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FILM & MUSIC



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Thursday 11 – Sunday 14 October 2018







The magnificent Long  
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# *Festival Director's Welcome*

This year marks our tenth festival at Blenheim Palace.

Over the past decade, an exceptional range of distinguished national and international figures have spoken or performed to appreciative and enthusiastic audiences. Some of our memorable guests are illustrated in this brochure.



We are very grateful to Their Graces The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough – and their family – for their tremendous support over the years, and to our Royal patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester for his great commitment to the festival.

HSBC has been the generous foundation sponsor of the festival, and this week we welcome the new chief executive of HSBC UK Plc, Ian Stuart, for our opening dinner.

The focus of our Italian programme will be the performance of Puccini opera music by singers from the celebrated Puccini e la sua Lucca International Festival. We are delighted to have the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation for the Republic of Italy, Minister Guglielmo Picchi, and His Excellency Ambassador Raffaele Trombetta as our guests.

We look forward to a performance by Robert Daws based on the life and writings of PG Wodehouse; plus *An Afternoon with Jane Austen*, featuring duologues and readings by actors Caroline Langrishe and Adrian Lukis and period music.

The weekend will also provide opportunities to shop, dine and drink in the historic streets of Woodstock, and gather in the bar of The Bear, the festival hotel, before a roaring log fire.

I am delighted to welcome you all to the festival for another four memorable days – all made possible by our patron donors, sponsors, partners and volunteer stewards.

SALLY DUNSMORE *Festival Director*

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



The colours of autumn are never more beautifully on display than in the gardens and grounds of Blenheim Palace, and on the ivy-covered buildings of Woodstock. An appropriate backdrop for another special festival of literature and culture.

I am delighted that the fourth edition of the Duke of Gloucester Lecture will be delivered by Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller LG DCB, whose exceptional career with the security service needs no introduction.

In challenging and uncertain times the festival offers us an opportunity to listen, talk and think about the fundamental issues of life.

RICHARD

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard', written in a cursive style.







## *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 in Bavaria, Blenheim in English, 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 12th Duke of Marlborough and was the birthplace in 1874 of Sir Winston Churchill.

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 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, the formal gardens at 6pm and the park at 6.30pm or dusk if earlier.

[www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

Tickets for festival events at Blenheim Palace on all 4 days, Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th October, include free entry to the park and gardens of the estate on the day of the ticket (price normally £16).

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### **Blenheim Palace Literary Festival**

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*Deputy Chairman and Co-founder* Jill Dunsmore

*Festival Director and Co-founder* Sally Dunsmore

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### **Special Adviser** Tony Byrne

---

### **Festival Administrator** Louise Croft

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### **Website and Content Editor** Derek Holmes

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### **Graphic Design** Stafford & Stafford

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Katie Read, Read Media

katie@readmedia.co.uk / 07837 485642

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### **Festival Marketing and Green Room Manager**

Rachel Byrne

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### **Assistant to Special Adviser** Sarah Burch

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### **Festival Events Administrator** Ben Truesdale

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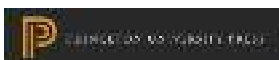
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## *HSBC and The Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music*

HSBC UK is delighted to sponsor the Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music in 2018.

Our association reflects HSBC's commitment to supporting the exchange of ideas, helping to build connections, opening up opportunities and strengthening relationships.

This year's festival features events from a wide creative field and we look forward to welcoming visitors over four fantastic days.

IAN STUART

CEO, HSBC UK







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HSBC UK

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*Blenheim Palace and  
The Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music*

I am delighted to welcome back the wonderful Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music with its knowledgeable and curious audience.

At Blenheim, we continue to pursue our purpose to be the economic lifeblood of the area, to enhance the lives of the people of this area and to share and protect this extraordinary place. This festival is an important contributor to all three of these areas and, almost uniquely among events in our calendar, it is an event which takes in Woodstock every bit as much as it takes in the Palace. To share the Palace with these wonderful speakers is, for us, a privilege. I intend to get no work done whatsoever across the festival, there are far too many speakers to take in who will challenge and extend my thinking.

We hope that you enjoy your time with these authors and we look forward very much to seeing you again on another occasion.

Finally, we would like to express our continued admiration for the festival founders (Jill and Sally Dunsmore) and the rest of the festival team – this event is a highlight of our calendar. Thank you!

DOMINIC HARE

Chief Executive, Blenheim Palace









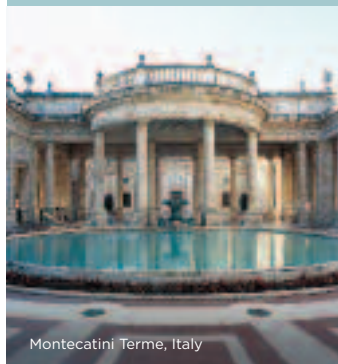
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The Great Hall of Blenheim Palace – setting for the reception before the Duke of Gloucester lecture and Festival Literary Dinner on Thursday 11 October 2018



**Eliza Manningham-Buller****Duke of Gloucester Lecture: Ethics and Intelligence. Literary Dinner**6.30pm / The Great Hall / £200**SOLD OUT****Reception 6.30pm. Duke of Gloucester Lecture 7.30pm followed by dinner. Dress: black tie.**

Former head of MI5 Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller LG DCB gives this year's Duke of Gloucester lecture on the theme of ethics and intelligence, to be held in the Long Library of Blenheim Palace. The talk is preceded by a reception in Blenheim Palace's Great Hall and followed by the festival's literary dinner in the Orangery in the presence of HRH Duke of Gloucester and hosted by Their Graces The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and by Ian Stuart, chief executive, HSBC UK Bank plc. The dinner is devised and overseen by Chinese chef, food writer and broadcaster Ken Hom.

Manningham-Buller spent 30 years in MI5 including a spell as director general between 2002 and 2007 and prior to that as deputy director general with responsibility for operations. In her book, *Securing Freedom*, she talks frankly about some of the key events and issues during her tenure including 9/11, the rise of al-Qaeda, torture, the gathering of intelligence and the rule of law.

Manningham-Buller is now chair of Wellcome Trust, a global charity that aims to improve health for everyone. She has been a crossbench peer in the House of Lords since 2008.

The Duke of Gloucester lecture was given by then prime minister David Cameron in 2015, by the vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford Professor Louise Richardson in 2016 and by broadcaster and historian of the Church Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch in 2017.

