

THE

BLENHEIM PALACE
LITERARY FESTIVAL



Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 September 2014 The ultimate boutique literary festival

Featuring Jessye Norman • Jonathan Miller • Julian Fellowes • Lord Carey • Ben Okri • Ken Hom
Maureen Lipman • Richard Dawkins • Alice Roberts • Roy Strong • Kate Williams • Boris Johnson
Diarmaid MacCulloch • Karen Armstrong • Deborah Harkness • Jacqui Dankworth • Liam Fox







Festival Director's Welcome

Welcome to the 2014 Blenheim Palace Literary Festival. As always, we have assembled leading writers and public figures from the fields of literature and society, politics, history, food and drink, architecture and design, faith and music. But this year there are extra dimensions which emphasise the unique nature of the Blenheim Palace festival.

The world-famous opera singer Miss Jessye Norman is travelling over from the United States to talk about how she went from a childhood in the segregated South to performing great operatic roles on the world's biggest stages and singing at some of the most memorable state occasions of the late 20th century.

We are pleased to see the fruits of our exciting new partnership with the ITV Network, which is bringing Julian Fellowes to premiere his new film *Great War House* about Blenheim Palace in World War 1; and a cast and crew event 'Cocktails with Mr Selfridge'.

The internationally famous scientist, Richard Dawkins, will talk about the early influences on his life and work and we will have the outstanding Orchestra of St. John's to perform some of his favourite music.

Poetry and jazz take centre stage for an event featuring readings by one of our best-loved actresses, Maureen Lipman, and songs from outstanding jazz singer, Jacqui Dankworth; while the lead singer of progressive rock band Marillion, Steve Hogarth, will mix diary readings with piano pieces.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, will give the Inaugural Gibraltar Lecture on 'Great Moral Dilemmas of the 21st century'; Jonathan Miller will speak about 60 years of writing, theatre and opera and we have Deborah Harkness for a pre-festival event on 13th September and Boris Johnson for a post-festival event on 31st October.

We are also delighted to welcome a host of celebrated authors including Ken Hom, Roy Strong, Alice Roberts, Diarmaid MacCulloch, Karen Armstrong, Liam Fox, Paula Byrne and Kate Williams.

Every evening in Woodstock, the historic hotels, inns and restaurants will be full of festival-goers talking to writers, and each other, and enjoying tea and coffee tastings or sampling port and gin.

Finally, we are very privileged to host the launch at Blenheim of Ben Okri's new major work *The Age of Magic*, his first novel since 2007.

The festival programme for the Marlborough School in Woodstock this year again features The King Prize; a book club; and the Orchestra of St John's will play for pupils in the school's Ormerod Resource Base.

We are greatly honoured that HRH The Duke of Gloucester has renewed his Royal Patronage of the festival and will be with us again for the literary dinner; and especially grateful to The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough for their tremendous continued support. Our growing list of sponsors, donors and partners, particularly HSBC, English Heritage, The Savoy and Ian and Carol Sellars ensure that we will all enjoy four momentous days and nights at Britain's ultimate boutique literary festival.

SALLY DUNSMORE *Festival Director*

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO
Royal Patron of The Festival



This year is the 50th Anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill. He was born in Blenheim Palace in 1874 and returned to the great buildings and their beautiful gardens many times during his lifetime. He was laid to rest at nearby Bladon Churchyard.

It is often forgotten that in 1953, Winston Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in recognition of his decades of writing about the history of his ancestors and his memorable accounts of the wars in which he fought for his nation.

In recent years, how very appropriate it is, that Blenheim Palace should have become the venue for a distinguished International Literary Festival, welcoming leading novelists, historians, artists, commentators and public figures to discuss and debate the crucial issues of the day in such inspiring and historic surroundings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard'.

RICHARD





Blenheim Palace

When war broke out in Europe, John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, a military genius, was chosen as leader of the allied troops. During 1702 and 1703 Marlborough defended Holland from invasion from the French. In 1704 a decisive battle took place near a small village called Blindheim, Blenheim as it is now, where Marlborough won a great allied victory over the forces of Louis XIV. In reward, Queen Anne granted Marlborough the Royal Manor of Woodstock and signified that she would build him there a house to be called Blenheim. Sir John Vanbrugh was appointed to design Blenheim Palace and Capability Brown landscaped the park, creating the great lake over which Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge now stands.

Blenheim Palace is one of the largest finest private houses in England, a world heritage site set in 2100 acres of parkland. Its stunning Formal Gardens include the Italian Garden, the Water Terraces, Rose Garden, Arboretum and Maze. It is home to the 11th Duke of Marlborough and was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill who was born in 1874.

Guided tours of the palace run throughout most of the season and 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story' tells the story of the last 300 years through the eyes of the servants.

General Information

Opening times: the Palace, Park and Formal Gardens open daily until 2nd November. From 5th November to 14th December, the Palace and Formal Gardens are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Park is open all year except on Christmas Day.

The Park opens at 9.00am: the Formal Gardens at 10.00am and The Palace at 10.30am. Last entry to The Park and Palace is at 4.45pm. The Palace closes at 5.30pm and the Park and Gardens close at 6.00pm.

www.blenheimpalace.com

Tickets for Festival events on all 4 days, Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th September, at Blenheim Palace include free entry to the grounds and gardens on the day of the ticket (price normally £13.50).

Festival Patrons, Sponsors and Partners

We should like to thank the following for their most generous support of the festival:

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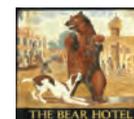
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We should also like to thank all the voluntary festival stewards for their time and generous support throughout the festival.

For information on sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 Festival (Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th September), please contact Tony Byrne at tb@anthonybyrne.com or on **07801 287510**

Programme printed by
Oxuniprint, the printing division of
Oxford University Press

The festival is produced by Iconic Programmes Ltd
Registered office Greyfriars Court, Paradise Square,
Oxford, Oxon OX1 1BE
Company number 07180906



HSBC and The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival

HSBC is delighted to be the Foundation sponsor for the Blenheim Palace Literary Festival for a third year, once again supporting the series of talks and events on 'Leadership' and 'Women in Society', past, present and future.

The Festival Royal Dinner in Vanbrugh's elegant Orangery at Blenheim, with guest speaker Sir Jonathan Miller, allows us to offer HSBC customers, prospective customers and all our guests an exceptional evening.

As we approach the 150th Anniversary of HSBC's Foundation, we remain committed to providing our customers with outstanding service and care around the globe, supporting our customers to achieve their hopes, dreams and ambitions. This requires an appreciation and commitment to diversity across our markets, both of which are important to the success and themes of the Blenheim Festival. We look forward to welcoming you to The Palace for four unforgettable literary days.



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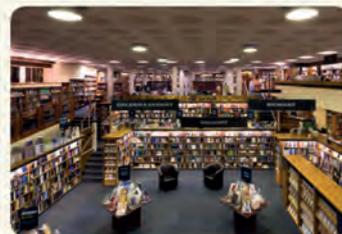
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Deborah Harkness

All Souls Trilogy: The Book of Life

6pm / St Mary Magdalene Church / £11

Global bestseller Professor Deborah Harkness returns to the festival for a special preview event to talk about the final instalment of her All Souls Trilogy, *The Book of Life*. Harkness, a historian and million-selling novelist, is flying over from the United States to be at the festival to talk about the climax to her trilogy, which sees witch and historian Diana Bishop and vampire scientist Matthew Clairmont finally learn what the witches discovered centuries ago. The All Souls Trilogy began with *A Discovery of Witches*, which has sold 1.5 million copies worldwide and is now being developed into a Hollywood movie. The second volume, *Shadow of Night*, which features an opening sequence in Elizabethan Woodstock, was number one on *The New York Times* bestseller list and number two on *The Sunday Times* bestseller list.

Harkness is a scholar and student of history. She is an expert in the history of magic, alchemy and science in Europe, especially between 1500 and 1700, and was a Fulbright Fellow in Oxford, rowed for Keble College, and has spent time researching at the Bodleian Library and All Souls College library. She has written works of non-fiction, including the award-winning *The Jewel House* about the practice of Elizabethan science, before turning to her novels. Her career in fiction began when she says she began to wonder 'if there really are vampires, what do they do for a living?'

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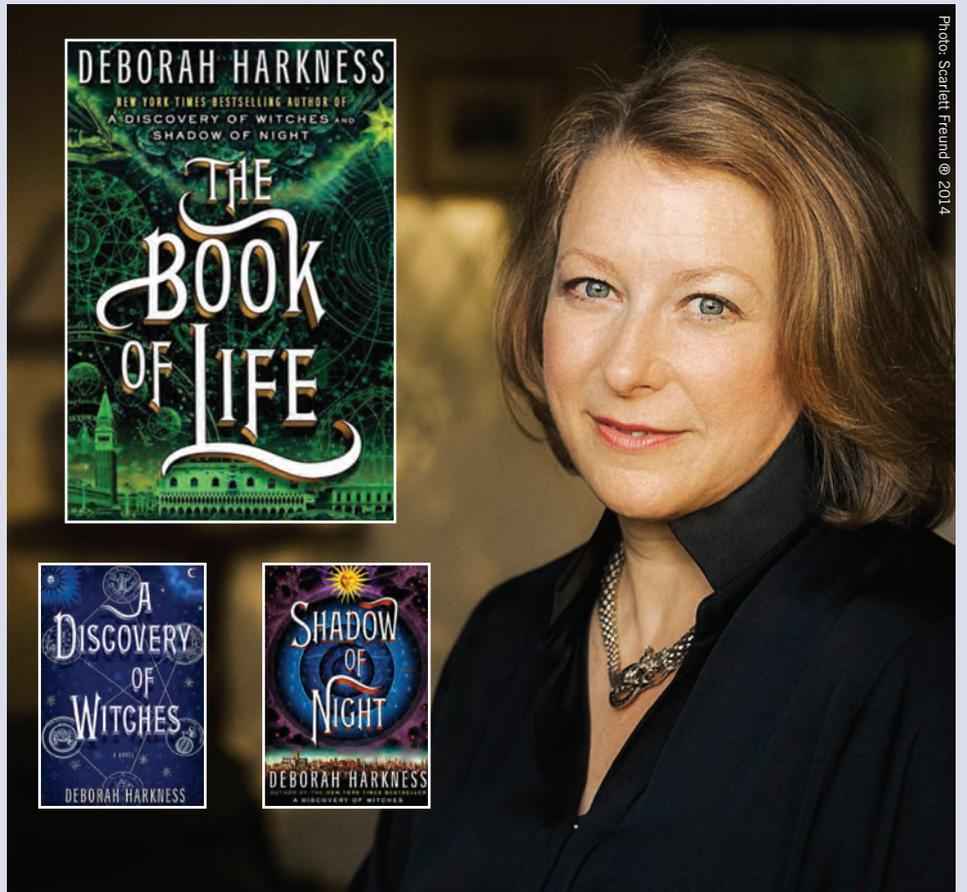


Photo: Scarlett Freund @ 2014

Nicholas Parsons

Welcome to Just a Minute!: A Celebration of Britain's Best-Loved Radio

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11

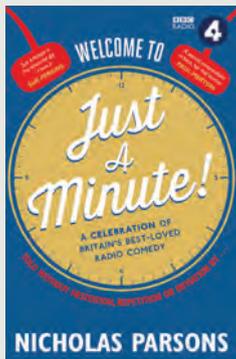
Broadcaster and entertainer Nicholas Parsons celebrates the best and most hilarious moments from six decades and 900 episodes of Radio 4's hugely popular *Just a Minute* show, in which panel members are challenged to speak for one minute without repetition or deviation on any subject that comes up. Parsons, presenter of *Just a Minute*, and the only person never to have missed a show, has written the very first *Just a Minute Book*. He tells the story of the show from its inauspicious first pilot, through television and stage versions, to today's version, which pulls in 2.51 million listeners every week.



