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Oxford Martin School

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St Hilda's College Media Day

Saturday 9th April 2011

At The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival, Christ Church

Chaired by Nicolette Jones



Placing poetry, 10am

Lyndall Gordon, Eleanor Rawling, Katharine Towers

Crime Writing Showcase: Agatha v Dorothy, 12 noon

P D James and Jill Paton Walsh

Screen and Print: Media Panel, 4pm

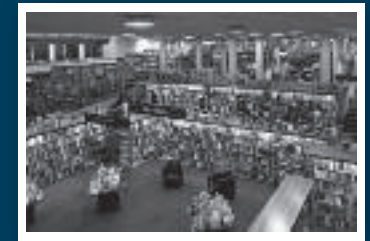
Miranda Glover, Sarah Mukherjee, Sue Saville

The 'IT Girls': Women in Comedy, 6pm

Triona Adams, Katherine Parkinson



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Mark Crick 601

Machiavelli's Lawn: The Great Writers' Garden Companion

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Writer and photographer Mark Crick has collected 12 great author's top tips on gardening. They include Sylvia Plath who struggles with autumn bulbs, and JD Salinger's helpful hints on growing from seeds. In Cormac McCarthy's hands a landowner's trip to the potting shed becomes a rite of passage from which he will return transformed and Wodehouse's hero, anticipating a visit from his aunt, realises that the right choice of houseplant may well save him from the ignominy of marriage. Inspired, botanically accurate, and utterly hilarious, Mark Crick's Machiavelli's Lawn will appeal to all green-fingered book lovers everywhere.

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Janet McMullin 602

From Manuscripts to Mandrake Roots: Christ Church Library, its History and Treasures

10am / Christ Church: Library / £10

Construction of the New Library at Christ Church began in 1717, with the stated aim of building "the finest library that belongs to any society in Europe". Today it houses collections of approximately 100,000 early printed books, with a further 80,000 modern printed books for the use of our current undergraduate and postgraduate students. In addition, the library contains important collections of medieval manuscripts, a considerable number of Greek manuscripts, various collections of letters, a large collection of manuscript and printed music, and some other "objects", which might be thought more appropriate to a museum, including a pair of mandrake roots, curiously carved! This gallop through three hundred years of institutional history will seek to illuminate the lives of the collectors whose gifts have helped to shape the library of today, with some examples to delight and enthrall the audience! Janet McMullin is Senior Assistant Librarian at Christ Church.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.

Elif Shafak interviewed by Joanne Harris 603

The Forty Rules of Love

10am / Corpus Christi College / £10

International best-selling Turkish novelist Elif Shafak comes to Oxford to talk about her writing with Joanne Harris (author of the novel *Chocolat*).

Elif Shafak is an award-winning writer and the most widely read woman writer in Turkey. Her books – translated into more than 30 languages – blend Western and Eastern traditions of storytelling and draw on diverse cultures and literary traditions, as well as deep interest in history, philosophy, oral culture, and cultural politics.

Her most recent novel, *The Forty Rules of Love*, is a modern love story between a Jewish-American housewife and a Sufi living in Amsterdam. Their unusual story is set against a historical background that beautifully narrates the remarkable spiritual bond between Rumi and Shams of Tabriz.

In July 2010 Elif Shafak delivered a speech at TED Oxford on *The Politics of Fiction* where she talked about the role of literature in helping us to leap over cultural walls and argued that fiction can overcome the limits of identity politics.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of Turkey's most fascinating and successful writers.



Elif Shafak

Photo: Muammer Yennaz

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Carl Boardman 604

Scoundrels, Sex and Scandals

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

'Dusty old archives' – an epithet that Carl Boardman, Oxfordshire County Archivist, is determined to banish. His work in uncovering buried 'Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths' – the title of his book – reveals hidden stories that match anything we see today in the popular press.

Here he shares some of the secrets discovered in the archives, from drunken vicars in ditches to mysterious poisonings. For a preview, take a look at the alter ego website of Oxfordshire Archives: www.darkarchivist.com.

Sponsored by *Macdonald Randolph Hotel*



Peter Conradi and Mark Logue 605

The King's Speech

10am / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

Peter Conradi and Mark Logue talk about their book *The King's Speech*, which has been made in to the major motion picture of the year starring Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter. *The King's Speech* is playing to packed audiences around the world, winning 7 BAFTA awards, including best British film, and winning 4 Oscars including best film. Colin Firth was named best leading actor, Helena Bonham Carter won best supporting actress and Geoffrey Rush best supporting actor.

One man saved the British Royal Family in the early decades of the 20th century – amazingly he was an almost unknown, and certainly unqualified, speech therapist called Lionel Logue. He wasn't a British aristocrat or even an Englishman – he was a commoner and an Australian. Nevertheless it was the outgoing, amiable Logue who single-handedly turned the famously nervous, tongue-tied Duke of York into the man who was capable of becoming a King Emperor.

The King's Speech is the previously untold story of the extraordinary relationship between Logue and the haunted young man who became King George VI, drawn from Logue's recently discovered unpublished diaries. They throw extraordinary light on the intimacy of the two men – and the vital role the King's wife, the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, played in bringing them together to save her husband's reputation and his career as King.

Mark Logue is the grandson of Lionel Logue. He is a film maker and the custodian of the Logue Archive. Peter Conradi is an author and journalist at the *Sunday Times*.



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Daisy Goodwin 621

My Last Duchess

12 noon / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Daisy Goodwin talks about the 'dollar princesses' who made an enormous impact on late-Victorian England and whose experiences formed the background of her novel My Last Duchess. These women kept the stately homes of England going for a generation – Consuelo Vanderbilt's dowry was a hundred million dollars!

Daisy Goodwin is one of the nation's greatest promoters of poetry through her books and television series. Her debut novel My Last Duchess is a story full of exquisite period details and a phalanx of historical characters. It features American heiress Cora Cash, who has grown up in a world in which money unlocks every door. Cora's mother has her heart set on a title for her daughter. Impoverished English blue-bloods are queuing up for introductions to her.



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Antony Jay 622

Lend Me Your Ears: Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations

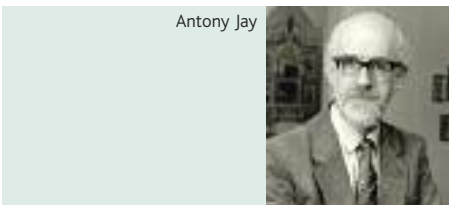
12 noon / Christ Church Library / £10

The power of words in politics is well known. Antony Jay in his book Lend Me Your Ears brings together both words of wisdom and things that might have been better left unsaid. He charts the most influential political events of recent times via the things people said about them.

Co-author of the famous TV series Yes Minister and Yes Prime Minister, Antony has assembled a crash course in political wisdom past and present and a treasure trove of politicians' cock-ups and put-downs. You can hear from Sarah Palin to David Cameron by way of Silvio Berlusconi, from Barack Obama and Gordon Brown to Hillary Rodham Clinton – you will remember her now famous statement, 'If I misspoke that was just a misstatement.'

A mouth-watering collection for anyone with an interest in history and politics.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.



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Jean Baggott 624

Tapestry of Life

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

Most autobiographies are written or spoken – here is one in the unique form of a hand-sewn tapestry. The idea came to Jean Baggott as she looked back on her life and memories of growing up in the Midlands sixty years ago. A talented needlewoman, she used this ability to give a fascinating portrait of everyday life among working people in a tapestry of 73 interlocking circles which took 16 months to complete. Here she tells us about her promise to 'The Girl on the Wall' – herself aged 11 – and recalls a personal social history of one British life.



Christ Church Library

Matthew Collings 623

Coping with Seriousness: The Horror and Surrealism of Art on TV

12 noon / Corpus Christi College / £10

With over 20 years' experience of writing and presenting TV programmes about art, Matthew Collings talks about the problems and excitements of translating a difficult, intense medium into a format geared essentially to light-hearted populism. For many years Matthew was the art critic on BBC2's The Late Show. He was responsible for the first TV appearances of Jeff Koons and Damian Hirst. He also wrote and presented programmes on subjects ranging from Goya and Cezanne to Abstract Expressionism and the newly emerging monster art market. For the last decade Matthew has worked freelance for both the BBC and Channel 4. His series This Is Modern Art won many awards including a Bafta. He is the author of several books on art, and a practising artist. His talk will include aspects of all these experiences.

Matthew is an abstract painter. His work, which is done in collaboration with mosaicist Emma Biggs, is in many collections and is shown regularly at The Fine Art Society, in Bond Street, London.