Dinner is prepared by the palace chefs overseen by Hom. He is author of dozens of books on Chinese and Asian cookery and has presented his own cookery shows on television. He was awarded the OBE for services to culinary arts in 2009.

Singers from the Puccini e la sua Lucca International Festival will perform from Turandot and other Puccini operas during an interval at dinner.



Eliza Manningham-Buller



Coat of Arms of HRH the Duke of Gloucester



Ken Hom

Photo: KT Bruce

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**Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones talks to Nick Higham**

Leadership in Society

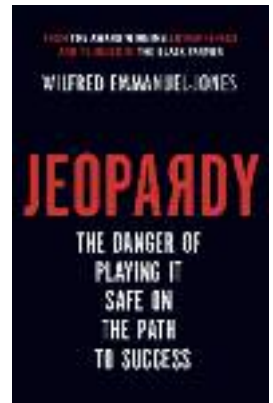
**Jeopardy: The Danger of Playing It Safe On The Path To Success****12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6.50-£12.50**

Child of the Windrush generation and one of Britain's most successful black entrepreneurs Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones argues that caution is one of the biggest barriers to realising our dreams and urges us to embrace jeopardy.

Emmanuel-Jones draws on a life that has taken him from a deprived childhood in inner city Birmingham to becoming one of Britain's best known farmers and owner of the Black Farmer brand. He says we can only go further in life if we learn to escape the fears, uncertainty and self-doubt that hold us back.

Emmanuel-Jones was born in Jamaica and grew up in Birmingham. He is a former producer and director of the BBC's *Food and Drink* and ran his own marketing agency. He bought a farm in Devon and developed the Black Farmer brand into a multi-million pound business with products stocked in major supermarkets. Emmanuel-Jones has also set up the Black Farmer Scholarship to help and encourage ethnic minorities to work in the rural community. The scheme was the subject of a Channel 4 series, *Young Black Farmers*.

Here he talks to Nick Higham, who became the BBC's first media correspondent when he joined in 1988. He is now a wider BBC correspondent and a former presenter of *Meet the Author* on the BBC news channel.



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## Jeremy Robson with Music and Song by Jacqui Dankworth and Charlie Wood

### Under Cover: A Poet's Life in Publishing

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6.50- £12.50

Jeremy Robson talks about his life as a successful poet and publisher that saw him work with many bestselling authors and occupy a place at the heart of the UK's poetry scene. Vocalist Jacqui Dankworth and singer/songwriter and pianist Charlie Wood will join him to provide some musical celebration.

Robson's new memoir is full of stories of those he has worked with including driving Muhammad Ali around Britain, enjoying a laugh with Spike Milligan, and a poetry tour of Israel with Ted Hughes. He talks about his friendships with the likes of Dannie Abse, Laurie Lee and Vernon Scannell, and about the hundreds of poetry and jazz concerts he famously organised. He describes the challenges and joys of founding his own independent publishing company and offers an insight into the changing face of the publishing industry.

Robson worked in publishing before founding his own publishing company, Robson Books, in 1973. He edited many landmark poetry anthologies. His own poetry has been widely published, including his most recent collections *Blues in the Park* and *Subject Matters*. He initiated and participated in the highly popular Poetry and Jazz in Concert events that featured many leading poets and musicians.

Dankworth is one of the UK's most highly regarded vocalists. Her concert appearances and her stylistically diverse recordings showcase her effortless mastery of a wide spectrum of genres. Known primarily as a jazz singer, Dankworth also draws on soul and blues influences.



Photo: KT Bruce

Jeremy Robson



Wood is an American singer/songwriter and pianist whose eclectic musical style incorporates elements of jazz, blues, traditional R&B and popular music. Wood continues touring and recording regularly throughout the UK and Europe.

This event lasts 90 minutes.

Robson talks to Suzi Feay, a journalist and reviewer for the FT.



Jacqui Dankworth



Charlie Wood



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## Chris Thorogood Weird Plants

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Author, artist and botanist Dr Chris Thorogood shares his passion for the bizarre in the plant world from the well-known Venus fly trap to the lesser-known parasitic devil's guts, monkey-face orchid and a tropical tree with flowers that resemble a pair of red lips.

Thorogood introduces plants that trick, dupe, steal and kill and aims to demonstrate plant behaviour, inter-relationships between plants, their interdependence with animals and the nature of evolution. The talk is accompanied by his own oil paintings of the plants he has observed.

Thorogood is a botanist at the University of Oxford with a particular interest in the plants of the Mediterranean and parasitic plants. He is author of *Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of the Western Mediterranean*, shortlisted for the Garden Media Guild, and co-author of *Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of the Algarve*.



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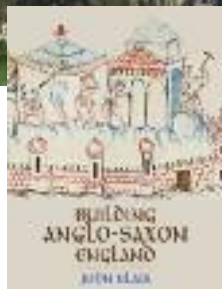
## John Blair The Princeton University Press Lecture Building Anglo-Saxon England

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Historian and archaeologist Professor John Blair draws on the latest discoveries to present a radically new view on the origins of Anglo-Saxon towns, manor houses and castles and how they shaped the lives of the people of the day.

Blair explains how hundreds of recent excavations demonstrate how regionally diverse Anglo-Saxon building was. He shows how the timber buildings of eastern England had more in common with the Low Countries and Scandinavia than the rest of England and sheds new light on the origins of villages and field systems and on the organisation of the kingdom of Mercia.

Blair is professor of medieval history and archaeology at the University of Oxford and a fellow in history at The Queen's College. His previous books include *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* and *The Anglo-Saxon Age: A Very Short Introduction*.



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**Lucca International Festival Singers  
introduced by Andrea Colombini  
Puccini at The Palace**

6.45pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6.50-£12.50

Conductor of the Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra Andrea Colombini introduces singers from the renowned Puccini e la sua Lucca International Festival in a performance of music from Puccini and other celebrated Italian composers. The concert takes place at 7.30pm in Blenheim Palace's Orangery and entry also includes a drinks reception at 6.45pm in the colonnades outside the venue.

Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 2010 by Colombini, who is from Lucca, Puccini's home city. It performs across Italy and, since 2014, has performed every December at Vienna's iconic Musikverein.

In September 2017 Andrea Bocelli sang with the orchestra at the Verdi Theatre in Pisa.