Nicholas Parsons

Highlights of the show have included Kenneth Williams' funny battles with Sheila Hancock, Paul Merton's flights of fancy, Clement Freud's acerbic wit, Julian Clary's innuendo, Jenny Eclair's brutal honesty, Gyles Brandreth's monologues, Graham Norton's celebrity gossip and Sue Perkins' infectious enthusiasm. Parsons explains how the show has welcomed more than 200 entertainers to its panel and how it has adapted over the years as each new generation of entertainers has joined.

Parsons first came to the fore in the late 50s in a comedy partnership with Arthur Haynes. Alongside *Just a Minute*, he is well known for presenting *Sale of the Century* and for his chat show at the Edinburgh Fringe, which has run for 13 years.



James Hamilton

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

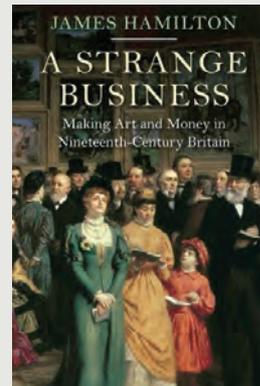
10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Art historian and biographer James Hamilton brings to life the business of culture in 19th-century Britain in this illustrated talk. He investigates the exchange between culture and business at a time when Britain became a centre for world commerce. It is a world peopled by the likes of Turner, Constable, Landseer, Coleridge, Wordsworth and Dickens, but also by patrons, financiers, collectors, industrialists, lawyers, publishers, dealers, auctioneers, hostesses, brothel-keepers, charlatans and quacks.



Photo: Louise Thomas

James Hamilton



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

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A Guided Coffee-Tasting with The East India Company

The Story of Coffee

11am / Woodstock: The Feathers Hotel / £12



Coffee is one of the world's most widely consumed drinks, and its story has its roots in Ethiopia. As legend states, an Ethiopian goatherder by the name of Kaldi first discovered the potency of the coffee bean after observing his goats 'dancing' after chewing coffee cherries.

This session led by coffee master Andrew Knight explores how coffee, first cultivated in the Arab world, spread around the globe. It looks at the difference between coffees of Asia, Africa and the Americas, and at where the word mocha comes from. Discover the differences between various coffee types and enjoy stories of the first British coffeehouses – including a famous one named Lloyds.

The event will also include tastings of several coffees and discussions on what influences their flavours.



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Alice Roberts

The Incredible Unlikelihood of Being

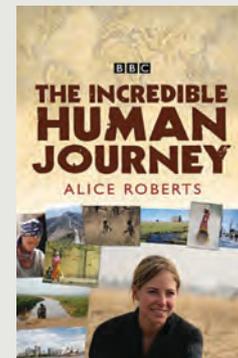
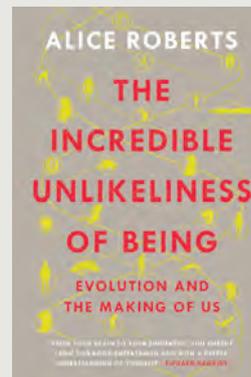
12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11

Presenter of the BBC's *The Incredible Human Journey* Professor Alice Roberts takes a highly accessible look at our own bodies, showing how we develop from a single egg into a complex body and how our embryos contain echoes of our evolutionary past. Roberts uses the latest scientific discoveries to demonstrate that our bodies are far from perfect, a mix of new and old with strokes of genius and imperfections, all inherited from the past.

Roberts is renowned for making science accessible and has presented *The Incredible Human Journey* and *Coast* on BBC2 and *Inside Science* on BBC Radio 4. Her latest series, *Ice Age Giants*, recently aired on BBC2. Roberts is professor of public engagement in science at Birmingham University and brings together a range of skills and qualifications as a doctor, anatomist, osteoarchaeologist, anthropologist and writer. She is author of several books, including *Don't Die Young* and *The Incredible Human Journey*.



Alice Roberts



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Ken Hom, Cyrus Todiwala and Belinda Harley

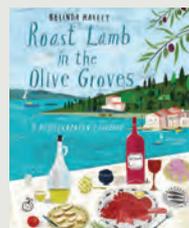
Food and Culture: How to Live Life Well

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Three food writers and cooks discuss food and culture and the connection food has with family, heritage, storytelling, health and good living, and offer some tastings of food from Greece, India and China.

Ken Hom is one of the world's greatest Chinese chefs and a leading world authority on Chinese food. He was recommended to the BBC by Madhur Jaffrey and went on to appear in *Ken Hom's Chinese Cookery* and a number of other series. He has written more than 30 cookery books. The latest, *Exploring China, A Culinary Adventure*, accompanied a successful BBC2 series.

Cyrus Todiwala is one half of BBC2's *Incredible Spice Men* and was named BBC Food Personality of the Year at the BBC Radio 4 Food and Farming Awards 2014. He is the owner of three London restaurants. In his latest book, *Mr Todiwala's Bombay*, he visits the city of his childhood, Mumbai, or Bombay as it will always be known to him. The book is a tour of many street food stalls and recipes from home kitchens.



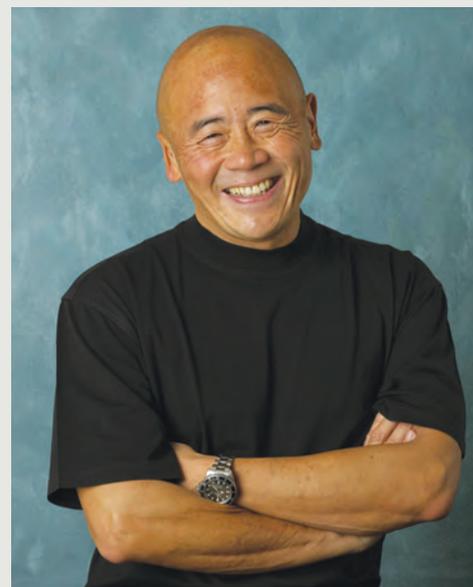
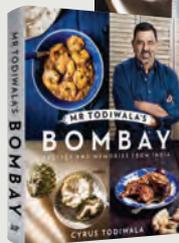
Belinda Harley has written acclaimed books on Harry's Bar, London, and Annabel's, and has written extensively on organic food and artisan cooking. In her latest book, *Roast Lamb in the Olive Groves*, she learns about the old ways of islanders on Paxos – where Greek and Italian cuisine meet – and collects their recipes and food lore.



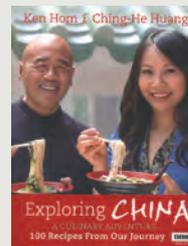
Belinda Harley



Cyrus Todiwala



Ken Hom



In association with





Ben Fergusson and Jason Hewitt. Chaired by Kate Williams

Literary Debuts and World War II

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Two rising literary stars, Ben Fergusson and Jason Hewitt, discuss their debut novels, both of which are set amid the dramatic events of World War II and its aftermath.

Fergusson has published a range of prize-winning short fiction in both the UK and the US and is editor of the magazine, *Oval Short Fiction*. His debut novel, *The Spring of Kasper Meier*, is the story of a German who finds a solution to the desperation of a post-war country in trading on the black market. He gets drawn into a world of intrigue where nothing is what it seems and he has to try to save himself and those around him.



Hewitt is a playwright, actor and recent graduate, with distinction, of the creative writing course at Bath Spa University. His debut novel, *The Dynamite Room*, sees a German Nazi officer swim ashore in Suffolk in 1940 and break into a boarded-up house to find a 12-year-old evacuee there. The story follows the next four days from both points of view, but the question is, how does he already know Lydia's name?

Discussions will be chaired by historian, broadcaster and writer Kate Williams, and 1940s-style singing trio the Scarlet Starlets will perform during the event.



Ben Fergusson



Jason Hewitt



The Scarlet Starlets



Kate Williams

Photo: Charlie Hopkinson

Photo: Paul Stewart

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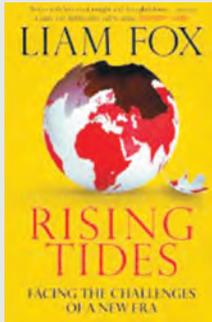
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Liam Fox and Richard Sakwa

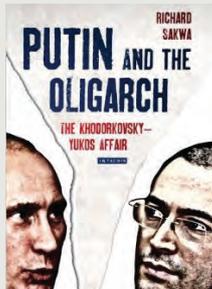
Putin and Russia: A Threat to World Peace?**2pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11**

Ukraine's recent moves to embrace the West have upset Russia, leading to the annexation of Crimea by Russia and tensions in the rest of Ukraine. Our panellists look at what drives Russia and President Putin. Is the rise of modern Russia a threat to world peace, and what does Putin really think about Ukraine, about the West and about the oligarchs that drive the country's economy?



Dr Liam Fox MP is a former secretary of state for defence in the Coalition Government. His first book, *Rising Tides*, was shortlisted for Paddy Power Debut Political Book of the Year 2013. In it, he looks at the rapidly changing face of the world and asks what decision-makers fear are the threats to world peace and stability.

Richard Sakwa is professor of Russian and European politics and head of the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. His latest book is *Putin and the Oligarch: The Khodorovsky-Yukos Affair*, in which he looks at business tycoon Mikhail Khodorovsky's confrontation with Putin, his arrest, 14-year prison sentence and recent release.



Liam Fox



Richard Sakwa

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Lucy Hughes-Hallett

The Pike: Gabriele D'Annunzio**2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11**

Samuel Johnson Prize-winning cultural historian and critic Lucy Hughes-Hallett tells the story of the turbulent years of the early 20th century through the life of debauched poet, writer, novelist, dramatist, daredevil and precursor to the Fascists Gabriel D'Annunzio in *The Pike*.



Lucy Hughes-Hallett

Her work about the life of the acclaimed poet and writer with a legendary charm won the 2013 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction and the 2013 Costa Book Awards Biography of the Year. The Samuel Johnson judges described it as a book that 'transcends the conventions of biography'.

D'Annunzio came to instigate right-wing revolt against democratic authority, notably declaring himself Commandante of Fiume, now in modern-day Croatia. Hughes-Hallett uses D'Annunzio's life to explore the society and politics of the early 20th century. It is both a page-turning story of a flamboyant, charismatic and repellent character and of the rise of nationalism and political extremism.

Hughes-Hallett is also author of *Cleopatra: Queen, Lover, Legend* and of *Heroes: Saviours, Traitors and Supermen*.

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Kate Williams and Alison Weir. Chaired by Paul Blezard.

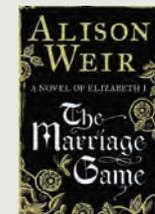
History and The Novel: Storms of War and The Marriage Game

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangerie / £11

Two best-selling historians, Kate Williams and Alison Weir, discuss how their deep knowledge of history has helped them to write novels based in history.

Williams, an acclaimed television historian and writer, has just published a second novel, *The Storms of War*. The story opens in 1914 and centres on Celia, the youngest of four children in the prosperous de Witt family. The onset of war finds the de Witts shunned by a society that once embraced them and in danger of losing everything. Williams is an author, social historian, constitutional and royal expert, broadcaster and novelist. She has written five acclaimed non-fiction historical works, including *Young Elizabeth: The Making of Our Queen*, and another

historical novel, *The Pleasures of Men*. She appears regularly on radio and television as an expert on royal and constitutional matters, is the social historian on BBC2's *Restoration Home* and has presented television and radio documentaries, including *Young Victoria* and *The History of the Smile*.



two other novels, *Innocent Traitor* and *The Lady Elizabeth*.