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Tim Smit introduced by
Derek Holmes, Editor of
The Oxford Times 626

Eden – The First Ten Years

12 noon / Sheldonian Theatre / £10-£25

Tim Smit talks about the Eden Project, how it was conceived and built how the project has evolved into a pioneering organisation – a force for good with partnerships all over the world.

Since Tim created Eden in 2001, well over 10 million visitors have made their way to this living theatre of plants, drawn by the astonishing visionary ambition of its founders, the ever changing horticulture and on-site developments. More have discovered it as an extraordinary music venue. But Eden is far more than a visitor attraction. It has mutated into an organisation with projects and partnerships all over the world concerned with rehabilitation (physical and social), community education, biodiversity, sustainable construction, green employment and town planning. Tim Smit's talk marks Eden's 10th anniversary.

Tim Smit is Chief Executive and co-founder of the award-winning Eden Project near St Austell in Cornwall.



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The Oxford Times

THE
SHELDONIAN
THEATRE

Tim Stanley-Clarke 628

Blandy's Madeira Masterclass

12 noon / Christ Church: Hall / £15

Blandy's Madeira, has long been renowned for producing some of the finest wines from the remote Atlantic island of Madeira. Established in 1811 and still family owned, Blandy's are this year celebrating their 200th anniversary.

The island of Madeira was discovered, by happy accident, in 1419, by the Portuguese explorer, Joao Goncalves Zarco. The early settlers soon discovered that the volcanic soil of the island caused crops to flourish and vineyards were soon established. Later, the island provided an ideal victualling stop for European traders on their way to the East and West Indies. Thus, Madeira wines gained great popularity and reputation, particularly in Britain and on the Eastern seaboard of America, where they are still much sought after.

Today's tasting will encompass seven wines from the four "Noble" grape varieties of Madeira: Sercial, a crisp and fresh aperitif; Verdelho, tangy and medium-bodied, Bual, full-bodied, with an attractive smokey complexity and finally, Malmsey, full-bodied, complex and lusciously rich. You will be able to taste a variety of five and ten year old wines, finishing with a superb 1992 Colheita Malmsey.

The late Auberon Waugh wrote of Tim: "I have learnt to value his judgement, enjoy his hospitality, rejoice in his company, and above all, open my eyes to the splendour of the wines he promotes."



Supported by Blandy's Madeira

BLANDY'S
MADEIRA

John Stern, Simon Wilde
and Duncan Hamilton 625

After the Ashes

12 noon / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

With England's hugely successful Ashes winter tour over, and the new domestic season about to begin, three highly respected writers discuss the future of cricket at home and abroad – embracing everything from Test matches to the role of Twenty20.

Simon Wilde is cricket correspondent of The Sunday Times and the author of much acclaimed books about the game. His latest, 'Ian Botham: The Power and the Glory', has just been published. John Stern is editor of The Wisden Cricketer and of the book 'My Favourite Cricketer' – a collection of some of the magazine's finest writing. Duncan Hamilton is the author of 'A Last English Summer', a fascinating account of the 2009 season. He has, uniquely, twice won the William Hill Sports book of the Year award.

Frank Close 627

Nothing: A Very Short Introduction –
FREE EVENT

1:15pm / Christ Church: Meadows Marquee
Bookshop / FREE

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

What is 'nothing'? What remains when you take all the matter away? Can empty space – a void – exist? This explores the science and history of the elusive void: from Aristotle's theories to black holes and quantum particles, and why the latest discoveries about the vacuum tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos.

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Jeremy Musson introduced
by Martin Drury, Chairman
of The Landmark Trust 641

English Ruins

2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

The English landscape is steeped in ruins. Markers of the nation's rich and often turbulent history, ruins represent not only the passing of time but also the constant presence of the past. In English Ruins, renowned architectural historian Jeremy Musson explores some of England's most evocative derelict and abandoned buildings, from churches, castles and forts to country houses, industrial works and even entire villages.

Here Jeremy talks about the role of the English ruin in defining the nation's identity, and about some of the sites featured in his book to reveal their past, present and future in fascinating detail.



In Partnership with The Landmark Trust

The Landmark Trust

Stephanie Powers 642
in conversation with David Freeman

One from the Hart

2pm / Christ Church Library / £10

As a young Hollywood actress, Stefanie Powers starred as John Wayne's daughter in McLintock!, Lana Turner's rival in Love Has Many Faces and the victim of Tallulah Bankhead in Die, Die My Darling. Later film and TV roles included Herbie Rides Again and the secret agent April Dancer in The Girl from U.N.C.L.E. But it was the TV series Hart to Hart (1979-1984) with Robert Wagner that made Stefanie Powers a household name on both sides of the Atlantic and generated five Emmy Award nominations.

Stefanie Powers will talk about her life and career, the post-Hollywood years as an award-winning stage actress and internationally recognised animal conservationist; and for the first time discusses her 9-year relationship with the legendary Oscar winning actor, William Holden, whose tragic death resulted from a life-long struggle with alcoholism and depression.

Stefanie Powers is in conversation with literary journalist and broadcaster David Freeman.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.



Photo: Ari Michaelson

Adrian Goldsworthy 643

Antony & Cleopatra

2pm / Corpus Christi College / £10

The love affair between Antony and Cleopatra is one of the most famous stories from the ancient world. As one of the three men in control of the Roman Empire, Antony was perhaps the most powerful man of his day; while Cleopatra, who had already been Julius Caesar's lover, was the beautiful queen of Egypt, Rome's most important province. Their story has proven irresistible to storytellers.

But in the course of this storytelling dozens of myths have grown up. The popular image of Cleopatra in ancient Egyptian costume is a fallacy; she was actually Greek. And Mark Antony was not the bluff soldier of legend, brought low by his love for an exotic woman – he was first and foremost a politician and never allowed Cleopatra to dictate policy to him.

Historian Adrian Goldsworthy draws on ancient sources and archaeological evidence to provide the facts behind this famous couple – as unexpected but every bit as fascinating as the myth.



Tim Stanley-Clarke 646

Graham's Port Masterclass

2pm / Christ Church: Hall / £15

Since 1820, the name Graham's has been synonymous with the greatest Ports to be produced in the beautiful and remote Douro Valley of Northern Portugal. Centred on the famous Quinta dos Malvedos, Graham's owns some of the finest vineyards in the Douro and its wines consistently win top accolades and medals in all the major international tasting competitions. Owned by the Symington family, whose connection with the Port Trade goes back to the 17th century, Graham's is particularly noted for its outstanding Vintage Ports.

The tasting of seven wines today will include, amongst others, the flagship Graham's Late Bottled Vintage 2005, the delicate and sensual chilled Twenty Year Old Tawny and the Trophy-winning Crusted Port. These will be followed by Quinta dos Malvedos 1999 Vintage Port and the outstanding Graham's 1980 Vintage Port.

Chairman of the Port Judging for the International Wine and Spirit Competition, Tim has also served as a judge at Port and Wine Festivals around the world.

Supported by Graham's Port



D.R. Thorpe and David Faber, 645
Chaired by Vernon Bogdanor

Supermac – The Life of Harold Macmillan

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

The great-grandson of a Scottish crofter and son-in-law of the Duke of Devonshire, Harold Macmillan (1894-1986) was one of the most complex and intriguing British politicians of the 20th century. Tormented by an unhappy marriage, sustained by an extraordinary career, and eventually Prime Minister from 1957 to 1963, Macmillan presided over the UK's transition from the Age of Austerity to the Age of Affluence.

D. R. Thorpe, whose biography of Harold Macmillan has been hailed as a magisterial classic, is in conversation with Macmillan's grandson David Faber, former Tory MP and biographer of Leo Amery.

Chaired by Professor Vernon Bogdanor, until recently Professor of Government at Oxford University and now visiting Professor at King's College, London.

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Christ Church Library

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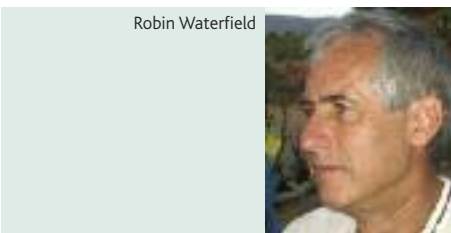
Robin Waterfield 661

Tears of Iron: Olympias after the Death of Alexander the Great

4pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Robin Waterfield tells the story of one of the great forgotten wars in history, which led to the disintegration of one of the biggest empires the world has ever seen.