Colombini established The Puccini International Festival in 2004, which features concerts in Lucca every day of the year. He was the subject of a Sky Arts documentary broadcast on 3rd September 2017.

Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature Film and Music is working to bring over the full Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra to play in 2019.

This event lasts 1 hour 45 minutes including the reception.



Giacomo Puccini



Andrea Colombini, founder of the Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra

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**For further details contact or email the owner Melinda Kilkenny on (07798) 527152 or email [melindakilkenny@hotmail.com](mailto:melindakilkenny@hotmail.com)**



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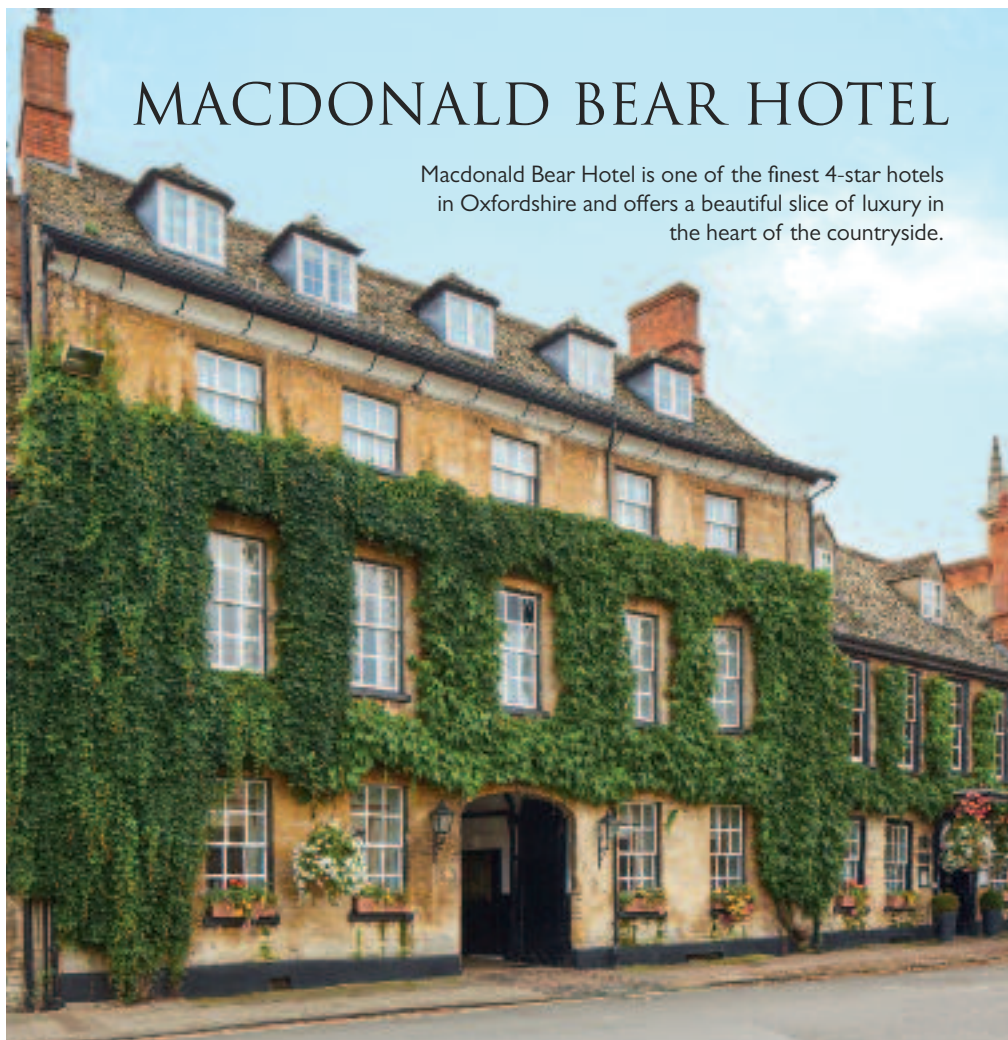
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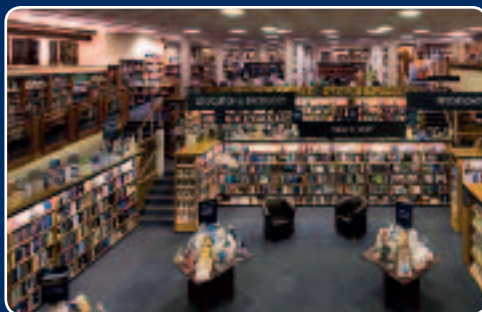
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—Chris Wickham, author of *Medieval Europe*



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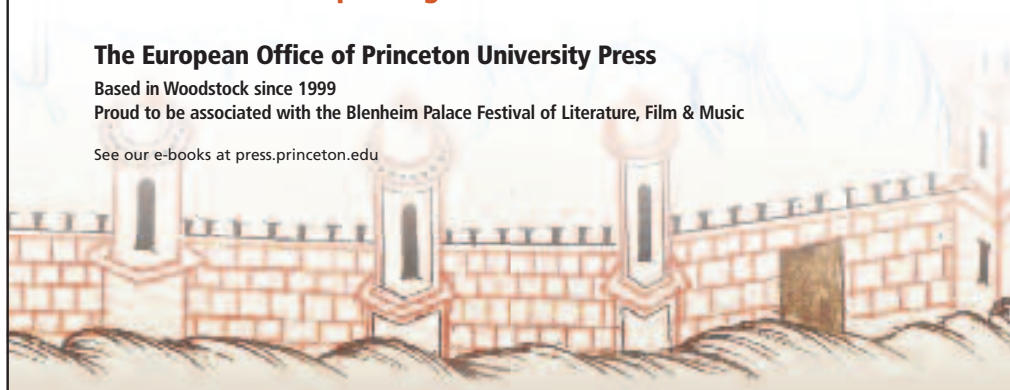
**John Blair will be speaking at the Festival on 12th October**

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no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor  
fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor—

“The old man said this and his steps were slow and one high out of the water, shimmered at its great length and water and at his power and his  
“Agua mala,” the rain  
“Agua mala,” he said, “better weather for me than for you, fish!”  
The old man was older and poorer and his eyes were blind in the days of his youth.  
“I have never seen or heard of such a fish. But I must kill it.”

He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream  
the first forty days a boy had been with him  
“I had gone ninety-four days now and  
“May I take the east net?”