Kate Williams



Alison Weir

Weir brings all her knowledge of Elizabeth I to life in her novel, *The Marriage Game*. The novel plays out the story of a young Queen Elizabeth, pursued for her hand in marriage by many of Europe's leading princes, but who cannot resist the attractions of the dashing but married Robert Dudley. Weir's many bestselling books on history include *Britain's Royal Families*; *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*; *Henry VIII: King and Court*; and *Mary, Queen of Scots*. She has also written

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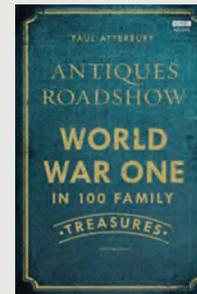


Paul Atterbury talks to Steven Parissien

Compton Verney Lecture – Art of War: Treasures Fashioned from Conflict

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Television antiques expert Paul Atterbury and cultural historian Dr Steven Parissien discuss the astonishing artistic legacy of the First World War – from the large monuments to the small treasures of 'trench folk art' fashioned by serving soldiers. Atterbury, a regular on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, has written a new book,



Antiques Roadshow: World War One in 100 Family Treasures, that features the stories and war memorabilia

brought to the BBC's experts during a series of special shows at the Somme to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. Atterbury and Parissien will talk about the physical and psychological legacy of the war, the astonishing monuments and evocative art it inspired, and about the pieces of everyday equipment or ephemera that soldiers and sailors refashioned, adapted or engraved to try to humanise the hours and days between front-line action.

Atterbury is an expert in art, architecture, design and decorative arts of the 19th and 20th centuries. He regularly curates for the Victoria and Albert Museum and has written or edited more than 30 books, mostly on ceramics but also on railways and canals.

Parissien has written extensively on architectural and cultural history. He is the director of Compton Verney museum and gallery in Warwickshire.



Paul Atterbury

Presented by



George Plumptre

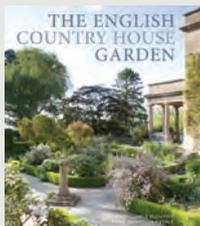
The Making of English Country House Gardens

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

International authority on gardens and gardening George Plumptre describes the making of some of the great English country house gardens and the parts played by their owners. Plumptre, chief executive of the National Gardens Scheme, selects his subjects from his new book, *The English Country House Garden*. He takes a fresh look at the English country house garden, focusing on the owners and the stories behind the making of the gardens. He ranges from the Victorian grandeur of Tyntesfield and Cragside to the Arts and Crafts simplicity of Rodmarton Manor and Charleston and to perennial favourites Hidcote and Great Dixter. Along the way, he also visits some never-before-photographed new gardens.



George Plumptre



Plumptre is a former gardening correspondent for *The Times*. He has lectured on garden subjects across the world and contributed articles to many leading publications.

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Guided Tea-Tasting with The East India Company

The Finest Teas with the Tea Master

4pm / Woodstock: The Feathers Hotel / £12



Join The East India Company on a tea-tasting experience through India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, and beyond, and explore the finest teas.

Journey back to where it all began, when China had the world's monopoly on tea, and see how this beverage has travelled through the centuries to become one of Britain's most famous traditions. Learn the difference between a white, green and black tea, learn the best way to brew a truly bewitching cup, discover some of the rarest teas in the world, and taste an Earl Grey like no other.

Led by The East India Company tea master, Lalith Lenadora, this guided tasting session is sure to delight and surprise.



Presented by



Helen Macdonald

H is for Hawk

6pm / Woodstock: Methodist Church / £11

Writer, poet and historian Helen Macdonald introduces her story of the taming and training of a goshawk in a book that is destined to become a classic of nature writing. It is a multi-layered work – the story of the taming of a goshawk, and of a spiritual journey and of a coming to terms with grief, and also a biography of the brilliant and troubled novelist T H White.



Photo: Marzena Egorzalny

Helen Macdonald



Macdonald was determined to become a falconer from the age of seven. She read all the books, including T H White's masterpiece, *The Goshawk*, in which he describes his struggle to train a goshawk as a spiritual contest. When her father died, Macdonald became obsessed with the idea of training her own

goshawk, buying Mabel for £800 on a Scottish quay and setting out to train her at her Cambridge home.

Macdonald's other works include *Falcon* and *Shaler's Fish*.



In association with
The Woodstock Bookshop.

Jessye Norman talks to Alan Yentob

Stand Up Straight and Sing

6pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11

One of America's most decorated artists Jessye Norman tells BBC creative director Alan Yentob how she travelled from childhood in the segregated south to performing great operatic roles on the world's biggest stages. Norman, who is flying in from the US to be at the festival, is one of the world's most admired singers, but her own life story has also turned her into an American icon. Raised in a tight-knit community centred around the church, she recalls the important role played by her parents and the strong women in her life. Norman describes how she came face-to-face with racism not only in childhood but also as an adult out and about in the world. She is particularly known for the Wagnerian repertoire and for playing the roles of Sieglinde, Ariadne, Alceste, and Leonore.

Norman has won five Grammy awards and received the United States' highest award in the performing arts, the Kennedy Center Honor in 1997, making history as the youngest recipient in the honour's 20-year existence. Norman has performed on many major occasions in both the US and Europe, including the opening of the Atlanta Olympic Games, the inaugurations of Presidents Reagan and Clinton, the 60th birthday of Queen Elizabeth, and the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. In 2003, she founded the Jessye Norman School of the Arts for talented children who would otherwise not be able to avail themselves of arts training in her home city of Augusta, Georgia. President Obama awarded her the National Medal of Arts in 2010.

Yentob is the creative director of the BBC and editor and presenter of the *Imagine* programme. He is a former controller of both BBC1 and BBC2.



Photo: Carol Friedman

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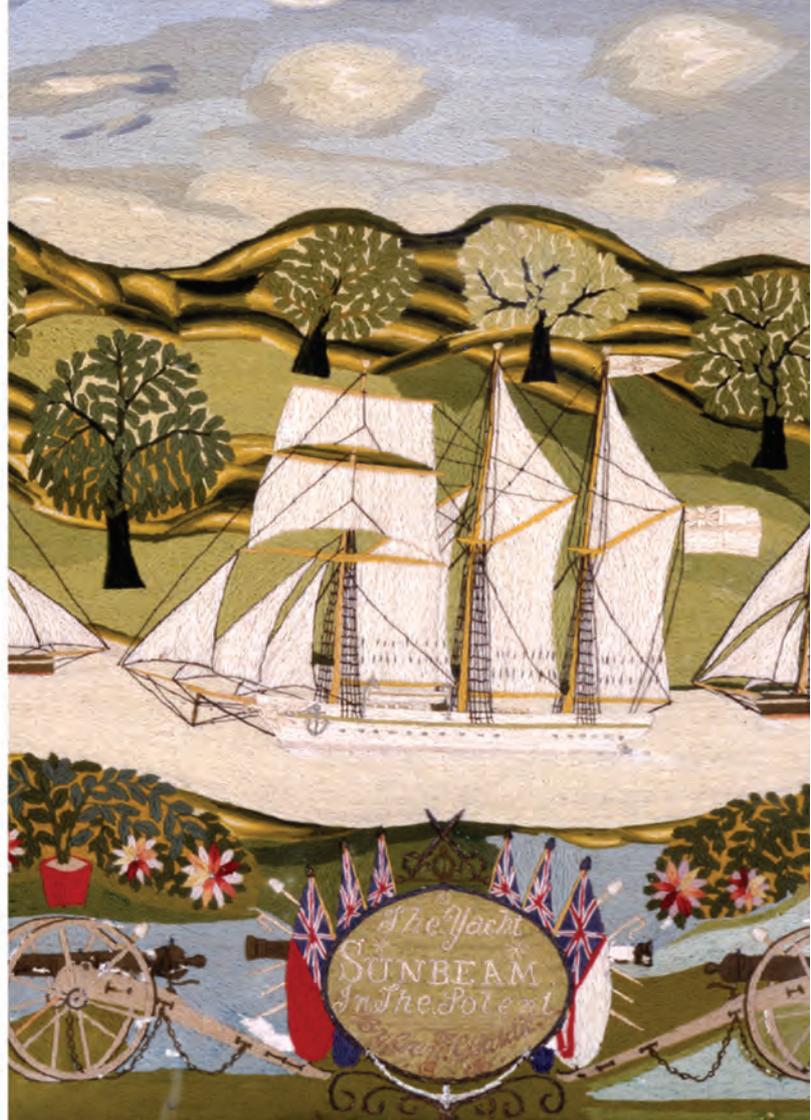


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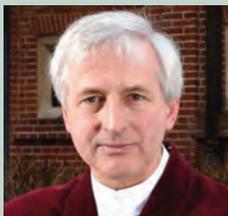


Hugo Vickers

Cecil Beaton: Portraits and Profiles

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Biographer, lecturer and broadcaster Hugo Vickers introduces a new edition of portraits and profiles by one of the most celebrated portrait photographers of the 20th century, Sir Cecil Beaton. Beaton was a fashion, war and portrait photographer, a diarist, a painter, an interior designer and an Academy Award-winning stage and costume designer. His images often flattered their subjects but his diaries and essays did not always follow suit.



Hugo Vickers

This new edition of his portraits and profiles is edited by Vickers, his official biographer and literary executor. It includes portraits and profiles of Mick Jagger, Marlon Brando, Maria Callas, Coco Chanel, Greta Garbo, Audrey Hepburn, Salvador Dali and Marilyn Monroe. The images and profiles capture a series of eras from the roaring twenties, through the war years to the sixties style revolution.

Vickers has written biographies of many 20th-century figures including the Queen Mother; Gladys, Duchess of Marlborough; Cecil Beaton; Vivien Leigh; and Greta Garbo. He features regularly in broadcasts on royal occasions.

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Karen Armstrong

Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11

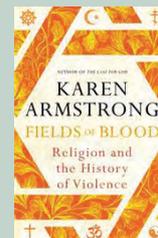
Britain's foremost scholar of world religion Karen Armstrong sets out to debunk the argument that religion has been the cause of all major wars in history. In *Fields of Blood*, she tackles the relationship between religion and violence and looks at how different cultures and faiths can co-exist peacefully. She looks at medieval crusaders, modern jihadists, the pacifism of Buddha and the vision of Jesus, arguing that the underlying reasons for war often had little to do with religion.

Armstrong spent seven years as a Roman Catholic nun before going to university and then becoming a full-time writer and broadcaster. Her books include *A History of God*, *The Case for God* and *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. She is a winner of the TED prize and holder of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal.



Photo: Michael Lonstar

Karen Armstrong



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 The Folio Society

www.foliosociety.com/reformation

'It is difficult to imagine anyone writing a better book about the Reformation' LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rick Stroud

Kidnap in Crete: The Abduction of a Nazi General

12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Writer Rick Stroud tells the full story of one of the most daring exploits of the Second World War – involving one of Britain's greatest travel writers, Patrick Leigh Fermor – for the first time. Stroud is the first to draw on all the sources for his account of how a small SOE

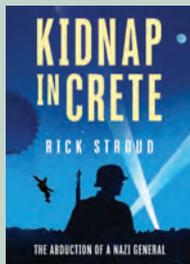


Photo: Ben Gold

Rick Stroud

unit led by Leigh Fermor, with Captain Bill Stanley Moss as his second in command, kidnapped a German general in Nazi-occupied Crete in 1944 and was chased across the mountains as they headed for a rendezvous with the Royal Navy. Moss wrote about the events in his book, *Ill Met by Moonlight*, which was adapted into a film of the same name starring Dirk Bogarde as Leigh Fermor.

Stroud brings the story to life, explaining the devastating consequences of the mission for all involved and describing the role played by Crete in the war. Stroud is also author of the acclaimed *The Phantom Army of Alamein: The Men Who Hoodwinked Rommel*, and *The Book of the Moon*.



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Diarmaid MacCulloch and Anna Whitelock. Chaired by John Drury

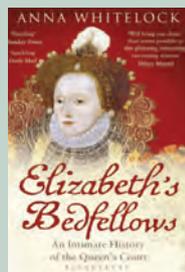
Henry and Elizabeth: The Creation of the Church of England

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11



One of the world's leading authorities on the history of the church Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch and fellow historian and writer Dr Anna Whitelock discuss the roles played by Henry VIII and his daughter, Elizabeth I, in the creation of the Church of England.

