

Cambridge Literary Festival

Spring 2024
17–21 April

In partnership with

THE NEW STATESMAN

Highlights include

Naomi Alderman

Clare Balding

Joseph Coelho

Margaret Drabble

Jackie Kay

David Kynaston

Caroline Lucas

Hisham Matar

Armistead Maupin

Val McDermid

Cathy Newman

George the Poet

Sathnam Sanghera

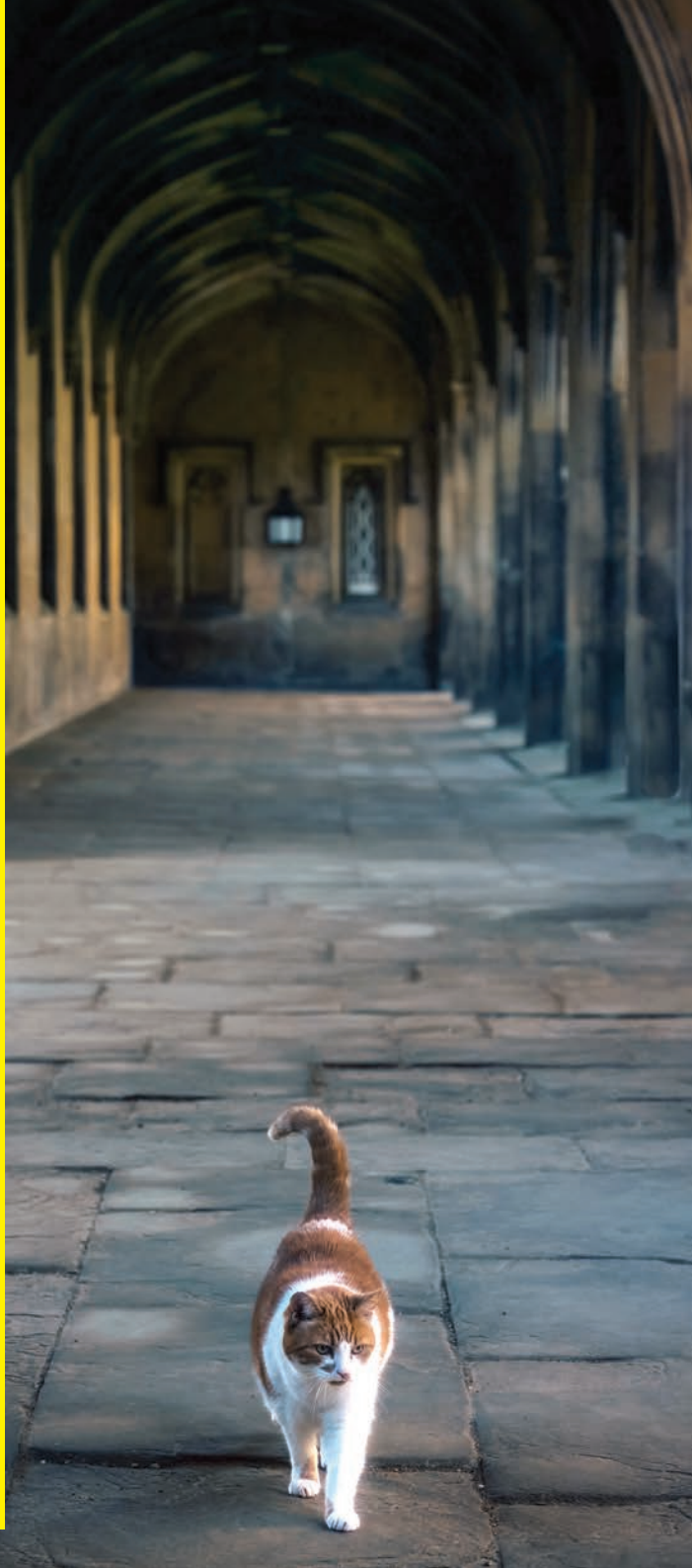
Elif Shafak

Alex T Smith

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Director's welcome



As the uncertainty of an election year hovers over us, you can be certain that our Spring Festival will offer joy, provocation, laughter, enlightenment, and, of course, remarkable stories. Our literary offer is especially vibrant with iconic American novelist Armistead Maupin; former Scottish Makar Jackie Kay; Booker Prize winning Paul Lynch; and one of our greatest living writers, Dame Margaret Drabble. Amidst these literary authors, we also welcome beloved broadcaster and dog lover Clare Balding, who examines our obsession with our canine friends; distinguished archaeologist, Francis Pryor, who shares his heartwarming experience reclaiming a small patch of English fenland for people, plants, and wildlife; and veteran Christian Lewis, who recounts his remarkable story of walking the UK coastline and finding a family along the way. If politics and election forecasts are top of your list, there's plenty for you this April: *The New Statesman* debates whether the Labour Party can fix Britain, whilst Ian Dunt examines how Westminster works (and why it doesn't). Last and certainly not least, children will delight in Elmer the Elephant; be thrilled by Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho; be transported by *Leila and the Blue Fox*; and laugh out loud with Alex T Smith.

Browse the programme where I hope you will find much to enjoy. See you in April.

Cathy Moore
CEO & Artistic Director

The Cambridge Literary Festival is a charity registered in England and Wales, no. 1153944.