The old man hit him on the head for kindness and kicked him, his body still shuddering, in  
the shade of the stern.



## Jonathan Ray Drink More Fizz

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Leading wine writer Jonathan Ray talks about his latest book on 100 of the world's greatest champagnes and sparkling wines and offers some tastings.

Sales of sparkling wine have risen 80% in the UK in the last five years, and some of the world's leading sparkling wines are now produced in this country. Ray talks about the stories behind the wines and producers, looks at the new wave of English producers of sparkling wines and offers some thoughts about how to drink a sparkling wine.

Ray is drinks editor of the *Spectator* and a former wine editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. His books have sold more than 300,000 copies and include *How to Buy Wine*, *Everything you need to know about Wine* and *Red & White Wine: How to choose, taste and enjoy it*.



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## Sam Willis and James Daybell Histories of the Unexpected

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Gallery / Free-£12.50

Historians Dr Sam Willis and Professor James Daybell look at some of the unexpected and often magical links that connect events in history.

What links zebras to the Second World War? Why is the history of the orange all about Elizabethan spies and the gunpowder plot? How is the history of windows linked to Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar? Willis and Daybell tackle some of the great historical themes from the Romans to the Tudors, the Victorians and the Second World War but through entirely unexpected subjects.

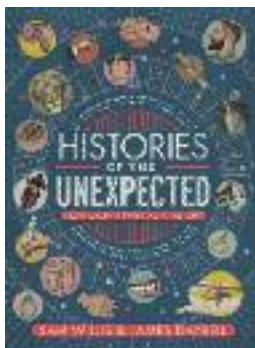
Willis and Daybell's podcast, *Histories of the Unexpected*, is broadcast on Dan Snow's History Hit channel. The series has also been turned into a book of the same name. Willis is an honorary research fellow at the University of Plymouth with an expertise in naval history and marine archaeology. He worked on the *Hornblower* television series and on the Channel 4 film, *Shackleton*, and presented the BBC 4 film, *Nelson's Caribbean Hell Hole*. Daybell is professor of early modern history at the University of Plymouth and author of eight books including *Women Letter-Writers in Tudor England*.



Sam Willis



James Daybell



To Mark European Year of Cultural Heritage, 2018, the European Commission is enabling the festival to offer free tickets for this event to school pupils, and all college and university students. Tickets can be booked through the usual channels.





## David Reynolds

### Gibraltar Lecture. **Kremlin Letters: Stalin's Wartime Correspondence with Churchill and Roosevelt**

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Gallery / £6.50-£12.50

Award-winning historian, broadcaster and writer Professor David Reynolds reveals what the messages between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt say about the relationship between them and the machinations that went on behind the scenes.

Reynolds co-operated with leading Russian academic Vladimir Pechatnov on the research and writing of a new account of the dynamics between the big three allied leaders. They had access to previously unavailable documents. Stalin exchanged more than 600 messages with Churchill and Roosevelt. The messages expose the limits of their alliance and the issues and egos that set the stage for the Cold War.

Reynolds is professor of international history at Cambridge University and won the Wolfson Prize for history in 2004. He is author of 11 books and has made 13 documentaries for the BBC on 20th-century history including *Long Shadow*, a three-part series about the legacy of the 1914-18 war, *World War Two: 1941 and the Man of Steel*, *World War Two: 1942 and Hitler's Soft Underbelly* and *World War Two: 1945 and the Wheelchair President*.

The Gibraltar Lecture is devoted each year to matters of major cultural, historical or international importance at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar.

The 2014 Gibraltar Lecture was given by Lord Carey. The 2015 Gibraltar Lecture was given by Professor Andrew Lambert. The 2017 Gibraltar Lecture was given by Lord Melvyn Bragg.



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## Judith Mackrell

Women in Society

## The Unfinished Palazzo: Life, Love and Art in Venice

2.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6.50-£12.50

Biographer Judith Mackrell tells the stories of three extraordinary and unconventional 20th-century women who fashioned their rebellious lives in Venice's Unfinished Palazzo.

The Unfinished Palazzo on Venice's Grand Canal was left abandoned to rot, yet at various stages it played host to the hugely wealthy Marchesa Luisa Casati, the notorious British socialite Doris Castlerosse (née Delevingne), and the American heiress Peggy Guggenheim. Casati made the palazzo a venue for extravagant parties, Castlerosse welcomed film stars and royalty, while Guggenheim gathered a collection of art that draws visitors today. Mackrell explains how each of their lives offers a snapshot of modern Venetian history and of the way women chose to live in the 20th century.

'The best gallimaufry of gossip and scandal I have read in years' **Lynn Barber, Sunday Times**

Mackrell is the *Guardian's* dance critic and a successful biographer. She is author of *Bloomsbury Ballerina: Lydia Lopokova, Imperial Dancer and Mrs John Maynard Keynes* and *Flappers: Six Women of a Dangerous Generation*.



Photo: Joachim Mueller-Ruchholz



## Adam Sisman

## More Dashing: Further Letters of Patrick Leigh Fermor

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6.50-£12.50

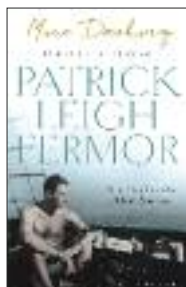
Biographer Adam Sisman talks about his second selection of letters written by one of the greatest travel writers of his time, Patrick Leigh Fermor.

The volume contains 155 letters to almost 60 correspondents, many of whom did not feature in Sisman's first selection, *Dashing for the Post*. The letters relate a chance meeting with Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, a glass of ouzo with Harold Macmillan, encounters with Jackie Onassis, Camilla Parker Bowles, Oswald Mosley and Peter Mandelson, and drunken celebrations in the Cretan mountains with old resistance friends. Leigh Fermor was an author, scholar and soldier. He played a prominent role behind enemy lines helping the Cretan resistance in World War II and is widely regarded as one of Britain's greatest travel writers.

Sisman is a winner of the US National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography and a biographer of John Le Carré, A J P Taylor, Hugh Trevor-Roper and James Boswell.



Photo: Jonathan Ring



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**Robert Daws****Wodehouse in Wonderland by William Humble****4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £8-£15.00**

Actor and writer Robert Daws gives a performed reading of a new play based on the life and writings of P G Wodehouse with musical accompaniment featuring works composed by Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Ivor Novello and Wodehouse's lyrics.

