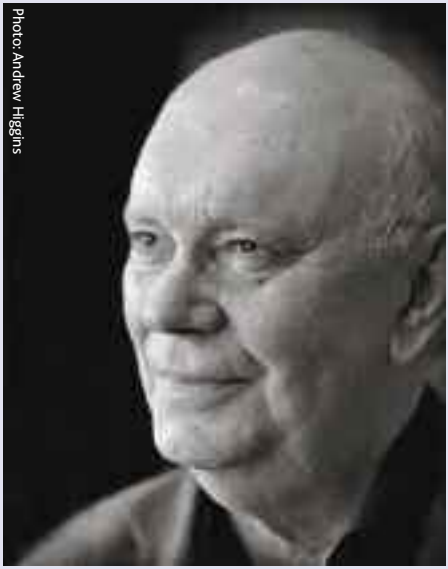
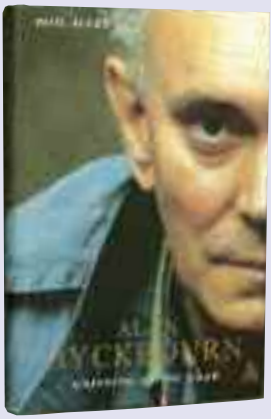


Photo: Andrew Higgins

One of Britain's most successful living playwrights and directors Sir Alan Ayckbourn talks to his biographer Paul Allen about his life and career and receives the honorary fellowship of the Oxford Literary Festival.

Ayckbourn has written 79 plays that have been translated into more than 35 languages. More than half of his plays have been staged at the West End. His best-known work includes *Relatively Speaking, How the Other Half Loves, Absurd Person Singular, Bedroom Farce, A Chorus of Disapproval* and *The Norman Conquests*. He was artistic director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough – where most of his plays were first staged – for 37 years until 2009. His work is often seen as popular theatre but critics have also noted a strong element of commentary on the suburban middle classes, with marriage a recurrent theme. His success has been recognised by the awards of the Laurence Olivier and Tony special lifetime achievement awards.

Ayckbourn will be in conversation with Paul Allen, author of *Grinning at the Edge: A Biography of Alan Ayckbourn*. Allen is a broadcaster who specialises in theatre and the arts and is a regular presenter on BBC Radio 4's *Kaleidoscope*. He is also a playwright and many of his works have been produced on radio and at theatres including a stage adaptation of the film *Brassed Off* at the National Theatre.



The previous recipients of the honorary fellowship have been David Lodge (2015), Jan Morris (2014), Philip Pullman (2013), William Boyd (2012), Kazuo Ishiguro (2011), Dame Antonia Byatt (2010) and Baroness P D James (2009).

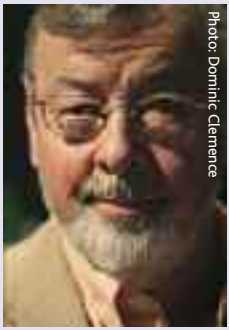


Photo: Dominic Clemence

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THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Antonia Hodgson and Andrew Lownie. Chaired by Jem Poster

An Insight into Publishing

12 noon / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Two authors who also have a role in publishing, Antonia Hodgson and Andrew Lownie, give an insight into the publishing world and offer advice on how to get a book from the germ of an idea to a hard copy in a bookshop.

What's the best way to submit your work? Should you go straight to a publisher or through an agent? What are agents and publishers looking for, and what are the chances of your work being accepted? How can you make an agent or publisher sit up and look at what you have submitted?

Lownie worked as a bookseller, journalist and literary agent before setting up the boutique Andrew Lownie Literary Agency in 1988. He looks at almost 20,000 submissions each year, and his agency specialises in launching new writers and taking existing writers to a new level. Lownie is also author of a biography of John Buchan, a literary companion to Edinburgh, and a new biography of the spy Guy Burgess, which he talks about at another festival event.

Hodgson has worked in publishing for more than 15 years and is editor-in-chief at Little, Brown UK, a four-time winner of the Publisher of the Year award. Its authors include a range of leading fiction and non-fiction writers. Hodgson is also an author in her own right. Her debut novel, *The Devil in the Marshalsea*, won the CWA Historical Dagger. She talks about her writing at another festival event.

Discussions are chaired by Professor Jem Poster, a novelist and poet, emeritus professor of creative writing at Aberystwyth University and director of academic programmes for the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Antonia Hodgson

Photo: Nina Hollington

Andrew Lownie

Itamar Srulovich and Sarit Packer talk to Donald Sloan

Honey & Co: The Baking Book and Food from the Middle East

12 noon / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £12

Itamar Srulovich and Sarit Packer discuss their cooking style, their highly acclaimed food books and their restaurant Honey & Co – one of the most talked about eating places in London.

Srulovich and Packer are a husband-and-wife team who first met while working in the kitchens of a restaurant in Israel. Their first book, *Honey & Co: Food from the Middle East*, was The Sunday Times Food Book of the Year 2014 and won the Guild of Food Writers Jeremy Round Award for Best First Book 2015. They have just published a second book, *Honey & Co: The Baking Book,* which features a series of baking recipes for all courses and all hours. Meanwhile, their restaurant has won praise from leading critics including AA Gill in *The Sunday Times* and Jay Rayner in *The Observer*. The food they write about and prepare in their restaurant is based on the food they enjoyed at home and with friends growing up in Israel. They both now write on food for the *FT*.

Srulovich is a former head chef at Ottolenghi and Packer was head of pastry at Ottolenghi and executive chef at Nopi. Here they talk to Donald Sloan, head of the Oxford School of Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes University and chair of Oxford Gastronomica, a specialist centre for the study of food, drink and culture that works to enhance our relationship with food and drink and to celebrate their place in our lives.

Srulovich and Packer also oversee the menu at the festival's 20th anniversary dinner at Keble College on Saturday, April 9.

Don Sloan

This session forms part of a series by Oxford Gastronomica.