Cover photograph by Martin Bond, acambridgediary.co.uk

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Diary Dates 2024

Winter Festival 23 & 24 November

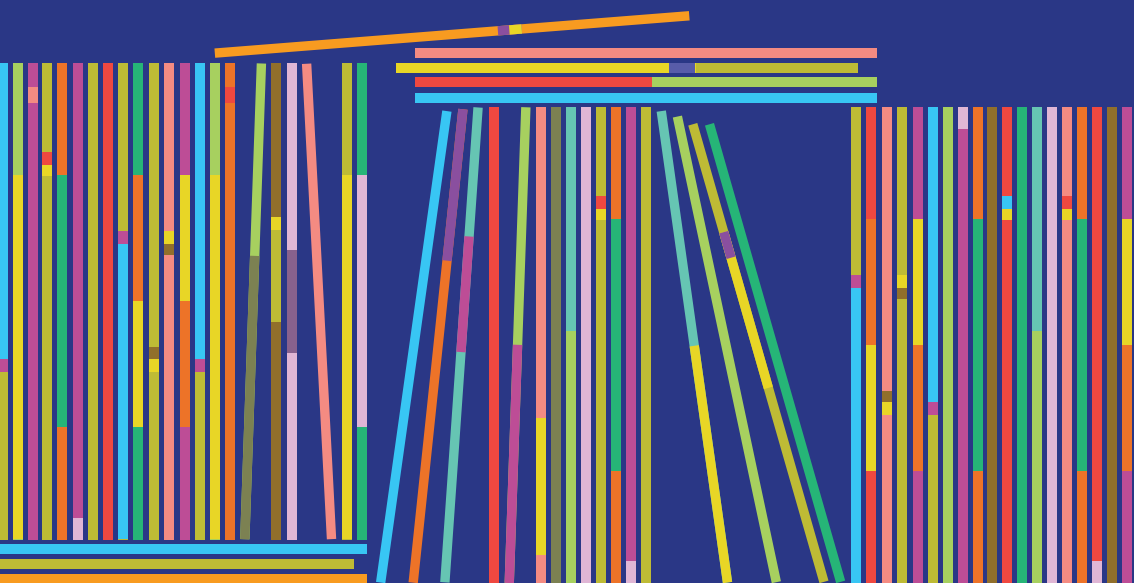
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Baillie Gifford's free magazine *Trust* brings you stories on the companies and ideas that shape our world. The twice-yearly publication offers you thought-provoking articles from our investment managers and other writers, including interviews with global thinkers and distinguished authors.

To find out more, you can browse the current issue on the festival website.

Subscribe to *Trust* for your chance to win a break at a UK literary festival supported by Baillie Gifford. For full details visit bailliegifford.com/literaryprize

One-off events – Thursday 21 March

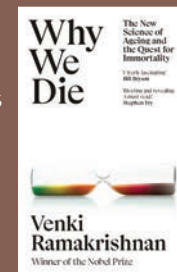


6pm | Palmerston Room | £14/£10

Venki Ramakrishnan *Why We Die: The New Science of Ageing and the Quest for Immortality*

Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist and former president of the Royal Society shares his major exploration of the science of why and how we age and die. Discussing his enthralling new book, Venki Ramakrishnan will transform our understanding of ageing, death, and whether there's anything we can do about it.

In conversation with Dame Carol Black.



Special offer – 25% off total price when purchasing tickets for both events

8pm | Palmerston Room | £14/£10

Patrick Barkham *The Wild Life of Roger Deakin*

Patrick Barkham joins us to present his definitive biography of beloved nature writer Roger Deakin. Author of the immortal *Waterlog* and *Wildwood*, Deakin always captured natural life with rare attention, intimacy, precision and poetry. Patrick Barkham draws from notebooks, diaries, letters, recordings, published work and early drafts in order to conjure Deakin's voice back to glorious life. Not to be missed.





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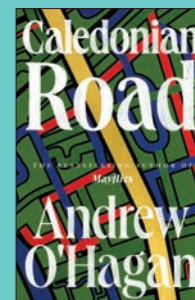
Spring Festival – Wednesday 17 April

6pm | University Arms | £14/£10

Andrew O'Hagan
Caledonian Road

Three-time Booker nominee and author of the recently dramatized *Mayflies*, Andrew O'Hagan, joins us to share his brand-new state-of-the-nation epic. *Caledonian Road* is an addictive and irresistible British social novel, telling the story of one man's dramatic fall from grace.

In conversation with Alex Clark.



8pm | University Arms | £14/£10

Paul Lynch
Prophet Song

Paul Lynch's Booker Prize-winning *Prophet Song* perfectly captures the social and political anxieties of our contemporary moment. An exhilarating and terrifying work of breathtaking originality, the book offers a devastating vision of a country at war alongside a deeply human portrait of a mother's fight to hold her family together.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

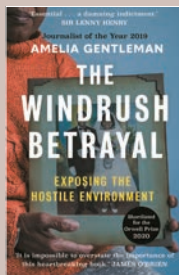


Thursday 18 April

FREE Schools Event: Hostile Environment

11am–1pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | Years 9–11

Amelia Gentleman, Michael Braithwaite, Woodrow Phoenix & Ali Smith



As part of the annual Litmus writing initiative, this year's event for pupils will address the theme of *Hostile Environment*. Applications for tickets can be made via the festival website: cambridgelifteraryfestival.com.

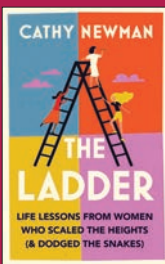
With thanks to Trinity College, The Cambridge Union and Faber & Faber



4pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10
Francis Pryor *A Fenland Garden*

Francis Pryor, one of the UK's most distinguished living archaeologists, presents his story of creating a garden amid the complex and fragile Fens of southern Lincolnshire. Juxtaposing Fenland lore and history with vignettes of his trials and tribulations working an exceptionally demanding plot of land, Francis tells the tale of repairing damage and reclaiming a patch of ground for local wildlife.