The play, written by William Humble and performed by arrangement with the Wodehouse estate, takes place in Wodehouse's New York State home in the 1950s. Plum, as he is known to family and friends, is working on the latest adventures of Bertie Wooster. He is interrupted by a young would-be biographer, his wife, his daughter Snorkles and the family dogs. He shares stories about how Jeeves entered his life, how he became addicted to American soap operas and why he wrote books that were "like musical comedies without music". He sings songs composed by Broadway legends with lyrics written by himself and entertains the audience with characters such as Bertie Wooster, Jeeves, Lord Emsworth, Gussie Fink-Nottle and Madeline Bassett.

Daws has appeared in many television series including *The Royal*, *New Tricks* and *Doc Martin*. He was nominated for best comedy actor at the British Comedy Awards for his portrayal of pompous cricket captain Roger Dervish in the ITV comedy drama *Outside Edge*. He played Tuppy Glossop in the early 1990s version of *Jeeves and Wooster* that starred Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie. More recently, Daws has written a number of crime novels set in Gibraltar, *The Rock*, *The Poisoned Rock*, and *The Killing Rock*.

Humble has written many highly acclaimed films for BBC television including Emmy-award-winning *On Giant's Shoulders*, starring Judi Dench, Bafta-nominated *Hancock*, starring Alfred Molina, and *Virtuoso*, also starring Alfred Molina with Alison Steadman. His stage plays include *What a Performance*, starring David Suchet, and *Facades*, starring Frances de la Tour as Edith Sitwell and directed by Simon Callow.

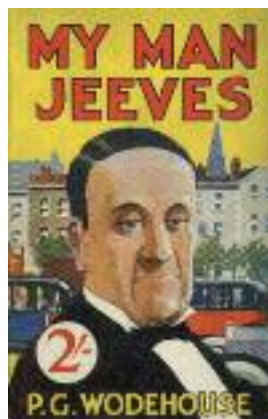
This event lasts one hour 40 minutes including a 20-minute interval.



Robert Daws



P G Wodehouse



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**Jo Caulfield**

**Lord's Taverners and Lady Taverners  
Blenheim Palace Dinner**

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**7pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £250**

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This year's festival will host a dinner given by the Lord's Taverners and Lady Taverners and sponsored by Seabourn Luxury Cruises in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Guest speaker is the comedian Jo Caulfield.

The price includes Champagne reception in the Great Hall, three-course dinner with wine in Vanbrugh's Orangery, a Seabourn gift and weekend access to the grounds. Dress is black tie.

Caulfield is a stand-up comedian who appears regularly at major UK comedy clubs. Her television appearances include *Mock The Week*, *Have I Got News For You*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *The Comedy Store*.

Funds raised by the dinner will go to the Lord's Taverners, the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports charity dedicated to giving disadvantaged and disabled young people a chance to play and train, to compete and to learn and make friends.



The Orangery, Blenheim Palace

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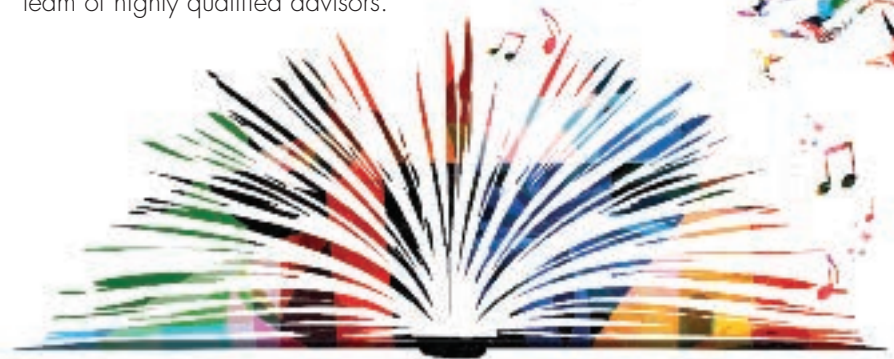
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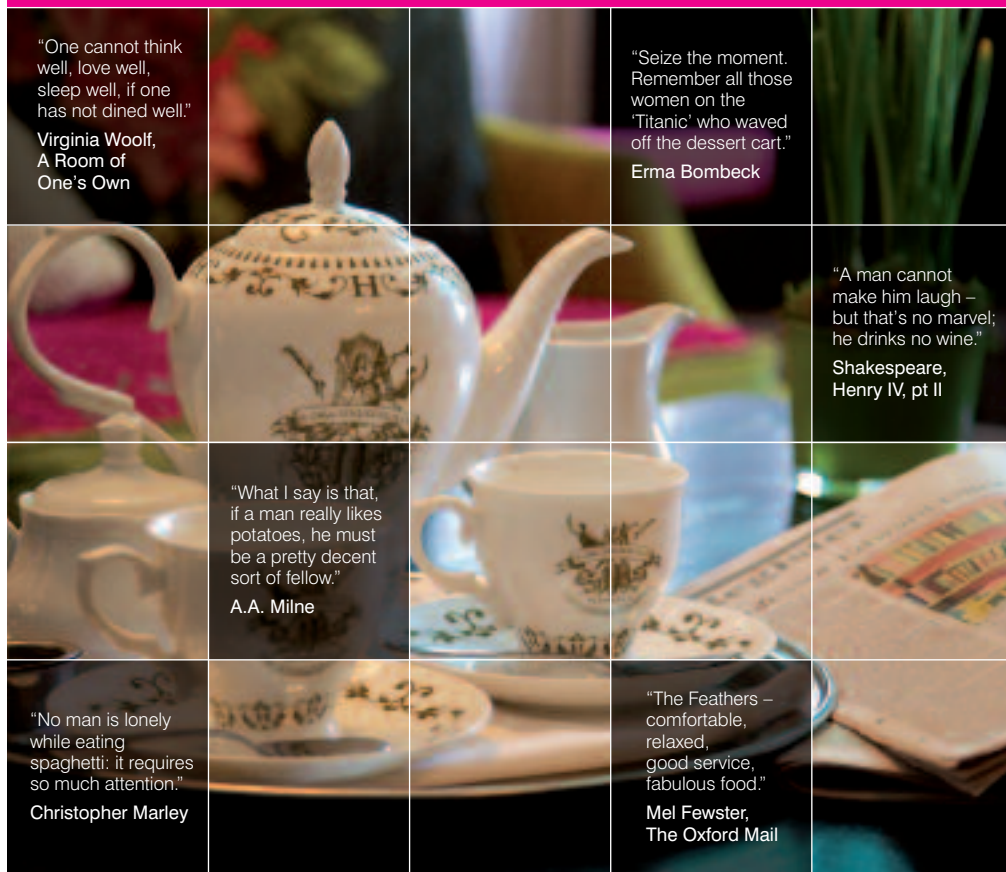
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Virginia Woolf,  
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but that's no marvel;  
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Shakespeare,  
Henry IV, pt II

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## Nicholas Parsons and Gyles Brandreth

### Two Raconteurs: Stories of Life in Television and Radio

11am / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6.50-£12.50

Two great and funny storytellers and friends Nicholas Parsons and Gyles Brandreth come together for an entertaining chat about their lives in television and radio.

