Cambridge Literary Festival

20x

16–19 November 2023

Highlights include
Mike Brearley
Jonathan Coe
Grace Dent
Hadley Freeman
Afua Hirsch
Theresa May
Robert Peston
Elif Shafak
Lemn Sissay
Rick Stein
Polly Toynbee
Timothy West



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Cathy Moore **CEO & Artistic Director**

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Director's welcome



To close our 20th Anniversary Year our Winter Weekend returns with a glittering gathering of outstanding writers and thinkers. Joining us are novelists, politicians, journalists, cooks, historians, debut writers, nature writers, and of course you, our curious and enthusiastic audience. We welcome beloved star of the stage and screen, Timothy West, and one of England's finest cricket captains, Mike Brearley, both with touching memoirs. Current affairs are always important to us, so this festival has two excoriating examinations of codes of conduct in parliamentary life from both sides of the political divide: Theresa May MP with *The Abuse of Power* and Chris Bryant MP with Code of Conduct.

Combining levity and insight, the brilliant Lemn Sissay will let the light pour in with his life-affirming new poetry collection, and TV chef Rick Stein will make his debut appearance at the festival to provide food for thought with his latest mouth-watering offering. We couldn't resist inviting two outstanding novelists who are in the UK in October – see page 4 for details.

As midwinter approaches join us for a festive feast of words to warm the soul and stimulate the mind.

Mark Mniszko **Diary Dates 2024**

Festival team

Cathy Moore **Assistant Director** Angela Golby

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Anna Lawlor

Sian Reid

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Helen Macdonald Michael Morpurgo David Reynolds

David Runciman

Frances Spalding

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Spring Festival 18–21 April

Programme design



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Cambridge Literary Festival



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Tuesday 17 October

6pm | Palmerston Room | £14/£10 Sandra Newman Julia

American writer Sandra Newman joins us with her bold and electrifying feminist retelling of George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, Julia. Going beyond Winston Smith's story,



the book reveals life in Oceania from a woman's perspective: revitalising the world of Big Brother, exploring systems of oppression, state control over women's bodies and the terror of totalitarianism.

8pm | Palmerston Room | £14/£10 **Anne Enright** The Wren, The Wren

Multi awardwinning novelist Anne Enright will make her debut visit to Cambridge to present her new novel. The Wren, The Wren a generational saga tracing



the inheritance of both trauma and wonder. The Wren, The Wren is a testament to the glorious resilience of women and the love between mother and daughter.

Special offer – 25% off if you buy a ticket to both events



Thursday 16 November



6pm | Babbage Lecture Theatre | £18/12 (Book & Ticket £39) Theresa May The Abuse of Power

As standards in political life plummet, the former Prime Minister discusses her searing exposé of injustice, providing an impassioned call to exercise power for the greater good.

As Prime Minister for three years and Home Secretary for six years, Theresa May confronted a series of issues in

which the abuse of power led to devastating results for individuals and significantly damaged the reputation of, and trust in, public institutions and politicians.

With thanks to Mills & Reeve





8pm | Babbage Lecture Theatre | £16/£12 **Timothy West**

Pru & Me

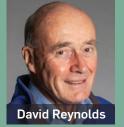
Join celebrated actor Timothy West to hear his heartwarming account of his 60-year marriage to fellow actor, Prunella Scales. Timothy West presents Pru & Me, which traces their united steps through life both professionally and personally, covering the highs and lows of caring for Pru since

her dementia diagnosis twenty years ago. Together they hosted Channel 4's Great Canal Journeys from 2014 to 2020.

In conversation with ghostwriter James Hogg.

With thanks to Rathbones

Saturday 18 November





10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 David Reynolds & Andrew Marr Churchill & the Leaders Who **Shaped Him**

Prize-winning historian Andrew Marr discuss light of David's new book



How did contemporaries from home Gandhi and de Gaulle – shape the career of this dazzling yet flawed political giant?



Modern technology can be mindbogglingly complex. However, beneath the surface, it can be beautifully simple. Award-winning engineer and broadcaster Roma Agrawal, who worked on the design of The Shard, joins us to explore the remarkable stories of seven fundamental inventions: the nail. spring, wheel, lens, magnet, string, and pump.

In conversation with journalist and broadcaster Anna Lawlor.