William Chislett

Spain 80 years after start of Civil War: Change of a Nation

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Madrid-based writer William Chislett looks at Spain 80 years after the start of the 1936-39 Civil War sparked by General Franco's uprising against the democratically elected government of the Republic.

More than 200,000 died in battle, at least 150,000 people were murdered extra-judicially or executed in the Nationalist-held areas and 50,000 in the Republican territories, and over 250,000 went into permanent exile (including Arturo Barea who lived and died in Faringdon, Oxfordshire).

Franco created a victory culture, which divided Spain into winners and losers throughout a dictatorship that lasted until he died in 1975. Most but not all the ghosts of that conflict have been laid to rest since then. Yet, unlike Germany, Spain has been unable to confront its past fully. Chislett looks at some of the issues confronting Spain today including what to do with the Valley of Fallen monument, where Franco is buried, and how the economic crisis and rampant corruption broke the mould of post-Franco politics at the general election last December.

Chislett has lived in Madrid since 1986. He covered the transition to democracy between 1975 and 1978 for *The Times* and was the Mexico correspondent for the *Financial Times* (1978-84). He writes about Spain for the Real Instituto Elcano, whose honorary president is King Felipe VI, and has published several books on the country, including *Spain: What Everyone Needs to Know*.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Philip Ardagh and Axel Scheffler

The Grunts are Back

12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £6 Age 7+

Join writer Philip Ardagh and illustrator Axel Scheffler for some frankly improbable but very funny adventures with the Grunt family

The Grunt family is back and as delightfully repulsive as ever. They wash with cheese (if there's no soap to hand), eat roadkill, and argue with one another all the time ('choking hazard' 'fly tip' just some of the terms of abuse hurled) but they are strangely lovable. The latest book in the series brings back some familiar faces and solves a couple of mysteries too.

Ardagh is a winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize and author of more than 100 books including the Grubtown Tales series. He is a regular reviewer of children's books for *The Guardian*, and is currently developing a series for television. He is two metres tall with a ridiculously big, bushy beard and size 16 feet, making him an instantly recognisable figure at literary festivals around the world.

Scheffler is best known for his partnership with Julia Donaldson, including on *A Squash and a Squeeze* and *The Gruffalo*. He has illustrated a number of other highly successful books, including *Muddle Farm*, and his books have been translated into 42 languages.

Peter Hanington, Kate Hamer and Laura Barnett talk to Lucy Atkins.

Writers Roundtable

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Three exciting new writers join forces to discuss their work.

Peter Hanington is a long-serving editor on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme. His debut novel, *A Dying Breed*, features a veteran and wayward BBC reporter and a young producer sent to Kabul to control him. The real story, however, lies in the shadowy world between Kabul's streets, the corridors of the BBC and the chambers of Whitehall.

Kate Hamer's debut novel, *The Girl in the Coat*, follows a mother's search for her missing daughter – a sensitive and distracted eight-year-old with a tendency to go missing. The clues to her disappearance lie in otherworldly qualities her mother was only beginning to guess at. Hamer, a creative writing graduate, won the Rhys Davies short story award in 2011 and has recently been awarded a Literature Wales bursary.

Journalist and theatre critic Laura Barnett's debut novel about the choices we make, *The Versions of Us*, has sold in 23 countries and television rights have been optioned by Trademark Films. It is the story of a chance encounter between two 19-year-olds and follows three different versions of their future, both together and apart.

Here they talk to journalist and writer Lucy Atkins, author of the novel, *The Missing One*, and of a number of non-fiction books.

Photo: Paddy Scott

Peter Hanington

Photo: Mei Williams

Kate Hamer

Photo: Sarah Lee

Laura Barnett

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

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Festival Ideas Partner

Ben Okri, Joanne Harris and Kevin Crossley-Holland.

The Gift of Free Speech

2pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

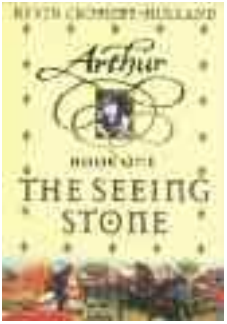
Three leading writers who have contributed much to the world of literature discuss why we should cherish the gift of free speech.

The three will discuss the importance of literature and the written word as an expression of ideas and freedom of speech. It is a liberty not enjoyed by everyone in the world and one, they argue, we should not take for granted.

Okri is considered one of the foremost African writers of the post-modern period. At 21, he published his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, and in 1991, *The Famished Road*, which won the Booker Prize. His most recent novel is *The Age of Magic* and his most recent volume of poetry, *Wild*.

Harris has written bestselling novels across a range of genres including *Chocolat*, which was made into an Oscar-winning movie starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. Other work includes the fantasy novels based on Norse myth, *Runemarks*, *Runelight* and *The Gospel of Loki*, and a series of dark psychological thrillers, including the latest, *Different Class*.

Crossley-Holland's Arthur trilogy was translated into 25 languages and has sold well over one million copies. He is a poet, historical novelist for children and authority on traditional tale who has presented many BBC radio programmes and is a frequent speaker at schools and libraries.



Richard Dunwoody, Jonny Bealby and Christina Lamb

Exploring the Danger Zones

2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £6

Former champion jump jockey and twice Grand National winner Richard Dunwoody, travel writer and adventure traveller Jonny Bealby and journalist Christina Lamb join for this family event to talk about their journeys to some of the most dangerous and inhospitable parts of the world including Antarctica and Afghanistan.

What is the excitement in exploring parts of the world many of us will never see, how do they cope with the dangers, where do they find the mental strength to push themselves to the limit in the toughest and most extreme circumstances? And what did their journeys teach them about themselves and life?