MacCulloch is a broadcaster, writer and professor of the history of the Church at the University of Oxford best known for his 2009 BBC TV series, *A History of Christianity*, and the Cundill prize-winning book of the same name. His latest work, *Silence in Christian History*, looks at silence throughout Christianity, including the sudden eruption of noise in the Protestant reformation. His most recent television series, *How God Made the English*, was broadcast on the BBC in 2012, and a new BBC series, due to broadcast in autumn this year, will look at sexuality in the history of Christianity.



Whitelock has written two works, the bestselling and widely praised *Mary Tudor*, and her latest, *Elizabeth's Bedfellows, An Intimate History of the Queen's Court*. The latter is the story of Elizabeth I and of those who guarded her bedchamber and held the truth about her health, chastity and fertility. Whitelock is a senior lecturer in early modern history at Royal Holloway and appears regularly on radio and television.

Discussions will be chaired by The Very Rev Dr John Drury, former dean of Christ Church, Oxford.



Diarmaid MacCulloch



Photo: Darren Lee Photography

Anna Whitelock

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Tom Wilkinson

Bricks and Mortals: Ten Great Buildings and the People They Made

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

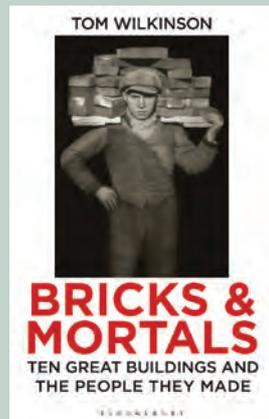
Architectural historian and writer Tom Wilkinson reveals the intimate relationship between architecture and society through ten great buildings – from the Tower of Babel in modern Iraq and Palazzo Rucellai in Florence, both demonstrations of power, to Detroit's Highland Park car factory, built for work, and Eileen Gray's French Riviera villa, built to organise sex. Wilkinson says the economic, erotic, political and psychological aspects of buildings are crucial to a proper understanding of architecture.



Photo: James English

Tom Wilkinson

Wilkinson teaches architectural history at University College, London, where he is also writing a doctoral thesis on art history. He is also history editor of the *Architectural Review*.



The Bookshop Band

Festival-goers will be entertained by The Bookshop Band at Blenheim Palace on Friday afternoon of the festival.

The three-piece band was founded four years ago and writes songs inspired by books. They play in bookshops and at music and literary festivals and have written 100 songs inspired by 50 books.

The band will play four 30-minute sets in the Blenheim Palace courtyards (in the shop if wet), at 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm and 4.15pm.

The Bookshop Band has featured on BBC radio and television and in national newspapers. They often work closely with authors, including Ian Rankin, Tan Twan Eng and Ruth Ozeki to produce their songs, and have won many plaudits from leading writers.

The Bookshop Band will also entertain residents at Spencer Court Care Home in Woodstock.





Proud to support
The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival

Blenheim Palace: Great War House
coming this Autumn on ITV

Julian Fellowes

Blenheim Palace: Great War House

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangerie / £12

The author and creator of *Downton Abbey* Julian Fellowes introduces the premiere of a new ITV documentary, *Blenheim Palace: Great War House*. In the documentary, Fellowes tells how the time-honoured rules and rituals of Blenheim Palace and the lives of those associated with it were ripped apart by the outbreak of the First World War 100 years ago. Following the screening, Fellowes will take questions from the audience.

Fellowes is an actor, novelist, film director, screen writer and Conservative member of the House of Lords, where he is known as The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford. He won an Oscar for Best Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen for *Gosford Park* in 2002. Other screenplays have included *The Young Victoria*, which starred Emily Blunt, *Vanity Fair*, *The Tourist* and *From Time to Time*. He is particularly known as the creator and writer of the hugely successful and current ITV drama *Downton Abbey*.

This event marks the start of a new partnership between Blenheim Palace Literary Festival and the ITV network.

This event lasts two hours



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Tim Stanley-Clarke

A Special Tasting of Graham's Ports

3pm / Woodstock: Feathers Hotel / £20

Established in 1820, Graham's consistently produces outstanding tawny and vintage ports. Today's tasting is a unique opportunity to compare and contrast different styles of port: reserve, late bottle vintage (LBV), aged tawny, crusted and vintage ports. Port expert Tim Stanley-Clarke will guide you through the subtleties of Graham's ports.

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".



Tim Stanley-Clarke



Roy Strong

Remaking a Garden: The Laskett Transformed

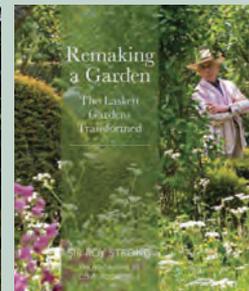
4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Leading writer, historian and broadcaster Sir Roy Strong tells of the remodelling of his own Laskett garden in Herefordshire, one of the most important English gardens of the last century. Strong describes the garden, the largest laid out in Britain since the war, as 'the portrait of a marriage... a mnemonic landscape'. He and his late wife, Julia Trevelyan Oman, created the garden over the 30 years of their marriage. When Julia died in 2003, the garden had become overgrown. So began a great remodelling, with trees and hedges chopped down and vistas opened up to give the garden a 'new energy and excitement'. The changes were all captured in a series of 'before and after' shots by renowned garden photographer Clive Boursnell.

Strong is a former director of the National Portrait Gallery and of the Victoria and Albert Museum. His many publications include *The Renaissance Garden in England*, *The Artist and the Garden*, and *Self-Portrait as a Young Man*.



Roy Strong



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Caroline Sandon talks to Gwenan Edwards

Book Club: Burnt Norton

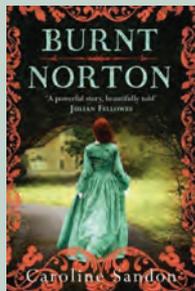
4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Debut novelist Caroline Sandon talks to BBC journalist and presenter Gwenan Edwards about her historical novel inspired by the home she lives in and the tragic events of 1741 when its then owner Sir William Keyt set fire to himself



Caroline Sandon

and the house in a fit of madness. His troubles had started with an affair with his wife's maid and then the attempted murder of the butler. Sandon's novel opens in 1731 with the death of Keyt's youngest son in an accident and follows his destructive passion as he ruins both his family and his once-grand home.



Sandon dreamt of being a writer from the moment she won her first national poetry competition at ten. However, life took a different course including a law degree, a spell as a model, and later founding an interior design company working on many of England's grand houses. What remained of Norton

House was acquired by Sandon's husband's ancestors 250 years ago and has remained in the family ever since.

Anthony and Ben Holden talk to David Freeman. Readings by Ben Okri

Tears Before Bedtime: Words and Music That Touch the Soul

4pm / Woodstock: St Mary Magdalene Church / £11

Father and son team Anthony and Ben Holden talk to broadcaster David Freeman about *Poems that Make Grown Men Cry*, an unusual anthology they compiled with the help of 100 well-known men.

The Holdens received suggestions from notable men in literature, theatre, the arts, film, science, architecture and the field of human rights, including John le Carré, Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan, Stephen Fry, Daniel Radcliffe and Christopher Hitchens. The chosen poems give an insight into the souls of these famous men.

Booker-winning novelist and poet Ben Okri will read a selection of the poems and, to further stir the soul, there will be moving songs from Ric Sanders and Vo Fletcher and solo cello played by Johanna Messner.

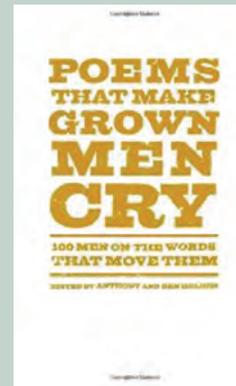
Anthony Holden is an award-winning journalist who has published more than 30 books, including biographies of Laurence Olivier, Tchaikovsky and Shakespeare. His son, Ben, is a writer and film producer. He was director of European film and television at Exclusive Media, where he helped relaunch Britain's most famous film production label, Hammer.



Anthony and Ben Holden



Ben Okri



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Jonathan Miller

Sixty Years of Writing: Black Tie Literary Dinner with Jonathan Miller

Dinner hosted by Their Graces The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough in the Presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

7pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £130 / Dress code: Black tie

Join the multi-talented actor, television presenter, writer, doctor and director, Sir Jonathan Miller, as he reflects on 60 years of writing while you enjoy dinner in the splendid surroundings of the Orangery at Blenheim Palace.

Publication of *On Further Reflection: 60 Years of Writing* marks Miller's 80th birthday and contains extracts of his writings taken from the last 60 years. They give an insight into his life and the depth of his talent as an actor, doctor, television presenter, film director, opera director and sculptor. Miller trained as a neuropathologist and first came to prominence for his role in the comedy revue *Beyond the Fringe* with Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett. He went on to become one of the world's leading opera directors and a well-known television director and personality.

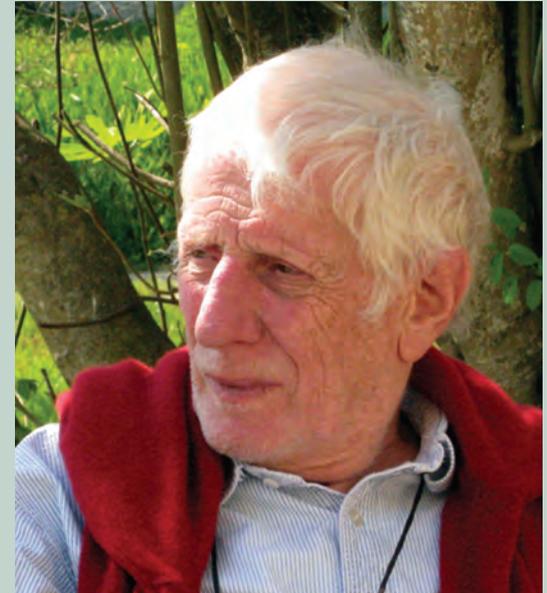
Dinner is preceded by a reception in the Duke of Marlborough's beautiful Italian Gardens. The price of this event includes reception, drinks, dinner, wines and a copy of *On Further Reflection: 60 Years of Writing*, which you can have signed by the author.

Previous speakers at the festival dinner have been:

Richard Holmes (2008)
 Andrew Roberts (2009)
 Peter Snow (2010)
 Sir Terry Wogan (2011)
 Frederick Forsyth (2012)
 Lucy Worsley (2013)



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Ashley Jackson

The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction

10am / Blenheim Palace: Courtyard / 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 Blenheim Palace courtyard (palace shop if wet).



Ashley Jackson

Professor of imperial and military history at King's College, London, Ashley Jackson defines the British Empire, explains what caused it to expand and contract, and examines its impact and legacy.



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V S I

Sofka Zinovieff talks to David Freeman

The Mad Boy, Lord Berners, My Grandmother and Me

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Writer and granddaughter of the 'Mad Boy', Robert Heber-Percy, Sofka Zinovieff talks to broadcaster David Freeman about the scandalous lives and eccentricities of a cultured elite living in Faringdon House in Oxfordshire, a home she inherited from her grandfather and is moving to this summer. Faringdon House was home in the 1930s to composer Lord Berners, friend of Stravinsky, Picasso and Gertrude Stein and renowned for his eccentricities. He made Faringdon House an aesthete's paradise renowned for its exquisite food and the great minds who were invited. His companion was Robert Heber-Percy, a physical hothead who would ride naked through the grounds and loved cocktails and nightclubs. Their relationship was scandalous enough but became a ménage à trois with the addition of pregnant society girl Jennifer Fry. Berners died in 1950, leaving Heber-Percy in charge of Faringdon House.



Photo: George Vokakis

Sofka Zinovieff



Zinovieff inherited Faringdon House unexpectedly from Heber-Percy in 1986. She is author of *Eurydice Street: A Place in Athens*; *Red Princess: A Revolutionary Life and The House on Paradise Street*. After many years living in Greece, she is returning to live at Faringdon House.