In conversation with Alex Clark.



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/10
Cathy Newman *The Ladder*

Channel 4 News presenter and award-winning journalist Cathy Newman joins us to present a series of inspirational and wide-ranging discussions between women – exploring work, love, growth, challenge, and the stories of their lives. From politicians to activists and filmmakers, come and hear the wisdom of some of the world's most acclaimed and influential women.

In conversation with Rowan Pelling.

With thanks to St Marys School



Thursday 18 April

Cambridge Series

6pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10
Camilla Nord *The Balanced Brain*

Join Cambridge neuroscientist Camilla Nord as she provides a new perspective on mental health, correcting the common misperception that mental health is all in the mind and that physical pain is located in the body. Her groundbreaking work reframes mental health as a balancing act by the brain, introducing knowledge, tools, and questions to help us achieve balanced brains.

In conversation with the *New Statesman's* Sophie McBain.



8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/10
Christian Lewis *From Hildasay to Home*

Veteran Christian Lewis is a remarkable man with a remarkable story. He set out to walk the UK coastline, leaving his old life behind. After six years he finally finished his journey and found a family along the way. Crossing the finishing line on Rhossili beach in July 2023, they were met by crowds of supporters having raised half a million pounds for veterans' charity SSAFA.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

With thanks to Sustainable Tech 4 Good



8–9.30pm | Old Divinity School | £15/10
Joelle Taylor *The Night Alphabet*

A very special event from the winner of the coveted T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry. Joelle Taylor joins us for an electrifying evening reading from her debut novel, *The Night Alphabet*. As a former UK poetry slam champion, Taylor is a spellbinding performer. We can't wait for you to discover the rich and varied stories – from coal mines to dystopian cities and gay bars – told through her protagonist's interconnected tattoos. Not to be missed!

In conversation with *The New Statesman's* Ellen Peirson-Hagger.

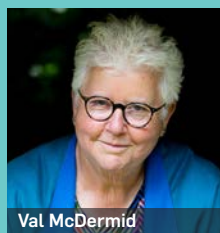


Friday 19 April

12.30 -2.30pm | University Arms | £45 Literary Lunch with Val McDermid & Elly Griffiths

Book early for this year's two course lunch with wine and where murder is firmly on the menu. Two of our top crime writers set down their pens, pick up their forks and treat us to a criminally good discussion about their writing lives, their latest page-turners and why crime writing is so addictive.

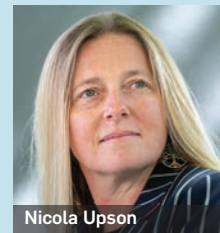
In conversation with Alex Clark.



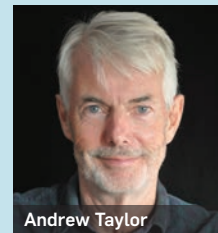
Val McDermid



Elly Griffiths



Nicola Upson



Andrew Taylor

6pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10 Nicola Upson & Andrew Taylor *Murder by the Book*

A special event to celebrate Cambridge University Library's crime fiction exhibition, *Murder by the Book*. Its curator, Nicola Upson, is joined by fellow author Andrew Taylor to explore the craft behind our most widely read genre, looking at gripping plots, rich atmosphere, and complex characters in their own work and in the novels that have influenced them. Expect a mystery guest!

Chaired by Dr Chris Burgess.



8pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10 Jacqueline Rose *The Plague*

We're excited to welcome one of the most prominent feminist and cultural critics of recent times, Jacqueline Rose, as she presents her compelling book, *The Plague*. Rose's sharp collection of essays imagines a world in which a respect for death might exist alongside a fairer distribution of wealth. She'll be speaking to fellow author, Marina Benjamin, whose recent book *A Little Give* considers the everyday labour and emotional load of women's work. Join them for a fascinating exploration of work in the contemporary world.

With thanks to the British Academy



Sarah Brooks



Daisy Goodwin



Kate Evans

4pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10 Daisy Goodwin, Sarah Brooks & Kate Evans *Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize*

Launched in 2010, the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize has gone from strength to strength, seeing many shortlisted and winning authors secure publishing deals. The prize is open to women authors and seeks novels that are unputdownable and show literary merit. Join our panel of experts – the chair of judges Daisy Goodwin, former winner Sarah Brooks, and literary agent Kate Evans – for a fascinating discussion on what makes for a good read, advice on entering the prize, and on the inner workings of the literary world.