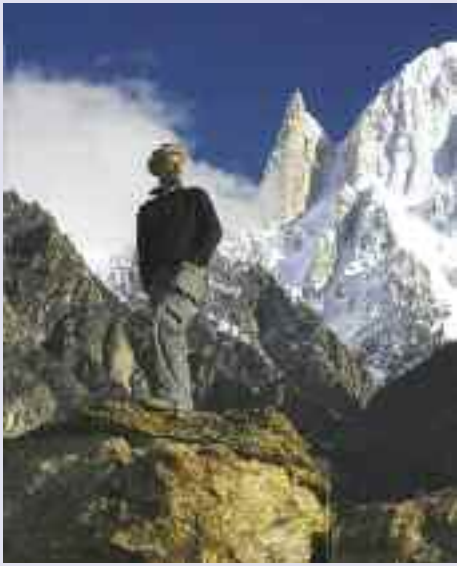
Dunwoody is one of the best-known sportsmen of the late 20th century. He was champion National Hunt jockey three times and won the Grand National, the Gold Cup and the Champion Hurdle. He retired from racing in 1999. In 2008 Dunwoody successfully trekked to the South Pole when he and US explorer Doug Stoup became the first people to complete the route that Shackleton tried and failed. He now leads riding holidays for adventure travel company Wild Frontiers and works as a travel photographer.

Richard Dunwoody

Christina Lamb

Bealby is a former sound engineer and member of a rock band, Tin Gods. He has written extensively about his travels in 60 countries for national newspapers and is author of a number of travel books. *For a Pagan Song* recounts his journey across remote areas of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan in the footsteps of his literary heroes Kipling and Dravot. *Running with the Moon* tells of his journey around Africa on a motorbike. Bealby founded the Wild Frontiers adventure travel company in 2002.

Lamb is foreign affairs correspondent for *The Sunday Times* and a five-time winner of Foreign Correspondent of the Year. She was named Young Journalist of the Year in the British Press Awards in 1988 for her despatches with the Afghan mujaheddin fighting the Russians. She is author of bestselling books including *Farewell Kabul: From Afghanistan to a More Dangerous World* and *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*.



Jonny Bealby

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

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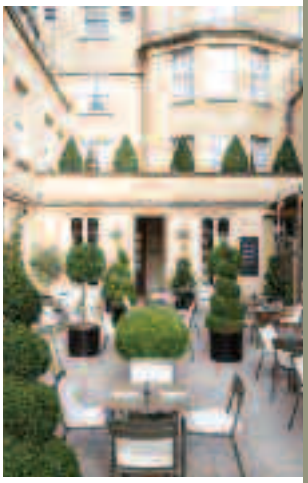

new bar

new kitchen

new menu

new terrace

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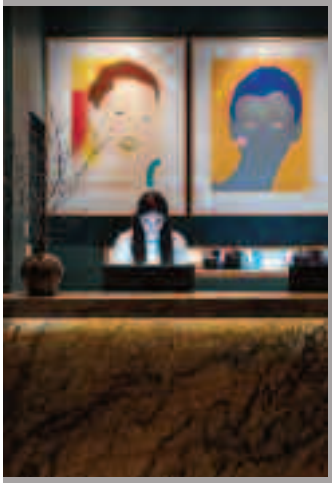
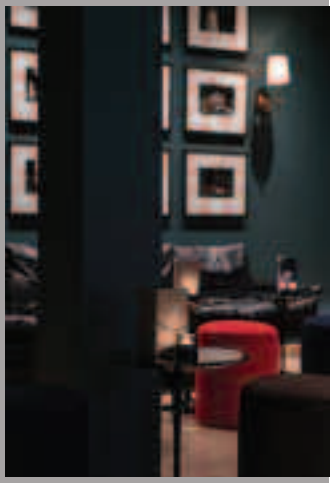
no need to book

www.quod.co.uk

OLD BANK
HOTEL

ON THE FAMOUS HIGH
IN THE HEART OF THE FESTIVAL





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Charles Foster talks to Michael Lloyd

Being a Beast

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Naturalist Charles Foster explains how he spent time living as an animal to explore properly the worlds animals occupy, and to grapple with the beast that lives in all of us.

As a badger he lived in a hole for weeks, eating earthworms. As an otter he swam the rivers of north Devon at night. As an urban fox he scavenged from the dustbins of London's East End. As a red deer he grazed Exmoor and the Scottish Highlands. And as a swift he obsessively followed the migration route between Oxford and West Africa

Foster is a fellow of Green Templeton College, teaches medical law and ethics and is a qualified veterinary surgeon and practising barrister. He has written or contributed to many books including on travel, evolutionary biology, natural history, anthropology and philosophy.

Here he talks to Rev Dr Michael Lloyd, principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

Martin Sandbu

Europe's Orphan: The Future of the Euro and the Politics of Debt

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Economics writer and *Financial Times* columnist Martin Sandbu defends the Euro and argues that the Eurozone's problems are not caused by the currency but by policy errors of the member states.

Sandbu says the Euro's creation coincided with a credit bubble that the authorities chose not to rein in. When the financial crisis hit, the same governments failed to radically restructure debt. He argues that further fiscal and political union is not the way to make monetary union work and lays out a plan for economic and political recovery.

Sandbu is a former economics leader writer on the *Financial Times* and currently writes the newspaper's *Free Lunch* premium economics newsletter. He is also author of *Just Business: Arguments in Business Ethics*.

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Festival Ideas Partner

Alia Al Hussein and Sharifa Sarra Ghazi

Small Miracles: The Story of the Princess Alia Foundation

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Cousins HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein and Sharifa Sarra Ghazi tell how they set up the charitable foundation in Princess Alia's name and of the remarkable work it has done in helping the lives of both humans and animals.

The charity was born after animal cruelty investigator Lyn White suggested the need for an organisation to deal with abuse of animals. Princess Alia embraced the idea but saw in it a wider opportunity to also tackle special needs and public health. She turned for help to her cousin, Sharifa Sarra Ghazi, who was already committed to the cause of animal welfare. Today the foundation is well established. Its work includes The New Hope Centre, for rescued and confiscated wildlife, and Growing Together, an equine therapy centre that has shown amazing results with troubled and autistic children.