With thanks to Scottish American **Investment Company**

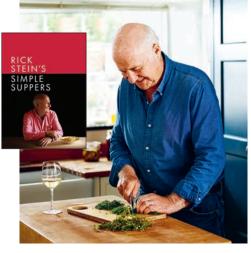




12pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/10 Catherine Ashton & Luke Harding The Diplomacy of War in Ukraine

Modern-day diplomacy mostly takes place behind closed doors, so what does this vital role really look like in today's world? Former foreign policy chief of the EU Catherine Ashton, author of *And Then* What? Inside Stories of 20th Century Diplomacy, tackles these questions, alongside *Guardian* foreign correspondent Luke Harding, to interrogate the diplomatic causes and reverberations of the war in Ukraine.

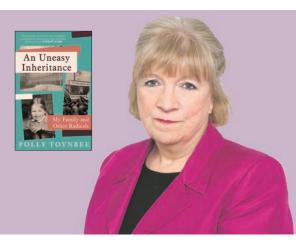
In conversation with Mary Hockaday, Master of Trinity Hall College and journalist.



2pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 **Rick Stein** Simple Suppers

Bestselling cook and food writer Rick Stein presents his latest recipe book, Simple Suppers, a joyful collection of over 100 genuinely easy and delicious recipes paired with stories that celebrate the simple things in life. Drawing on Rick's passion for using good-quality local produce, there's a recipe for all occasions – from personal croque monsieur, to puff pastry fish pie for sharing with friends and family.

In conversation with writer and broadcaster Alex Clark.



12pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 Polly Toynbee An Uneasy Inheritance

Polly Toynbee has lived her life on the privileged side of a class divide that she dedicates her professional work to eradicating. One of the most respected, prolific, and razorsharp voices in social commentary, she uses the prism of her extraordinary family memoir to examine the true state of class in Britain.

In conversation with friend and fellow journalist Jackie Ashley.

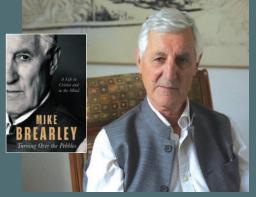
2pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 **Janina Ramirez** History's Forgotten Women

Historian Janina Ramirez reveals the ground-breaking truth on why women have been omitted from history. Male gatekeepers deliberately wrote them out – burning books and revising stories to exclude them. Ramirez rehabilitates women struck from history, forging a path towards a fairer future for us all.

With thanks to St Mary's School



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4pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 Mike Brearley A Life in Cricket and in the Mind

Mike Brearley is not your average sportsman. Hailed as England's greatest cricket captain he went on to train, and continues to work, as a psychoanalyst. His deeply thoughtful 'memoir of the mind' seamlessly blends all aspects of his life and delves into his private passions, candidly examining the shifts, conflicts, and triumphs of his extraordinary life on and off the field.

In conversation with cricketer and writer. Ed Smith.





4pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Nina Stibbe & **Deborah Moggach** Went to London. Took the Dog

Nina Stibbe presents the next leg of her life in Went to London, Took the Dog, Twenty years after leaving London, Nina returns with her dog, Peggy. Together they take up lodging in the house of novelist Deborah (Debby) Moggach in Camden for 'a yearlong sabbatical.' Deborah joins Nina for this unique event on the diary of a sixtyyear-old runaway, reuniting us with the inimitable voice of Love. Nina.

In conversation with writer and broadcaster Alex Clark.





MARK COCKER

6pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Charles Foster & Mark Cocker Life on Earth

Charles Foster and Mark Cocker have spent a lifetime observing the complexity, beauty, and fragility of the lives of birds and animals in a world dominated by humans. Join them for a profound and important conversation about life on earth and how we are all inextricably linked and mutually dependent.

Chaired by nature writer Helen Macdonald.

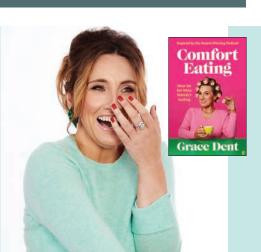


8pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Yomi Adegoke, Helen Macdonald & Tom Crewe **Debut Writers**

Helen Macdonald

Three top debut novelists present their exhilarating new books. Winner of the 2023 Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, Tom Crewe, presents *The New* Life, re-imagining the lives of the two men who published the first English medical textbook on homosexuality. Yomi Adegoke's *The List* explores the dark side of social media and comes endorsed by Bernardine Evaristo, and author of *H* is For Hawk Helen Macdonald presents their first ever work of fiction, *Prophet*, a genrebending sci-fi thriller about the weaponization of nostalgia.

