FT Weekend
OXFORD
LITERARY
FESTIVAL
Friday 27 March to
Sunday 5 April 2020

Pocket Guide
Box Office 0333 666 3366 • www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org
Welcome to your pocket guide to the 2020 FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival

Tickets

Tickets can be booked up to one hour before the event.

Online: www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

In person: Oxford Visitor Information Centre, Broad Street, Oxford, seven days a week.*

Telephone box office: 0333 666 3366*

Festival box office: The box office in the Blackwell’s marquee will be open during the festival.

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. You are strongly advised to book in advance as the box office can get busy in the period before events.

* An agents’ booking fee of £1.75 will be added to all sales at the visitor information centre and through the telephone box office.

This pocket guide was correct at the time of going to press. Venues are sometimes subject to change, and more events will be added to the programme. For all the latest times and venues, check our website at www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

General enquiries: 07444 318986  Email: info@oxfordliteraryfestival.org

Ticket enquiries: tickets@oxfordliteraryfestival.org

[ ] colour denotes children’s and young people’s events

Blackwell’s bookshop marquee

The festival marquee is located next to the Sheldonian Theatre. It is the place to experience the buzz of the festival. We will be open throughout the festival – buy your festival tickets, browse a wide range of books by festival speakers, enjoy refreshments from the coffee shop and take in some free author talks while you are there.

Blackwells pop-up bookshops. At over 300 events you will find a book desk for buying the works of each speaker – and getting copies signed by the author.
The following events were unconfirmed at the time the pocket guide was compiled. Please check the website for precise details and timings.

**SATURDAY 28 MARCH**

*Dieter Helm and Philip Lymbery*

– A Blueprint for Rescuing the British Countryside

2pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Chief executive of Compassion in World Farming Philip Lymbery and professor of economic policy Dieter Helm discuss a radical action plan for saving Britain’s countryside, environment and wildlife.

**SUNDAY 29 MARCH**

*Rebecca Abrams*

– The Jewish Journey: 4,000 Years in 22 Objects

10.30am / Ashmolean Museum / £45

Join author and journalist Rebecca Abrams for a two-hour tour of some of the remarkable objects held in the Ashmolean Museum that together tell the history of the Jewish people. This event last two hours.

**MONDAY 30 MARCH**

*Katherine Rundell – The Good Thieves*

1pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £8

Festival favourite Katherine Rundell talks about her latest story, *The Good Thieves*, which takes us to prohibition New York for more fast-paced, beautifully written adventure starring lively, endearing young protagonists. **Age 6-9**

**SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

*Ken Clarke – FT Weekend Lecture*

See website for details

**PRINTING WORKSHOPS**

Typesetting and Printing on the Hand-press

Tuesday 31 March 2pm, Wednesday 1 April 2pm, Thursday 2 April 11 am / Bodleian: Schola Musicae / £15

Discover the joys of typography. Learn to set type by hand and print a personal keepsake of the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival on the hand-operated printing presses at the Bodleian Library. Meet at the Schola Musicae door to enter the Bodleian’s hand-press workshop. This event lasts one hour and 45 minutes.

**Keepsake Printing Sessions** Drop-in, no need to register.

Saturday 28 March and Saturday 5 April / 12pm-2pm / Weston Library / Free
Saturday, March 28, Wednesday April 1 and Saturday April 4

**Literary Oxford with Alastair Lack**

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

Explore Oxford colleges and landmark buildings in the company of the poets A E Housman, Robert Bridges, as well as writers such as Dorothy Sayers, Graham Greene, Kingsley Amis and Barbara Pym – not forgetting J R Tolkien and Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson). The walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

Sunday, March 29

**Oxford Poets with Alastair Lack**

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.

Thursday, April 2

**The Oxford of Morse, Lewis and Endeavour with Alastair Lack**

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

Mention Oxford and dreaming spires, and colleges and quadrangles come to mind – plus, of course, Inspector Morse. This walk visits the scenes of some of the best-known cases of Inspector Morse, as well as those of Lewis and Endeavour. This walk lasts two hours and ends at Christ Church.

**Very Short Introductions**

Oxford University Press is proud to return to the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival with another series of soap box talks from the very short introductions series. These free, 15-minute talks feature expert authors from the series and take place twice a day in the Blackwell’s Marquee, next to the Sheldonian Theatre. No ticket is required.

**Saturday 28**

1.15pm / Bence Nanay (Aesthetics)

5.15pm / Margaret Snowling (Dyslexia)

**Sunday 29**

1.15pm / Nick Jelley (Renewable Energy)

**Monday 30**

1.15pm / William Doyle (The French Revolution)

5.15pm / Tim Newburn (Criminology)

**Tuesday 31**

1.15pm / Peter Hainsworth and David Robey (Italian Literature)

5.15pm / Jane Caplan (Nazi Germany)

**Wednesday 1**

1.15pm / Samir Oakashas (Philosophy of Biology)

5.15pm / Anna Cento Bull (Modern Italy)

**Thursday 2**

1.15pm / Essi Viding (Psychopathy)

5.15pm / Chris Gosden (Prehistory)

**Friday 3**

1.15pm / Bernard O’Donoghue (Poetry)

5.15pm / Susan Llewelyn (Clinical Psychology)

**Saturday 4**

1.15pm / Paul Luna (Typography)

5.15pm / Dana Arnold (Art History)
Rachel Botsman  
– Who Can You Trust?  
11am / Saïd Business School / £12.50  
(£7 student)  
Acclaimed author Rachel Botsman says we are at the tipping point of one of the most significant social transformations in human history. Television stars are world leaders, school children are leading global strike movements, measles outbreaks are at record highs, and presidents are facing impeachment.

Onjali Q Raúf  
– The Star Outside My Window  
1pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £8  
Blue Peter Book Award winner Onjali Q Raúf talks about The Boy at the Back of the Class and her new book The Star Outside My Window and about the experiences that have inspired her.  
Years 5 and 6

Penelope Lively talks to Chris Patten  
– Chancellor’s Lecture: Life and Work  
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50  
(£7 student)  
Booker prize-winning novelist Dame Penelope Lively talks about her life and work at the personal invitation of the chancellor of the University of Oxford Lord Chris Patten.
Jem Poster and Sarah Burton – Creative Writing Course: What’s the story? Finding and Developing your Plot
9.30am / St Cross College / £90
Whether you are a beginner in creative writing or a more advanced writer looking for new ideas and inspiration, this one-day event may be exactly what you need. Designed by two professional writers with long experience of teaching creative writing at university level, the programme will address the writer’s approach to plot in ways both practical and thought-provoking, involving both writing and the discussion of writing. The focus will be primarily on fiction, but writers of poetry and creative non-fiction are likely to gain useful insights from the event.

Aida Edemariam – The Wife’s Tale: A Personal History
10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Guardian Journalist Ada Edemariam talks about her prize-winning personal memoir of her grandmother, through which she tells the story of modern Ethiopia.

Harry Potter – Celebrating the Harry Potter Books
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £10

Judith Maltby, Alison Shell and Clemence Schultze. Chaired by Vivienne Faull – Anglican Women Novelists: From Charlotte Brontë to P.D. James
10am / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Church historian Dr Judith Maltby, expert on the relationship between Christianity and literature Professor Alison Shell, and former chair of the Barbara Pym Society Clemence Schultze discuss the impact of the Anglican church on women novelists from Charlotte Brontë to P D James.

Dan Jarvis talks to Nick Higham – Long Way Home
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Labour politician and Mayor of Sheffield City Region Dan Jarvis talks about his time serving in the elite Parachute Regiment and about the death of his wife Caroline.
Philip Lymbery and Graham Harvey – How to Feed Britain without Killing the Countryside
10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Chief executive of Compassion in World Farming Philip Lymbery and food and farming journalist Graham Harvey join forces to argue the case for radical change in the way we grow our food.

Elleke Boehmer and Naomi Ishiguro – The Art of the Short Story
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writers Elleke Boehmer and Naomi Ishiguro discuss the art of the short story and their most recent collections, To The Volcano, and Other Stories and Escape Routes.

Jonathan Rugman – The Killing in the Consulate: Investigating the Life and Death of Jamal Khashoggi
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Award-winning foreign correspondent Jonathan Rugman uses confidential sources and dramatic new evidence to explain how and why Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Turkey.

Leah García speaks to Philip Lymbery – Grilled: Turning Adversaries into Allies to Change the Chicken Industry
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
US animal rights campaigner Leah García talks about how she fought for better conditions in the American chicken industry by getting to know and understand the farmers and producers rather than confronting them.