Princess Alia is the daughter of King Hussein and Queen Dina of Jordan. She is president of the Jordanian Equestrian Federation and also works with many other charitable causes and organisations. Sharifa Sarra Ghazi has a degree in psychology and cognitive science and is a trained counsellor. She has worked to improve educational standards for children in Jordan and to improve parenting skills and opportunities for women.

Tony Bradman, Geraldine McCaughrean, Marcia Williams and Mary Hoffman

Happy Birthday Shakespeare

2pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 8+

Three authors who have created books that inspire children and inform them about the life and work of Shakespeare join to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of the Bard.

Tony Bradman, Geraldine McCaughrean and Marcia Williams will read from some of Shakespeare's plays and there will be a chance to join in with this lively and informative event.

Bradman has written for all ages including the *Dilly the Dinosaur* books for beginner readers, historical books such as *The Story of Boudicca*, and retellings of several Shakespeare plays including *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*. McCaughrean is a Carnegie Medal-winner and has written more than 160 books. She is best known for her official sequel, *Peter Pan in Scarlet*, and has published retellings of Shakespeare stories. Williams specialises in retelling literary classics in a witty and accessible style. She has just published *Tales from Shakespeare*. Mary Hoffman is an award-winning author of many hugely popular novels for children and young people. She has written about the Bard in her new book *Shakespeare's Ghost*.

Tony Bradman

Photo: Brett Williams

Geraldine McCaughrean

Marcia Williams

Mary Hoffman

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Susie Dent

A Drudge of Lexicographers: Collective Nouns, and Who Decides Them

2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Resident lexicographer on Channel 4's *Countdown* Susie Dent looks at why our quaint collective nouns were chosen more than 500 years ago and why they have survived so long.

What's the collective noun for x animal? must be one of the questions most frequently put to a lexicographer. Be it a 'memory of elephants' or a 'pandemonium of parrots', we revel in the answers and dare to invent our own – the only dull thing about collective nouns is their name. But who decides them? English is both democratic and the fastest-moving language in the world, yet when it comes to collective nouns our sources are medieval manuals on the language of the hunt. Why is it that terms chosen over 500 years ago have survived this long? And what inspires the affection we continue to hold for them? The search for the answer illuminates not only the medieval imagination, but also how and why our words survive.

Dent is a writer and broadcaster on language. She is best known for her work in Dictionary Corner on Channel 4's *Countdown*, where she has made more than 2,500 appearances and is the longest-serving member of the show. She is also author of *How to Talk Like a Local* and *What Made the Crocodile Cry? 101 Questions about the English Language*.

This event is part of the festival's women in society programme sponsored by HSBC.

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Ted Dewan

Bing's Birthday Thing

2pm / The Story Museum / £6 Age 3+

Oxford superstar Ted Dewan, author and creator of Bing Bunny, presents his books and his work on the CBeebies television series. He will draw live for toddlers and their parents and carers and there will be an informal drawing session.

We are delighted to be hosting this event in association with our partner The Story Museum. Bing stories are hugely popular with the very young and their parents and are full of the everyday dramas that all young children and the grown-ups in their lives will recognise.

Dewan is an illustrator, cartoonist, journalist and author. He worked as a cartoonist for *The Sunday Times, The Independent* and *The Daily Telegraph* before moving on to children's books. He now illustrates and writes his own material for children. His books include *One True Bear, Crispin the Pig* series and *Bing Bunny*.

Christopher Lloyd

Best Moments in British History from Dinosaurs to Present Day

2pm / Weston Library: Blackwell Hall / Free

See 2pm, Thursday 7th, for full details

■ Children's and Young People's Event

Roger Scruton and Raymond Tallis

Heretics on Life and Death

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12

Two of the leading thinkers of our time, friends Professor Roger Scruton and Professor Raymond Tallis, discuss their reflections on life, death, belief and what it means to be a human being. Both Scruton and Tallis have spent a lifetime reflecting on belief, the nature of human consciousness and the soul.

Scruton's *Soul of the World*, while not an argument for the existence of God, is a defence against fashionable atheism, in which he argues that our personal relationships, intuitions and aesthetic judgements hint at a transcendental dimension that cannot be understood through science alone. A new collection of his essays, *Confessions of a Heretic*, include reflections on the tension between Christian-inspired enlightenment and Islam and on a solution to the void he sees at the heart of our civilisation. Scruton is a writer and philosopher with a particular speciality in aesthetics.

Tallis's philosophical works offer an alternative understanding of human consciousness and of what it means to be a human being. In his recent book, *The Black Mirror: Looking at Life Through Death*, he reflects from an imagined position of death on the fundamental fact of a finite existence. Tallis is a philosopher, poet, novelist and cultural critic. Until recently he was also professor of geriatric medicine at the University of Manchester and a consultant physician in health care of the elderly in Salford.

Roger Scruton

Raymond Tallis

OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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Marian Keyes talks to Frank Delaney

An Interview with Marian Keyes

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12

Bestselling Irish novelist Marian Keyes talks to novelist, journalist and arts broadcaster Frank Delaney about her life and career as one of Britain's best-loved comic novelists and about her new book of hilarious and heartfelt observations on modern life.

Keyes says she never thought she would write a novel but, after first sending some short stories to a publisher, she now has 13 to her name and is one of the most successful Irish novelists of all time. Her books deal compassionately and humorously with issues of modern life such as addiction, depression, domestic violence and serious illness. Her latest book, *Making it up as I go Along*, is a funny look at the absurdity of modern life and recognises that we are all clearly making it up as we go along. It includes Keyes' guide to breaking up with your hairdresser, her warning about the dangers of fake tan, her joy at the nail varnish museum and the best lies to tell if you find yourself on an Arctic cruise. And there is some secret truth about writers, or at least about Keyes.

Keyes' novels have been published in 33 languages and include *Rachel's Holiday, Last Chance Saloon, Sushi for Beginners, The Mystery of Mercy Close*, and *The Woman Who Stole My Life*.