Chaired by novelist Jo Browning Wroe.



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 (Book & Ticket £32) **Grace Dent Comfort Eating**

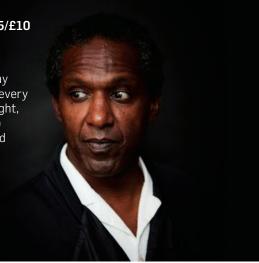
One of the nation's best-loved food writers, Grace Dent, presents her new book Comfort Eating. As the Guardian's restaurant critic and regular on MasterChef UK, Grace is expertly placed to take us on a tour of the foods we turn to behind closed doors – often deeply personal, nostalgic, joyous, and topped with a healthy dollop of guilty pleasure.

In conversation with writer and broadcaster Alex Clark.

8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/£10 **Lemn Sissay** Let the Light Pour In

As dawn breaks each morning, Lemn Sissay composes a short poem. He has done this every day for the past decade. The poet, playwright, comedian and acclaimed author returns to Cambridge to present his life-affirming and characteristically witty new collection of these stirring sunrise poems, *Let the Light* Pour In. Expect resilience and defiant joy.

With thanks to Studio 24



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10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 **David Runciman** The Handover

believes that the threat

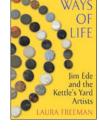


building the 'robots' that now rule our may yet destroy us. In a conversation with journalist and author Helen Lewis, about how to live with artificial agency and

10am | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10

Laura Freeman Jim Ede and the Kettle's **Yard Artists**

Kettle's Yard is the beating heart of Cambridge's art scene, founded by Jim Ede, the curator who opened his home to the world. Art



critic Laura Freeman's captivating group biography reveals the life of a man who helped shape twentieth-century British art alongside the artists he championed. Explore this thrilling moment in twentieth-century modernism: a new way of living with art.

In conversation with historian, biographer, and literary critic Ruth Scurr.



12pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 Jonathan Coe | Bournville

Making a welcome return to Cambridge Jonathan Coe presents his latest thoughtprovoking novel, *Bournville*, a commentary of Britain explored from the perspective of four generations of a single family. Travelling through seventy-five years of social change, from wartime nostalgia to post Brexit Britain and the pandemic, this is Jonathan Coe at his best.

In conversation with the *New* Statesman's Tom Gatti.

12pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Marchelle Farrell & **Alice Vincent** Finding Home in an **English Garden**

Why are women drawn to the soil? Can we find home in our gardens? These are questions asked by two authors, journalist Alice Vincent and psychiatrist Marchelle Farrell. In unsettled times, both women aim to find safety, stability, and a sense of belonging in an English country garden, with conversations

spanning creation and loss, celebration and grief, colonialism, power, identity, and renaissance.

In conversation with writer and broadcaster Alex Clark.



UPROOTING





2pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/£10 Chris Bryant | Code of Conduct

As Chair of the Committees on Standards and Privileges, Chris Bryant MP has had a front-row seat for the battle over standards in parliament. Politicians breaking the rules and expecting to get away with it is one of the biggest issues in parliament today. In Code of Conduct he makes a clear and biting case for why we need to fix parliament and how to do it.

In conversation with the New Statesman's Britain Editor Anoosh Chakelian.





4pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 Afua Hirsch & Elif Shafak

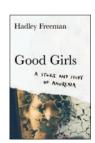
Decolonising Beauty Standards

Bestselling writers and activists, Afua Hirsch and Elif Shafak, address the important issue of beauty and how individual and collective notions of what we consider beautiful are constructed. Join this empowering conversation between two insightful thinkers who will help us to better understand the link between beauty and politics. Afua Hirsch's new book is Decolonizing My Body and Elif Shafak's latest is *The Island of* Missing Trees.

2pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Hadley Freeman A Story and Study of Anorexia

Hadley Freeman, the bestselling author of *House of Glass*, presents a powerful memoir recounting her experience with anorexia. Featuring interviews with

experts, doctors and families affected by the pernicious mental illness. her honest account of life with anorexia starts with the trigger that sparked her illness and moves through four hospitalisations, offering personal insight into this complex condition.



In conversation with writer and journalist Helen Lewis.



4pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Bee Wilson The Secret of Cooking

What joy! One of our very best food writers Bee Wilson has written her first recipe book. The Secret of Cooking is packed with 140 recipes that are doable and delicious, filled with ideas for cooking ahead or cooking alone and the kind of unfussy food that makes everyday life taste better. Join Bee for a mouthwatering conversation with producer and presenter Catherine Carr.