Supported by
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Lucy Atkins and Fanny Blake

Storytelling: 'It's a Bit Tense...'

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Are you writing a novel, or thinking of writing one? All fiction needs tension, whether it is subtle tightening of the atmosphere between two characters, or an edge-of-your-seat nail-biting meltdown. This workshop is for all writers, working in any genre. Novelists Fanny Blake and Lucy Atkins show you how to create tension in your work, looking at character, setting, emotional stakes, and much, much more, to make your writing fly.

Blake is the author of four novels, most recently *With A Friend Like You*. She is books editor of *Woman & Home* magazine. Before that she worked for many years in publishing and was editorial director of Viking Penguin.

Atkins is the author of the 2014 novel, *The Missing One*. She has also written, co-written or ghost written seven non-fiction books and is a feature journalist, and book critic for *The Sunday Times*.



Lucy Atkins



Atkins and Blake also discuss how to get published at another event on Sunday.



Fanny Blake



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AT WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

The Gibraltar Lecture 2014: George Carey talks to Adrian Daffern

Moral Dilemmas of the 21st Century

12 noon / Woodstock: St Mary Magdalene Church / £11

For the inaugural lecture, Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, talks to Canon Adrian Daffern about some of the major moral dilemmas of the 21st century including the current and controversial debate over assisted dying. It recently emerged that Carey was supporting moves to legalise assisted dying in stark contrast to the official line of the Church of England and his previous public statements. He now argues that upholding the sanctity of human life without regard to suffering caused in the process goes against the spirit of Christian teaching. In a recent article, he wrote: 'The fact is that I have changed my mind. The old philosophical certainties have collapsed in the face of the reality of needless suffering.' In the past, Carey has championed arguments against gay marriage and spoken against relaxing the law on dying.

Carey was born to a hospital porter in the East End of London and rose through the Church of England to become Archbishop of Canterbury between 1991 and 2002. He remains a busy Christian minister and is still active in public life through his membership of the House of Lords.

Daffern is team rector of the benefice of Blenheim. He was canon residentiary at Coventry Cathedral for seven years and studied theology at the University of Durham.



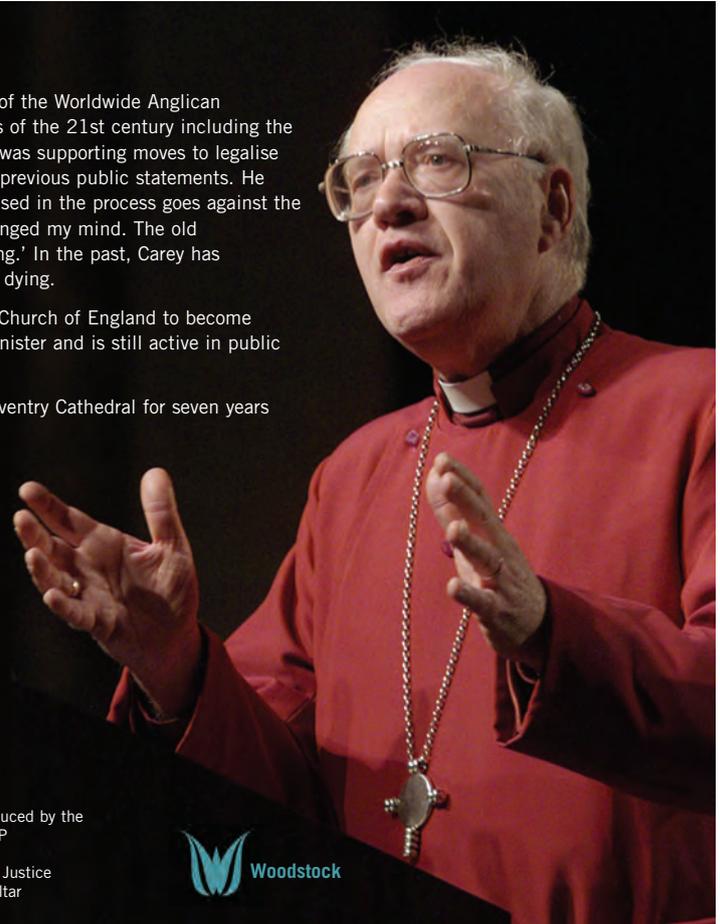
HM Government of Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Lecture will be delivered every year at the festival, and will take the forms of an address, an 'in conversation' or a debate.

The lecture will be devoted to matters of major cultural, historical or international importance at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar.



The lecture will be introduced by the
Hon Gilbert Licudi QC MP
Minister for Education,
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Tony Byrne, Special Advisor
FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival*

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Matthew Dennison

Behind the Mask: The Life of Vita Sackville-West

12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Bestselling historical biographer Matthew Dennison takes a look at the turbulent life of Vita Sackville-West. Dennison's latest work is the first biography of Sackville-West in 30 years and traces her life from lonely childhood, through an open marriage to Harold Nicolson during which both pursued homosexual affairs (including, most famously, Vita with Virginia Woolf) and literary success and disappointment, to the celebrated gardens at Sissinghurst created by the couple. Sackville-West was born into aristocracy but she took her talent for play-acting and rebellion to the artistic vanguard of modern Britain.



Matthew Dennison



Dennison is author of the critically acclaimed *The Last Princess: The Devoted Life of Queen Victoria's Youngest Daughter*; *Empress of Rome: The Life of Livia*; *The Twelve Caesars*; and *Queen Victoria*. He writes about country houses and gardens for several magazines.

Sponsored by **HSBC** 

Alex Monroe

Two Turtle Doves: A Memoir of Making Things

12.30 / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £15 (includes drinks)

Join world-famous jewellery designer Alex Monroe as he reveals how he grew from being a small, curious boy in the Suffolk countryside to be owner of one of the most successful and iconic jewellery brands. During the event there will be an opportunity to enjoy drinks with Monroe and look at and purchase some of his exquisite jewellery.

He is a long-term favourite in the Liberty jewellery hall and a quintessentially British designer. Creating irresistible nature-inspired pieces, his bumble bee necklace has almost iconic status; the signature design adorning the necks of fashion fans and fine jewellery lovers alike. Alex Monroe jewellery is crafted by hand in impeccable, ornate detail at his workshop in London.

Monroe grew up in the 1970s in a giant, crumbling house without visible parental influence but with sisters and brothers to love him and look out for him. Creativity became a compulsion for him, whether he was designing go-carts, crossbows, guns, boats, bikes or scooters. In *Two Turtle Doves*, he traces how an idea is transformed from a fleeting thought into an exquisite piece of jewellery.

Monroe trained at Sir John Cass School of Art in Whitechapel. He set up his business, Alex Monroe Jewellery, in London in 1986. His work is strongly inspired by nature and British eccentricity.



Alex Monroe



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Richard Dawkins talks to Paul Blezard

The Making of a Scientist to the Music of the Orchestra of St John's Conductor John Lubbock

1.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £15 and £25

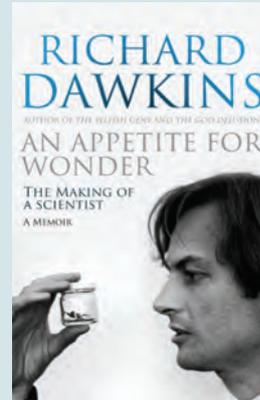
World-famous scientist and author of *The Selfish Gene* and *The God Delusion* Professor Richard Dawkins discusses his life and musical loves with author and broadcaster Paul Blezard. Members of the outstanding Orchestra of St John's, conducted by John Lubbock, will perform Dawkins's favourite musical works.

This unique event will see Dawkins talk about his personal story and the early private influences that shaped the public figure of today, laid out in his new book, *An Appetite for Wonder: The Making of a Scientist*. It is a story of public school and eccentric schoolmasters, of an early love for poetry, song and reading, and the unleashing of an intellectual curiosity in the zoology department of the University of Oxford.

Dawkins was catapulted to fame with the publication of *The Selfish Gene*, a radical new vision of Darwinism. He followed up with a series of bestselling books, including *The God Delusion*, a hard-hitting rebuttal of religion of all types that caused a sensation when it was published in 2006. In 2013, he was voted the world's top thinker in *Prospect* magazine's poll of 10,000 readers from more than 100 countries.

Lubbock is the founder and conductor of the Orchestra of St John's. The orchestra's aim is to bring together outstanding musicians who share an ethos of bringing music to people of all ages and from all walks of life. It has performed with world-famous soloists such as Dame Felicity Lott, Sir James Galway, Yuri Bashmet, Tasmin Little and Stephen Isserlis. Alongside its public performances, the orchestra gives around 40 concerts a year to autistic children and others with learning difficulties through the charity, Music for Autism, founded by Lubbock following the birth of his own autistic son.

This event lasts one hour 40 minutes including a 20-minute break.



Richard Dawkins

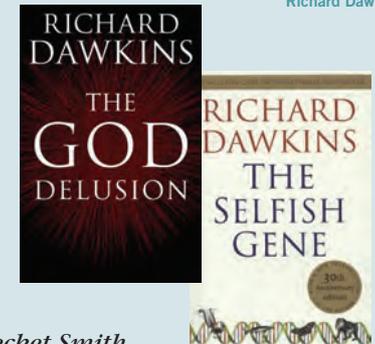


John Lubbock conducts the Orchestra of St John's

Photo: KT Bruce

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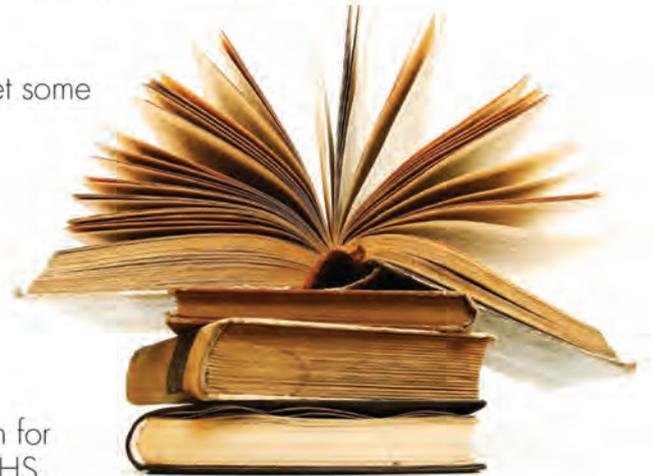
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Mickey Harrison

Gin tasting

2pm / Feathers Hotel / £20

Join Beefeater and Plymouth Gin brand ambassador Mickey Harrison at the renowned gin bar of The Feathers hotel for a gin-tasting masterclass. Harrison will talk about the history and production methods of Beefeater and Plymouth Gin, two of the most historic and prominent gin producers in history, followed by a tasting to include the exclusive and rare Burroughs Reserve. Other gins to be tasted are Beefeater Dry, Beefeater 24, Plymouth Gin, Plymouth Navy Strength and Plymouth Sloe.



Mickey Harrison

The Courtyard Gin Bar at The Feathers hotel is proud holder of the official Guinness World Record for the most varieties of gin commercially available on the planet at 161 on 1 June 2012. Since then, the number on offer at the bar has grown to 181.

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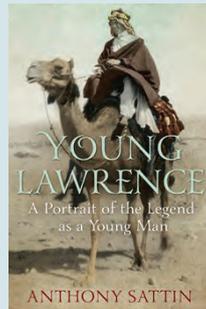
Anthony Sattin

Young Lawrence

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Writer, journalist and broadcaster Anthony Sattin uncovers the early years of the charismatic archaeologist and adventurer T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) that have been skated over by previous biographers. Sattin looks at the period before the outbreak of World War I and tracks the development of the man who would later fight with the Arabs against the Turks.