Parsons and Brandreth have been entertaining the public for years both separately and together on BBC Radio 4's *Just a Minute*. Here they reminisce about their times on television and radio, which have encompassed some of the most popular shows of the last several decades. They also talk about their tit-for-tat attempts on the world record after dinner speech – Brandreth claimed his earlier record back from Parsons (11 hours) with a 12-and-a-half-hour marathon.

Parsons has worked in every branch of showbusiness as a comedian and actor. His Edinburgh festival comedy chat show celebrates 18 years this year. His appearances as the straight man to Arthur Haynes in the 1960s turned him into a household name and he went on to present television's *Sale of the Century* for 14 years. He has presented the BBC radio 4 comedy show *Just a Minute* for its entire 51-year history. His West End roles include *Boeing-Boeing*, *Charlie Girl*, Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. His charity work includes for the Lord's Taverners, and he was rector of St Andrew's University for three years.

Brandreth is a former Conservative MP and junior minister in the Major government. He is perhaps better known for a wide range of activities outside Westminster including regular guest appearances on *Just a Minute* and *Countdown*, reporting for *The One Show* on BBC 1, appearances on the West End stage, and many bestselling books. He is one of the most sought after speakers on the after-dinner circuit. Brandreth's latest books include an introduction to Michèle Brown's *Break a Leg: A Dictionary of Theatrical Quotations* and *Word Play*.

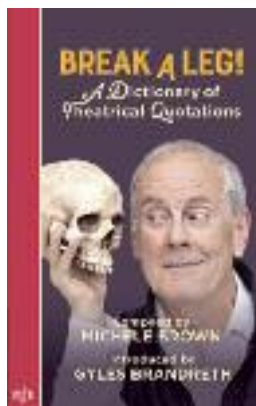


Nicholas Parsons

Photo: KT Bruce



Gyles Brandreth



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**David Lough****Darling Winston: Forty Years of Letters Between Churchill and his Mother**12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Author and Churchill expert David Lough speaks at the place of the wartime leader's birth about his new collection of letters between Sir Winston and his American mother Jennie Jerome.

The book brings together for the first time a 40-year prolific correspondence between the two. Some of the letters appear in print for the first time. The two began writing in 1881 when Churchill was six years old. The letters chronicle Churchill's emotional, political and intellectual development, his early emotional and practical dependence on his mother and the reversal of roles as his mother's life came to an end.

Lough is also author of *No More Champagne*, a critically acclaimed book about Churchill's financial adventures.

**Nino Strachey****Rooms of their Own: Eddy Sackville-West, Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville-West**2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Curator and writer Nino Strachey explores the Bloomsbury Group homes of Virginia Woolf, of her lover Vita Sackville-West, and of Vita's cousin Eddy Sackville-West and shows how they reflected changing social and moral attitudes towards sexuality and gender in the 1920s and 30s.

Woolf famously said 'a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction'. She filled her own house with works of art produced by the artistic collaboration of the unconventional couple Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. Vita's own interiors harked back to the Elizabethan age, and her writing room was filled with the relics of past lovers. Eddy's own design choices were boldly counter-cultural in an age when homosexuality was illegal.

Strachey is head of research and specialist advice for the National Trust and researches expression of personality through place. She has curated the homes of Darwin, Churchill and Bernard Shaw. She is descended from a family at the heart of the Bloomsbury Group.



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## Caroline Langrishe, Adrian Lukis, Camilla Pay and Rosie Lomas An Afternoon with Jane Austen

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6.50-£15

Actors Caroline Langrishe and Adrian Lukis bring to life some of Jane Austen's most memorable characters by performing a series of duologues and passages from the books. They are accompanied by vocalists and musicians, including harpist Camilla Pay and soprano Rosie Lomas, performing 18th-century and regency-era music that would have been heard in Austen's own household.

Langrishe and Lukis take on characters including the comically absurd Dashwoods, the passionate Wentworth and Anne, and the notorious Mr Wickham. They perform passages from *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Persuasion*. The show has already performed to sell-out audiences in Bath, Brighton and at Godmersham Park, the former home of Austen's brother Edward Austen Knight.

Langrishe has made many film, theatre and television appearances and is best known for her roles as Charlotte Cavendish in *Lovejoy*, Lady Anne Carmoyne in *Sharpe*, and Georgina Channing in *Judge John Deed*. Lukis is best known for playing Mr Wickham in the BBC's 1995 production of *Pride and Prejudice*. He also played Dr David Shearer in *Peak Practice* and has appeared in many other television and film roles including in *New Tricks*, *Downton Abbey* and *Toast of London*.

Pay is a harpist and classical performer and a graduate and associate of the Royal Academy of Music. She has recorded tracks for well-known artists including John Legend, Ellie Goulding, Sam Smith, Stormzy and Paul McCartney. She has appeared on *Strictly Come Dancing*, the *Graham Norton Show*, *Later with Jools Holland*, the *Jonathan Ross Show* and many more, with artists including The Killers, Bette Midler and Beyoncé.

Lomas is a soprano and graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Her operatic roles include American Suburban Girl in English National Opera's (ENO) world premiere production of *Two Boys*, the two children's roles in Philip Glass's *The Perfect American* at the ENO, and Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* at Holland Park, the Festival di Spoleto and at the Beethoven festival in Warsaw.

This event will last two hours including a 30-minute interval when drinks will be available to purchase at the festival bar.