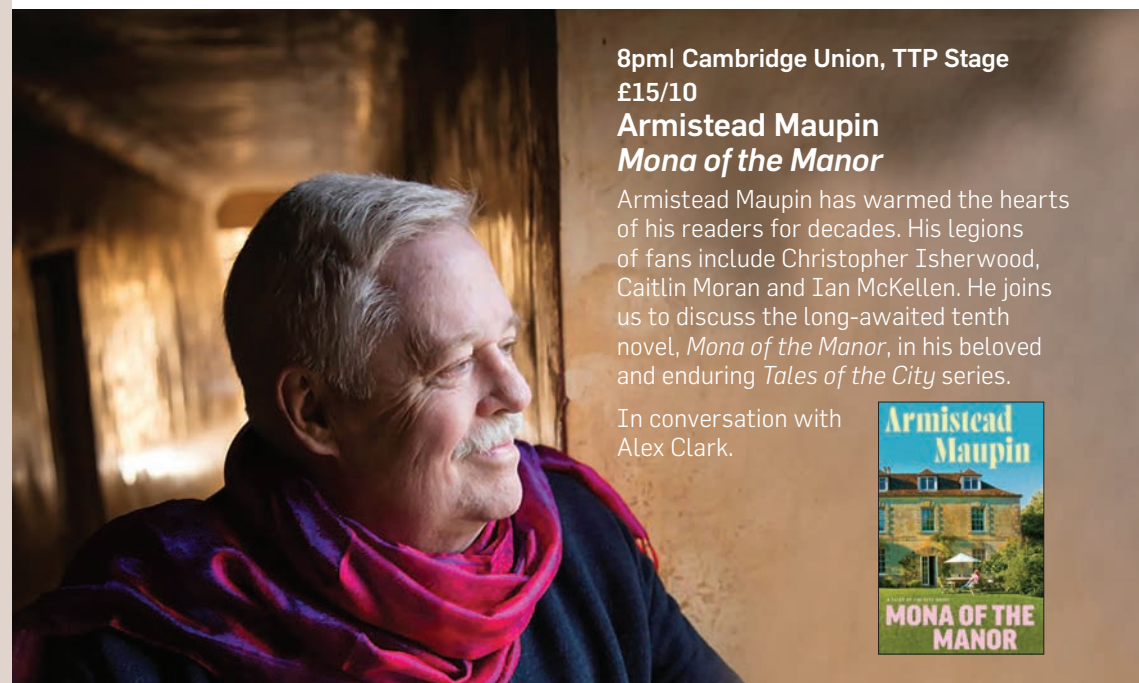
In conversation with Jo Browning Wroe.



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/10

Caroline Lucas *Another England*

Caroline Lucas wants to reclaim Englishness from right-wing cheerleaders of isolationism and imperial nostalgia. Lucas makes a compelling and passionate case for who we are: outlining the English people's radical inclusivity, their ancient commitment to the natural world, and their long struggle to win rights for all. She explores an alternative Englishness – one that might teach us about the legacies of Empire, the benefits of migration, and the accelerating climate emergency. In conversation with Melissa Benn, Lucas will offer an Englishness that progressives can embrace to build a fairer future for all.



8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £15/10

Armistead Maupin *Mona of the Manor*

Armistead Maupin has warmed the hearts of his readers for decades. His legions of fans include Christopher Isherwood, Caitlin Moran and Ian McKellen. He joins us to discuss the long-awaited tenth novel, *Mona of the Manor*, in his beloved and enduring *Tales of the City* series.

In conversation with Alex Clark.



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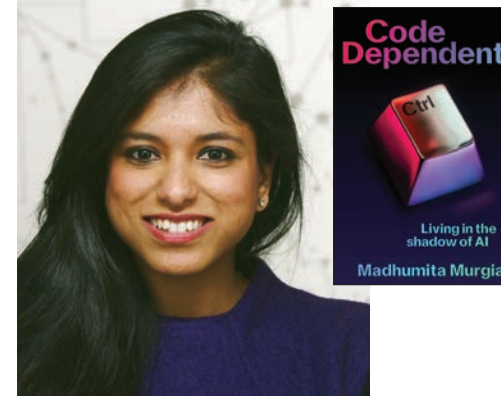
Saturday 20 April



10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
Ages 3+ | £7

Elmer the Patchwork Elephant with Mama G

Come and meet Elmer the Elephant. David McKee's beloved Elmer celebrates 35 years of being a nursery favourite, brought to life by Panto Dame Mama G! Elmer is different. Elmer is patchwork. The grey elephants all love him, but he soon starts to wonder what it would be like to be just the same as them... Full of colour, wisdom and pathos, little readers will love this classic tale.



10am | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Madhumita Murgia
Living in the Shadow of AI

AI is everywhere. It has infiltrated our day-to-day lives, through chatbots like ChatGPT and social media, but it's also affecting us in more insidious ways – touching everything from interpersonal relationships to our human rights. Award-winning journalist Madhumita Murgia highlights the experiences of ordinary people to help us better understand how AI alarmingly impacts our collective and individual sense of agency.

In conversation with Professor Gina Neff.



10am | Palmerton Room | £14/10
Sarah Raven
A Year Full of Pots

Back by popular demand, Sarah Raven discusses the final book in her 'Year Full Of...' trio. Having covered flowers and veg, she now turns her attention to pots. With her trademark brio and flair, Sarah offers practical design tips to improve your pots using ingenious tricks with form and colour to enhance any plot from balconies and small city yards to more spacious gardens.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

Saturday 20 April

12pm | Cambridge Union | £15/£10
Sathnam Sanghera
Empireworld



Sathnam Sanghera's ground-breaking *Empireland* revealed how empire continues to shape life in Britain today. Now with *Empireworld* he expands the scope and examines how the British Empire shaped the rest of the world, exploring how, to this day, 2.6 billion people inhabit former British

colonies. Sathnam travelled the globe, tracing empire's international legacies – from Barbados and Mauritius to India and Nigeria – and will share with us just how deeply British imperialism is baked into our world, and why it's time Britain was finally honest with itself about empire.

In conversation with Kavita Puri.



12pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Lucy Jones
Matrescence

Lucy Jones presents her radical new examination of the transition into motherhood and how it affects the mind, brain and body. These seismic effects are largely unrepresented across literature and the arts, and speaking about motherhood in anything other than pastel hues remains, for the most part, taboo. Jones offers an urgent examination of the modern institution of motherhood and seeks to unshackle parents from oppressive social norms.

In conversation with *The New Statesman's* Alona Ferber.

12pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 8+ | £7
Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Tom de Freston
Leila and the Blue Fox

Join bestselling author Kiran Millwood Hargrave and award-winning artist Tom de Freston as they take you on a journey deep into the sea, across the icy tundra, and beyond... *Leila and the Blue Fox* is an enchanting book, and is inspired by the breathtaking true story of a Fox who walked 2,000 miles across the ice. Celebrate wildness and the natural world as Kiran and Tom chat about creativity, illustration, and the very real creatures that inspire their tales.

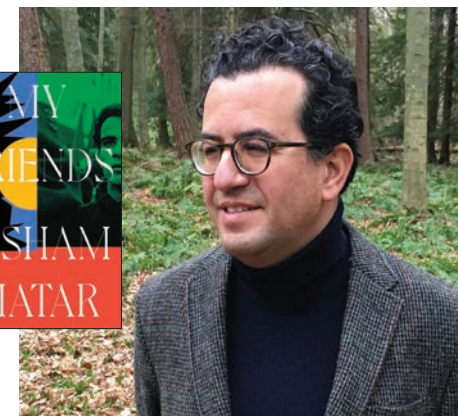


Saturday 20 April

2pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Hisham Matar
My Friends

Hisham Matar makes a welcome return to Cambridge! The Booker shortlisted and Pulitzer prize-winning author of *The Return* joins us to discuss *My Friends*, his masterful and intensely moving new novel which follows three friends living in political exile, exploring the emotional homeland that deep friendships can provide.

In conversation with Erica Wagner.



2-3.30pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/£10
New Statesman Debate
This house believes the Labour Party is not bold enough to fix Britain

THE NEW STATESMAN

A general election is approaching – and if Labour retains their lead in the polls, they will bring an end to 14 years of Tory rule. But they will inherit a country in which living standards are declining at the fastest rate since the 1950s, NHS waiting lists are at a record high, councils are falling into bankruptcy, and carbon emissions targets are dodged. Has Keir Starmer got what it takes to pull the country back from the brink? Will his cautious, moderate, frugal style lead to a wasted opportunity for Labour – or can the party under his leadership show the ambition and vision that voters want and the country desperately needs?

For the motion

Melissa Benn: journalist, campaigner and author of books including *Life Lessons: The Case for a National Education Service*

Caroline Lucas: Green Party MP for Brighton, Pavilion and author of *Another England: A New Story of Who We Are and Who We Can Be*

Final speaker TBC

Against the motion

Alan Johnson: author and former Labour cabinet minister

Andrew Marr: broadcaster, author and political editor of *The New Statesman*

Simon Woolley: member of the House of Lords, principal Homerton College, Cambridge, and founder of Operation Black Vote

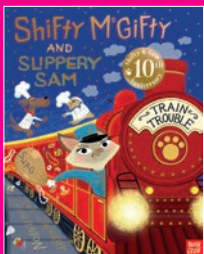


Chaired by **Anoosh Chakelian**, *The New Statesman* Britain Editor

Saturday 20 April

2pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 4+ | £7

Steven Lenton & Tracey Corderoy *Shifty McGifty*



Everyone's favourite baking doggy duo Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam are back for a new adventure! Join Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton for a fantastic event about these robber dogs turned crime-solving baking duo! Expect interactive storytelling and live illustration, as they bring their latest book to life. Drawing, games – it's sure to be FUR-bulous!



Steven Lenton



Tracey Corderoy



4pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 10+ | £7 Stuart Lawrence *Growing Up Black in Britain*

What is it like to grow up Black or Black dual heritage in Britain? Stuart Lawrence, brother of Stephen Lawrence, talks to seven inspirational figures about their childhood experiences, as well as sharing insight into his own. *Growing Up Black in Britain* is a collection of courageous, thought-provoking, and ultimately hopeful pieces set to educate and inspire young people.



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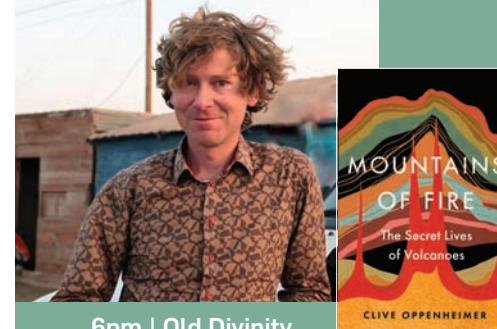
Saturday 20 April



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £25/20 Elif Shafak

Room of One's Own Lecture

An annual opportunity for one of our foremost women writers to contemplate how far we have come since Woolf said 'lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind'. The second lecture in this series will be delivered by Festival Honorary Patron Elif Shafak. A commemorative pamphlet containing the lecture is included in the ticket price.



6pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10 Clive Oppenheimer *The Secret Life of Volcanoes*

Cambridge Professor of Volcanology Clive Oppenheimer has an intimate relationship with volcanoes. His research reveals just how entangled volcanic activity is with human history. Combining science, history, and myth with a sense of adventure, join Clive to discover the sheer awe of working at the crater's edge – from the most remote Saharan peaks to the lush islands of the Caribbean – and unearth interwoven tales of volcanic nature and humankind.

Cambridge Series

4pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10 Stephen Cherry *Unforgivable? Exploring the Limits of Forgiveness*

Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, considers the place of forgiveness in a troubled world. In recent decades, forgiveness has been promoted in situations ranging from therapy to politics, and at times advocated in the aftermath of abuse and atrocity. Not everyone is impressed. Join Stephen in conversation with Francis Spufford for what is sure to be a thoughtful and inspirational conversation about the limits of forgiveness.