Programme of Irish literature and culture.

Photo: Brett Williams

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Gary Northfield

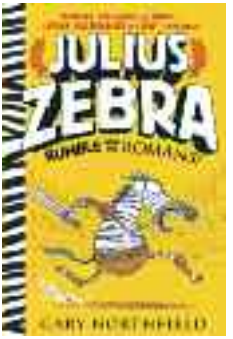
Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans

4pm / Worcester College: Linbury Building / £6 Age 7+

Cartoonist and author Gary Northfield, known for his cartoons in *The Beano, The Phoenix* and *Horrible Histories* magazines, introduces a brand new adventure for Julius Zebra and his hapless pals.

Emperor Hadrian has one last favour to ask of the gladiator animals before he will grant them their freedom. They must go to the strange and far-off land of Britain to win over the crowds of his empire. Cram-packed with jokes and bursting with action, this is a mad-cap introduction to Roman Britain. Listen to a reading and learn all the tricks of the trade from a comic book creator. This event is full of drawing tips for budding cartoonists, and you will learn lots of Roman facts too.

Northfield is best known for his Derek the Sheep comic strip in *The Beano*. He is also author of *The Terrible Tales of the Teenytinysaurs* and *Gary's Garden*.



Robin Stevens, Katherine Woodfine and Julia Lee

Murder for Tea

4pm / The Story Museum / £6 Age 10+

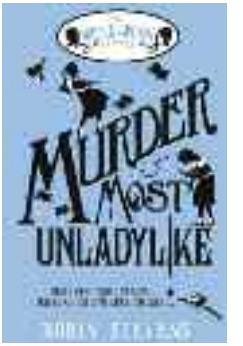
A special whodunit event featuring three women authors, Katherine Woodfine, Robin Stevens and Julia Lee, and their young detectives.

Woodfine's mystery novels are set in the elegant world of Edwardian England, Lee's *Nancy Parker's Diary of Detection* stars a young housemaid caught up in some murky events in the roaring twenties, while Stevens' best-selling series *Murder Most Unladylike* books star schoolgirl sleuths Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong in a series of gripping adventures. Join these three criminal masters for a thrilling session on plotting and solving crimes, and bringing villains to justice. Tea will be served.

Robin Stevens

Katherine Woodfine

Julia Lee



Jonathan Meades

BBC Four Premiere: Benbuilding – Mussolini, Monuments, Modernism and Marble

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12

Writer, journalist, essayist and filmmaker Jonathan Meades introduces a preview showing of his forthcoming BBC documentary on Mussolini and the architecture of the Fascist era, followed by a question and answer session.

Having investigated the architecture of Hitler and Stalin's regimes in previous films, Meades now turns his attention to another notorious 20th-century European dictator. When it comes to the buildings of the Fascist era, Meades discovers a dictator who could not dictate as he was caught between the contending forces of modernism and a revivalism that harked back to Ancient Rome. The result was a variety of styles that still influence architecture today.

The programme sees Meades visit Rome, Milan, Genoa, the new town of Sabaudia and the vast military memorials of Redipuglia and Monte Grappa. Along the way, he ponders on the nature of Fascism, the influence of the Futurists and Mussolini's love of a fancy uniform.

Meades is well known for his individual presenting style. He has written and performed in more than 50 television shows on subjects ranging from shacks to garden cities, megastructures, beer, pigs and the architecture of Stalin and Hitler. His recent memoir, *An Encyclopaedia of Myself*, won Best Memoir in the Spear's Book Awards 2014 and was shortlisted for the 2015 Pen Ackerley Prize.

This event lasts two hours.

James Holland

The War in the West: Germany Ascendant 1939-1941

4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12

Historian, writer and broadcaster James Holland talks about the first volume of his new ground-breaking history of the Second World War.

Holland spent more than 12 years interviewing survivors, visiting battlefields and consulting previously inaccessible archives and now challenges long-held assumptions about the war. In this first volume, he looks at the lead-up to the war and takes the story to mid-1941 when the Nazis were preparing to invade Russia. Holland weaves together the stories of soldiers, sailors, pilots, civilians, industrialists and heads of state to tell the military story and uncover the economic, political and social aspects of the conflict.

Holland is a member of the British Commission for Military History and the Guild of Battlefield Guides. He is a regular contributor to national newspapers and appears on national radio. His books include *Fortress Malta*, *Italy's Sorrow*, *The Battle of Britain* and a fictional World War Two series featuring Sergeant Jack Tanner. He has written and presented a number of documentaries for the BBC including *Cold War, Hot Jets* and *Normandy 44*.

Andrew Lownie

Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess

4pm / Exeter College: Chapel / £12

Author and literary agent Andrew Lownie explains how the spy Guy Burgess was able to rise through the British secret service and act as an agent for the Russians despite a life of drunken philandering.

Lownie's new book, *Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess*, is the first full biography of Burgess. Lownie shows how Burgess was able to penetrate the British intelligence service and betray his country despite a life of drunken and indiscrete philandering. Burgess's fabled charm and friendships with influential establishment figures allowed him to continue unexposed for years. Lownie interviewed more than 100 people who knew Burgess and had access to previously unseen files.

Lownie worked as a bookseller, journalist and literary agent before setting up the boutique Andrew Lownie Literary Agency in 1988. He is also author of a biography of John Buchan and a literary companion to Edinburgh.

Maureen Lipman, Jeremy Robson , Jacqui Dankworth , Charlie Wood , Julian Siegel and Oli Hayhurst

Blues in the Park: Poetry, Humour, and Jazz Songs to Mark 20 Years of the Festival

6.30pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12-£25

Join actress Maureen Lipman, poet Jeremy Robson, and acclaimed jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth for an unmissable evening of poetry, wit and music to climax this year's events and mark 20 years of Oxford Literary Festival.