Alexander the Great built up his huge empire – which stretched from Greece in the West, via Egypt, Syria, Babylonia and Persia and through to the Indian sub-continent in the East – in little more than a decade. After his death in 323BC it took 40 years of world-changing warfare for his heirs to finish carving up these vast conquests. These years were filled with intrigue, assassinations, dynastic marriages, treachery, shifting alliances, and mass slaughter on battlefield after battlefield. And while the men fought on the field, the women schemed from their palaces. Robin Waterfield revives the memory of Alexander's successors, whose fame has been dimmed only because they stand in his enormous shadow.



Robin Waterfield

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Melvyn Bragg 662

**THE BOOK OF BOOKS
The Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611-2011.**

4pm / Master's Garden Marquee / £10

The King James Bible is both standard scriptural text and, for centuries the best-selling book in the English-speaking world.

Melvyn Bragg reveals the political, linguistic and religious influences the Bible has had through the centuries.

This is the story of a 300-year fight to get the Bible into the English language, and the grisly deaths of many of the Oxford scholars involved in its translation. It is the story of Henry VIII's Reformation and James of Scotland's determination for his version to become England's Bible.

The Bible's impact on the English language was and remains huge – as well as on English literature in Britain, North America and the wider English Speaking world. The King James Bible was also a major influence on democracy; the abolition of slavery; the rise of early modern science; and on sexual attitudes as well as the dissemination of the Protestant faith around the world.



Melvyn Bragg

Hisham Matar 663

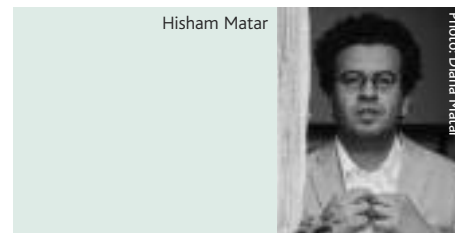
Anatomy of a Disappearance

4pm / Corpus Christi College / £10

The award-winning novelist Hisham Matar brings us a novel which examines the emotions of those left behind when a loved one disappears.

Anatomy of a Disappearance is the story of Nuri, a young boy whose life is filled with emptiness when his mother dies in the Cairo apartment he shares with his father. Then Mona enters his life. When Nuri first sees her the rest of the world vanishes. But it is Nuri's father that Mona eventually marries, leaving Nuri consumed by a desire to get his father out of the way. However, Nuri will soon regret what he wished for.

Hisham Matar's first novel, *In the Country of Men*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and won six international literary awards. The Times called it 'Extraordinary . . . one of the most brilliant literary debuts of recent years.'



Hisham Matar

Photo: Diana Matar



Nicolas Barker 664

Book Collecting on a Budget

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

The pursuit of collecting books can call up visions of amassing expensive rarities – but it can be easy and inexpensive: true book collecting is about books you value because you really love them.

Formerly Head of Conservation at the British Library, Nicolas Barker is also editor of *The Book Collector*, originally founded by Ian Fleming. Here he shares his passion for book collecting, and suggests how we can start/develop our own collections of books from modern first editions to travel guides, pop-up books and old computer manuals, in book shops and fairs, charity shops and even recycling bins, proving the point made by another collector that book collection is an 'exhilarating sport.'



108 High Street, Oxford. OX1 4BW. 01865 242500

Prue Leith 665

In conversation with Donald Sloan

4pm / Christ Church: Library / £10

Prue Leith, one of the UK's most admired food writers, will discuss her life, work and achievements.

Prue has been a food columnist for numerous daily newspapers, has published 12 cookery books, and is known for her work as a television presenter, including the popular Great British Menu. In 1995 Prue gave up food writing, against the advice of both her publisher and agent, and wrote Leaving Patrick, her first novel. With four more titles to her name, she is now well established as a best-selling author.

In this session, Prue Leith will be in conversation with Donald Sloan, Chair of Oxford Gastronomica, Oxford Brookes University's centre for the study of food, drink and culture.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.

Prue Leith



Donald Sloan



In association with Oxford Gastronomica – Oxford Brookes University's Centre for the Study of Food, Drink and Culture

oxfordgastronomica

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Tour of New Ashmolean with Dr Christopher Brown 668

Ashmolean Museum

4:30pm / Ashmolean Museum / £25

Travel through time and across cultures in the Ashmolean's new galleries, with the Museum's Director, Dr Christopher Brown. Following a transformative redevelopment, the Ashmolean reopened in 2009 to universal acclaim. This special tour will introduce the new architecture and redisplay of the collections, while highlighting the great treasures of art and archaeology.

In association with the Ashmolean

ASHMOLEAN



The Ashmolean Museum

Blake Laphorn – Lawyers to the Festival Present 669

Getting the most out of the Law (and Lawyers)

5pm / Christ Church: Freind Room / £5

Negotiating a well drafted author/publisher contract is key to a successful author/publisher relationship. Authors also need to focus on how they deal with their literary assets and royalty streams both during their lifetime and after their death. This workshop will explore the legal issues facing authors from the creation of their works onwards, with practical advice on what to look out for in publishing contracts, how to avoid expensive libel law suits and what steps to take to protect and preserve your copyrights and other intellectual property assets whether on a relationship-breakdown or after your death. The workshop will be given by lawyers from Blake Laphorn's publishing and private client teams, and led by partners Christine Plews and Simon Stokes.

Simon Stokes is a publishing partner with Blake Laphorn and has been advising authors and publishers for almost twenty years. He is the author of several books including Art & Copyright and Digital Copyright Law & Practice (3rd edition). The UK legal directories recommend him for his expertise in copyright, technology and publishing law.

Christine Plews is a partner and heads up the Family team at Blake Laphorn. Christine has particular expertise in divorce and financial issues on separation including cohabitee disputes and cases involving business assets, trusts and cases where substantial assets are involved. Christine also deals with disputes concerning the validity of Wills, disputes between executors and beneficiaries and claims. Chambers UK, A Client's Guide to the Legal Profession 2011 features Christine as a Leader in her field.

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Blake Laphorn

(Lawyers to the Festival)

John Harris 666

Malt Whisky Tasting
5.00 to 6:30 pm

5pm / Christ Church: Hall / £15

If you are looking for a book-free zone then this may be it! Though literary creativity is never far away at this now perennial festival favourite, as participants journey through the rich variety of malt whiskies on offer. Does it call to mind the salty tang of a stormy sea, or a haystack on an August evening? Hot water bottles, wood shavings, or an autumn bonfire? Pear drops, chocolate or heather honey? Can a whisky reveal its gender?! Treat your taste buds to unfolding layers of flavour and to flights of imagination – from famous brands to neglected distillery gems. The event concludes with a studied evaluation of a unique cask-strength dram.

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Andrew Bowie 667

German Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction – FREE EVENT

5:15pm / Christ Church: Meadows Marquee Bookshop / FREE

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

German philosophy remains the core of modern philosophy. It forms one of the most revealing responses to the problems of modernity. Including many significant German philosophers, and other more neglected thinkers, Bowie provides an insight into German philosophical traditions.

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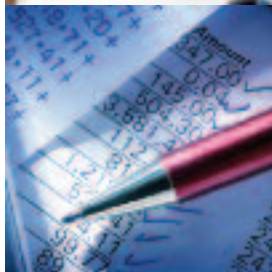
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Kazuo Ishiguro in conversation with Peter Kemp

687

Never Let Me Go

6pm / Sheldonian Theatre / £15-£35

Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954, came to Britain at the age of five, and was educated at the Universities of Kent and East Anglia. He is the author of six novels, four of which were short listed for the Booker Prize, which he won in 1989 with *Remains of the Day* – made into a major film starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson. His latest book *Nocturnes* (2009) was awarded the Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa International Literary Prize.

Ishiguro's novel *Never Let Me Go* (2005) – a top ten bestseller, and one of the most acclaimed novels of recent years – imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. The film of *Never Let Me Go* was released in February, starring Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield. It was directed by Mark Romanek.

Kazuo Ishiguro will be in conversation with Peter Kemp, Sunday Times Chief Fiction reviewer, about the adaptation of *Never Let Me Go* from page to screen, as well as the evolution of his literary career.

Kazuo Ishiguro will be the recipient of the 2011 Honorary Fellowship of the Oxford Literary Festival.