From the left: Camilla Pay, Adrian Lukis, Caroline Langrishe, Rosie Lomas



Jane Austen – an engraving of 1873

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## Peter Conradi The King's War

Leadership in Society

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room /  
£6.50-£12.50

Journalist and author of the bestselling book *The King's Speech* Peter Conradi explains how George VI's speech therapist Lionel Logue continued to play an important role in the life of the monarch long after the events chronicled in the first book.

*The King's Speech* showed how George VI's speech to the nation at the outbreak of war in 1939 was the result of years of hard work with his speech therapist. The book was turned into a multi-Oscar-winning film starring Colin Firth. Conradi and his co-author, Logue's grandson Mark Logue, draw on information from the Logue archive and contemporary reports to show how the two men and their families faced up to the challenges of World War II.

Conradi is *Sunday Times* foreign editor. His books also include *Hitler's Piano Player: The Rise and Fall of Ernst Hanfstaengl* and *Who Lost Russia? How the World Entered a New Cold War*.



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## Puccini at The Palace

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The festival plans to bring the 56-piece Lucca Philharmonic Orchestra, from Puccini's home city, to the palace in October 2019.

Conductor Andrea Colombini founded the orchestra in 2010. It performs across Italy and, since 2014, has played every December at Vienna's iconic Musikverein.

In September 2017 Andrea Bocelli sang with the orchestra at the Verdi Theatre in Pisa.

Colombini established The Puccini International Festival in 2004, which features concerts in Lucca every day of the year. He was the subject of a Sky Arts documentary broadcast on 3rd September 2017.



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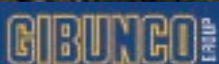


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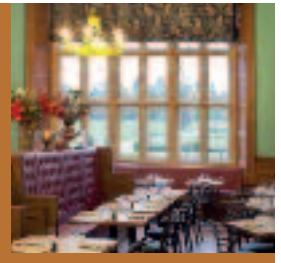
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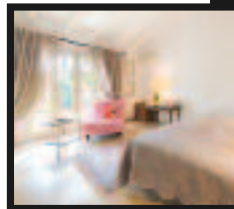
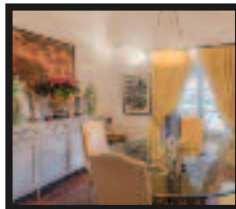


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2018 marks 10 years at the palace for the festival



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Dr Mary Robinson



Sir John Major



Imran Khan



Dr Maki Mandela



Orhan Pamuk



Dame Penelope Lively



Ben Okri



P D James



Howard Jacobson



Alexander McCall Smith



Richard Dawkins

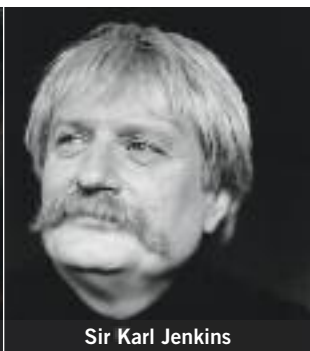
over the decade there have been a host of celebrated speakers



Alfred Brendel



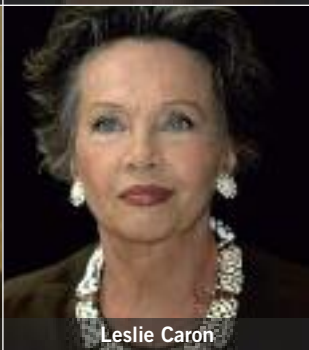
Jessye Norman



Sir Karl Jenkins



Lord Julian Fellowes



Leslie Caron



Richard E Grant



Sir Max Hastings



Lucy Worsley



Sir Simon Schama



Sir Antony Beevor



Madhur Jaffrey



Luca Zingaretti

## HOW TO GET TO THE FESTIVAL AND FESTIVAL VENUES

**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.

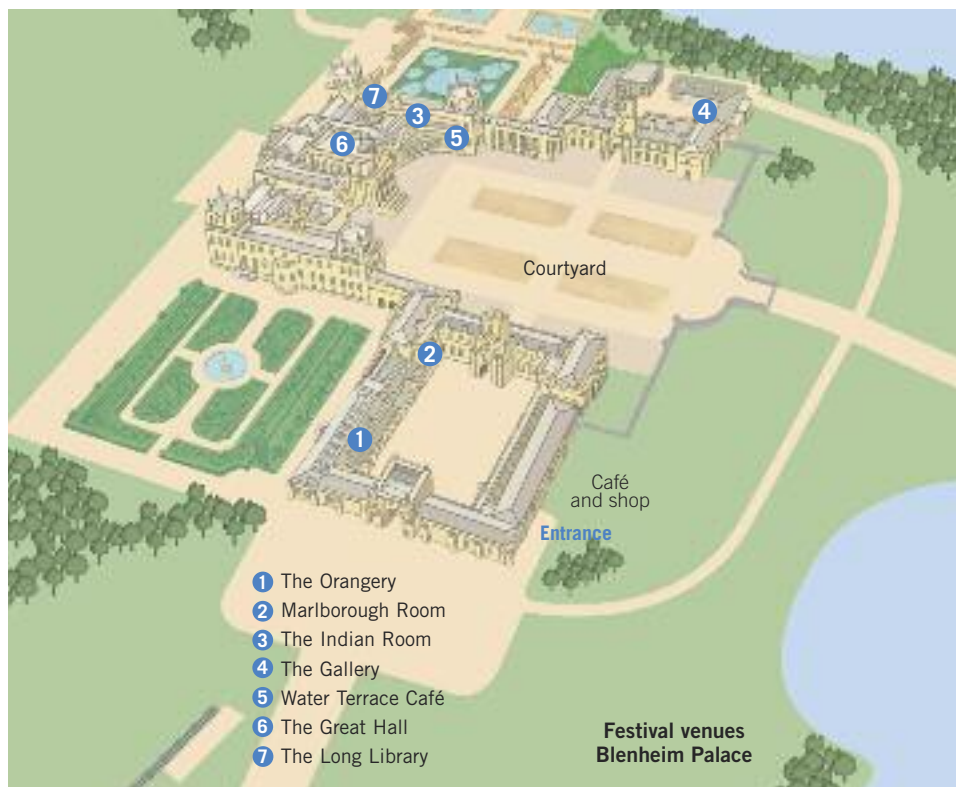
To reach central Woodstock, use postcode OX20 1SL for internet searches or satellite navigation.