Julie Summers – Dressed for War: The Story of Audrey Withers, Vogue Editor
12 noon / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre /£12.50 (£7 student)
Writer, researcher and historian Julie Summers tells the story of Vogue and its editor Audrey Withers during World War II when the magazine forged a new identity that set it up for the rest of the 20th century.
**Linda Boström Knausgård**  
– *Welcome to America*  
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Swedish novelist and poet Linda Boström Knausgård talks about her latest work, *Welcome to America*, a dark portrait of a sensitive and strong-willed child that won Sweden’s prestigious August Prize.

**Alex Harris, Robert Douglas Fairhurst and Roy Foster. Chaired by Hermione Lee**  
– *Princeton Conversation: Lives of Houses*  
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Biographer and critic Dame Hermione Lee chairs a group of writers who celebrate the homes of famous literary figures, artists, composers and politicians of the past.

**Kevin Crossley-Holland talks to Elizabeth Garner – Between the Worlds**  
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8  
Masterly teller of traditional stories Kevin Crossley-Holland talks about his spell-binding anthology *Between the Worlds*, which gathers magical folktales from across Britain and Ireland, stories that have been passed down from generation to generation.  
Age 10+

**Christine Lindey**  
– *Art for All: British socially committed art from World War Two to the Cold War*  
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Art historian Christine Lindey uncovers a forgotten or marginalised area of socially committed British art from the 1930s to the Cold War and argues that the work deserves to be rediscovered and enjoyed.

**Adam Rutherford and Elijah Lawal. Chaired by Stephen Law** – *Oxford Debate: Race, Science, and History*  
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)  
Science broadcaster and researcher Adam Rutherford and writer Elijah Lawal discuss how to challenge racial stereotypes and how to respond when we see others using them.
Jonathan Drori
– Around the World in 80 Trees
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Business advisor, environmentalist and former BBC producer Jonathan Drori talks about his number one bestselling book about the role trees play in human life.

Val McDermid and Emma Smith
– Shakespeare and Marlowe: Rivals, Collaborators, or Aliases – an Early Modern Mystery
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Crime writer and playwright Val McDermid and Shakespeare expert Professor Emma Smith discuss some of the mysteries around two giants of the English stage – Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare.

Janina Ramirez
– Riddles, Runes and Revenge
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8
Plunge into a world of riddles and runes and go 'a-Viking' with historian Dr Janina Ramirez and the star of her new children's books, fearless shieldmaiden Alva. Age 9+

M G Leonard and Sam Sedgman
Climb aboard The Highland Falcon Thief
4pm / St Cross College / £8
Children's writers M G Leonard and Sam Sedgman love trains so much they are writing a new series of adventures taking place on amazing railways across the globe. Hear how they had the idea for the first book, The Highland Falcon Thief, in which 11-year-old Harrison Beck gets to travel on the royal steam train, but, when a priceless diamond is stolen, is plunged into a puzzling mystery. Age 7+

Yaniv Iczkovits talks to Rebecca Abrams
– The Slaughterman's Daughter: The Avenging of Mende Speismann at the Hands of her Sister Fanny
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Israeli writer and philosopher Yaniv Iczkovits talks about his novel The Slaughterman's Daughter – a story of life in a 19th-century Jewish settlement in Russia.
Prue and Peta Leith talk to Matthew Stadlen – The Vegetarian Kitchen
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
Renowned chef, The Great British Bake Off judge and food writer Prue Leith and her niece, pastry chef Peta Leith, talk about their book of simple, rustic and flavoursome vegetarian and vegan recipes and about their lives and love of food.

Laura Cumming talks to Claire Armitstead – On Chapel Sands
4pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Award-winning writer and art critic Laura Cumming talks about her pursuit of the truth about her mother’s mysterious disappearance as a small child.

Kim Wilkie talks to Graham Harvey
– Led by the Land: Landscapes
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Landscape architect Kim Wilkie reflects on our place in the environment, how past masters have fashioned it and on what the future could hold. He will also talk about the developer Aldred Drummond’s plan for a £1 billion smart city on the site of a former power station between the New Forest and the Solent.

Fatima Bhutto talks to Harriet Gilbert
– BBC World Service Recording: World Book Club with Fatima Bhutto
4.30pm / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / Free
Come along and listen to Fatima Bhutto discussing her novel the Shadow of the Crescent Moon with Harriett Gilbert.

James Crowden – The Frozen River: Seeking Silence in Ladakh
6pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Author and poet James Crowden tells how he left the Army in 1976 to live alongside the Zangskari people in a remote Himalayan community where silence and solitude were the hallmarks of existence.
Daisy Dunn talks to Nicolette Jones
– In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Life of Pliny
6pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Classicist Dr Daisy Dunn celebrates the lives of Pliny the Younger and Pliny the Elder – two outstanding minds of the Roman empire who had lasting influences on the world.

Marcus Sedgwick talks to Nikki Gamble – Snowflake, AZ
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8
Printz Medallist and internationally bestselling writer Marcus Sedgwick was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome or ME six years ago. Snowflake, AZ draws on his own experience living with an illness whose nature and even whose existence is still disputed. Age 12+

Dominic Frisby talks to Nick Higham
– Daylight Robbery: How Tax Shaped Our Past and Will Change Our Future
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Financial writer Dominic Frisby argues that there is a tax story near the heart of all of humanity’s defining events from the Magna Carta to modern political debates and considers whether there are alternative ways to fund services.

Dan Gretton and Giles Fraser
– Oxford Debate: Evil: The Desk Killers
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Writer, activist and teacher Dan Gretton and writer and Church of England priest Rev Giles Fraser debate the nature of evil and reflect on faceless bureaucrats who have allowed some of the worst atrocities in history. This event lasts 75 minutes.

Chris Packham talks to Philip Lymbery
– Peter Roberts Compassion in World Farming Lecture
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
One of the UK’s best-known naturalists and conservationists Chris Packham talks about his passion for the environment and wildlife and the need for changes in the way we farm. The event is the festival’s first annual hosting of the Peter Roberts Compassion in World Farming lecture named in honour of the charity’s founder, a British farmer, who became horrified at the development of factory farming.

Pasture to Plate Dinner® Dinner in honour of Chris Packham
St Cross College / Check website for details
FT Weekend Oxford Literary festival celebrates this year’s Pasture to Plate events with a dinner made from locally sourced ingredients.
Jem Poster and Sarah Burton – Creative Writing Course. Who are these People? Developing your Characters
9.30am / St Cross College / £90

Whether you are re a beginner in creative writing or a more advanced writer looking for new ideas and inspiration, this one-day event may be exactly what you need.

Designed by two professional writers with long experience of teaching creative writing at university level, the programme will address ways of establishing and developing fictional characters in ways both practical and thought-provoking, involving both writing and the discussion of writing. The focus will be primarily on prose fiction, but writers of poetry and creative non-fiction are likely to gain useful insights from the event.

Caroline Ball
– The Story Behind Heritage Apples
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (student £7)

Writer and gardener Caroline Ball tells the stories behind the heritage apple varieties listed in the popular Victorian illustrated guide The Herefordshire Pomona.

Sonia Contera – Nano Comes to Life: How Nanotechnology Is Transforming Medicine and the Future of Biology
10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Nanotech pioneer Professor Sonia Contera explains the nanotechnologies that are allowing scientists to manipulate the building blocks of life.

Dana Thomas – Fashionopolis: The price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes
10am / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Journalist and writer on fashion and culture Dana Thomas outlines the damage done by the clothing industry and looks at the grassroots, high-tech, international movement that is fighting to reform it.

Lucy Jones – Losing Eden: Why our Minds need the Wild
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Writer and journalist Lucy Jones explains the healing powers of nature and the risks we face in leaving it behind.
Declan Kiberd
-- Childhood and the Irish Writer
10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
One of Ireland's best-known literary critics Professor Declan Kiberd looks at the ways in which the childhoods of W B Yeats, Oscar Wilde and James Joyce not only lie behind many of their masterpieces but also explain the modernist elements of fragmentation and multiple selfhood in their works.

Dermot O’Leary and Nick East
-- Toto the Ninja Cat
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £10
Ninja Cat series of books aimed at young children. Hear O’Leary read from the book and watch and learn how East draws Toto. Age 6-9

Angus Forbes
-- Global Planet Authority: How We’re About to Save the Biosphere
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Former city banker turned environmentalist Angus Forbes argues for global taxation and regulation to fight environmental degradation and climate change.

Ros Ballaster, Anna Louise Senkiw, Ben Wilkinson-Turnbull and Catriona Cannon
-- The Edgeworth Collection: A Masterclass
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Researchers Professor Ros Ballaster, Anna Louise Senkiw, Ben Wilkinson-Turnbull and Catriona Cannon introduce 200-year-old letters and other items from the Bodleian Libraries’ collection of Edgeworth family papers that throw light on the life and work of early 19th-century Anglo-Irish novelist Maria Edgeworth.