THE
SHELDONIAN
THEATRE



Photo: Jane Bown



Photo: KT Bruce

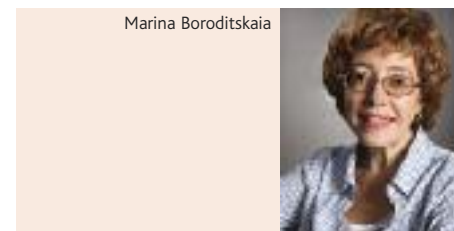
Marina Boroditskaia (Russia) and Michael Rosen (UK)

681

Modern Poetry in Translation presents a Discussion and Reading by Two Great Writers for Children

6pm / Corpus Christi College / £5

Leading children's poets of Russia and Britain Marina Boroditskaia and Michael Rosen meet for a unique discussion of how poetry captures the hearts of children and adults in different cultures. Is poetry the best children's vitamin? A reading by both poets will feature new translations of Marina's work by Michael Rosen. This discussion is chaired by poet David Constantine (co-editor of *Modern Poetry in Translation*).



Marina Boroditskaia

Hosted by *Modern Poetry in Translation*



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Adam Mars-Jones

682

Cedilla

6:30pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

In award-winning Adam Mars-Jones's earlier novel *Pilcrow* we met John Cromer, the weakest hero in literature. In *Cedilla*, we find him launching himself into the wider world of mainstream education and encountering deeper joys, subtler setbacks.

This isn't an epic novel as such things are normally understood, as it contains no physical battles and the bare minimum of travel, but page by page *Cedilla* provides unflinching pleasure as this unique and tenacious hero undergoes the saga of hip replacements, Indian pilgrimage and university life, with appearances from Michael Aspel, LSD and Voodoo Lilies somewhere in between.



Adam Mars-Jones

Photo: Sarah Lee



Photo: KT Bruce

David Smith 683

**The Age of Instability:
The Global Financial Crisis
and What Comes Next**

6:30pm / Christ Church Library / £10

The near-collapse of the global banking system was not supposed to happen. In an era of financial globalisation and sophisticated modelling of risk, the panics and crashes of the past had apparently become historical curiosities. Not so.

David Smith provides a riveting analysis of how the golden age of stability engendered in the 1990s gave way to the biggest collapse of financial confidence in the modern world.

He also looks forward to consider whether we have entered a fundamentally new era and what the implications are.

David Smith is the Economics Editor of the Sunday Times and regularly comments on the radio and television on economics.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.

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Christ Church – Blue Boar Quod

Photo: KT Bruce

Frank Close 684

**Neutrino: The Most Enigmatic
Particles in the Universe?**

6:30pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £10

Neutrinos are as near to nothing as anything we know, and so elusive that they are almost invisible. What are they? Why does nature need them? Why are astrophysicists and cosmologists so keen to understand them? Found in certain radioactive decays in stars, these tiny, ghostly, subatomic particles race through the Universe passing through almost everything.

Frank Close (Professor of Physics at Oxford University) talks about the research experiments miles underground that are able to track neutrinos' fleeting impact as they pass through vast pools of cadmium chloride. He also explains why they are becoming of such interest to cosmologists, who believe a heavy form of neutrino may have shaped the balance of matter and antimatter in the first moments of the universe. If scientists can track where neutrinos originated we will be looking in to the far distant reaches of the Universe.

Sponsored by Oxford University Press



Stephen Law and
Alistair McGrath, 685
Chaired by Christopher Lamb

Does God Exist?

6:30pm / Christ Church:
Master's Garden Marquee / £10

CFI UK Provost Stephen Law (philosopher at Heythrop College, University of London, and author of books including Very Short Introduction to Humanism, The Philosophy Gym) debates the existence of God with Professor Alistair McGrath (Professor of Theology, Head of the Centre for Theology, Religion and Culture at King's College, London, and author of books including both The Dawkins Delusion and A Fine-Tuned Universe – The Quest For God in Science and Theology.) McGrath believes the universe points suggestively in the direction of God. Law, by contrast, insists that the empirical evidence establishes beyond reasonable doubt that there is no God. Is belief in God entirely a faith position, beyond the ability of science and or reason to settle? Or might observation of the world around us give us fairly good grounds for supposing that there is, or isn't, any such being?

Chaired by Christopher Lamb, Home Affairs Editor at the Tablet.



Presented by Centre for Inquiry



In association with the Tablet



Joanne Harris 688

The French Kitchen Dinner

7pm / Christ Church: McKenna Room / £110
Includes reception, three course dinner and wines. No dress code.

Novelist Joanne Harris spent much of her childhood in France, and her abiding memories are of meals at the heart of a French family, with her great grandmother, and her aunts.

In her cookbook 'The French Kitchen', written with Fran Warde, Joanne brought together recipes passed down the generations. Her own novels – including 'Chocolat', 'Blackberry Wine' and 'Five Quarters of the Orange' – are permeated by the sights, sounds and smells of French kitchens.

Working with food historian Annie Menzies, Joanne has produced a dinner menu to transport any lover of French provincial cookery.



Photo: Takazumi



Sponsored by Chartwells



WordTheatre and
The Sunday Times

686

Sunday Best

8pm / Corpus Christi College / £15

The third in a three part series of memorable WordTheatre events features stories from the shortlist for The Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award 2011, brought to life by award-winning actors. In the build-up to the announcement of the winner of the £30,000 literary prize on Friday April 8th at Corpus Christi, two stories from the shortlist of six will be performed for the first time each evening over three days. The award, now in its second year, is the largest of its kind in the world. Scheduled readers include Juliet Stevenson, Elizabeth McGovern, David Morrissey and Ian Hart, subject to availability. For current casting information visit www.WordTheatre.com.

Includes a glass of wine.

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The Litmus Partnership is proud to support The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival 2011.

It has once again been a great pleasure to work with The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival to assist in enhancing the festival experience. We wish the festival every success for 2011.



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Roots Local was borne from a small food market we set up in the midst of the pretty village of Hardwick, near Bicester.

ROOTS LOCAL is proud to be associated with 2011's The Sunday Times OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

Alexandra Harris 701

Romantic Moderns: English Writers, Artists and the Imagination from Virginia Woolf to John Piper

10am / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Alexandra Harris talks about the importance of the English arts during the modern period. During the 1930s and 1940s, a rich network of cultural and personal encounters was the backdrop for a modern English renaissance, with English artists exploring what it meant to be alive at that moment and in England. Alexandra Harris examines the work of writers, painters, gardeners, architects, critics and composers, some well known and some almost forgotten: John Betjeman, Florence White, Evelyn Waugh, Elizabeth Bowen, the Sitwells, John Piper, Cecil Beaton and more.

Alexandra Harris won the Guardian First Book Award 2010 for her book on the romantic moderns and received glowing reviews.

Ben Crystal and Adam Russ 702

Sorry, I'm British! An Insider's Guide to Britain from A-Z

10am / Christ Church: Library / £10

Ben Crystal and Adam Russ – both actors as well as writers – give what promises to be a humorous and revealing take on what it is to be British.

Sorry, I am British! is hilarious and informative in equal measure and is certainly a book that is difficult to put down once you have begun turning the pages.

From small-talk to superiority, from the famous stiff upper lip to the infamous football hooliganism, Ben and Adam take you through the sometimes sarcastic, often poetic, generally polite, never boastful, but universally proud realm of all that's British.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.

John Cornwell 703

Introduced by Catherine Pepinster
Editor of The Tablet

Newman's Unquiet Grave:
The Reluctant Saint

10am / Corpus Christi College / £10

John Cornwell is a Fellow of Jesus College Cambridge and author of what Anthony Kenny has praised as a "heroically written biography" of the Oxford-based Cardinal John Henry Newman. A problematic campaign to canonise Newman started 50 years ago. After many delays John Paul II declared Newman a 'Venerable'. Then Pope Benedict XVI, a keen student of Newman's works, pressed for his beatification. But was Newman a 'Saint'? In Newman's Unquiet Grave, Cornwell (author of A Thief in the Night and Hitler's Pope) tells the story of the chequered attempts to establish Newman's sanctity against the background of major developments within Catholicism.



Cardinal Newman

His life was marked by personal feuds, self-absorption, accusations of professional and artistic narcissism, hypochondria, and same-sex friendships that at times bordered on the apparent homo-erotic. Cornwell investigates the process of Newman's elevation to sainthood, presenting a highly original and controversial new portrait of the great man's life and genius for a new generation of religious and non-religious readers alike.