**By Rail** The nearest main line station is Oxford. Alternatively, Hanborough station is on the Cotswold Line with regular high-speed services from London Paddington and from Hereford and Worcester, and Oxford Parkway is on the Chiltern Line with regular

services from London Marylebone. Taxis for connections between Hanborough/Oxford Parkway stations and Woodstock should be booked in advance.

**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](http://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.



## FESTIVAL TICKETS

**Your ticket includes entry to the park and gardens of the estate on the day of the event (price normally £16).**

Tickets can be bought online, at the telephone box office or in person up to one hour before the event. You will receive an email ticket, which is all you require for entry. We will also have a record of your name and purchase on the door. Mobile tickets and posted tickets are also available for a small extra charge for those who purchase online or at the telephone box office.

**ONLINE** Please visit [www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com](http://www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com)

**IN PERSON** Oxford Visitor Information Centre, Broad Street, Oxford, and The Bear hotel in Woodstock (an agents' booking fee of £1.75 will be added to all sales through the visitor centre and The Bear).

**TELEPHONE 0333 666 3366** (an agents' booking fee of £1.75 will be added to all telephone sales).

**FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE** The box office at Blenheim Palace will be open during the festival.

**Note:** We strongly recommend that all festival-goers purchase their tickets well before the events to avoid disappointment.

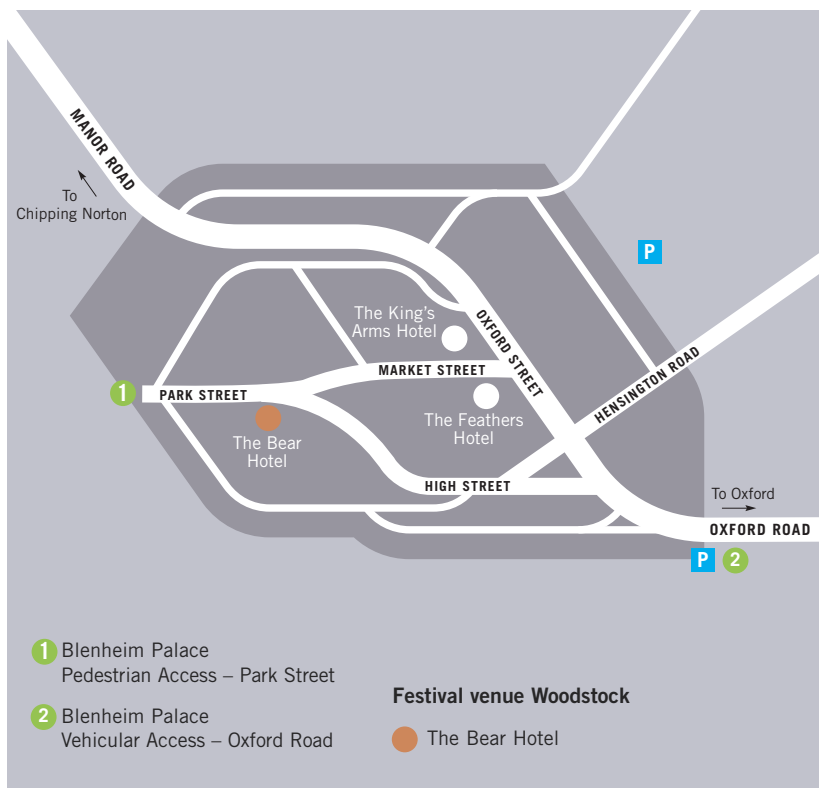
**Disabled access:** All venues have disabled access with the exception of The Bear hotel. Wheelchair spaces can be booked online.

**General information:** Unless otherwise stated, events last approximately one hour.

This guide was correct at the time of going to press. Events are sometimes subject to change. For all the latest details, check our website at

[www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com](http://www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com)

**Enquiries Tel 07444 318986**





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Mairi Stewart: Spring acrylic on board 20x20cm



Lesley McLaren: Summer Moon oil on board 40x40cm

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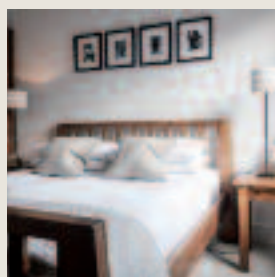
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## The Marlborough School Festival Programme

sponsored by Owen Mumford Ltd



**Free places for school pupils at festival events**

### Featuring writers

Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, Dr Chris Thorogood, Dr Sam Willis and Professor James Daybell

### The Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film and Music

#### The Non Fiction Essay Prize

sponsored by Blythe Campbell

A £500 non-fiction essay prize for pupils of The Marlborough School.

The writer of the winning essay will receive £200, the runner-up £100 and third place £50. The class of the winning writer will also get to choose books worth £150 for the school library.

The competition is open to pupils in years 7 to 12 at The Marlborough School, and pupils have to write a well-argued piece on **Can humans live sustainably?**

## THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

### Thursday 11 October

6.30pm	Eliza Manningham-Buller	Blenheim Palace
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### Friday 12th October

12pm	Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones	Blenheim Palace
2pm	Chris Thorogood	Blenheim Palace
2pm	Jeremy Robson, Jacqui Dankworth and Charlie Wood	Blenheim Palace
4pm	John Blair	Blenheim Palace
6.45pm	Lucca Philharmonic Singers	Blenheim Palace

### Saturday 13th October

12pm	Jonathan Ray	Blenheim Palace
12pm	Sam Willis and James Daybell	Blenheim Palace
2pm	David Reynolds	Blenheim Palace
2.30pm	Judith Mackrell	Blenheim Palace
4pm	Adam Sisman	Blenheim Palace
4pm	Wodehouse in Wonderland	Blenheim Palace
7pm	Jo Caulfield	Blenheim Palace

### Sunday 14th October

11am	Nicholas Parsons and Gyles Brandreth	Blenheim Palace
12pm	David Lough	Blenheim Palace
2pm	Nino Strachey	Blenheim Palace
4pm	An Afternoon with Jane Austen	Blenheim Palace
4pm	Peter Conradi	Blenheim Palace

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# Blenheim Palace Festival

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Bear Hotel, Woodstock, the festival hotel



BLENHEIM PALACE  
FESTIVAL OF  
LITERATURE  
FILM & MUSIC

The Blenheim Palace Festival  
of Literature, Film & Music  
Thursday 11 – Sunday 14 October 2018

**Box Office 0333 666 3366 (Mon – Sat)**  
**[blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com](http://blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com)**

2019 Festival dates:  
Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 October