James Riley
-- The Bad Trip: Dark Stars, Blown Minds and the Strange End of the Sixties
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Expert in contemporary literature and culture Dr James Riley plays film and music from the 1960s to argue that a seam of apocalyptic thinking lay behind the hippy dream and the cultural explosion.
Tony Bayfield – Being Jewish Today: Confronting the Real Issues
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Theologian and writer Rabbi Tony Bayfield explores the meaning of Jewish identity today and its relation to Jewish tradition and belief and considers questions of identity and religion relevant to people of all faiths and none.

Jung Chang talks to Nick Higham – Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister: Three Women at the Heart of 20th-Century China
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)

Wild Swans author Jung Chang talks about her new biography of three women who helped to shape the course of modern Chinese history.

Toby Young – Free Speech Trade Union
12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)

Journalist Toby Young calls for the setting up of a trade union for academics, intellectuals, columnists, pundits, novelists, poets, playwrights, screenwriters, songwriters, comedians, and writers of any type to defend their right to free speech.

Edna O’Brien talks to Kim Chakanetsa – BBC World Service Live
1.30pm / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / free

Celebrated Irish novelist, memoirist, playwright, poet and short story writer Edna O’Brien talks to BBC journalist Kim Chakanetsa about her powerful latest work, Girl, as part of a two-hour BBC World Service Radio broadcast. This event lasts two-and-a-half hours.

Natalie Fee – How to Save the World for Free
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Award-winning campaigner on plastic pollution and founder of City to Sea Natalie Fee argues for the changes we can all make to help save the planet.
2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Buddhist monk, meditation trainer and author Gelong Thubten shares insights from his Sunday Times bestselling book, exploring how we can learn the skill of happiness.

Matthew Stadlen – How to see Birds: An Enthusiast’s Guide
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Radio and television presenter Matthew Stadlen gives a personal and witty take on his passion for birdwatching and photography.

Rob Biddulph – Show and Tell
2pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £6
Everyone loves show and tell. Award-winning author and illustrator Rob Biddulph schools you in magic and wonder. Budding writers and artists will find out how he became an illustrator, and everyone can join in and draw one of the characters in his wonderful book Show and Tell. Age 5+

Frank Cottrell Boyce – Runaway Robot and Broccoli Boy
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £8
What would you do with a robot best friend? How would you react if you suddenly turned green? How would you spend millions of pounds in just a few days? Award-winning author Frank Cottrell-Boyce has some ideas. He shares these as he talks about his writing and his funny, charming, life-affirming books including Runaway Robot, The Astounding Broccoli Boy and Millions. Age 8+

Turtle Bunbury – Ireland’s Forgotten Past: A History of the Overlooked and Disremembered
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
One of Ireland’s bestselling historians Turtle Bunbury looks at some of the lesser-known tales from Irish history – from the eruption of a volcano in County Armagh 60 million years ago to recent events that have made the country such a vibrant place.

Joanne Harris and David Greenwood-Haigh – Exotic Pleasure: Stories of Chocolate
4pm / St Cross College: Dining Hall / £15 (£8 student)
Chocolat author Joanne Harris and award-winning chocolatier David Greenwood-Haigh talk about the history of chocolate, its exotic appeal, its relationship to love and human weakness, and its place in folklore and literature. Discussions will naturally be accompanied by some tastings. This event lasts 75 minutes.
Mary Costello and Christine Dwyer Hickey – Award-winning Irish Writers: The River Capture and The Narrow Land
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Award-winning Irish novelists Mary Costello and Christine Dwyer Hickey talk about their work including their recent novels.

Mary Peters talks to Nick Higham – Passing the Torch: Sportswomen who Inspire
4pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Olympic gold medallist Lady Mary Peters talks about her life and her charitable work and about sportswomen past and present and the motivation that drives them to succeed.

Allie Esiri, Gina Bellman and Samuel West – Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10
Take a journey through the year with Shakespeare. Join poetry’s powerhouse Allie Esiri for a delightful and unique celebration of the greatest writer in the English language. Age: family

Kevin Crossley-Holland and Andrew Rafferty – Seahenge: A Journey
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Poet and novelist Kevin Crossley-Holland and photographer Andrew Rafferty talk about their collaborative work on Seahenge – a circle of 55 split oak trunks with an upside-down stump at its centre discovered on the foreshore in North Norfolk 20 years ago.

Brigit Strawbridge Howard – Dancing with Bees: A Journey back to Nature
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Naturalist and wildlife gardener Brigit Strawbridge Howard describes how she reconnected with the natural world and explains what she has learned about the world of bees and what we can learn from them.
David Norris – Why I Love James Joyce
4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Well-known independent Irish politician Senator David Norris talks about his lifelong love of the writer James Joyce and defends him against claims that his work is overrated and overlong.

Toby Young and Rupert Read.
Chaired by Stephen Law
– Oxford Debate. Extinction Rebellion Protests: Were they Justified?
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Journalist Toby Young and Green Party campaigner Rupert Read look at civil disobedience and the recent Extinction Rebellion climate protests and debate whether the protests were justified and proportionate.

Sebastian Barry, Kevin Barry and Sinéad Morrissey.
Chaired by Boyd Tonkin – Voice of Ireland
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
Multi-award-winning Irish novelists Sebastian Barry and Kevin Barry and leading Irish poet and winner of the T S Eliot Prize Sinéad Morrissey talk about their works and about contemporary Irish literature. What is the Irish voice in literature and poetry and where does it come from? The close-knit communities, the landscape, politics, music, religion? How has Irish history influenced its poetry and prose?

Irish Day Dinner: Celebrating the Programme of Irish Literature and Culture
Worcester College / £95
Check website for timings
Dinner in the 18th-century Worcester College hall and in the presence of the Irish Ambassador celebrates the festival’s programme of Irish literature and culture and features a special Irish menu. Price includes reception, dinner and wines.
MONDAY 30 MARCH

Ting Zhang, Rose Luckin, Garrod Musto and Josie Cluer. Hosted by Simon Walker – Ascent or decline? Educating the Western mind in an Age of China, Tech and AI

9.30am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £150

Keynote speakers including leading China business expert Ting Zhang, expert in learner centred design Professor Rose Luckin, maths teacher and director of Kingswood International Garrod Musto and EY partner Josie Cluer look at whether western education is producing young people equipped for the modern age. The day-long event is the second annual festival education leaders’ day and is hosted by Dr Simon Walker, co-founder of STEER, a company that uses pioneering technologies to help young people steer their minds and improve their wellbeing and help them to learn more effectively.

David Hand – Dark Data: Why What you Don’t Know Matters

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Mathematician and statistician Professor David Hand says the information world is full of data we are missing, and this can lead us to the wrong conclusions and mistaken actions.

Kate Kirkpatrick and Cate Haste – Simone de Beauvoir and Alma Mahler: Becoming a Woman

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Biographers Kate Kirkpatrick and Cate Haste reflect on the strong women at the centre of their latest works – the writer of the feminist bible Simone de Beauvoir and ‘the first celebrity’ Alma Mahler – and how they forged their own paths in life.

Sara Collins talks to Jem Poster – The Confessions of Frannie Langton

12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Debut novelist Sara Collins talks about The Confessions of Frannie Langton, a work described by the Guardian as ‘stunning’ and the winner of the 2019 Costa first novel award.


2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Writer Anna Sherman talks about her haunting and original book tracing the lost bells of Tokyo and the life of the city through time.
Marion Turner – Chaucer: A European Life
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
English literature expert Professor Marion Turner tells the story of how a wine merchant’s son became one of the most celebrated English poets and reveals him as a great European writer and thinker.

D J Taylor – Lost Girls: Love, War and Literature 1939-51
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Biographer D J Taylor tells the story of four women from the generation of ‘lost girls’ – the missing link between the first wave of newly liberated young women of the post-Great War era and the free-for-all of the 1960s.

Martin Kemp – Leonardo’s 500th. What was all the Fuss About?
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Leonardo expert Professor Martin Kemp looks back at the year of celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of the artist’s death and asks ‘Is Leonardo worth it?’.

Nicola Tallis – Uncrowned Queen: The Fateful Life of Margaret Beaufort, Tudor Survivor
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Dr Nicola Tallis tells the story of Margaret Beaufort – a woman who nearly died in childbirth at the age of 13 but went on to lead an extraordinary life and ultimately found the Tudor dynasty.