Presented by Centre for Inquiry



In association with The Tablet



Deborah Cadbury 704

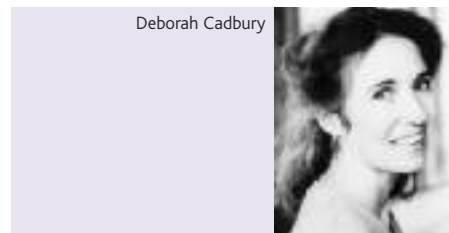
Chocolate Wars: From Cadbury to Kraft: 200 years of Sweet Success and Bitter Rivalry

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

In Chocolate Wars, bestselling historian and award-winning documentary maker Deborah Cadbury takes a journey into her own family history to uncover the rivalries that have driven 250 years of chocolate empire-building.

It all began in the 19th century when Richard Tapper Cadbury sent his son, John, to London to study a new and exotic commodity: cocoa. Within a generation, John's sons had created a chocolate company to rival the great English firms of Fry and Rowntree.

As a descendant of the Cadbury dynasty, Deborah was granted exclusive access to the family and company archives. She talks about the colourful cast of savvy entrepreneurs, brilliant eccentrics and resourceful visionaries to give us the story of a uniquely alluring product and of the evolution, for better or worse, of modern business.



Sponsored by Spear's Magazine



Madhur Jaffrey and Jessica Harris 706

Bringing a World Audience to World Cuisine
Chaired by Donald Sloan

10am / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

It is often through food literature that we learn the culinary traditions of those from other cultures. In this session Madhur Jaffrey and Jessica Harris will discuss the power of food writers, specifically to bring non-indigenous cuisines into the mainstream.

As a film star, TV presenter and writer, Madhur Jaffrey has many strings to her bow, but it is as the world's foremost writer on Indian cooking that she is best known. She is coming from her home in New York to be at the Festival.

Jessica Harris is the author of 12 books documenting the food and foodways of the African Diaspora. She currently holds the Ray Charles Chair in Material Culture at Dillard University, New Orleans.



In association with Oxford Gastronomica – Oxford Brookes University's Centre for the Study of Food, Drink and Culture



David Shepherd 721

A Life in Art and Conservation

12 noon / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

David Shepherd, the famous wild life painter and one of the world's most outspoken conservationists and campaigners, will mark his 80th birthday in April this year by publication of The David Shepherd Archive Collection, a Limited Edition Book with a range of over 100 of his best paintings, printed on archival quality paper and hand bound in vellum.

David will give a talk about his work as an artist and conservationist, including mention of many of the paintings that appear in the book that he has selected from a life time of work depicting wildlife and nature – many of which have rarely or never been seen before. In 1984 David set up the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation to save endangered animals and protect the local people. All purchases of his book featuring the paintings described in David's talk will help wildlife – the Foundation will receive a donation of £100 for every volume sold.

In association with the Gateway Publishing Ltd Sark

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Photo: Chris Andrews



David Shepherd

John Crace and John Sutherland 723

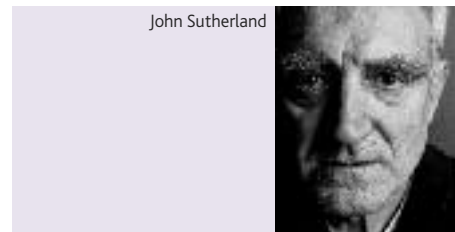
Literature Should Be Fun

12 noon / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

So says Emeritus Lord Northcliffe Professor of English Literature John Sutherland, author of a series of books that prove that point, including 'Love, Sex, Death and Words: Tales from a Year in Literature' and his latest '50 Literature Ideas You Really Need to Know'. Agreeing with this tongue-in-cheek approach to great literature, satirist John Crace, whose regular Guardian digests of famous novels bring them down to size: even the challenging Swann's Way is reduced to just four sentences (although they are long ones..).

Here is an opportunity to listen into a wide-ranging conversation and repartee between two literary luminaries that is witty, wise and often positively wicked....



Tristram Riley-Smith 722

The Cracked Bell

12 noon / Christ Church: Library / £10

'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.' More than two million visitors a year read the stirring words inscribed on America's Liberty Bell – yet the bell is cracked. For Tristram Riley-Smith the jagged wound on the side of America's Liberty Bell embodies a startling insight – the ideal of freedom imported from Britain has become inflated and unstable, and is fracturing the society that it defines.

He believes the era of Bush and Obama is flash-lit by the lightning strikes of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the Global War on Terror and the 2008 Credit Crash. Social gloss peeled away to reveal a social fabric riddled with conflict and paradox.

Americans pay a heavy price for their freedom. Can the Cracked Bell be recast or is the American Dream turning into a nightmare?

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.

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James Attlee 724

Nocturne: A Journey in Search of Moonlight

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

The moon and the light it casts have been a muse for writers, artists, composers and visionaries throughout history. But today, in our increasingly urbanised world, the spread of artificial lighting seems set to rob the moon of its power.

James Attlee invites us to turn our faces once more toward the night sky and contemplate the moon. He takes us with him on a journey in search of moonlight and its meanings in both the modern and the ancient worlds. He looks at moonlight in art and literature; travels to Japan to a moon-viewing ceremony and follows in Dickens's footsteps and climbs Vesuvius by moonlight.

In this strangely illuminating traveller's tale about a search for the all-but-vanished light of the moon, he makes a passionate plea for us to turn off the lights and repossess the stolen night.

Franny Armstrong, Benny Peiser, Mark Lynas 725

Chaired by Tony White

Climate Change; 'Are We Fiddling While the Planet Burns?'

12 noon / Merton College: T S Eliot Theatre / £10

Does the failure of the negotiations at Copenhagen and Cancun just signal that agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will not be secured through the UN, where every state, no matter their size, has equal say? Is this the time to move to a series of bilateral negotiations between the big emitters who really count? Or is it all just a waste of time, as curbing our CO2 emissions would have little impact on the environment? Or, if we are causing climate change, then could mankind cope?

Our panel will ask whether our current actions are effectively 'fiddling' whilst, as it were, the Earth burns. Or whether the risks have been over-done and there are more pressing risks facing the human race. Our panel will include Franny Armstrong, Director of "The Age of Stupid"; Benny Peiser, Director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, and Mark Lynas, author ('Six Degrees; Our Future on a Hotter Planet'), journalist, environmental activist. The discussion will be orchestrated by Tony White of BW Energy.

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Celebrating British Beer 726

Tasting and talking with Charles
Campion, Pete Brown and Paul Wells

12 noon / Christ Church: Hall / £15

Join three passionate advocates of quality British beers for this celebration of our national drink. Through discussion and tastings, this session will explore the role of beer in British cultural and social life.

In addition to writing about food and drink for the Independent and Evening Standard, Charles Campion is a successful author and broadcaster. His latest book, Eat Up!, takes readers on a culinary tour of the UK.

Pete Brown, beer-writer, broadcaster and consultant, has written numerous books on British beer, including Man Walks into a Pub: A Sociable History of Beer.

As Executive Chairman of Wells and Young's Brewery, Paul Wells heads one of the UK's most successful and respected family brewers.

This session is part of a series organised by Oxford Gastronomica, Oxford Brookes University's centre for the study of food, drink and culture.

Charles Campion



Pete Brown

Paul Wells

Sponsored by



Elleke Boehmer 727

Nelson Mandela: A Very Short
Introduction – FREE EVENT

1:15pm / Christ Church: Meadows Marquee

Bookshop / FREE

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

Elleke Boehmer will talk about how Nelson Mandela has become an exemplary figure of non-racialism and democracy, a moral giant. Once a man without a known face, he became after his 1994 release one of the most internationally recognizable images of our time.

Elleke Boehmer



Sponsored by



Manuel Fontán del Junco
and Christopher Brown 728

Museums and Exhibitions Today.
Two International Cases

12 noon / Corpus Christi College / £10

What is the true sense of an exhibition? With an unprecedented number of exhibitions being organised across the world, this discussion explores the phenomena that have created our 'exhibitionist' times. Bringing together two major International perspectives, this promises to be a fascinating insight into how the thinking about making exhibitions is developing.

Dr Manuel Fontán del Junco of the highly acclaimed Fundación Juan March [www.march.es] will present the changing profile of exhibitions there. The Fundación's pioneering work on monographic exhibitions since the 70s and 80s, and the development now to create more complex integrated shows, encompasses the concept of exhibitions as 'public research'.

The Ashmolean, well renowned as home to one of the greatest collections of art and antiquities, will now also host a major programme of exhibitions. Dr Christopher Brown addresses ways in which this new programme will develop, elements that will shape and influence its content and presentation, and how these will be fulfilled.

At an exciting time of new development in the thinking behind making exhibitions, the discussion will look at what will determine and define successful exhibitions of the future for both the Ashmolean, and the Fundación Juan March.