Lawrence burnt the first manuscript of his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, which described his five years in the Middle East before the war. Sattin uncovers the stories Lawrence wanted to conceal, including the truth of his birth, his tortuous relationship with a dominant mother, his affection for an Arab boy, and the reasons that drove him to become an archaeologist and a spy. Sattin's biography is published in October and is the first to focus on Lawrence in his twenties. It is set against the backdrop of the crumbling Ottoman Empire and growing Arab nationalism.



Sattin is author of several acclaimed books on history and travel including *The Gates of Africa*, *Lifting the Veil* and *A Winter on the Nile*. He is editorial advisor on *Geographical Magazine*, a contributing editor to *Condé Nast Traveller* and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



Anthony Sattin



Sponsored by **HSBC**

Sadie Jones talks to Lucy Atkins

Book Club: Fallout

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Award-winning novelist Sadie Jones talks to fellow writer Lucy Atkins about her new novel, *Fallout*. The novel is set in 1970s London and follows the fortune of four young friends trying to forge their way in the world of theatre. It is a story of love, ambition and betrayal.



Sadie Jones



Theatreland of the 1970s is a world well-known to Jones, who is the daughter of poet, playwright and scriptwriter Evan Jones and actress Joanna Jones.

Jones is author of three other novels including winner of the Costa First Novel Award, *The Outcast*, which was also shortlisted for the Orange Prize. *The Outcast* is being turned into a primetime two-part BBC television drama.

Atkins is the author of the 2014 novel, *The Missing One*. She has also written, co-written or ghost written seven non-fiction books and is a feature journalist, and book critic for *The Sunday Times*.

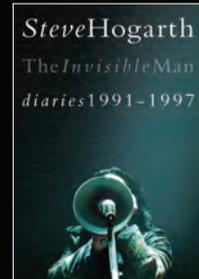
Steve Hogarth

Marillion and The Invisible Man Diaries

5pm / Woodstock: St Mary Magdalene Church / £11

Lead singer with progressive rock band Marillion Steve Hogarth talks about his life and sings and plays on the piano a few songs for festival-goers. Hogarth joined Marillion in 1989 and has since made 13 albums with the band and toured extensively across the globe. Marillion were the most successful band to emerge from the UK's 1980s neo-progressive rock scene and have sold 15 million albums worldwide. Despite a virtual radio and TV vacuum, they still have a fanatical following today, selling out concerts and festivals worldwide.

In the 90s Hogarth began keeping a diary after his father suggested he should start writing down some of the amazing things that happened in his life. The first volume of *The Invisible Man Diaries 1991-1997* has just been published and includes accounts both of life as a rock star on tour and of a father playing with his kids. There are stories of lunch with Neil Armstrong in Garfunkels, of waking up in a hotel bed to find a crowd watching him sleep, and of rehearsing in a studio next door to the likes of Mick Jagger, The Who, and Iggy Pop.





Literary Salon and Dinner with Ben Okri

La Galleria / 7.30pm / £95

Engaging conversation and delicious food are the order of the day at our popular literary salon, which this year is a special celebration of the publication of Booker-winning author Ben Okri's new novel, *The Age of Magic*, his first new novel in seven years. The novel is launched at a festival event on Sunday.

Join Okri and an impressive range of authors and writers appearing at the festival over the weekend – with no table plans – to talk informally and enjoy a traditional Sardinian meal cooked by Lucio and his chefs at La Galleria restaurant. The price of the event includes full Sardinian menu and wine, featuring anti pasti, main course, dessert and coffee.

Dress – casual.



Photo: courtesy of Wake up to Woodstock

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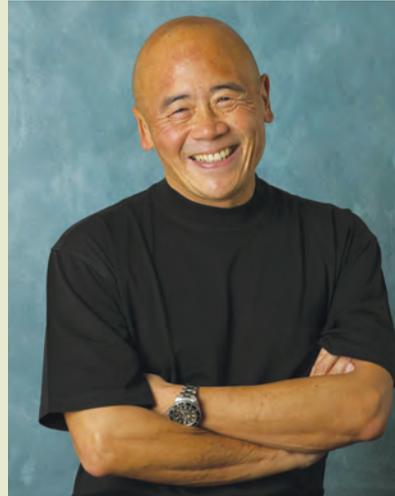
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and Belinda Harley**
**Food and Culture:
How to Live Life Well**
Thursday 25th September
12 noon
Blenheim Palace:
Marlborough Room



Cyrus Todiwala



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Belinda Harley

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For more information visit: **www.hospitality.brookes.ac.uk/gastronomica**

Paula Byrne – The English Heritage Lecture

Belle: The True Story of Dido Belle

10.30 / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Bestselling writer Dr Paula Byrne tells the true story of Dido Belle, inspiration for the major new Hollywood movie, *Belle*, released this summer and starring Tom Wilkinson, Emily Watson, Miranda Richardson and Gugu Mbatha-Raw.

Dido Elizabeth Belle was the first mixed-race English aristocrat, brought up in 18th-century society as the adopted daughter of Lord Mansfield, the Lord Chief Justice of England, at his home, Kenwood House, Hampstead. Kenwood House recently reopened after a £6m restoration by English Heritage.

Dido Belle was the illegitimate daughter of a Royal Navy captain and a slave woman. Her adoptive father presided over the notorious Zong case of the drowning of 132 slaves by a shipping company, which provided the legal underpinning to the abolition of slavery in Britain. Byrne tells the story of a family that defied convention, of the trial that exposed the cruelties of slavery and of a woman who challenged ideas of race at the highest level.

Byrne has written several books, including the bestselling *The Real Jane Austen* and *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*. She is a Fellow of Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford.

Dr Byrne will be introduced by Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director of English Heritage.

The previous English Heritage lectures have been delivered by:
HRH The Duke of Gloucester (2011)
John Julius, Viscount Norwich (2012)
Dr Simon Thurley (2013)



Paula Byrne



Presented by



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Lucy Atkins and Fanny Blake

Storytelling: Have You Got A Book In You?

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Writers Fanny Blake and Lucy Atkins discuss everything you need to know to get your book published, whether it is written already, or just the germ of an idea. The discussion includes: how to write a book proposal; what an agent does and why you need one; how to find an agent; what an editor does; how publishers work; the reality of revising a book for publication – and much more.

Blake is the author of four novels, most recently *With A Friend Like You*. She is books editor of *Woman & Home* magazine. Before that she worked for many years in publishing and was editorial director of Viking Penguin.

Atkins is the author of the 2014 novel, *The Missing One*. She has also written, co-written or ghost written seven non-fiction books and is a feature journalist, and book critic for *The Sunday Times*.



Lucy Atkins



Fanny Blake

Shakespeare for Breakfast

All You Can Eat in 90 minutes

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: The Orangery / £11

Who needs a McMuffin when you can have some *Macbeth*?



Members of the Performance Research Group

After the hugely successful productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013) and *Macbeth* (2012), the Performance Research Group (PRG) returns to the Blenheim Palace Literary Festival with *Shakespeare for Breakfast*. Fifteen talented actors will serve up a smorgasbord of scenes from Shakespeare's most popular plays, performed in PRG's hallmark style: no sets, no lighting, and breathtaking speed. A feast for the imagination, running at just under 90 minutes, this is fast food of the very best kind.

Performance Research Group (PRG) is a practitioners' collective of theatre professionals and actors in training, operating under the auspices of the Guildford School of Acting (GSA). The production is directed by PRG's artistic director Jaq Bessell.

Lynda Mugglestone

Dictionaries: A Very Short Introduction

12pm / Blenheim Palace: Courtyard / 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 Blenheim Palace courtyard (palace shop if wet).

Lynda Mugglestone shows that all dictionaries are partial and all are selective. They are human products, reflecting the dominant social and cultural assumptions of the time in which they were written, says the Pembroke College, Oxford, fellow in English language and literature.



Lynda Mugglestone

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V S I

Kate Brooke, Trystan Gravelle and Amy Morgan. Chaired by Lucy Atkins**Cocktails with Mr Selfridge****12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £15 (includes a cocktail)**

Enjoy a cocktail and join Kate Brooke, writer and executive producer of ITV's period drama *Mr Selfridge*, Trystan Gravelle, who plays Victor Colleano, manager of the department store's Palm Court Restaurant, and Amy Morgan, who plays Grace Calthorpe from accessories, to find out what it is like to write for television and how those words are turned into popular performances by the actors. *Mr Selfridge* is one of many period dramas that have been capturing the interest of viewers over recent years. It dramatizes the life of the flamboyant American entrepreneur, Harry Gordon Selfridge, played by Emmy-ward-winning American actor Jeremy Piven. Selfridge founded the world-renowned London department store in 1909.

The current series is the second one and picks up the story shortly before the outbreak of World War I. This event will include film clips from the series.



Kate Brooke



Trystan Gravelle



Amy Morgan

**Selina Hastings****The Red Earl: The Extraordinary Life of the 15th Earl of Huntingdon****12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11**

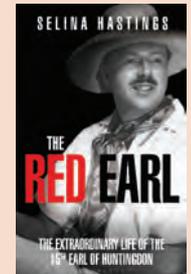
Acclaimed biographer Selina Hastings gives an illustrated and deeply personal talk about the life of her father, Jack Hastings, an artist, politician, and archetypal English eccentric who escaped his rigidly upper class life when he eloped with a penniless Italian. The couple fled to Australia where Jack took a job as a jackaroo. Jack, a talented artist, also travelled to the US and Mexico where he became a pupil and disciple of Diego Rivera. He was the first communist member of the House of Lords and a member of Attlee's post-war government. Hastings's research has uncovered a secret, and destroyed, autobiography that almost certainly covered an affair with Edwina Mountbatten.

Hastings is a former literary editor of the *Telegraph* and has published highly acclaimed biographies, including of Evelyn Waugh, Somerset Maugham, Rosamund Lehmann and Nancy Mitford.

Supported by
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Selina Hastings



Philip Marsden

Rising Ground: A Search for the Spirit of Place

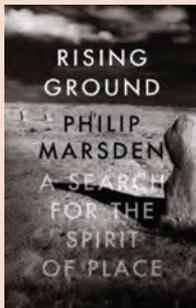
12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: The Indian Room / £11

Award-winning travel writer and novelist Philip Marsden explores why we react so strongly to certain places. Marsden was inspired to write his new book, *Rising Ground*, after moving to a remote creek-side farmhouse in Cornwall. He was taken aback by the intensity of his response to the place, and this led him to explore why we react so strongly to places and why layers of mythology build up around particular features in the landscape. His journey took him to the Neolithic landscape of Bodmin Moor, to Arthurian Tintagel, and to the granite tors of the far south-west.



Photo: Stephen Parker
Philip Marsden

Marsden, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, is author of several works of travel, fiction and non-fiction including *The Bronski House*, *The Spirit-Wrestlers*, and *The Levelling Sea*.



Philip Walling talks to David Freeman – The University of Worcester Lecture

Counting Sheep: A Celebration of the Pastoral Heritage of Britain

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £11

Former sheep farmer and barrister Philip Walling says sheep are the golden thread that runs through the history of the British countryside. He talks to broadcaster David Freeman about how he decided to pay homage to his farming roots after 30 years as a barrister. Walling tells the funny and idiosyncratic stories of meeting some of the 60 native breeds that thrive in this country and about their owners and shepherds. He ranges from the mountains of Scotland to Wales, the Pennines, the lowlands of the Midlands, the marshes of Kent and the West Country moors. He finds a rural life running parallel to modern Britain that is struggling to remain unchanged.

Walling started life as a sheep farmer before becoming a barrister. He lives in Northumberland and should be at home on the Blenheim estate where sheep breeds Scotch Mule, Charollais, Romney and Poll Dorset feed on the rich grass.