David Boyle talks to Ian Goldin – Tickbox and a New Economics
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Author and campaigner for economic reform David Boyle exposes the ‘tickbox’ culture that he argues is at the heart of the gap between spin and reality and that lies behind ineffective public services, injustice and disasters.

Brenda Hale and Vernon Bogdanor – British Academy Lecture: Is the UK Constitution Fit for Purpose?
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre /£12.50 (£7 student)
Two of Britain’s foremost legal and constitutional experts Lady Brenda Hale and Professor Vernon Bogdanor discuss the legal and constitutional ramifications of recent events including the proroguing of parliament, leaving the European Union and the strength of the UK constitution.
Chris Lintott – The Crowd and the Cosmos: Adventures in Zooniverse
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Astronomer and television presenter Professor Chris Lintott explains the amazing discoveries made by more than a million people that take part in the Zooniverse citizen science project he helped to found.

Charles Emmerson – Crucible: The Long End of the Great War and the Birth of a New World
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Charles Emmerson charts the changing order in Europe between 1917 and 1924 through a cast of characters either falling from power or rising to fame.

Xu Zechen talks to Angus Phillips
– China Lecture: Running through Beijing
6pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Rising star of Chinese literature Xu Zechen talks about his novels that portray the realities of life for many in modern China.

Tamasin Cave and Elesa Zehndorfer. Chaired by Stephen Law
– Oxford Debate: Lobbying, Crony Capitalism and Charisma Politics
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Researcher, campaigner and author Tamasin Cave and physiologist Dr Elesa Zehndorfer discuss how lobbyists and charismatic populists manipulate us and whether they are corrupting our political systems and subverting democracy.

James Barr talks to Peter Frankopan
– Lords of the Desert: Britain’s Struggle with America to Dominate Middle East
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian James Barr talks about his book about how Britain and the United States rivalled each other for post-war influence in the Middle East, in conversation with fellow historian and bestselling writer Professor Peter Frankopan.
Alex Rogers – The Deep: The Hidden Wonders of our Oceans and How we can Protect Them
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

One of the world’s leading marine biologists Professor Alex Rogers describes the wonders that lie beneath the ocean’s surface and explains what we can do to protect them.

Katie Hickman – She-Merchants, Buccaneers & Gentlewomen
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Writer of historical novels and non-fiction Katie Hickman tells the story of the first tough adventuring women to set foot in India in the early 17th century, many of whom built new and independent lives for themselves.

Fawaz Gerges – Making the Arab World: Nasser, Qutb, and the Clash That Shaped the Middle East
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

World-leading authority on the Middle East Professor Fawaz Gerges explains how the Middle East has been shaped by the conflict between political Islamists and secular-leaning nationalists.

Amelia Gentleman talks to Matthew Stadlen – The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Award-winning Guardian journalist Amelia Gentleman tells the story of her investigation into the Windrush scandal that shocked the nation and led to the resignation of the then Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

Kasia Boddy – Blooming Flowers: A Seasonal History of Plants and People
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

English lecturer Dr Kasia Boddy explains how flowers have always been at the heart of human culture and civilization.
Carl Frey – The Technology Trap: Capital, Labour and Power in the Age of Automation
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Economist Dr Carl Frey looks at the history of technological progress and explains how it has always radically shifted the distribution of economic and social power between members of society.

Alison Light introduced by Claire Tomalin – A Radical Romance: A Memoir of Love, Grief and Consolation
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer and critic Professor Alison Light talks about her memoir of a passionate marriage to the radical social historian Raphael Samuel, her grief at his loss and of finding inspiration in her friendship with Samuel’s mother.

Robin Dunbar
– Friends: The New Science of Friendships and Relationships
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Evolutionary psychologist and world expert on friendship Professor Robin Dunbar explains how science is making the value of friendship clearer than it has ever been.

Leo McKinstry – Attlee and Churchill: Allies in War, Adversaries in Peace
2pm / Venue to be confirmed, see website £12.50 (£7 student)
Leading historian of the Second World War Leo McKinstry looks at the lives of two of the greatest 20th-century political leaders, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee, and explains how they forged a wartime partnership but went on to fight each other in seminal post-war elections.

Jeremy Dronfield – The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Biographer and writer Jeremy Dronfield tells the story of how a son willingly followed his father into Auschwitz concentration camp and how they survived against all the odds.
Jan Marsh – Pre-Raphaelite Sisterhood
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer and curator Dr Jan Marsh looks at the untold story of a group of women in the Pre-Raphaelite art movement who are at the centre of a major exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, Pre-Raphaelite Sisters.

Clare Carlisle and Kathy O’Shaughnessy
– Uncovering the Real George Eliot
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Philosopher Clare Carlisle and novelist Kathy O’Shaughnessy discuss what they have learned about the real George Eliot through their respective work editing a new version of Eliot’s translation of Spinoza’s Ethics and writing a novel based on the author’s life.

Trevor Eve talks to Matthew Stadlen
– An Acting Life and Lomita for Ever
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Actor Trevor Eve known for his leading roles in BBC dramas Shoestring and Waking the Dead talks about his acting career and his recent entry into the world of writing fiction.

4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
China experts George Magnus and Jonathan Fenby discuss where China is heading and the implications for the rest of the world. Where will China be in 10 or 20 years? What will be its impact on values, politics, and economies around the world? How will the new tariffs impact China and the West? Are we witnessing the rise of new empire? Should we be hopeful, or fearful?

George Carey and Michael Collins
– John Henry Newman: Perspectives on Sainthood
4pm / Venue to be confirmed, see website £12.50 (£7 student)
Former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord George Carey and Catholic priest and writer Father Michael Collins discuss the life of the recently declared saint John Henry Newman.
Jim Al-Khalili talks to Clive Cookson
– The World According to Physics
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Theoretical physicist, author and television presenter Professor Jim Al-Khalili explains what modern physics tells us about the universe and the nature of reality and why it matters to everyone.

John O’Connell
– Bowie’s Books: The Hundred Literary Heroes Who Changed His Life
6pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Music journalist John O’Connell throws new light on the life of the rock star David Bowie through the reading list that he composed before he died.

Thomas Waters – Cursed Britain:
A History of Witchcraft and Black Magic in Modern Times
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Dr Thomas Waters says black magic is far from dead in the age of technology and information – it has persisted, changed and returned over the centuries, and it is now on the rise.

Jeremy Robson and Frieda Hughes
– Lives in Poetry: The Heartless Traffic and Out of the Ashes
6pm / Venue to be confirmed, see website / £12.50 (£7 student)
Poets Jeremy Robson and Frieda Hughes, the daughter of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, reflect on their recent collections of poems that look back on their lives.

Richard Barber – Magnificence: Princely Splendour in the Middle Ages
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian of the Middle Ages Professor Richard Barber explains how medieval princes demonstrated their status through displays of magnificence.

Ian Goldin – Terra Incognita: 100 Maps to Survive the Next 100 Years
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Expert in globalisation and development Professor Ian Goldin uses state-of-the-art satellite maps to show humanity’s impact on the planet and demonstrate how we can save it and thrive as a species.
Levison Wood – The Last Giants: Walking with the Elephants
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Well-known television explorer Levison Wood talks about his new book The Last Giants: The Rise and Fall of the African Elephant and his forthcoming Channel 4 series, Walking with Elephants, where he followed elephants on foot for 650 miles without a compass or map on their migration across Botswana.

Christina Hardyment – Novel Houses: Twenty Famous Fictional Dwellings
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer and journalist Christina Hardyment looks at famous English and American works of fiction and explains why the homes at the centre of the plots – from Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Bleak House to 221B Baker Street – were significant to the authors.

Stephen Law – What Am I Doing With My Life?
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Is there a face in my toast? Have I found ‘the one’? Should I be allowed to say what I want? Philosopher Dr Stephen Law sets out to answer some of the questions people pose their Internet search engines, ranging from the banal to the deeply philosophical.

John Humphrys talks to Matthew Stadlen – An Audience with John Humphrys
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50–£15 (£7–£8 student)
One of the best-known voices on UK television and radio John Humphrys talks about his life and career.

12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £7–£12.50
Former Bishop of Oxford Lord Richard Harries looks at 30 artists who have explored and expressed their faith in God through their art and reflects on how their work illuminates important aspects of Christian faith and teaching.
Clare Hastings – Hold the Front Page!
For the star of Fleet Street
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer Clare Hastings talks about her mother Anne Scott-James, a pioneering journalist and the first female star of Fleet Street.

Adrian Tinniswood
– The House Party: Leisure, Pleasure and the Country House Weekend
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Architectural and social historian Adrian Tinniswood gives an insight into the quintessentially British tradition of the country house party.