Christopher Brown

Manuel Fontán del Junco

In association with the Ashmolean



Gavin Weightman 741

Children of Light: How Electricity
Changed Britain Forever

2pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

In the early 1870s, a night-time view over Britain would have revealed towns lit by the warm glow of gas and oil lamps and a much darker countryside. By the end of the same decade, Victorians would experience a new brilliance in their streets – electricity had come to town.

Gavin Weightman, in his description of how electricity changed Britain, brings to life not just the most celebrated electrical pioneers, such as Thomas Edison, but also men such as Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, a direct descendant of one of the Venetian Dodges, who built Britain's first major power station on the Thames at Deptford, and Anglo-Irish aristocrat Charles Parsons inventor of the steam turbine, which revolutionised the generating of electricity.

He reveals how the electric revolution has brought us luxury that would have astonished the Victorians, but at a price we are still having to pay.

Gavin Weightman



Sponsored by The Litmus Partnership



Photo: © Joe E. Black

Michael Holroyd – Winner of the Lifetime Services to Biography Award 742

A Book of Secrets – Illegitimate Daughters, Absent Fathers

2pm / Christ Church: Library / £10

Michael Holroyd's Book of Secrets is part-biography, part-memoir. He tells the story of the illegitimate daughters and absent fathers of the title and also turns the spotlight upon himself as part of his investigations into the art of biography.

The illegitimate daughters and absent fathers are united by the Villa Cimbrone in Ravello, owned by Lord Grimthorpe. All the women have links to him and his Italian retreat. Hidden lives, uncelebrated achievements and family mysteries are all unearthed to bring a company of unknown women into the light – from Alice Keppel, the mistress of both the second Lord Grimthorpe and the Prince of Wales; Eve Fairfax, Lord Grimthorpe's abandoned fiancée and sometime muse of Auguste Rodin; and finally, to the novelist Violet Trefusis, the lover of Vita Sackville-West.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.



Photo: Caroline Forbes

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Nicholas Ostler 743

The Last Lingua Franca

2pm / Corpus Christi College / £10

In his provocative and radical new book, Nicholas Ostler challenges our complacent assumption that the English language will continue to dominate as a global lingua franca.

The influence and progress of English in the world is staggering. It has become a global medium for business, science and entertainment and is a basic educational tool. Yet he reminds us that other powerful world languages – Ancient Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Persian – have died out, and he contends that the English language will soon follow.



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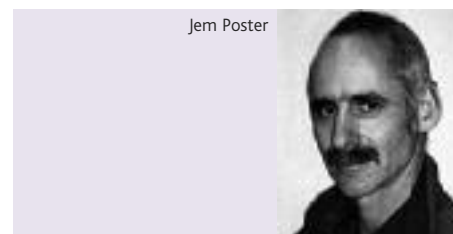
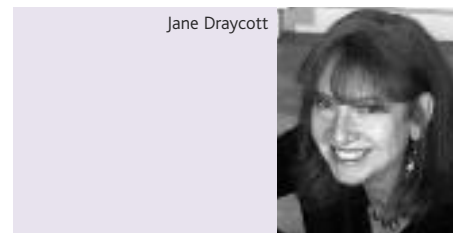


Jane Draycott talks to Jem Poster 744

Conversations with Poets

2pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £7

Jane Draycott is the author of Prince Rupert's Drop and The Night Tree (Carcenet/Oxford), both Poetry Society recommendations; her most recent collection Over was shortlisted for the 2009 T S Eliot Prize. Nominated three times for the Forward Prize for Poetry, she was winner of the Keats-Shelley Prize in 2002, and named as one of the PBS/Arts Council Next Generation poets in 2004. Her version of the medieval dream-vision Pearl will be published in 2011.



John Cornwell and David Ranan 745

The Catholic Church, the Papacy and the Holocaust

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

The Catholic Church, according to its critics, sided with the most pernicious right-wing leaders of the 20th century. During World War II, moreover, the wartime Pope, Pius XII, failed to speak out against the Holocaust despite detailed knowledge of it from 1942. Does history, from the perspective of the 21st century, and recent access to appropriate Vatican archives, endorse or repudiate these criticisms? John Cornwell and David Ranan debate the evidence concerning the relationship between the Church, the Papacy and the Holocaust. Cornwell is Director of the Science and Human Dimension Project at Jesus College, Cambridge. His books on Catholicism include Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII, Breaking Faith: The Fate and Future of the Catholic Church and A Thief in the Night: The Mysterious Death of John Paul I. David Ranan is a social critic and author of the books Double Cross: The Code of The Catholic Church, and God Bless America – A Visitor's Diary.

Presented by Centre for Inquiry



C.S. Lewis Tour with Alastair Lack 747

2pm-4pm.

2pm / Meet outside the Eagle and Child Pub, St Giles / £25

The poet John Betjeman described his tutor, C S Lewis as 'breezy, tweedy, beer-drinking and jolly' – a remarkable figure for many years on the Oxford landscape. Author of The Narnia Chronicles, The Screwtape Letters and much else besides, he was also a respected English don at Magdalen College. The tour begins outside The Eagle and Child pub, where Lewis and friends met regularly in a group called The Inklings, and ends at Magdalen College. It also visits St Mary's Church, central to Lewis's Oxford life and creativity.

Simon P. Walker

746

Not Guilty! How Christians Mistook Fear for Guilt as the Major Human Problem Addressed in the Bible

2:30pm / Christ Church: Cathedral / £10

Both Catholic and Protestant wings of the church have read the central message of the bible to be one of atonement for guilt. But is it possible they have misread that message? Taking a fresh look at the Bible, leadership and spirituality, author Simon P. Walker suggests that the good news of the Bible is principally addressing the toxic effects of fear, not guilt. If that's the case, Christianity is more about living free, risky lives than morally pious ones. The Undefended Life is a book for all those who have written off the Christian faith as negative and guilt-obsessed to discover a more abundant side of the faith.

Simon has written seven books and teaches adults around the world how to develop as undefended leaders. His background is in Biology, before he retrained for the ordained Priesthood in the Church of England. During his time serving in a parish he completed a research degree studying Applied Psychology and went on to develop a language around human flourishing which he has called Human Ecology.

In association with Christ Church Cathedral



Adam Sisman and Ion Trewin

761

Alan Clark and Hugh Trevor-Roper: An Improbable Friendship

4pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

This is the story of the relations between two very different men, the historian Hugh Trevor-Roper and the politician Alan Clark, told by their biographers and quoting extensively from their correspondence. As personalities they could not have been more different; while Trevor-Roper was shy and often awkward in company, Clark was supremely confident. Their attitudes were equally far apart; though both were Tories, Trevor-Roper was liberal in his opinions, while Clark, at least in his early years, confessed to supporting fascism. Nonetheless there was a strong bond between them, and they remained friends from the 1940s, when Clark was Trevor-Roper's pupil at Christ Church, until his death half a century later.

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Joanne Harris

762

Blueeyed Boy

4pm / Christ Church: Library / £10

Award-winning novelist Joanne Harris talks about her latest novel Blueeyed Boy – a gripping psychological thriller.

Blueeyed Boy is a dark and intricately plotted tale of a poisonously dysfunctional family, a blind child prodigy and a serial murderer who is not what he seems. Told through posts on a web journal called badguysrock, this is a thriller that makes creative use of all the multiple personalities, disguise and mind games that are offered by playing life on the internet.