Philip Walling



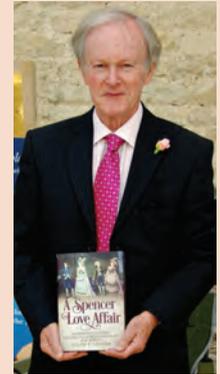
Allan Ledger talks to Paul Blezard

A Spencer Love Affair: 18th-century Theatricals at Blenheim Palace and Beyond

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Historian Allan Ledger offers a snapshot of 18th-century society life at Blenheim Palace through the true story of the love affair and marriage between the 4th Duke of Marlborough's daughter and an Oxford vicar. Lady Charlotte Spencer was banished from Blenheim Palace after her marriage to the Reverend Edward Nares. Their relationship grew out of acting together in private theatricals performed at Blenheim's newly created and highly fashionable private theatre. As Jane Austen described in *Mansfield Park*, these private theatricals often led to dangerous intimacies.

Ledger, an historian with a particular interest in the 18th century, describes how the affair rocked 1790s society and uncovers the amateur theatricals of the day that inspired it.



Allan Ledger



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AT WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

Ben Okri talks to Paul Blezard – the launch of his new novel

The Age of Magic: A First Novel in Seven Years

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £11

Booker-Prize-winning novelist and poet Ben Okri launches his new novel. *The Age of Magic*, a beautiful work full of poetic and metaphysical revelations. The novel takes the reader on a journey, a magical and a literal one, as a tightly-knit group of filmmakers travel from Paris to a remote Swiss mountain village. Once there, they are compelled to confront the demons they have been trying to escape.

Okri is considered one of the foremost African writers of the post-modern period. At 21, he published his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, and in 1991, *The Famished Road*, which won the Booker Prize. The mixture of the real and the spiritual worlds, in which he particularly draws on the myths and beliefs of his African heritage, has often led Okri to be categorised as a magical realist, although it is a categorisation he rejects. Altogether, Okri has published eight previous novels, as well as collections of poetry, short stories and essays, and his work has been translated into 20 languages. Here he talks to journalist and author Paul Blezard.



Ben Okri delivered the inaugural Gibraltar Lecture on 'Writing and Adventures of the Mind' at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival on 29th March 2014.



Ben Okri in the library of The Queen's College at the Oxford Literary Festival, 2012, for the launch of his book of poetry *Wild*.

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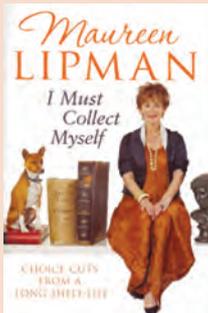
Maureen Lipman, Jeremy Robson and Jacqui Dankworth with Butterfly Wing, featuring pianist David Gordon, cellist Ben Davis and violinist Chris Garrick

Blues in the Park: An Original Programme of Poetry, Jazz, Song and Humour

5pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £15 – £20

Acclaimed actress Maureen Lipman joins poet Jeremy Robson to read from his new collection, interlaced with music from the acclaimed jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth and the fabulous Butterfly Wing group... plus a sprinkling of Lipman's own witty monologues and humour.

A well-known poet and publisher, Jeremy Robson initiated and was a regular participant in the highly popular Poetry and Jazz in Concert events that featured such leading poets as Ted Hughes, Laurie Lee, and Dannie Abse, as well as a number of great jazz virtuosos (led by the late composer/pianist Michael Garrick, Chris's father). He has published a number of collections of his own poetry and edited several anthologies of contemporary verse. Robson's powerful, moving and often witty new collection, *Blues In the Park*, has just been published. Lipman describes it as 'a marvellous wry observation of the sweet, sour, and savoury in life'.



Olivier-award-winning actress Lipman recently starred in the West End production of *Daytona* where her brilliant performance was described in *The Independent* as 'utterly mesmerising'. Versatile, witty, and greatly loved, she has played many leading theatrical and television roles, as well as being the author of a number of bestselling books. Her most recent, which includes some of the monologues she will be reading here, is *I Must Collect Myself: Choice Cuts From a Long Shelf-Life*.

The Grammy-award-winning singer Jacqui Dankworth, daughter of Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth, is one of the UK's most highly regarded vocalists. Primarily a jazz singer, she also draws on folk, soul and blues influences. Four outstanding musicians, unique in their respective fields, come together to create the unmistakable soundworld of Butterfly Wing, in which Dankworth is joined by three of the country's leading creative instrumentalists: David Gordon piano, Chris Garrick violin and Ben Davis cello. Their repertoire includes quirky, hauntingly beautiful material written by Dankworth and Gordon, together with a multi-lingual feast of songs from around the world.

This event lasts two hours including a 20-minute drinks interval (cash bar).

Sponsored by **The Oxford Times**



Maureen Lipman



Jacqui Dankworth



Jeremy Robson

Boris Johnson**The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History****7pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £11**

Boris Johnson explores the legacy of Sir Winston Churchill in his new book, *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History*. Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace and was buried next door to the palace at the Church of St Martin, Bladon.

Johnson explores what made 'the Churchill Factor' portraying, with his characteristic wit and passion, a man of many contradictions; one who was brave, breathtakingly eloquent, a consummate strategist and yet had deep humanity.

Boris Johnson was elected Mayor of London in May 2008. He is a former editor of the *Spectator* and former MP for Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire.

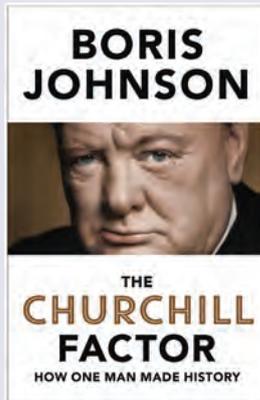


Photo: Hachette UK, photograph by Stuart Hackshaw

Boris Johnson

The Literary History of The Feathers, the Festival Hotel

The Woodstock Literary Institute was founded in 1852 as a lending library, with an initial 60 subscribers. For over 40 years the institute was housed in the red-brick Georgian building on Market Street which now forms the entrance to The Feathers hotel.

When the institute finally closed in 1894, the books and fittings were bought by the town council and formed the basis of the first free public lending library in Woodstock. The library opened in the Town Hall in 1898.



Future Events in Woodstock 2014

Oct 25th – Nov 2nd

The Art in Woodstock Festival

www.artinwoodstock.com

Sat Nov 29th

A Night of a Thousand Candles

6.00pm Town Square

Sat Dec 13th

Mayor's Carols around The Christmas Tree

5.00pm Town Square

For more information about future events taking place in Woodstock and at Blenheim Palace see:

www.wakeuptowoodstock.com and
www.blenheimpalace.com

wake up to
Woodstock



Adderbury Morris Men will be appearing at Blenheim Palace at 3pm and 4pm on Saturday 27th September

Photo: Phillip Le Mare

“Tall oaks from little acorns grow”

David Everett, 1769 - 1813

Owen Mumford started with just three employees in converted garages in Oxford.

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With headquarters in Woodstock, we continue to support local events and are proud to sponsor The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival.



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The King Prize for Creative Writing

The King Prize is a creative writing prize of £100 awarded for a short story between 750 and 1,000 words. Offered by two local authors, Melanie King and Ross King, it runs in conjunction with the 2014 Blenheim Palace Literary Festival. The prize is open to students from The Marlborough School, who are in years 11, 12 and 13 in September 2014.

The entries will be judged externally by three judges linked to the festival. Presentation of the King Prize by Melanie King is scheduled for school assembly on Wednesday, 24 September. The winner will be presented with a cheque for £100 and their story will be transferred to e-book format by BigWig Books <http://bigwigbooks.com> to be read on the winner's kindle, phone or ipad. All entries

will be published in a school publication.



Melanie King

Melanie King

Book Club: Dystopia

Marlborough School

In association with the 2014 Blenheim Literary Festival, local author Melanie King will host a book club for twenty-five Year 12 and 13 students from the Marlborough School in Woodstock.

The theme for this year's book club is the popular genre, dystopia. Participating students will read in advance *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. There will be a structured discussion led by Melanie King around themes, format and style, comparing these two very different books.

The Giver by Lois Lowry (1993) begins with a utopian society that, as the reader progresses through the novel, becomes dystopian. Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a society that has eliminated pain and strife by converting to 'Sameness'. All emotional depth has been eradicated. Jonas is selected to become the 'Receiver of Memory' who stores up society's memories that existed before 'Sameness' in case they are needed to make decisions that people are now incapable of making. With knowledge comes power, but also, as Jonas discovers, the burden of responsibility. Should he stay in the community or leave?

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (1932) features a futuristic society in which the Alpha-Plus class makes the decisions while the Epsilon-Minus Semi-Morons are designed to perform menial tasks. Humans are bred to be content with their predestined role, which is aided by a happy drug called 'Soma'. This is the story of Bernard Marx, who, despite being an Alpha, is unhappy with his lot. A visit to a Savage Reservation confirms his determination for change and sets in motion a train of events which do not end happily.

Orchestra of St John's

Music for Autism

Ormerod Research Base

The celebrated Orchestra of St John's conducted by John Lubbock is to play at the Ormerod Resource Base at Marlborough School, in association with Blenheim Palace Literary Festival.

The orchestra will give a series of concerts for youngsters at the base, which provides specialist secondary support for students with communication and interaction difficulties and physical disabilities.

Lubbock and his wife, Christine Cairns, parents of a son with autism, founded the Music for Autism charity in 2002 to share their love of music with other individuals with autism and their families.

The charity funds concerts featuring members of the Orchestra of St John's and supports special units and schools for children with autism.

Since 2002, the orchestra has played to 45,000 children and 30,000 carers and teachers.



John Lubbock

The Orchestra of St John's was founded by Lubbock 45 years ago. It has some of the most exceptional musicians in the country and has performed all over the world including at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Berlin Philharmonic Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Royal Festival Hall.

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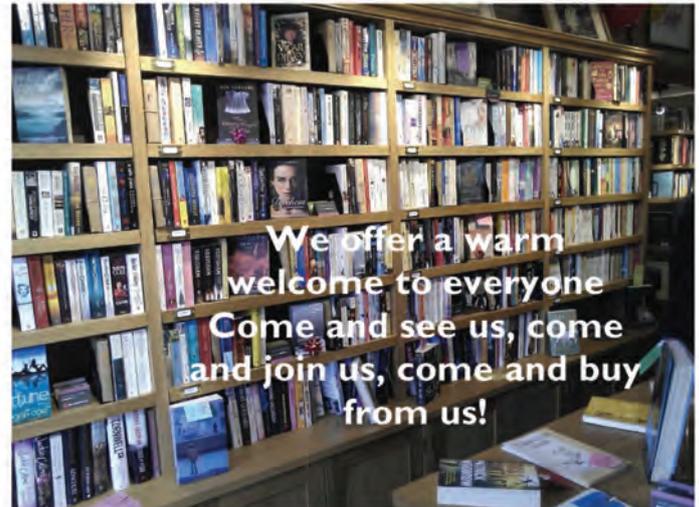
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MOTHER

By Road Woodstock is 8 miles north-west of Oxford on the A44 Evesham Road and approximately an hour's drive from both London and Birmingham.

From the South From M40 Junction 8, take the A40. After approximately 9 miles, at the Pear Tree interchange take the A44, signposted Evesham and Woodstock.