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Legal and technology expert Professor Richard Susskind and economics fellow Daniel Susskind discuss how technological change could completely transform the traditional professions.

John Guy – Gresham’s Law: The Life and World of Queen Elizabeth I’s Banker
12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School £12.50 (£7 student)
Bestselling historical biographer Dr John Guy looks at the life of Sir Thomas Gresham, the banker of Queen Elizabeth I and founder of the Royal Exchange, who made Tudor London the financial centre of the planet.

Iain MacGregor – Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War, the Berlin Wall and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth
2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Editor and publisher of non-fiction Iain MacGregor talks about his book on the history of Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall that divided East and West during the Cold War.
Rob Hopkins – From What Is to What If: Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future We Want
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Environmentalist and founder of the international Transition Towns movement Rob Hopkins says true creative and positive thinking is in decline and communities need to revive it and reclaim it to bring about dramatic change for the better.

David Miles – The Land of the White Horse: Visions of England
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Oxford archaeologist David Miles takes an in-depth look at Oxfordshire’s most famous ancient monument, the White Horse at Uffington.

Henry Blofeld talks to Matthew Stadlen
– My A-Z of Cricket: A Personal Celebration of our Glorious Game
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre
£12.50-£15 / (£7-£8 student)
The enduring voice of English cricket Henry Blofeld talks about his 50 years at the heart of the game and shares a few amusing and entertaining anecdotes.

Adam Kucharski – The Rules of Contagion: Why Things Spread and Why they Stop
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Science writer and expert in infectious disease outbreaks Dr Adam Kucharski looks at why some ideas and diseases spread and some fail to take off at all.

Box Office 0333 666 3366 • www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org
Sally Bayley, Arizona Smith and Georgina Hellier – No Boys Play Here: A Girl’s Coming of Age Through Shakespeare
2pm / Weston lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Author Dr Sally Bayley and artist Arizona Smith talk about Bayley’s lyrical coming-of-age memoir, No Boys Play Here, and about how visual archetypes as forms of visual and oral storytelling can be created from myth and literature. The event will include readings by actress Georgina Hellier and lasts 75 minutes.

Errol Fuller – Elephant
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Writer, painter and world authority on animal extinction Errol Fuller celebrates the elephant and warns that these magnificent animals are in urgent need of protection.

Roger Crowley – Accursed Tower: The Crusaders’ Last Battle for the Holy Land
4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)

Bestselling historian Roger Crowley talks about the six-week siege of Acre and the bloody fall of this final stronghold of the Crusaders.

Richard Hamilton – Tangier: From the Romans to The Rolling Stones
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Former BBC North Africa correspondent Richard Hamilton gives a personal and intimate portrait of the Moroccan city of Tangier.

Alessandro Bianchi – Art and Literature in Print: The Publishing Market in Tokugawa Japan
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Curator Dr Alessandro Bianchi explores the development of woodblock printing and commercial publishing by looking at the production of some iconic works of art and literature realized in Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868).

Maggie O’Farrell – Hamnet
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Award-winning novelist Maggie O’Farrell talks about her new novel based on the death of Shakespeare’s son Hamnet and the writing of the play that bore his name.
Celia Paul talks to Christopher Le Brun
– Self-Portrait
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
One of the most important painters working in Britain today Celia Paul reflects on a life lived through her art and on why so few women reach the top.

Jonathan Sacks talks to Nick Higham
– Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15-£20 (£8-£10 student)
Former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks draws on the Bible and the historic experience of the Jewish people to argue that there are key factors that help to establish, maintain and pass on core moral values that are under threat in the modern era.

Jonathan Sumption
– Trials of the State: Law and the Decline of Politics
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian and judge Lord Jonathan Sumption argues that it is time to stop relying so much on the courts and to return problems to the politicians.

Adam Sisman
– The Professor and the Parson: A Story of Desire, Deceit and Defrocking
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Biographer Adam Sisman looks at the extraordinary life of Robert Peters – a conman, serial seducer, bigamist and fraud, and the last Anglican clergyman to be formally defrocked.

Faith Martin
– The English Country Murder Mystery
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Prolific murder mystery writer Faith Martin talks about her million-selling crime thrillers including the DI Hillary Greene novels, Monica Noble, Jenny Starling and new Ryder and Loveday series.

Adrian Tinniswood
– The Royal Society and the Invention of Modern Science
6pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Architectural and social historian Adrian Tinniswood explains why The Royal Society has been at the forefront of cultural life in Britain and across the globe for more than 350 years.
Archie Brown – The Human Factor: Gorbachev, Reagan, and Thatcher and the End of the Cold War
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Leading expert on Mikhail Gorbachev Professor Archie Brown argues that the Cold War was not ended because of America’s military and economic strength but by the rise of Gorbachev and the relationships between the main political leaders.

Camillo A Formigatti and Menaka PP Bora – A Sanskrit Treasury
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Sanskrit Librarian at the Bodleian Libraries Dr Camillo Formigatti uncovers some of the jewels of Sanskrit literature held at the Bodleian Libraries and is joined for some performance by award-winning Indian classical dancer Menaka PP Bora.

Mick Herron and Lucy Atkins
– The Art of Intrigue
10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
What keeps readers reading? What makes some novels impossible to put down? Spy novelist Mick Herron and suspense novelist Lucy Atkins discuss the ins and outs of hooking readers and creating complex, character-driven thrillers.

Mo Moulton – Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy L Sayers and Her Oxford Circle Remade the World For Women
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian and author Dr Mo Moulton talks about the Mutual Admiration Society writing group founded at Somerville College, Oxford, by the crime writer Dorothy L Sayers and five friends and how they pushed the boundaries on women’s rights.

Sue Armstrong – Borrowed Time: The Science of How and Why We Age
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Science writer and broadcaster Sue Armstrong looks at society’s quest to understand ageing and investigates where science is taking us.

Thomas Penn – The Brothers York: An English Tragedy
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Dr Thomas Penn tells the dramatic story of the brothers York – Edward, George and Richard – who were the figureheads of a ruling dynasty in 15th-century England and at the heart of the War of the Roses.
Gavin Esler – Brexit Without The Bullshit
12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Journalist and former presenter of BBC’s Newsnight, Gavin Esler reveals how Brexit will really change Britain.

David Runciman – Where Power Stops: The Making and Unmaking of Presidents and Prime Ministers
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Politics expert Professor David Runciman considers how the characters of UK prime ministers and American presidents define their ambitions and often limit their ability to implement their visions.

Viv Groskop – Lift as you Climb: Women and the Art of Ambition
2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer, comedian and radio and television presenter Viv Groskop says women can be ambitious and climb to the top while at the same time helping others along the way and not losing their sense of self.

Karen Armstrong – The Lost Art of Scripture
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
Former Roman Catholic nun and one of the world’s leading commentators on religious affairs Karen Armstrong argues for an open engagement with holy scriptures to counter the intolerance, arrogance and violence that many justify from a narrow reading of religious texts.

Paul Corthorn – Enoch Powell: Politics and Ideas in Modern Britain
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Paul Corthorn argues that Enoch Powell was about much more than his ‘Rivers of Blood’ speech and should be considered a seminal political intellectual of his time rather than as a divisive figure.

Rachel Clarke – Dear Life: A Doctor’s Story of Love and Loss
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
NHS doctor and former television journalist Dr Rachel Clarke draws on her own experience of working in palliative care and the death of her father to look at how we live and die.
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer and broadcaster Professor Susan Blackmore describes her long quest for answers following her experience as an impressionable young student of a dramatic out-of-body experience.

Vivek Singh talks to Rosie Birkett – A Life in Food
2pm / Westgate Centre: Cinnamon Kitchen / £12.50 (£7 student)
Chef, author and restaurateur Vivek Singh – the man behind the Cinnamon Kitchen restaurants, including Cinnamon Kitchen Oxford – talks about his life and his passion for food.

Holders of festival tickets can claim a free cinnamon Bellini cocktail by showing their ticket when they dine at the Cinnamon Kitchen restaurant in the Westgate Centre, Oxford, during the festival.

Robert Skidelsky – What’s Wrong with Economics?
A Primer for the Perplexed
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Economic historian Professor Robert Skidelsky takes aim at orthodox economic teaching and says it fails to equip students with the tools to deal with modern life.

Prashant Kidambi – Cricket Country: An Indian Odyssey in the Age of Empire
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Professor Prashant Kidambi tells the story of the first ‘all Indian’ cricket team to play on the fields of imperial Britain and of how the idea of India took shape on a cricket pitch long before the country gained political independence.

Richard Swinburne – Are we Bodies or Souls?
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Philosopher of Christianity Professor Richard Swinburne outlines new philosophical arguments supported by modern neuroscience to defend the idea of a human soul.