Blueeyed Boy 'delivers an almighty twist in the tale late on...brilliantly atmospheric and at times heartbreaking.' The Times

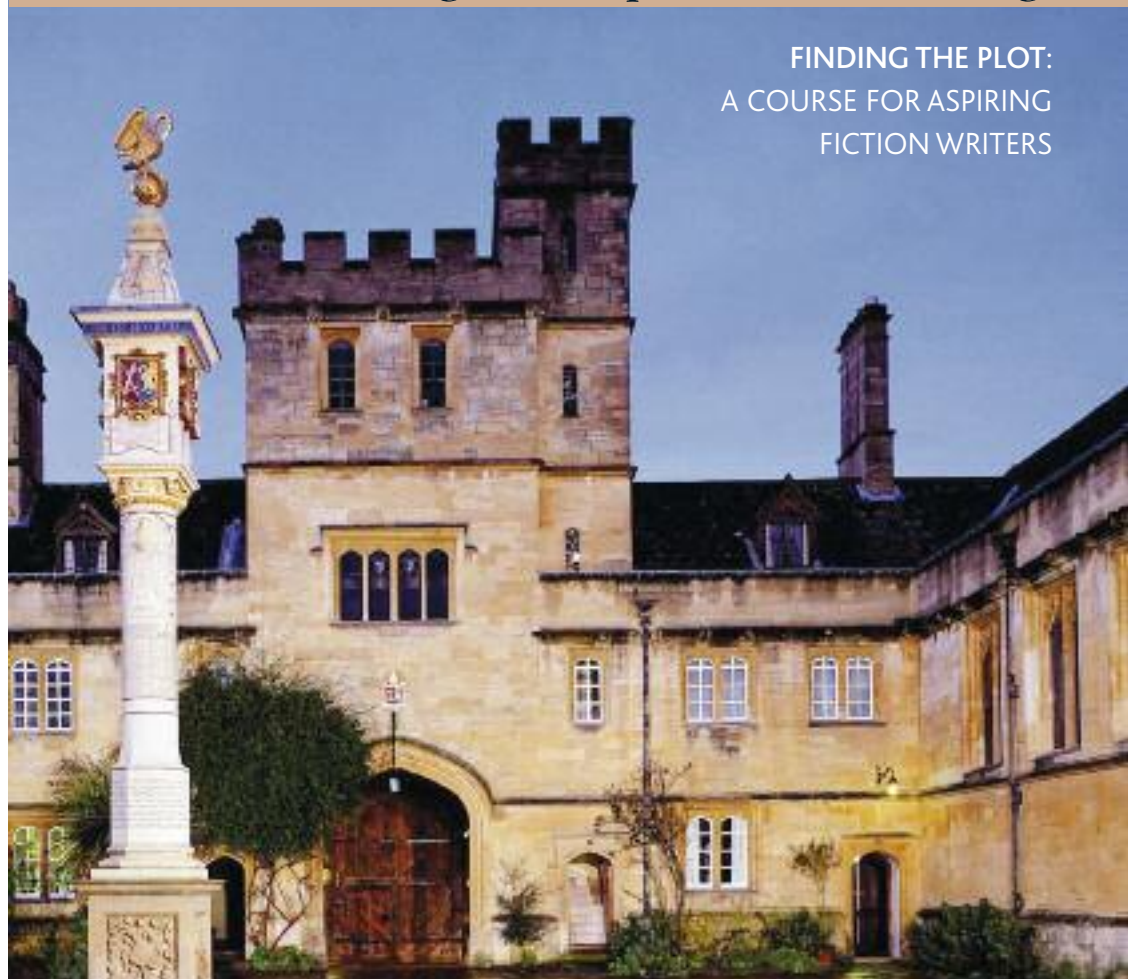
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A S Byatt, Melvyn Bragg, 765
Daisy Waugh and Andrew Holgate
Chaired by Cathy Galvin

Short Fiction: Choosing the Best

4pm / Corpus Christi College / £10

A short story can tell a classic tale, push at the boundaries of literary acceptability, or simply haunt you. What works and what doesn't is hotly contested. After weeks of deliberation and just hours before the winner of The Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award 2011 receives their £30,000 prize, the judges of this prestigious prize reveal the background to how they came to decide on the shortlist and winner. AS Byatt, Melvyn Bragg, Daisy Waugh and Andrew Holgate will discuss the range of stories read, the pleasures and irritations of judging and the future for short fiction as reading devices flourish and the way we communicate changes rapidly. Chaired by Cathy Galvin, Award Director and Deputy Editor of The Sunday Times Magazine.

A S Byatt



Sponsored by EFG Private Bank



A Guided Tea Tasting with 760
The East India Company

Rare and Exotic Teas with The Tea
Master

4pm / Christ Church: Hall / £12

Since its creation in 1600 by Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I, the influence of The East India Company has been well documented. Its actions changed the world's tastes, its thinking, and its people. It created new communities, trading places, cities and shaped countries and commercial routes.

The company introduced tea to Britain and China and today we continue that tradition of bringing exclusive, rare and seasonal teas from around the world.

Join our Tea Master on a guided tea tasting, covering the History of Tea, types of Tea, and an opportunity to sample a range of the finest black, green, and white teas ranging from a delicate Darjeeling, Japanese Genmaicha, through to 'Silver Cloud' from high in the hills of Ceylon.

In the words of Jonathan Swift 'Tea is Water Bewitched

Sponsored by The East India Fine Food Company



Sarah Bakewell, Paul Kent and Saul Frampton 763

Montaigne and the Meaning of Life in the 21st Century

4pm / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

In 1570, at the age of 37, Michel de Montaigne gave up his job as a magistrate and retired to his chateau to brood on his own private griefs; the deaths of his friends, his family – most recently his first-born child. On the ceiling of his library he inscribed a phrase from Lucretius: 'There is no new pleasure to be gained by living longer.'

But finding his mind agitated by this idleness, Montaigne began to write, giving birth to a series of essays on an amazing variety of topics. And gradually Montaigne began to turn his back upon his stoical pessimism.

Into these essays he put whatever was in his head: his tastes for food and wine; his childhood memories; the way his dog's ears twitched when it was dreaming; events in the appalling civil wars raging around him. Montaigne's essays are the first sustained representation of human consciousness in Western literature, and went on to have a huge impact on Shakespeare.

Three writers on Montaigne – Sarah Bakewell, author of *How to Live*; Paul Kent, author of *What Do I Know and Saul Frampton, author of When I Am Playing with My Cat, How Do I Know She is not Playing with Me?* – debate Montaigne's lessons for us all in the early 21st century as we grapple with the issues the great man wrote about in the 16th century.



Christ Church Custodians

Photo: KT Bruce

Geoff Dyer 764

Working the Room:
Essays and Reviews: 1999-2010

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

Award-winning writer Geoff Dyer's *Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi* was one of the best-reviewed books of 2009. However, he is also known for his blisteringly funny and insightful observational journalism, and his ability to adopt the role of 'professional amateur' in a huge number of arenas. His collection of writing from the past 10 years ranges across many of the topics for which he is renowned – art, literature, photography – and also crosses into the personal and philosophical, with essays ranging from discussions of streetside memorials to growing up as an only child. A wonderful collection about being in – and seeing – the world today.



Geoff Dyer

Photo: Alan Knowles

John Crace & Steve Bell 766

It's Easy To Be a Humourist...

4pm / Merton College: T S Eliot Theatre / £10

'It's easy to be a humourist... when you have the whole government working for you' – so said Will Rogers. In this session, journalist and satirist John Crace tells us how he reduces the wide arena of political life down into his regular Westminster Digests in the Guardian while award-winning political cartoonist Steve Bell reveals the inspiration for his humorous cartoons with a serious message (check out www.belltoons.co.uk) and in his new book: the ultimate self-help book by 'Guru' Blair. John and Steve will also discuss if they agree that politicians make their job easier.



Steve Bell



Merton College
Oxford

Tour of New Ashmolean
with Dr Christopher Brown 769

Ashmolean Museum

4:30pm / Ashmolean Museum / £25

Travel through time and across cultures in the Ashmolean's new galleries, with the Museum's Director, Dr Christopher Brown. Following a transformative redevelopment, the Ashmolean reopened in 2009 to universal acclaim. This special tour will introduce the new architecture and redisplay of the collections, while highlighting the great treasures of art and archaeology.

In association with the Ashmolean Museum

ASHMOLEAN

Elleke Boehmer 767

Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction – FREE EVENT

5:15pm / Christ Church: Meadows Marquee

Bookshop / FREE

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

Elleke Boehmer will talk about how Nelson Mandela has become an exemplary figure of non-racialism and democracy, a moral giant. Once a man without a known face, he became after his 1994 release one of the most internationally recognizable images of our time.

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VSI



Molly Parkin in conversation with David Freeman 768

Welcome to Mollywood: A Magnificent Celebration of a Dazzling, Unconventional and Inspirational Life

5:30pm / Christ Church: Freind Room / £15

Molly Parkin, Queen of Bohemia and the successful and much respected artist, has also had a parallel career as a writer and journalist. She is well known and loved too for the sheer exuberance and vitality of her life – Francis Bacon’s Soho drinking companion, lover to John Mortimer, George Melly and others. Molly personified ‘60s London, opening her own boutique in the Kings Road, and was an award-winning, legendary fashion editor for Nova, Harpers Queen magazine and the Sunday Times. In the ‘70s, she wrote Love All, the first of a series of 10 hugely popular bestselling comic erotic novels.

But beneath that outward fearlessness and joie de vivre lay a dark and frightening childhood, which Molly has not spoken of until now. Here she reveals the source of her anguish and yet never lets you feel anything but love, admiration and joy. Her beautifully crafted memoir sees her approaching her 80th year with none of her passion dimmed.