Stephen Cherry



Francis Spufford

6pm | Palmerston Room | £14/10 Ian Dunt *How Westminster Works and Why it Doesn't*

Do you want to understand how power operates in Britain? And why the country is in such an almighty mess? Join Ian Dunt as he lifts the lid on British politics and exposes every aspect of the system – from the heights of Downing Street to the depths of the nation's newsrooms, and from the hallways of the civil service to the green benches of the House of Commons.

In conversation with Melissa Benn.



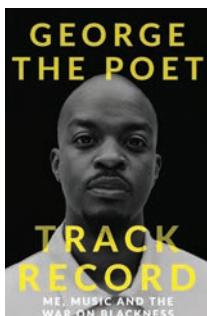
Saturday 20 April

8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£15/10

George The Poet

Track Record: Me, Music and the War on Blackness

Spoken word artist George Mpanga is constantly pushing boundaries. Part memoir, part interrogation of society, his book *Track Record* is a searing piece of social commentary that radically shifts the conversation around race and power. From his time at Cambridge University to succeeding in the music industry, George has abandoned his early liberal naivety to engage with the reality of a world order committed to oppression. Join George on his journey.



In conversation with Erica Wagner.



8pm | Palmerston Room | £14/10

Naomi Alderman

The Future

Bestselling winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction Naomi Alderman joins us with her sensational new novel, *The Future*. While a few billionaires lead the world to destruction, Martha and Zhen are on a journey to something beautiful... or the end of civilization. Thrilling, tender and piercingly brilliant, Alderman explores how power corrupts the few who have it and what it might mean to stand up to them.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

The NS Podcast
LIVE



THE NEW STATESMAN

8pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10

**The New Statesman
Podcast Live**

In an election-year special live recording of their award-winning podcast, the New Statesman's Britain editor Anoosh Chakelian will be joined by political reporter Freddie Hayward and polling data expert Ben Walker to provide unrivalled analysis of the latest in Westminster, answer your questions, and make their predictions for a momentous general election.

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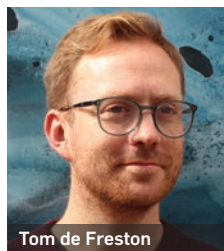
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Sunday 21 April



Tom de Freston



Tamarin Norwood

10am | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Tom de Freston & Tamarin Norwood
Strange Bodies

In 2020, artist Tom de Freston and his wife Kiran Millwood Hargrave were expecting twins. But Kiran miscarried, and they lost six further pregnancies. A few months into pregnancy, artist and academic Tamarin Norwood learned that the baby she was carrying would not live. Join these two writers for an intimate and fearless conversation on birth, death, art, and the possibilities of consolation.

In conversation with Alona Ferber.

10am | Palmerston Room | Ages 3+ | £7
Fiona Lumbers & Joseph Coelho
Luna Loves Gardening

The award-winning Children's Laureate presents the next book in the 'Luna Loves' series, alongside illustrator Fiona Lumbers. Luna is wowed by her local community garden, there are squashes and runner beans, potatoes and tomatoes and even an apple tree. Each plant hides a story. Grandpa and Nana show her the Callaloo their family grew in Jamaica. It's time for Luna to discover a new story as they all discover their connection to the entire world.



David Kynaston



Alan Johnson

10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£15/10
David Kynaston
A Northern Wind

Making a long overdue visit to the festival, David Kynaston joins us to discuss the latest volume in his acclaimed *Tales of a New Jerusalem* series on twentieth century British history (1945-1979). The latest volume, *A Northern Wind*, vividly brings to life the period between 1962 and 1965. He'll be joined by former Labour MP Alan Johnson, whose series of memoirs similarly stretch from the fifties to the late noughties. Expect an enthralling conversation about recording the past as well as an exploration of the period's key events – the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Big Freeze, JFK's assassination, and Churchill's funeral – as well as the stories of everyday people living through this history.

11.30am | University Arms | £20
Breakfast with the Editors

Over coffee and pastries, join leading journalists from *The New Statesman* – editor-in-chief Jason Cowley, associate editor Hannah Barnes, foreign editor Megan Gibson and political editor Andrew Marr – for a discussion of the big news stories of the moment, and a chance to make sense of our turbulent world.



Sunday 21 April



12pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £15/10
Clare Balding
Isle of Dogs: A Canine Adventure Through Britain

Award-winning broadcaster, journalist, and writer Clare Balding shares her love of dogs and fascination with the way they have shaped Britain across the centuries. From the mysteries of extinct breeds to the ancient dogs still thriving today, Clare journeys from Battersea to the Orkney Islands via Buckingham Palace to tell a moving and humorous tale of loyalty and partnership.



12pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 5+ | £7
Alex T Smith
You Are Not Alone

5,4,3,2,1...are you ready for lift off with author illustrator Alex T Smith and his brand new series Astrid and the Space Cadets? Join Alex as he introduces Astrid Atomic, a 6 year old, who goes to bed every night just like every other 6 year old. But unlike other 6 year olds she doesn't stay there. As soon as the Space Cadet siren goes off, WHOOSH she blasts off on board the spaceship Stardust.



12pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Catherine Taylor & Margaret Drabble
The Stirrings

Writer Catherine Taylor and novelist Margaret Drabble each grew up in Sheffield. Join them as they meet to discuss an extraordinary memoir of anger, protest, and coming of age in Northern England in the 1970s and 80s:



Taylor's remarkable book *The Stirrings*. From the Yorkshire Ripper to the nuclear threat and Miners' Strike, don't miss the chance to be transported back in time by this haunting memoir.



2pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£15/10
Gillian Tett
State of the Nation Lecture

Our annual State of the Nation lecture invites an eminent commentator to give their informed view on the state of the country as they see it. This year's lecture is delivered by Gillian Tett OBE. Gillian is a *Financial Times* columnist, author and is Provost of King's College, Cambridge.