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 (Book & Ticket £33) Sebastian Faulks A Life in Writing

In the 30th anniversary year of the publication of *Birdsong*, we're delighted to welcome Sebastian Faulks back to Cambridge to discuss his new novel The Seventh Son and to reflect on his lifetime in writing. His latest book charts the story of a young American academic as she agrees to carry another woman's child, engendering unforeseen and life-changing consequences... A brilliant new novel from a master storyteller.

In conversation with writer and broadcaster Alex Clark.





6pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 Phil Whitaker & Isabel Hardman Fighting For Life: How to Fix the NHS

Marking the 75th anniversary year of the NHS with strikes across the sector. endless A&E waiting times and delayed operations, the institution is in continual crisis. Two writers deeply invested in fixing our beloved healthcare system are Phil Whitaker, a practising GP, and political journalist Isabel Hardman, Join them as they explore the NHS's history. painting a damning portrait of political interference in medical treatment, and considering the struggle for its future.

In conversation with the New Statesman's Britain Editor Anoosh Chakelian.

8pm | Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage | £14/£10 The Goldsmiths Prize Winner 2023

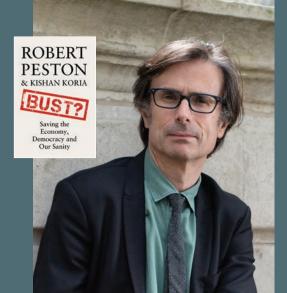
Celebrate fiction at its most novel. Join the winner of this year's Goldsmiths Prize, which was set up in association with the New Statesman to reward creative daring, spotlighting books that break

the mould or extend the possibilities of the novel form. Past winners include Ali Smith, Lucv Ellmann and M John Harrison. The 2023 winner will be announced on 8 November. The winning author will appear in conversation with two of the judges, Maddie Mortimer whose first novel Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies was shortlisted for the 2022 Goldsmiths Prize and won the Desmond Elliott Prize, and Tom Gatti, Deputy Editor, New Statesman.









8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/£10 **Robert Peston** Bust

Has the West gone bust – economically, politically and socially? Or is there another way? The world we once knew has been shattered by the pandemic, Putin's invasion of Ukraine, growing tension with China, a rolling back of globalisation, Brexit... In the face of these challenging times, join ITV's political editor, Robert Peston, for a discussion on how we might save the economy, our democracy, and our sanity.

In conversation with journalist and co-writer Kishan Koria.



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Children

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Adults will require their own ticket.

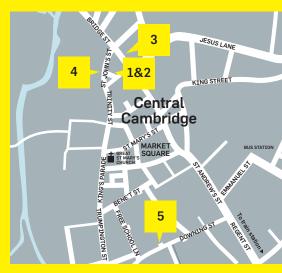
Concessions

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Disabled people (carers go free, please contact us for a complimentary ticket).

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Will be open in the Old Divinity School over the festival weekend.



Venues and walking time from Box Office

- 1. Box Office at Old Divinity School (0 mins)
- 2. Old Divinity School, Baillie Gifford Stage (0 mins)
- 3. Union Chamber, TTP Stage (5 mins)
- 4. Palmerston Room (7 mins)
- 5. Babbage Lecture Theatre (15 mins)

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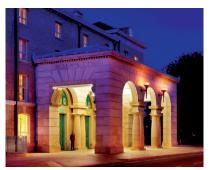
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Where to stay



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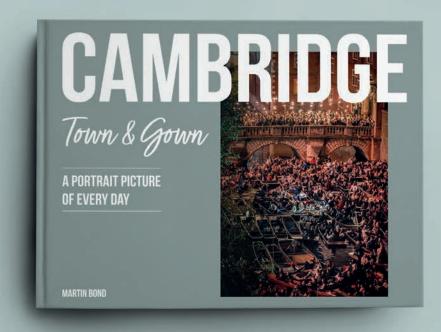
fter thirteen years of continuous daily images, A photographer Martin Bond is publishing a collection of pictures from his project, A Cambridge Diary.

In 'Cambridge - Town & Gown' he has meticulously selected 365 images from the first seven years of his daily pictures, one for each day of the year.

As a body of work, it tells a unique tale of this extraordinary, diverse and multi-faceted city, celebrating and challenging its timeless beauty, juxtaposing tradition and ritual with the candid realities of everyday life.

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