Alex Edmans – Grow the Pie: How Great Companies Deliver Both Purpose and Profit
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Sought-after finance expert Professor Alex Edmans argues for a new approach to company governance that embeds both social good and profit.
David Lammy talks to Matthew Stadlen
– Tribes: How our Need to Belong can Make or Break the Good Society
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50–£15 (£7–£8 student)
Well-known backbencher MP and former Labour minister David Lammy talks about how a DNA test to establish his roots led him to rethink what it meant to belong to a tribe and the impact of being part of one.

Kapil Komireddi – Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Journalist Kapil Komireddi talks about his blistering critique of modern India and warns that the country could become Pakistan in another name if secularists do not reclaim it from Hindu nationalists.

Andrew Lownie – The Mountbattens: Their Lives and Loves
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (student £7)
Writer, historian and literary agent Andrew Lownie tells the story of the unique marriage between member of the Royal family Dickie Mountbatten and one of the richest women in Britain Edwina Mountbatten.

William Whyte and Diarmaid MacCulloch – Westminster Abbey: A Church in History
6pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (student £7)
Social and architectural historian Professor William Whyte and leading historian and broadcaster Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch discuss a new book in which distinguished historians consider Westminster Abbey’s place in history.

Pat Barker in conversation with Richard Ovenden – 2020 Bodley Lecture and Award of Bodley Medal: The Silence of the Girls
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50–£15 (£7–£8 student)
Booker Prize-winning novelist Pat Barker talks about her latest novel *The Silence of the Girls*, a new take on *The Iliad* and a story about the cost of wars waged by men, and about her life and work. After the event, she will receive the Bodley Medal from Bodley’s Librarian Richard Ovenden – awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the worlds in which the Bodleian is active including literature, culture, science and communication.

Vivek Singh – Indian Dinner: Celebrating the Programme of Indian Literature and Culture
New College / £95 Check website for timings
Enjoy a dinner prepared by well-known Indian chef Vivek Singh to celebrate the festival’s programme of Indian literature and culture. Price includes reception, dinner, and wines. Dress code: jacket and tie.
John Carey talks to Bernard O’Donoghue

– A Little History of Poetry
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Leading literary critic Professor John Carey looks at poetry from ancient times to the modern day and asks what makes some poems stand the test of time.

Claudia La Malfa

– Raphael and the Antique
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Art historian Claudia La Malfa looks at the career of Renaissance artist Raphael and explains how he reinvented classical models and how he was striving to perfect his art before his early death at only 37.

Michael Wood – The Story of China: A Portrait of a Civilisation and a People
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)


Vivek Singh – Indian Cooking Masterclass
11am / Westgate Centre: Cinnamon Kitchen / £25

Chef, author and restaurateur Vivek Singh – the man behind the Cinnamon Kitchen restaurant – offers a cookery masterclass at Cinnamon Kitchen Oxford. This event lasts 90 minutes.

Holders of festival tickets can claim a free cinnamon Bellini cocktail by showing their ticket when they dine at the Cinnamon Kitchen restaurant in the Westgate Centre, Oxford, during the festival.

Diego Zancani

– How we Fell in Love with Italian Food
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (student £7)

Professor of Italian Diego Zancani maps the progress of Italian food in Britain from the legacy of the Roman invasions to the modern age.

Catherine Horwood – Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Social historian with a passion for gardening Dr Catherine Horwood talks about her biography of Beth Chatto – the most influential British gardener of the last 100 years.
Janet Ellis and Kirsty Wark talk to Lucy Atkins – How it Was and The House by the Loch
12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Novelists and television presenters Janet Ellis and Kirsty Wark talk about their latest works and their writing in conversation with fellow novelist Lucy Atkins.

Greta Scacchi talks to Peter Guttridge – An audience with Greta Scacchi
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Italian-Australian actress Greta Scacchi, best known for roles in films such as Heat and Dust, White Mischief, Presumed Innocent, The Player, Emma and Looking for Albrandi, talks about her life and career.

James Hanratty. Chaired by Ian Goldin – The Making of an Immigration Judge
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Retired judge James Hanratty talks about his life in the UK courts and his more than 10 years as an immigration judge and reflects on the immigration crisis in Europe today.

Jerry Toner – Infamy: The Crimes of Ancient Rome
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Classicist Dr Jerry Toner leaves no stone unturned as he seeks out the crimes of the citizens of ancient Rome and wonders whether they were as bad and as brutal as history suggests.

Ruth Goodman – Ironbridge Lecture: The Domestic Revolution
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Social historian and television presenter Ruth Goodman explains how the development of the coal-fired range not only made us comfortable but changed our world and sparked an industrial revolution.

John Took – Dante
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Leading Dante expert Professor John Took says the best guide to the life of Italy’s greatest writer is the poet himself.
Librarian Dr Mamtimyn Sunuodula gives a masterclass on the pivotal role played by libraries in the history of intellectual and cultural exchanges between Britain and China and demonstrates the significant influence that librarians had in shaping the knowledge and academic study of China in Britain and vice versa.

Charlotte and Clementine Fiell

Clementine Fiell, Nipa Doshi and Kim Colin. Chaired by Charlotte Fiell

– Women in Design
2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Leading authority on the history and theory of design Charlotte Fiell and her daughter fashion and lifestyle writer Clementine Fiell are joined by designers Nipa Doshi and Kim Colin to look at the central role of women in the history of design.

Steve Jones – Here Comes the Sun: How it Makes us What we are
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

One of the world’s best-known communicators of science geneticist Professor Steve Jones explains how life on Earth is ruled by a star that feeds us, heals us and kills us, and how it is increasingly important to understand our relationship to it.

Janice Hadlow – The Other Bennet Sister

2pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (student £7)

Former BBC producer and executive Janice Hadlow talks about her first novel The Other Bennet Sister – an imagining of the life of Mary, the middle of the five girls in Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice.

Catherine Fletcher – The Beauty and the Terror: An Alternative History of the Italian Renaissance

4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Historian Professor Catherine Fletcher explains how the flowering of culture during the Renaissance was also accompanied by a darker period of war, famine, disease and slaughter.
Ian Fraser talks to Frederick Studemann – Shredded: Inside RBS, The Bank that Broke Britain
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (student £7)
Financial journalist Ian Fraser talks about the updated version of his bestselling book about the collapse of the Royal Bank of Scotland including continuing scandals in the banking sector.

Alexander McCall Smith – A Celebration of A Writing Life and Honorary Fellowship
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
One of the world’s most prolific novelists Alexander McCall Smith talks about a writing life that has seen him publish more than 80 books. After this event, he will receive the honorary fellowship of the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival.

Philip Mansel – The Sun King and the English: from Francophobia to Francophilia
4pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian Philip Mansel argues that francophilia is as English as francophobia and you only need look as far as Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and its first owner John Churchill for the evidence.

Helen Taylor – Why Women Read Fiction: The Stories of our Lives
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Academic and writer Professor Helen Taylor draws on more than 500 interviews with readers and writers including Hilary Mantel, Helen Dunmore, Katie Fforde, and Sarah Dunant to ask why women read fiction.

Nikita Gill – SLAM! You’re Gonna Wanna Hear This
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room /£8
Join poetry sensation Nikita Gill and guests for this special SLAM! event. Hear her and some incredible up-and-coming poets as they perform their poems and share tips on how you can make your own poetry brilliant. Come with ears, hearts and minds and prepare for a life-changing experience.
Age: young adult

Rebecca Abrams – Jewish Treasures from Oxford Libraries
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Author and journalist Rebecca Abrams talks about the rich collection of historic Jewish and Hebrew books and manuscripts held by the Bodleian Libraries and Oxford colleges.
Donna Leon talks to Peter Kemp – Trace Elements
6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15-£20 (£8-£10 student)
Award-winning crime writer Donna Leon talks about Trace Elements, the 29th novel in her bestselling Commissario Brunetti series.

Hugo Mercier – Not Born Yesterday: The Science of Who We Trust and What We Believe
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Cognitive scientist Dr Hugo Mercier explains the science behind how we decide who to trust and what we believe and argues that we are pretty good at making these decisions.

Philipp Ther and Peter Gatrell. Chaired by Ian Goldin – Migration and Europe: The Story of Today and our Yesterdays
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Historians Professor Philipp Ther and Professor Peter Gatrell discuss the impact of waves of migration that have crossed Europe over the centuries and that continue to dominate the continent’s history in the modern era.

Rachel Reeves and Layla Moran – Women of Westminster: The MPs who Changed Politics
6pm / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Former Labour shadow minister Rachel Reeves is joined by Oxford West and Abingdon Liberal Democrat MP Layla Moran to look back at the achievements of the 491 women elected as MPs in Britain in the 100 years since Nancy Astor became the first in 1919.