Sunday 21 April



2pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 8+ | £7
Joseph Coelho
Fairy Tales Gone Bad

Join Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho for a spookily fun (and at times gruesome!) event as he introduces everyone to the world of Fairy Tales Gone Bad and his characters Zombierella, Frankenstiltskin, and Creeping Beauty – mwahahaha! Children will delight as Joseph brings to life his outrageous characters and their dastardly deeds, and be inspired with the joy and magic of his tales as a poet and a writer. With the help of this master storyteller, children will have the confidence to take on their very own creative challenges and perhaps, even become masterful storytellers themselves!

4pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Jon Ransom *The Gallopers*

Polari Prize winning author Jon Ransom, hailed as a powerful new voice of gay working-class life in contemporary fiction, presents his blistering new novel, *The Gallopers*. Jon's mesmerising book spans the lives of three gay men over 30 years, from the devastating North Sea floods of 1953 to the Aids epidemic of the 1980s.

In conversation with Andrew McMillan.



Holly Pester



Andrew McMillan



Sinead Gleeson

2pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Debut Novelists
Holly Pester, Andrew McMillan & Sinéad Gleeson

Be the first to discover the best fiction publishing this year! Bestselling essayist Sinead Gleeson presents her haunting book *Hagstone*, whilst celebrated poets Andrew McMillan and Holly Pester each share their first novels: *Pity*, a tender exploration of queer masculinity, and *The Lodgers*, set within the precarious world of the housing crisis.

Selected by and in conversation with Alex Clark.



4pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£15/10
Margaret Drabble
A Life In Writing

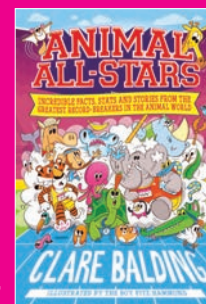
One of our greatest living authors Dame Margaret Drabble returns to Cambridge for a retrospective on her extraordinary career. As novelist, biographer, and critic, Drabble has been firmly at the heart of the literary world for decades. Come and delight in hearing tales from her remarkable life in writing.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

Sunday 21 April

4pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 7+ | £7
Clare Balding
Animal All Stars

Join bestselling children's author, presenter, and commentator Clare Balding as she shares her hilarious guide to the animal kingdom. Discover the earth's most fascinating animals, animal facts, stats and world records as animals go head-to-head in the animal all-stars competition. Ideal for all children who love animals.



6pm | Old Divinity School | £14/£10
Clair Wills
Missing Persons, Or My Grandmother's Secrets

How could a whole family and a whole country abandon unmarried mothers and their children, erasing them from history? Cultural historian Clair Wills delves into her compelling family history. A detective story, memoir, cultural history and devastating work of literary non-fiction, Wills' book unearths the story of her unknown cousin and of Ireland's missing children.

In conversation with author Sinéad Gleeson.

With thanks to the British Academy



Cambridge Series

6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£14/10
Clayton Aldern
The Weight of Nature

The climate emergency is changing us from the inside out. Award-winning neuroscientist Clayton Aldern uses ground-breaking research to document a largely unreported public health crisis: the warming climate is affecting our brains and bodies as well as the planet. Discover how through empathy, compassion, and a new understanding of intimacy with the natural world, we can adapt to a climate-changed planet.

In conversation with with *The New Statesman's* Sophie McBain.



Sunday 21 April

6pm | University Arms | £26
Aperitivo Hour with Helen Lederer & Alex Clark

What was it like as one of a handful of women at the heart of the alternative comedy scene in the 1980s? Piece of cake? Bit of a laugh? Well, yes... and no. Join Helen Lederer for Aperitivo Hour for a drink and snacks as she speaks to Alex Clark about her frank, moving, and characteristically hilarious memoir, *Not That I'm Bitter*.



Helen Lederer



Alex Clark

8pm | Old Divinity School | £14/10

Robert Service
The Russian Revolution
1914-1924

Acclaimed historian of twentieth and twenty-first century Russia, Robert Service presents this enthralling history of the Russian Revolution. His vivid, revisionist account spans from the outbreak of WWI to Lenin's death in 1924. Drawing on little-known diaries of 'ordinary' people (peasants and account clerks), Service traces Russia's tortuous path through war, revolution and civil war.

In conversation with David Reynolds.

With thanks to the British Academy

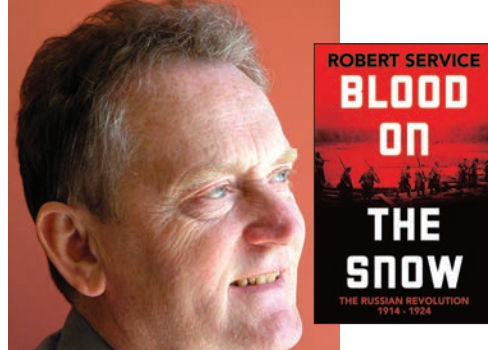
8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage
£15/10

Jackie Kay *May Day*

Much-loved poet Jackie Kay returns to Cambridge to present her hotly anticipated new collection, *May Day!* Kay's latest poems span decades of political activism, from her Glaswegian childhood, through the feminist, LGBT+ and anti-racist movements of the 80s and 90s, and up to the present day when a global pandemic intersects with the BLM movement. Join us for an unmissable evening of profundity and poetry.

In conversation with Ali Smith.