In conversation with literary journalist and broadcaster David Freeman.

Includes a glass of wine.



Ann Cleeves 781

Silent Voices

6:30pm / Christ Church: Blue Boar / £10

Ann Cleeves’s gripping new crime novel Silent Voices featuring Detective Vera Stanhope begins with the inspector discovering the dead body of a woman. And so the mystery begins.

Ann Cleeves returns to Oxford to talk about her latest novel and tell us what it was like to have her Vera Stanhope novels adapted and turned into the prime-time ITV drama, VERA. Starring international award-winning actress Brenda Blethyn, VERA hit our screens in February 2011 and also stars Gina McKee and Juliet Aubrey. Filming was set extensively on location in the North East, and Ann comments: “I’ve been fortunate enough to be included in the process throughout and have just spent a day freezing on set.” Come and meet Ann and find out more.

Brenda Blethyn star of Silent Voices



Sponsored by the Macdonald Randolph Hotel



Jonathan Powell and Ross King 782

Machiavelli

6:30pm / Christ Church: Library / £10

‘Niccolo Machiavelli is misunderstood, argues Jonathan Powell in his 21st-century reworking of the Italian philosopher’s influential masterpiece, The Prince.

Jonathan looks back at his own time as Tony Blair’s Chief of Staff from 1994 to 2007. Drawing from his unpublished diaries, he tackles the critics of Blair’s sofa government and gives a frank account of the intimate details of the internal political rows, including the failure to join the Euro or hold a referendum on the European constitution.

He provides a gripping account of life inside ‘the bunker’ of Number 10 and draws lessons from those experiences, not just for political leaders but for anyone today who has access to the levers of power.

Ross King in his bestselling biography rescued Machiavelli’s legacy from caricature, detailing the vibrant political and social context that influenced his thought and underscoring the humanity of one of history’s finest political thinkers.

Taking the lessons Machiavelli derived from the philosopher’s experience as an official in 15th-century Florence, Jonathan Powell and Ross King discuss Machiavelli and show how these lessons can still apply today.

Restricted Access – See page 203 for details.



Jonathan Powell



Ross King

Supported by
Ian and Carol Sellars

Graham Benson, Anthony Wall 783
and Guest Artists Kenneth Cranham
and Dame Harriet Walter

Harold Pinter: An Oxford Literary Festival Tribute – 6.30pm to 8pm

6:30pm / Corpus Christi College / £25

The Festival’s tribute to Harold Pinter – playwright and screenwriter, actor, director, campaigner – whose body of work over sixty years has been performed and applauded across the globe. The BBC ARENA film made by Anthony Wall & Martin Rosenbaum will be screened with many of the actors associated with Pinter’s work participating. There will also be readings by actors Kenneth Cranham and Dame Harriet Walter preceding the film. Lady Antonia Fraser DBE will be attending and there will be an opportunity to buy signed copies of her book Must You Go?

The evening will be introduced by producer & media executive, Graham Benson, who is also the Festival’s Film and TV Consultant, and Anthony Wall, editor of ARENA, both of them, like Pinter, born in Hackney.

Event lasts 90 minutes.



Harold Pinter



Kenneth Cranham



Harriet Walter





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is to make political writing into an art'

THE ORWELL PRIZE

www.theorwellprize.co.uk

The Orwell Prize, Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing, is delighted to be at the *Sunday Times* Oxford Literary Festival for a fourth year.

Each year, the Prize rewards the book, the journalism and the blog which comes closest to George Orwell's ambition 'to make political writing into an art'. But we do much more than, taking discussion about Orwell, politics and literature around the country.

At this year's festival, we will be:

Debating whether Orwell or Kipling was the greater writer Both were born in India, wrote about the British Empire and were intensely political writers across journalism, prose and poetry - Orwell's two essays on Kipling are on our website

Looking at 'Comedy and the Coalition' Has a new style of comedy emerged around the so-called 'new politics', or is the stuff of satire the same as it always was?

Asking if it makes a difference who funds the arts How valuable are the arts to society, and does it matter if they're funded by philanthropists or the state?

This year's Orwell Prize longlists were announced last week, with the shortlists coming at the end of April. The winners will be announced on 18th May. More details, as well as video of our previous events in Oxford, and exclusive content by and about Orwell, can be found at www.theorwellprize.co.uk.

Orwell vs Kipling

Sunday 3rd April | 4pm | HSBC Premier Marquee
Paul Anderson (journalist, editor of *Orwell in Tribune*)
Charles Allen (historian, author of *Kipling Sahib*)
And others

Comedy and the Coalition

Tuesday 5th April | 10am | HSBC Premier Marquee
Martin Rowson (cartoonist, author)
And others
Chaired by Jean Seaton (director of the Prize)

Does it make a difference who funds the arts?

Tuesday 5th April | Noon | HSBC Premier Marquee
Sir Mark Jones (director, Victoria & Albert Museum)
And others
Chaired by Will Gompertz (BBC arts editor)



John Gimlette 784

Wild Coast: Travels on South America's Untamed Edge

6:30pm / Christ Church: Festival Room 2 / £10

Intrigued by the tale of a distant ancestor who perished on the Wild Coast in 1630, John Gimlette returns to South America to discover what became of this primeval land. It is a journey that takes him through the old colonies of British, Dutch and French Guiana, and through four hundred years of shameless – and often horrifying – colonial history.

His ancestor died in agony on the Wiapoko River. In death he realised something that other Europeans would take several centuries to discover – that Guyana, formed by slaving and civil conflict, would exact a terrible price for its beauty and would rarely share its wealth.

John Gimlette has published several books to critical acclaim, including Panther Soup and At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig, and is a winner of the Shiva Naipaul Memorial Prize.

Christ Church – early graffiti



Photo: KT Bruce

Michael Wood 786

The Story of England

6:30pm / Merton College: T S Eliot Theatre / £15

In the 13th century the Leicestershire village of Kibworth was bought by William de Merton, who later founded Merton College, Oxford.

Kibworth lies at the very centre of England. It has a church, some pubs, the Grand Union Canal, a First World War Memorial and many centuries of recorded history. Documents covering 750 years of village history are lodged at Merton.

From Merton College itself, Michael Wood presents this extraordinary story of one English community over 16 centuries, from the moment that the Roman Emperor Honorius sent his famous letter in 410 advising the English to look to their own defences to the village as it is today.

The story of Kibworth is the story of England, a 'Who Do You Think You Are?' for the entire nation. It was the subject of a six-part BBC TV series presented by Michael.



Michael Wood

Sponsored by Blake Laphorn



The Road to Coalition, 2010 788

**Vernon Bogdanor, Nicholas Jones and Rob Wilson
Chaired by Adam Boulton**

6:30pm / Christ Church:

Master's Garden Marquee / £10

Twists and turns made the 2010 election like no other, the outcome the first peace-time coalition in Britain since the 1930s. Westminster has rarely witnessed such drama in the formation of a government and yet much of what went on has not so far been told until today. Four distinguished speakers, in four books reveal a new insight into the election, the negotiations and the future for British politics.

Nicholas Jones, former BBC political correspondent and author of Campaign 2010, examines the role of the media in Cameron's eventual ascent to Number 10 and the only time he ignored the media being perhaps his finest hour.

Rob Wilson, MP for Reading East, gives the first full account in 5 Days to Power of the negotiations that led to the political earthquake of a Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government.

Vernon Bogdanor, Professor of Government at Oxford University, in The Coalition and the Constitution suggests that the era of single-party majority government, to which we have become accustomed since 1945, is coming to an end, but asks if the British constitution is equipped to deal with coalition?

Adam Boulton, Sky News political editor and weekday lunchtime show host, and chair of one of the Leaders' debates, unveils in Hung Together a complete picture of what really went on, a story that is at present shrouded in rumour and secrecy.

Adam Boulton



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An Evening of History and Music in Christ Church Cathedral 787

7.30pm to 9.30pm

7:30pm / Christ Church: Cathedral / £40

An exclusive tour of Christ Church Cathedral behind closed doors, telling the fascinating story of this unique institution through readings and music. Discover the history and hidden secrets of Oxford's Cathedral with expert guide Jim Godfrey. Songs are performed by Jonathan Arnold who has sung with, amongst others, The Sixteen, the Tallis Scholars and the Hilliard Ensemble. The tour concludes with a drinks reception.

Numbers are limited to fifty

Presented by Christ Church Cathedral



Christ Church Cathedral organ



Photo: KT Bruce