Italian Dinner – Celebrating the Programme of Italian Literature and Culture
Exeter College / £120 / Check website for timings
Celebrate the festival’s programme of Italian literature and culture with an Italian-themed dinner at Exeter College, in the presence of the Italian Ambassador. Many of the speakers at the festival’s Italian day will be guests at the dinner. Price includes three-course dinner and wines. Dress code: business suits.
Jem Poster and Sarah Burton – Creative Writing Course.
Real Lives: Writing Biography and Memoir
9.30am / St Cross College / £90

Whether you want to record your own life for the benefit of future readers (perhaps simply for your family, perhaps for a wider readership) or want to research and interpret the lives of others, this one-day event may be exactly what you need. Designed by two professional writers with long experience of teaching creative writing at university level, the programme will address a range of relevant matters in ways both practical and thought-provoking, involving both writing and the discussion of writing. Although the focus will be primarily on life-writing, writers of poetry and fiction are likely to gain useful insights from the event.

Robin Stevens
– Murder Most Unladylike
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £10

Calling all young crime enthusiasts. Presenting her brilliant Murder Most Unladylike series, Oxford Literary Festival favourite Robin Stevens returns to give tips on how to write a great mystery and to reveal the people and places from her Oxford childhood that inspired her books. Tap into your own detective skills to help Robin create and solve a mystery and bring along your deadliest questions. Age 9+

Euton Daley – Ending the Silence
10am / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)


Chris Fletcher – Rare and Beautiful American Books
10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Bodleian keeper of special collections Dr Chris Fletcher introduces examples of remarkable American books from the library’s collections, including items of great rarity, beauty, oddity and technical achievement.

Nicholas Foulkes – Time Tamed: The Remarkable Story of Humanity’s Quest to Measure Time
10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)

Leading expert on watches and timepieces Nicholas Foulkes explains the history of man’s quest to measure time and looks at some of the remarkable and beautiful timepieces created in the process.
Sarah McIntyre and Philip Reeve
– Kevin’s Great Escape
10am / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre /£6
Join dynamic duo Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre for an event full of fun, frolics and fat flying ponies as they celebrate their latest Roly Poly Flying Pony adventure Kevin’s Great Escape. Expect live drawing, interactive story building, songs and belly laughs galore. Age 6+

Frank Close – Trinity: The Treachery and Pursuit of the Most Dangerous Spy in History
10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
World-renowned scientist and writer Professor Frank Close tells the story of Klaus Fuchs, the ‘most dangerous spy in the history of nations’ according to a US congressional committee, and one of Close’s predecessors at Harwell’s Rutherford Laboratory.

Abi Daré and Abbie Greaves. Chaired by Suzi Feay – The Girl with the Louding Voice and The Silent Treatment
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Debut novelists Abi Daré and Abbie Greaves talk about their writing and their first novels, The Girl with the Louding Voice and The Silent Treatment.

Anna Fifield talks to Alec Russell
– The Great Successor: The Secret Rise and Rule of Kim Jong Un
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Journalist and leading authority on North Korea Anna Fifield gives a fascinating insight into the secretive and bizarre dictatorship of Kim Jong Un and explains how he came to lead a bankrupt country that can possess nuclear weapons and summon a US president.

Patrick Curry
– Enchantment: Wonder in Modern Life
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Environmental philosopher Dr Patrick Curry explores how enchantment – a sense of wonder, awe or amazement – is central to a well-lived life and key to the future of the planet.
AC Grayling – The Good State: On the Principles of Democracy
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50-£15 (£7-£8 student)
Philosopher Professor A C Grayling says the foundations on which our democracy stands are inherently flawed and sets out the reforms we need to make.

Leah Plunkett – Sharenthood: Why We Should Think before We Post about our Kids
12 noon / Oxford Martin school: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Law lecturer Professor Leah Plunkett says parents are unwittingly compromising their children's privacy online before they can walk and sometimes before they are even born.

Christopher Tugendhat talks to Alex Preston
– A History of Britain Through Books 1900-1964
12 noon / Bodleian: Divinity School / £12.50 (£7 student)
Former journalist, businessman and European commissioner Lord Christopher Tugendhat talks about his unique take on the history of Britain in the first half of the last century told through the books that were written.

Michelle Paver – Wolf Brother Returns
12 noon / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre /£8
Fans of Michelle Paver’s superb Wolf Brother series have long wondered what happened to Torak, Renn and Wolf after the end of the series. Now they can find out as she talks about her new Wolf Brother story, Viper’s Daughter, which plunges readers back into the Stone-Age world of Torak, Renn and Wolf: a world of demons, Hidden People and exhilarating adventure.
Age 10+

FT Leader Debate
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Listen to a panel of Financial Times journalists discuss the leading column for next week's paper and join in the debate. The discussion will focus on a topic current to the day, and will determine the content of the leader to run in the next weekday's FT. Expect strong opinions, disagreement and laughter.

Nora Krug
– Heimat: A German Family Album
2pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Graphic artist Nora Krug describes how she was compelled to look into the lives of her German family under the Nazi regime and to explore issues of post-war identity and guilt in her homeland.
Arthur Miller – The Artist in the Machine: The World of AI-Powered Creativity
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Expert in the history and philosophy of science Professor Arthur Miller explains how computers powered by artificial intelligence are creating art, literature and music that could be better than the work of humans.

Gill Hornby talks to Peter Kemp – Miss Austen
2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £8-£13.50
Novelist Gill Hornby imagines the life of Jane Austen’s sister Cassandra and considers why she might have destroyed a treasure trove of letters from her famous sibling.

Emma Carroll – The Somerset Tsunami
2pm / St Cross College / £8
Join Emma Carroll, award-winning author of Letters from the Lighthouse and Secrets of a Sun King, as she introduces her thrilling new historical adventure, The Somerset Tsunami. Hear about strange superstitions, a fight for survival and a real-life-inspired torrential flooding, plus pick up tips on how to write your own stories. Age 8+

Maggie Aderin-Pocock – An Interactive Tour of Space
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10
Space scientist and The Sky at Night presenter Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock goes on an epic and interactive journey through the solar system. Discover and visit the most magnificent sights and spectacles outer space has to offer, from planets and moons, to asteroids, comets and satellites. Age 8+

Thomas Hegghammer and Azadeh Moaveni – What Draws People to Global Jihad?
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Political scientist Professor Thomas Hegghammer and Middle East correspondent Azadeh Moaveni look at the origins of global jihad and what draws people to join Islamic terrorist movements. Both Hegghammer and Moaveni have researched and written widely on global jihad.
Barney Norris talks to Sophie Ratcliffe
– The Vanishing Hours
4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Novelist Barney Norris talks about his latest work, The Vanishing Hours, a story of love, abandonment and the power of stories to help us find meaning.

Hugh St Clair – A Lesson in Art & Life: The Colourful World of Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Arts and design journalist Hugh St Clair looks at the colourful lives of Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines who were at the centre of creative and bohemian worlds in both London and Paris and who espoused a principle of freedom to express oneself through art.

Anthony Horowitz
– Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Alex Rider
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £8
Get ready for action, adrenaline and adventure with bestselling author and Oxford favourite Anthony Horowitz. April sees publication of an explosive new adventure in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series, Nightshade, and we will be celebrating 20 years of the books that have reinvented the spy genre. Hear Horowitz talk about the inspiration and passions behind the series, and a writing career full of death, deception and nail-biting tension. Age 9+

Josh Berson – The Meat Question: Animals, Humans and the Deep History of Food
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Social scientist Josh Berson argues that meat is not what made humans human and that our future may not be a carnivorous one.

Philip Reeve and Frances Hardinge – Pure magic
4pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £8
Trains, airships, submarines, futuristic visions, ghosts and old gods. Join Frances Hardinge and Philip Reeve, two of the most original, talented and exciting authors writing today, for a discussion on creating new worlds and exploring new ideas. Age 11+
Ainissa Ramirez – The Alchemy of Us: How Humans and Matter Transformed One Another
6pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Materials scientist and science writer Professor Ainissa Ramirez looks at how eight key inventions shaped the human experience – clocks, steel rails, copper communication cables, photographic film, light bulbs, hard disks, scientific labwear, and silicon chips.

6pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Painter, curator, author and art critic William Feaver talks about the first part of his landmark biography of his friend and collaborator the great 20th-century portraitist Lucien Freud.