For this special event, Dankworth will be joined by her husband, the acclaimed pianist-vocalist Charlie Wood, saxophonist Julian Siegel and bassist Oli Hayhurst.

Lipman will join Robson in reading some of Robson's poems and will also read some of her own brilliantly witty monologues (and perhaps a taste too of her popular Joyce Grenfell show). Dankworth and Wood will sing duets of classic songs of the last 100 years inspired by great musical partnerships and composers.

A well-known poet and publisher, Robson initiated and participated in the highly popular Poetry and Jazz in Concert events that featured many leading poets and musicians. Described by *The Times* as 'a champion of poetry', Robson's latest moving and often witty collection, *Blues In the Park* (published in 2014 and recently issued in paperback), was described by Lipman as 'a marvellous wry observation of the sweet, sour, and savoury in life'. Bel Mooney wrote in the *Daily Mail*: "My test when reading a new book of poems is to stick a Post-it note wherever there is a poem I want to go back to. They sprout like a small forest from *Blues in the Park*'. He will include some new poems in tonight's event.

Maureen Lipman

Olivier-award-winning actress Lipman recently starred in the West End production of *Harvey*. This autumn she appeared on television as co-presenter with Larry Lamb of Channel 4's *Disappearing Britain*. She writes regularly for *Standpoint* and *Spectator Health*. Lipman is versatile, witty, and greatly loved and she has played many leading theatrical and television roles, as well as being the author of a number of bestselling books.

Dankworth is one of the UK's most highly regarded vocalists. Her concert appearances and her stylistically diverse recordings showcase her effortless mastery of a wide spectrum of genres. Known primarily as a jazz singer, Dankworth also draws on soul and blues influences.

Wood is an American singer/songwriter and pianist whose eclectic musical style incorporates elements of jazz, blues, traditional R&B and popular music. Wood continues touring and recording regularly throughout the UK and Europe.

Siegel is one of the most highly sought-after saxophonists on the European jazz scene and has worked with many of the top figures in music. He was awarded the 2007 BBC Jazz Award for Best Instrumentalist and his quart CD Urban Theme Park received widespread critical acclaim, winning the London Jazz Award.

Hayhurst, a brilliant and award-winning bassist, has also performed and recorded with a long and diverse list of famous artists.

This event lasts two hours including a 30-minute interval.

Jeremy Robson

Jacqui Dankworth

Charlie Wood

Julian Siegel

Oli Hayhurst

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Ken Hom

Festival Closing Dinner

8.30pm Reception 9.30pm Dinner /Worcester College: Hall / £130 / Dress: Business suits

Chinese food writer Ken Hom prepares a Chinese menu to mark the end of this year's festival and celebrate 20 years of Oxford Literary Festival. The price includes a drinks reception in the 18th-century Provost's Lodgings, three-course meal, wines and coffee.

Hom is widely regarded as the leading world authority on Chinese cooking. He learnt to cook as a young boy in his uncle's Chicago restaurant. He taught cookery to help with his university fees and his efforts were so popular he was recommended to the Culinary Academy. He was spotted by Indian cookery writer Madhur Jaffrey who recommended him to the BBC and Ken Hom's Chinese Cookery was born in 1984. A number of further BBC series followed.

Hom now has his own range of cookware, and acts as a consultant for dozens of leading hotels and restaurants and for the Cathay Pacific airline. He was awarded the OBE for services to culinary arts in 2009.

Photo: KT Bruce

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Levison Wood

Walking the Himalayas

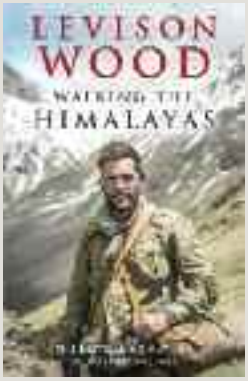
6pm / Shedonian Theatre / £12-£25

Explorer, writer and broadcaster Levison Wood talks about his most challenging walk yet along the length of the Himalayas – captured in his latest book and in a new Channel 4 television series.

Wood's previous nine-month expedition to walk the Nile was captured in a bestselling book and filmed for a popular Channel 4 television series. In his latest challenge he began along the Silk Road route of Afghanistan and travelled through five countries along the entire length of the Himalayas. Wood followed the same paths used by locals and met and forged strong bonds with guides, porters, mountain men, soldiers, farmers, smugglers and shepherds, uncovering stories that would otherwise be hidden.

Wood is a full-time explorer and writer who spent ten years in the British Army. He has led expeditions on five continents and spent years living in the wilds of Asia and Africa. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and international fellow of the Explorers Club.

Photo: Tom McShane



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BOOKING INFORMATION

This year's FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival is once again a 'ticketless' event. No physical tickets will be posted to those who have booked. The booking reference you receive with your email confirmation – or printed-out confirmation if you have no access to email – is your ticket.

On the door, we will ask for the name and postcode of the person who booked the ticket.

Tickets can be bought as follows:

- **Online:** Please visit **www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org** Tickets can be booked up to one hour before the event.
- **In person or by telephone pre-festival:** Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BQ. Mon-Sat 9am-6.30pm (9.30am Tues). Sun 11am-5pm Tel 0870 343 1001 (calls cost 6.7p a minute, plus your phone company's access charge)
- **During the festival:** The box office in the Blackwell's marquee will be open throughout the festival. Online booking is open until one hour before each event.
- **Immediately before events:** Last-minute tickets are available for purchase from the festival box office in the marquee in the hour leading up to each event.

We strongly recommend that all festival-goers purchase their tickets well before the events as the festival box office can get very busy. Our box office system means you will not require a physical ticket unless you book at the last minute. Your details will be recorded on the door of the event as long as you book online or through the festival box office up to one hour before.

Our box office

The festival box office has been developed for us by the leading online ticket agency WeGotTickets. Online sales are made through the WeGotTickets online booking system. In-person and telephone sales are made through the festival's own box office developed for us by WeGotTickets.