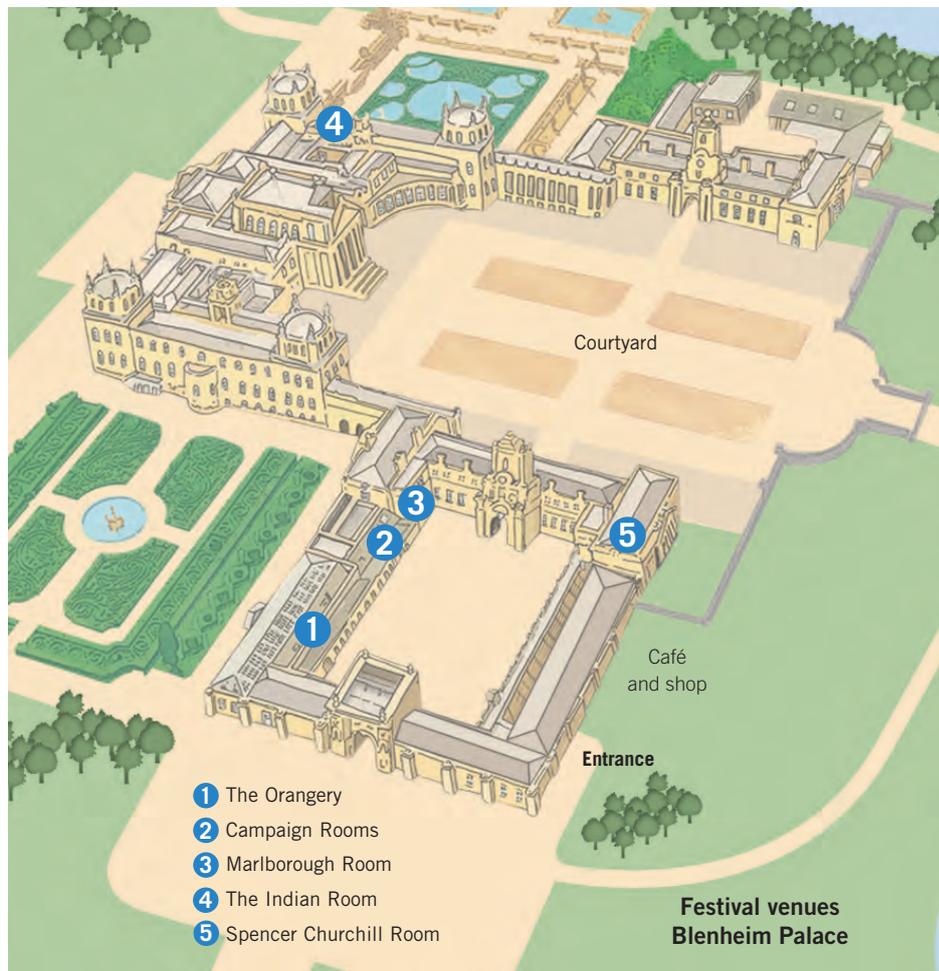
From the North From M40 junction 9, follow the A34 towards Oxford for approximately 5 miles. At the Pear Tree interchange take the A44 signposted Evesham and Woodstock.

To reach central Woodstock, use postcode OX20 1SL for internet searches or satellite navigation.

By Rail The nearest main line station is Hanborough, 2 miles from Woodstock, on the Paddington to Hereford line (1 hour 15 mins). Taxis should be ordered in advance. Oxford station is 8 miles away.

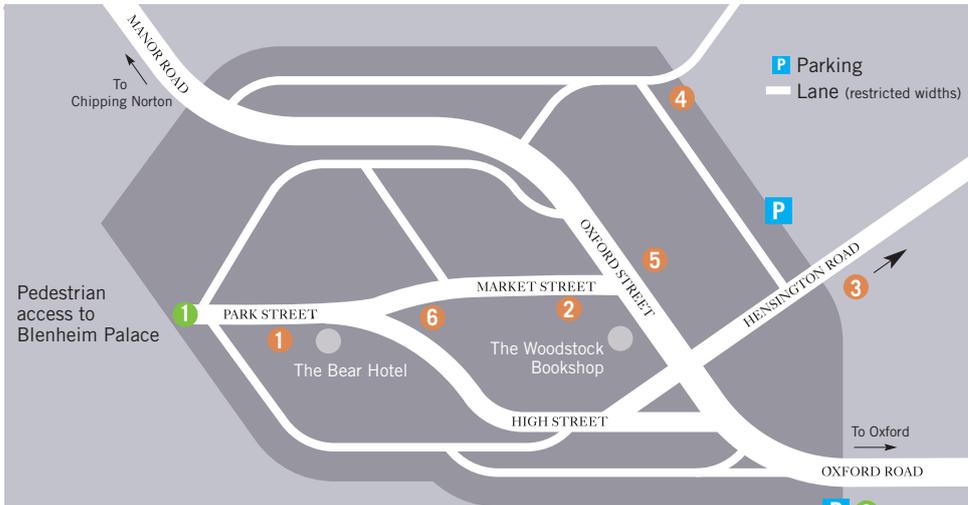
By Bus The number S3 bus runs from the Oxford Bus Station to Woodstock at approximately 30-minute intervals. For details of times see website: www.stagecoachbuses.com/oxford

Parking in Woodstock There is a public car park, the entrance is in Hensington Road. Parking is also available at Blenheim Palace during the festival (£3). However, parking is free for ticket holders to main Blenheim Palace festival talks on the day they take place. Access to the Blenheim Palace car park is through the Hensington Gate entrance on the A44. Parking is available from 9am – 5.30pm. (Please note: cars must leave Blenheim by 5.30pm). There is later parking for palace ticket holders for evening events.



- 1 The Orangery
- 2 Campaign Rooms
- 3 Marlborough Room
- 4 The Indian Room
- 5 Spencer Churchill Room

**Festival venues
Blenheim Palace**



Pedestrian access to Blenheim Palace

Vehicular access to Blenheim Palace

Festival venues Woodstock

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Blenheim Palace
Pedestrian Access – Park Street | 1 St Mary Magdalene Church |
| 2 Blenheim Palace
Vehicular Access – Oxford Road | 2 The Feathers Hotel |
| | 3 Marlborough School, Shipton Road |
| | 4 Spencer Court Care Home |
| | 5 The Methodist Church |
| | 6 La Galleria Restaurant |

Denotes events in Woodstock town venues



FESTIVAL TICKETS

This year's Blenheim Palace Literary Festival is a 'ticketless' event. Festival-goers will receive an email confirmation and no physical tickets will be posted to those who have booked. On the door, we will ask for the named holder of the booking and check it against our record. There is no need to bring print-outs of your email. **Tickets can be bought as follows:**

ONLINE

Please visit www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com
Tickets can be booked up to one hour before the event.

IN PERSON

Feathers Hotel, 16-20 Market Street, Woodstock OX20 1SX.

TELEPHONE

The Feathers will operate a daily telephone box office on 01993 812291 between 11am and 2.30pm

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

A walk-up box office at Blenheim Palace will be open throughout the festival.

Festival box office opening hours are

- Thursday, September 25, 10am-6pm
- Friday, September 26, 10am-4pm
- Saturday, September 27, 10am-4pm
- Sunday, September 28, 10am-4pm

Immediately before events: Bookings can be made online or from the festival box office up to one hour before each event. Any remaining places will be sold on the door.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Note: We strongly recommend that all festival-goers purchase their tickets well before the events as the festival box office can get very busy. Our new box office system means you will not require a physical ticket. Your details will be recorded on the door of the event as long as you book online or through the festival box office up to one hour before.

DISABLED ACCESS

All venues have disabled access with the exception of The Feathers hotel and La Galleria.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Unless otherwise stated, events last approximately one hour.

Tickets are not refundable. However, in the event of sold-out events, the festival can occasionally refund or exchange tickets. **All requests for refunds or exchanges should be made to the point of sale (see below).**

The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival reserves the right to alter the programme or substitute writers if circumstances so dictate.

All details are correct at the time of going to press.

Festival telephone number

07795 686654

OUR NEW BOX OFFICE

The festival has a new box office developed for us by the leading online ticket agency WeGotTickets. Online sales are made through WeGotTickets online booking system. In-person and telephone sales are made through the festival's own box office system developed for us by WeGotTickets.

For the first time, we are able to integrate pre-festival and on-festival ticket sales, a major improvement for the festival administration. There is no queuing to pick up tickets and we can quickly access customer booking details and more easily contact you in the event of last-minute cancellations or changes.

Finally, it is better for the environment. We have no need to print tickets and deliver them. Nor is there any need for you to print out your email confirmation. We will have your name on the door and will simply check for it when you arrive. It is rare that we require any form of identification but, if we do, a bank card or driving licence will suffice.

As always, please make sure you arrive in plenty of time, particularly for the big events, which often sell out.

The WeGotTickets system is very flexible. For example, if you are buying tickets for someone else, you can reallocate them through your WeGotTickets account or through the point of sale if you bought at The Feathers or through the festival box office. If you do have any issues with your booking, you should refer in the first instance to the point of sale, ie WeGotTickets, The Feathers, or the festival box office in Blenheim Palace.

Refunds for cancelled talks can only be made through the original point of sale.

You can find out more about how the online ticketing system works at www.wegotickets.com/faqs



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Saturday 13th September – Preview Event

6pm Deborah Harkness St Mary Magdalene Church

Thursday 25th September

10.30am Nicholas Parsons Blenheim Palace
 10.30am James Hamilton Blenheim Palace
 11am Coffee tasting The Feathers hotel
 12pm Ken Hom, Cyrus Todiwala, Belinda Harley Blenheim Palace
 12pm Ben Fergusson and Jason Hewitt. Chaired by Kate Williams Blenheim Palace
 12pm Alice Roberts Blenheim Palace
 2pm Liam Fox and Richard Sakwa Blenheim Palace
 2pm Lucy Hughes-Hallett Blenheim Palace
 4pm George Plumptre Blenheim Palace
 4pm Paul Atterbury talks to Steven Parissien Blenheim Palace
 4pm Kate Williams and Alison Weir. Chaired by Paul Blezard Blenheim Palace
 4pm Tea tasting The Feathers hotel
 6pm Helen Macdonald Methodist Church
 6pm Jessye Norman Blenheim Palace

Friday 26th September

10.30am Hugo Vickers Blenheim Palace
 12pm Karen Armstrong Blenheim Palace
 12.30pm Rick Stroud Blenheim Palace
 2pm Diarmaid MacCulloch and Anna Whitelock Blenheim Palace
 2pm Julian Fellowes Blenheim Palace
 2pm Tom Wilkinson Blenheim Palace
 3pm Tim Stanley-Clarke The Feathers hotel
 4pm Anthony and Ben Holden St Mary Magdalene Church
 talk to David Freeman
 4pm Roy Strong Blenheim Palace
 4pm Caroline Sandon talks to Gwenan Edwards Blenheim Palace
 7pm Black tie dinner with Jonathan Miller Blenheim Palace

Saturday 27th September

10am Ashley Jackson Blenheim Palace
 10.30am Sofka Zinovieff Blenheim Palace
 10.30am Lucy Atkins and Fanny Blake Blenheim Palace
 12pm Lord Carey St Mary Magdalene Church
 12.30pm Alex Monroe Blenheim Palace
 12.30pm Matthew Dennison Blenheim Palace
 1.30pm Richard Dawkins talks to Paul Blezard to the music of the Orchestra of St John's Blenheim Palace
 2pm Gin tasting The Feathers hotel
 2pm Anthony Sattin Blenheim Palace
 4pm Sadie Jones talks to Lucy Atkins Blenheim Palace
 5pm Steve Hogarth St Mary Magdalene Church
 7.30pm Literary Salon and Dinner La Galleria

Sunday 28th September

10.30am Paula Byrne Blenheim Palace
 10.30am Shakespeare for Breakfast Blenheim Palace
 10.30am Lucy Atkins and Fanny Blake Blenheim Palace
 12pm Lynda Mugglestone Blenheim Palace
 12.30pm Selina Hastings Blenheim Palace
 12.30pm Philip Marsden Blenheim Palace
 12.30pm Mr Selfridge Blenheim Palace
 2pm Philip Walling Blenheim Palace
 2pm Allan Ledger Blenheim Palace
 4pm Ben Okri talks to Paul Blezard Blenheim Palace
 5pm Maureen Lipman, Jacqui Dankworth and Jeremy Robson Blenheim Palace

Friday 31st October – Post Festival Event

7pm Boris Johnson Blenheim Palace



Courtyard of The Feathers hotel, Woodstock

The Blenheim Palace Literary
Festival

Thursday 25 – Sunday 28
September 2014

Box Office 01993 812291
(11am – 2.30pm)

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**BLENHEIM PALACE
LITERARY FESTIVAL**

Festival dates 2015
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September 2015