Casey Gerald – There Will Be No Miracles Here: Life in the Shadow of the American Dream
6pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Harvard business graduate Casey Gerald talks about his memoir of growing up as a black gay man in Dallas and of how he co-founded MBAs Across America – an organisation that encourages business graduates to focus their skills on making a difference rather than making a buck.

Martin Sandbu – The Economics of Belonging
6pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Economics correspondent Martin Sandbu says populism is a direct result of decades of mismangement and we need to step back from polarised debate over current challenges and seek out the economic policies that could address widening inequality.

Ben Okri – Prayer for the Living
6pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Poet and Booker-winning novelist Ben Okri talks about his latest collection of short stories, Prayer for the Living, his recent novel, The Freedom Artist, and a forthcoming collection of poems, A Fire in My Head.

American Dinner – Celebrating the Programme of American Literature and Culture
Trinity College / £95 Check website for timings
The festival’s American dinner brings together many of the distinguished novelists, writers and public figures from the USA who will be at Oxford during the festival and other speakers. Price includes three-course dinner and wines. Dress code jacket and tie.
Raffi Berg – Red Sea Spies: The True Story of Mossad’s Fake Holiday Resort  
10am / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)  
BBC journalist Raffi Berg uncovers the true story of how Israel’s secret service Mossad set up a diving resort on the Red Sea as a cover to smuggle Ethiopian Jews to Israel from inside enemy territory.

Greg Jenner – Dead Famous: The Unexpected History of Celebrity from Bronze Age to Silver Screen  
10am / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Historian, broadcaster and writer Greg Jenner says celebrity is not a modern phenomenon. We have been obsessing and gossiping for centuries about people we have never met.

Maureen Webb – Coding Democracy: How Hackers Are Disrupting Power, Surveillance, and Authoritarianism  
10am / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Lawyer and human rights activist Maureen Webb argues that hackers should not have such a bad reputation and can be vital disruptors that help ordinary citizens to take back democracy.

Clare Clark and Naomi Wood – Art, Love and Politics in Weimar Germany  
10am / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Novelists Clare Clark and Naomi Wood talk about the common themes in their new novels set in the turbulent political and art world of Weimar Germany.

10am / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)  
Doctor, broadcaster and lecturer Dr Jenny Goodman explains how to stay in radiant and optimal health all year round.

Anthony Horowitz – Licence to Thrill  
10am / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)  
One of Britain’s most prolific authors for adults and children talks about his latest works including his Daniel Hawthorne detective series and his James Bond and Sherlock Holmes stories.
Teddy Keen – Lost Book of Adventure
10am / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £8
Join author/illustrator Teddy Keen and prepare yourself for life in the wild with this one-of-a-kind adventure book. Keen first discovered the famous lost notebooks and treasures of the unknown adventurer whilst deep in the Amazon jungle – before having them shipped home and painstakingly restored and edited together to create *The Lost Book of Adventure*. **Age 7+**

Clover Stroud talks to Lucy Atkins
– My Wild and Sleepless Nights: A Mother’s Story
12 noon / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer and journalist and mother to five children
Clover Stroud talks about what it means to be a mother and about female sexuality and identity.

Roy Strong – The Elizabethan Image: An Introduction to English Portraiture, 1558–1603
12 noon / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £13.50 (£8 student)
Historian, broadcaster and former director of the National Portrait Gallery Sir Roy Strong casts a fresh eye on the Elizabethan image in this illustrated talk.

Julia Neuburger – Antisemitism: What It Is, What It Isn’t, Why It Matters
12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
House of Lords crossbencher Rabbi Julia Neuburger uses contemporary examples and historical context to explain what constitutes antisemitism and argues that it is crucial we come to a shared understanding now.

Sally Gardner talks to Jamila Gavin – Invisible in a Bright Light
12 noon / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / £8
Award-winning author of *Maggot Moon* and *I, Coriander*, Sally Gardner talks about her dazzling new novel *Invisible in a Bright Light*, which draws its inspiration from the great Hans Christian Andersen. It is a story of magic and enchantment, rich in colours of light and dark: where the kind and generous, however humble, and the selfish and cruel, however exalted, get their just desserts.

Celebrate fairy tales, mysteries, and brilliant writing for young people. **Age 9+**
Hashi Mohamed – People Like Us: Social Mobility, Inequality and making it in Modern Britain
12 noon / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Barrister and broadcaster Hashi Mohamed, who was raised on benefits and attended some of the worst schools in the country, looks at inequality and lack of social mobility in Britain and how to overcome it.

Anna Hope talks to Marlene Hauser – Expectation
12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Bestselling novelist Anna Hope talks about her new contemporary novel *Expectation* – a story of three friends trying to find their way in life as mothers, daughters, wives and rebels.

12 noon / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Leading neurobiologist Professor Jack Price looks at what stem cell therapies can do to treat brain disorders such as stroke, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

Sibéal Pounder – Bad Mermaids Meet the Witches
2pm / Cohen Quad: Lecture Theatre / £8
Think you know all there is to know about Mermaids and Witches? Come along and meet Sibéal Pounder, author of the Witch Wars series and *Bad Mermaids*, to find out the truth about your favourite fairy-tale characters. Learn how to create cool characters and build amazingly weird worlds. Hats and shells strongly encouraged. **Age 7+**

Tom Holland – Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind
2pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Historian, biographer and broadcaster Tom Holland explains how we came to think the way we do and why so many of the instincts of the western mind remain Christian despite growing doubts about the claims of religion.

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Google insider Daniel Russell explains how to be a great online searcher and says there is much more we can do to uncover the massive amount of knowledge available online.
Sarah Hopwood, Alistair Spalding and Lamia Dabboussy. Chaired by Rebecca Jones – These Troubled Times: What is the Future of the Arts?

2pm / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Leading figures in the UK arts world, Sarah Hopwood, Alistair Spalding and Lamia Dabboussy, discuss the challenges facing the arts in 21st-century Britain and how the arts can remain relevant in a rapidly changing world.

David Robert Grimes – The Irrational Ape

2pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)

Physicist, cancer researcher and journalist Dr David Robert Grimes argues that our ability to think critically has never been more important in a world dominated by fake news, mistrust of experts, prejudice and ignorance.

Clarissa Campbell Orr – Mrs Delany: A Life

2pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Historian Clarissa Campbell Orr looks at the life of 18th-century artist and court insider Mary Granville Delany and throws light on attitudes to marriage, family life, education and the status of women among the elite of the time.

Suzie Hanna and Noreen Masud – Stevie Smith’s The Blue from Heaven: Film Screening and Workshop

2pm / St Cross: Seminar Room /£15

Filmmaker Suzie Hanna and Smith scholar Dr Noreen Masud explore the work of poet and illustrator Stevie Smith. Hanna will present her recent film, The Blue from Heaven, an animated interpretation of Stevie Smith’s 1950s poem. Hanna and Masud will then lead an interactive talk and workshop exploring Smith’s relationship to awkward social situations and language. This event last 2 hours 30 minutes.

Kavita Puri – Partition Voices: Untold British Stories

4pm / St Cross College / £12.50 (£7 student)

Award-winning BBC journalist Kavita Puri explains how she sought out the stories of British citizens caught up by the partition of India in 1947 to reveal the trauma of that time and how the diaspora of post-colonial Pakistan and India helped to shape the UK.
Lucy Worsley – The Austen Girls
4pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £10
Historian, writer and television presenter Lucy Worsley brings alive the fascinating life of one of Britain’s most treasured novelists Jane Austen as you’ve never heard it before. Expect costumes, trivia and tips on how to become the hero of your own story. Age 11+

Mark Hanson and Peter Gluckman – Ingenious: The Unintended Consequences of Human Innovation
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Scientists Professor Mark Hanson and Professor Sir Peter Gluckman discuss what happens when we innovate in a way that leads nature to bite back.

Andrew Robinson – Einstein on the Run: How Britain Saved the World’s Greatest Scientist
4pm / Oxford Martin School: Seminar Room / £12.50 (£7 student)
Writer Andrew Robinson explains how Einstein escaped the Nazis by living in an isolated holiday hut in Britain and looks at his relationship with the country and people that first inspired his love of physics and then gave him protection.

Robert Service and Catherine Belton – The Rise of Putin: Dashing Hopes for a New Russia
4pm / Worcester College: Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Biographer and historian Professor Robert Service and former Moscow correspondent Catherine Belton discuss the rise of Vladimir Putin, how he has dashed hopes for a new Russia, and the stark consequences of his rule for Russians and the rest of the world.

Duncan Hamilton – The Great Romantic: Cricket and the Golden Age of Neville Cardus
4pm / Weston Lecture Theatre / £12.50 (£7 student)
Sportswriter Duncan Hamilton uncovers the life of his great predecessor the cricket and music writer Neville Cardus.