We have no need to print tickets and deliver them. Nor is there any need for you to print out your email confirmation. We will have your name and postcode on the door recorded against the tickets you purchased for that event. We do advise that you bring along some form of identification with either a photo or signature, just in case.

As always, please make sure you arrive in plenty of time, particularly for the big events at the Sheldonian Theatre, which often sell out.

The WeGotTickets system is very flexible. For example, if you are buying tickets for someone else, such as for a present, you can reallocate them through your WeGotTickets account or through the point of sale if you bought at Blackwell's or through the festival box office. If you do have any issues with your booking, you should refer in the first instance to the point of sale – WeGotTickets, Blackwell's or the festival box office in the marquee. **Refunds for cancelled events can only be made through the original point of sale.**

You can find out more about how the ticketing system works at **www.wegottickets.com/faqs**

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.

Disabled access

Please check our location and travel page or with the box office for information on disabled access for each event.

Events

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

The FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival reserves the right to change venues, alter the programme or substitute writers if circumstances dictate. Tickets are not refundable and cannot be exchanged.

Venues

Festival events mostly take place around two vibrant hubs – the Blackwell's Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre, and Worcester College, in Walton Street. There is a ten-minute walk between the two hubs

Blackwell's Marquee
The Blackwell's Marquee sits in the middle of the biggest festival venues – the Bodleian Library, the Weston Library, the Sheldonian Theatre and Oxford Martin School. The marquee is open all day throughout the festival and will house the festival box office and enquiry point, the festival bookstore, and a café. It will also host some events and book-signings. There is also a café with toilets in the main hall of the Weston Library opposite the Sheldonian Theatre.

Worcester College
Worcester College hosts a large number of events at this year's festival. College venues include the Linbury Building, the Hall, the Provost's Lodgings, the chapel and the library. The college buttery is open 10am-5pm during the festival for tea, coffee, wine, cakes, snacks and light lunches, and the college bar is open 5pm-10pm. Festival-goers can book accommodation at the college during the festival.

Other venues
Exeter College and Jesus College venues are a short walk from the Blackwell's Marquee. The Jesus College lecture theatre is in the Ship Street Centre in Ship Street, and Exeter College is in Turl Street.

St John's College is in St Giles, a five-minute walk from both Worcester College and the Blackwell's Marquee. Leave a few minutes extra as the college auditorium is at the back of the site.

The Museum of Natural History and Keble College are a five-to-ten-minute walk up Parks Road from the Blackwell's Marquee.

The Ashmolean Museum is on Beaumont Street, a five-minute walk from both Worcester College and the Blackwell's Marquee.

Oxford Town Hall, in St Aldate's, and The Story Museum, Pembroke Street, are a ten-minute walk from the Blackwell's Marquee.

See page 236 for the festival map.

Please note: venues for festival events sometimes change after you have purchased your ticket to accommodate the specific requirements of authors or to meet demand for tickets. Please check the website to confirm the venue for your event and always arrive in good time.

Accessibility

All the main festival venues are accessible. For full details, visit the relevant venue websites. Links to all the relevant accessibility information can be found at **http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/about/festival/location-and-travel**

Many festival venues operate a disability equality scheme. This is kept under review, taking into account the views of visitors and others. Comments and suggestions are therefore welcome and may be directed to the disability librarian at the Bodleian Library (for the Divinity School and Weston Library) and the custodian at the Sheldonian Theatre. For other college and university venues please contact the domestic bursar or department administrator.

To ensure the safe evacuation of wheelchair users in case of emergency, it may occasionally be necessary to limit 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.

Arriving

By train

Oxford is well served from all areas of the country. Worcester College is a ten-minute walk from the central station and the Blackwell's Marquee a 20-minute walk. There is a taxi rank at the station. A new parkway station has opened on the outskirts of Oxford at Water Eaton. It is served by trains from London Marylebone and High Wycombe and a regular bus service completes the journey into the centre of Oxford.

By coach

There are two fast and frequent coach services to Oxford from London (the X90 and the Oxford Tube), with departures up to every 15 minutes. In Oxford, festival-goers can alight at High Street stops which are within a few minutes' walk of festival venues. The coach station at Gloucester Green is a five-minute walk from Worcester College and a ten-minute walk from the Blackwell's Marquee. Detailed information about the services may be found at **www.oxfordtube.com** and **http://x90.oxfordbus.co.uk/**

By car

Street parking is extremely limited. The Westgate Car Park has closed for redevelopment. There is an alternative, temporary car park opposite the site in Oxpens, a 10-minute walk from festival venues. Oxford is well served with a park-and-ride bus service at several points at the city perimeter. Details may be found at **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/park-and-ride**

Blue badge parking

For events at the Bodleian Library, Weston Library, Oxford Martin School and the Sheldonian Theatre, disabled badge holder designated parking is available in Broad Street. For Oxford Town Hall and The Story Museum, disabled badge holder designated parking is available in St Aldate's.

Designated parking is available in Beaumont Street for Worcester College and the Ashmolean, and in St Giles for St John's.

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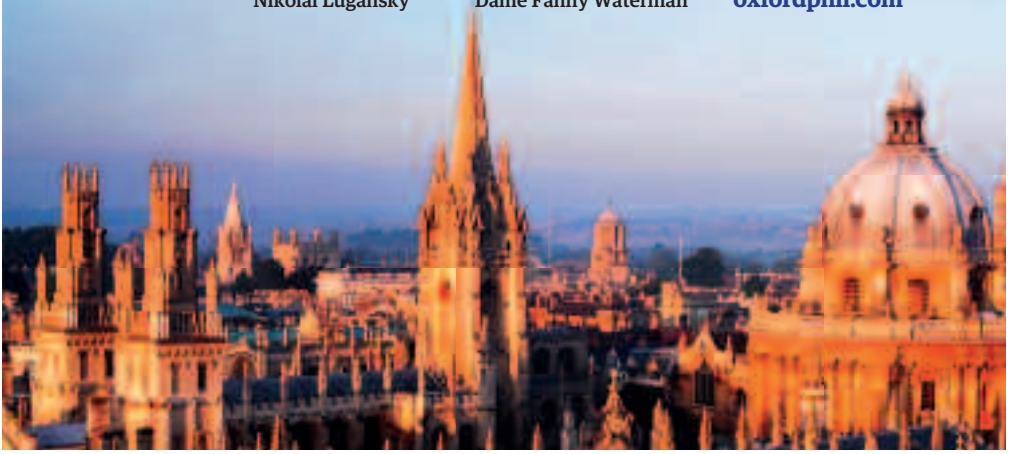

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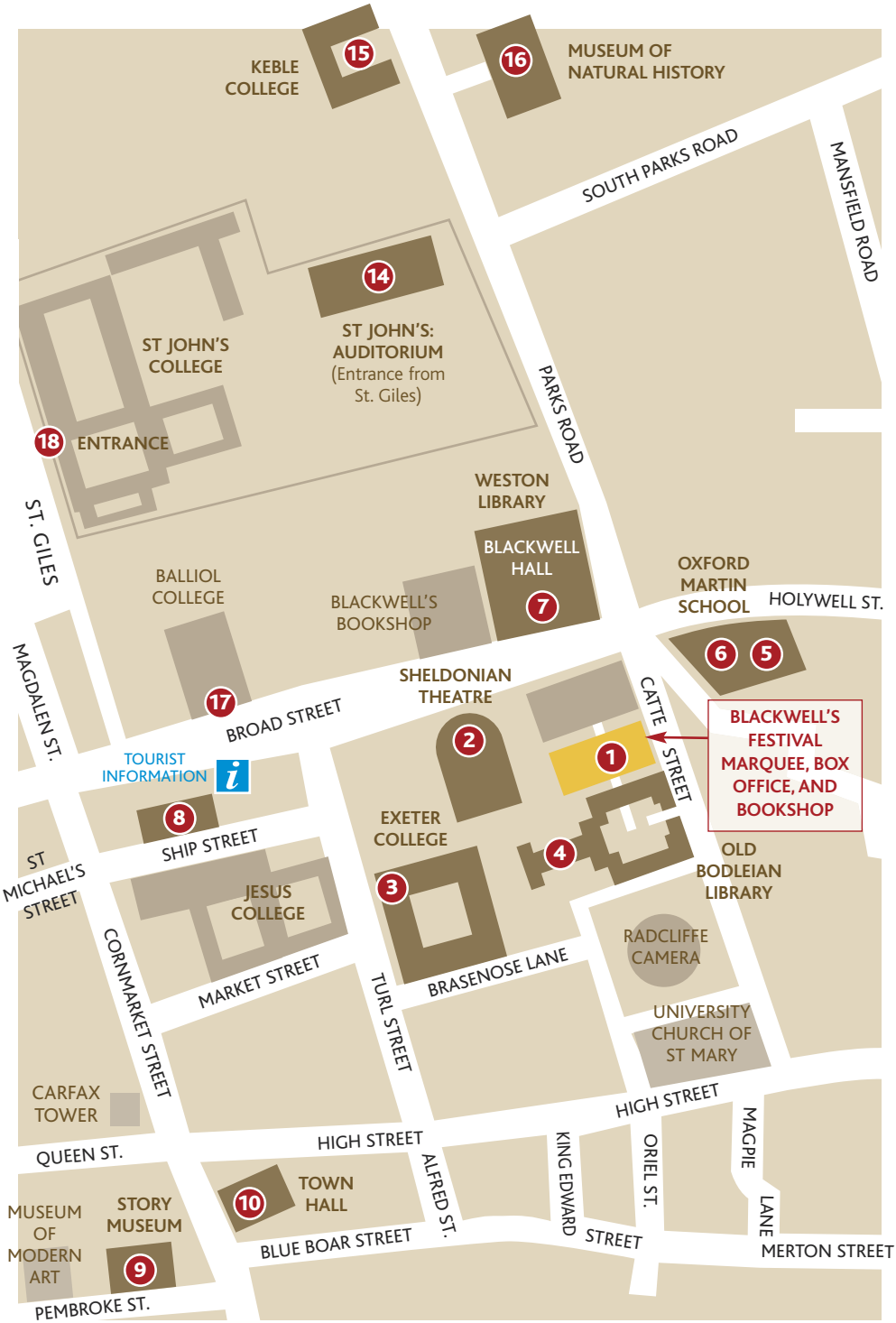
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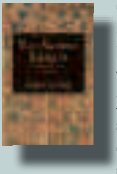

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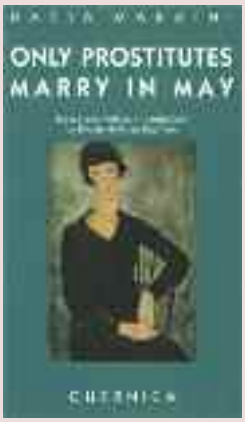

Dacia Maraini is one of Italy's most celebrated novelists and playwrights. The author of more than 60 novels and plays, she was awarded the Prix Formentor for her novel *The Age of Discontent* in 1963: The Premio Campiello for her masterwork *The Silent Duchess* in 1986; shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize in 2011 and nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2012.

Born in 1936 Maraini's father was a noted travel writer, explorer and scholar. Her mother was the Sicilian Princess Topazia Alliata di Salaparuta. Maraini spent much of her childhood in Japan (her parents fled fascism in 1938). The family were interned in a concentration camp from 1943-1945.

In 1966 Maraini, and her then partner, the Great Italian novelist, Alberto Moravia, founded the Porcupine Theatre Company. For decades she has championed women's issues, and has urged her fellow Italians to strive again for greatness, because 'they can do better'.

Carmel Callil has written of Maraini 'her strengths are dramatic and political, as has been her life... she is a feminist and a political activist, but though both ways of thinking underscore her writing, she is never politically correct'.

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