With thanks to the British Academy



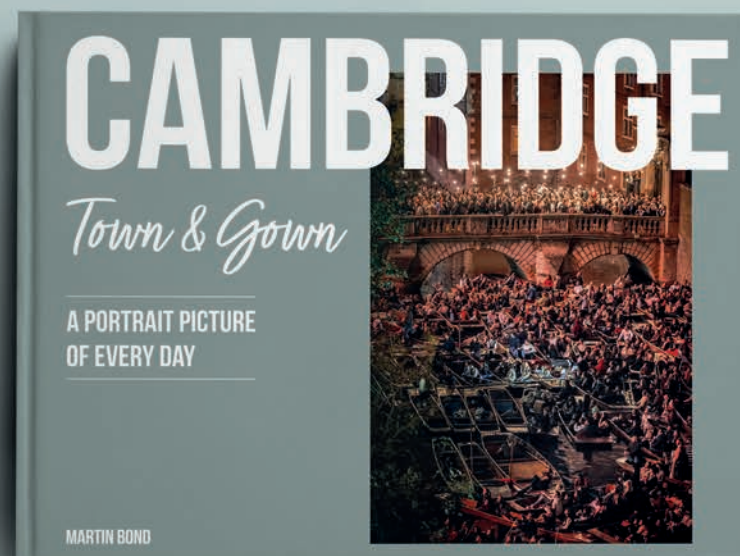
After thirteen years of continuous daily images, photographer Martin Bond has published a collection of pictures from his project, *A Cambridge Diary*.

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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

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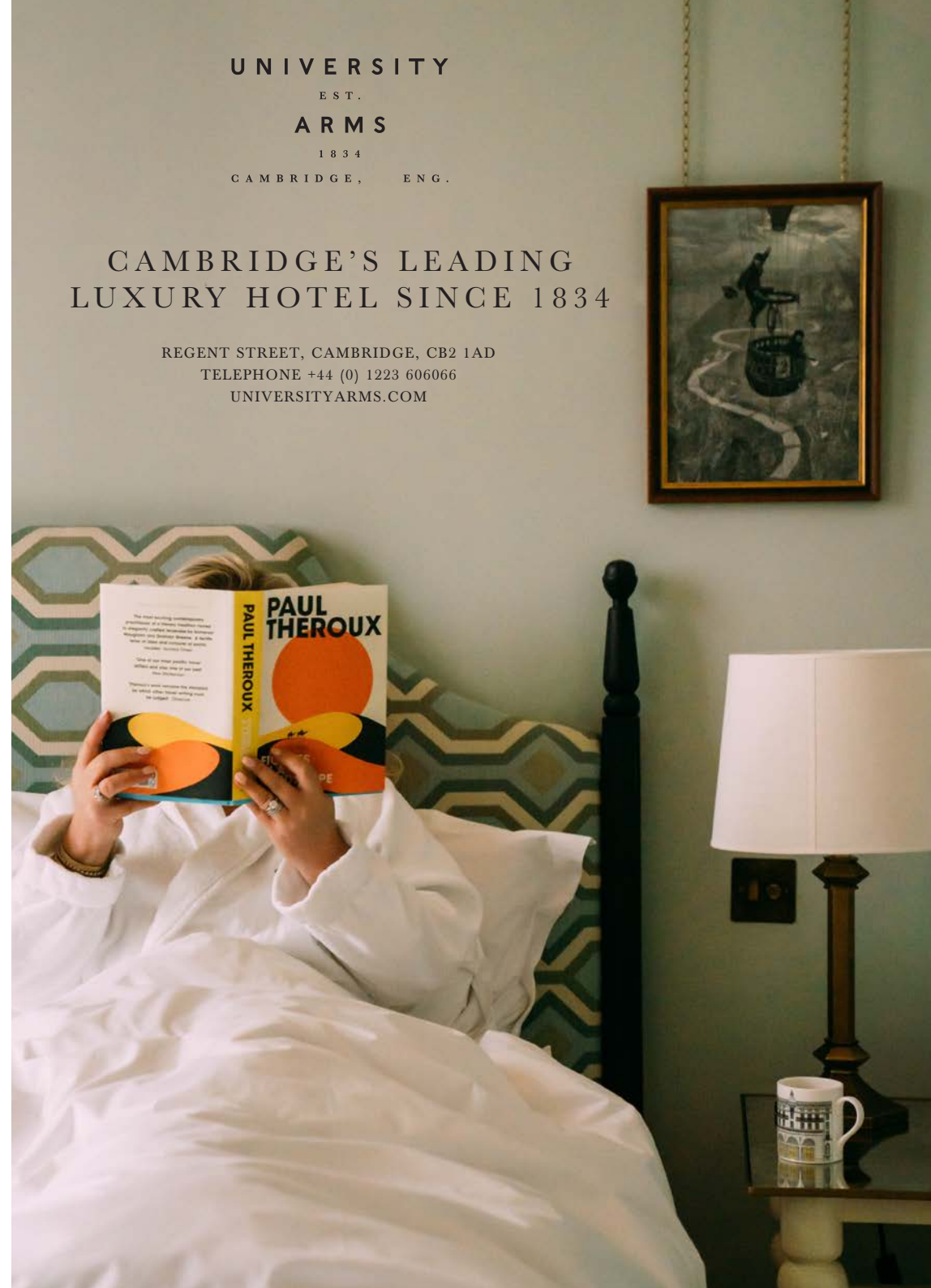


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Booking & Access

Further information on booking and access
www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com

Refunds

Refunds will only be made where an event is sold out or cancelled. Contact: by email
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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

U25s, unwaged and those feeling the pinch
 Disabled people (carers go free, please contact us for a complimentary ticket).

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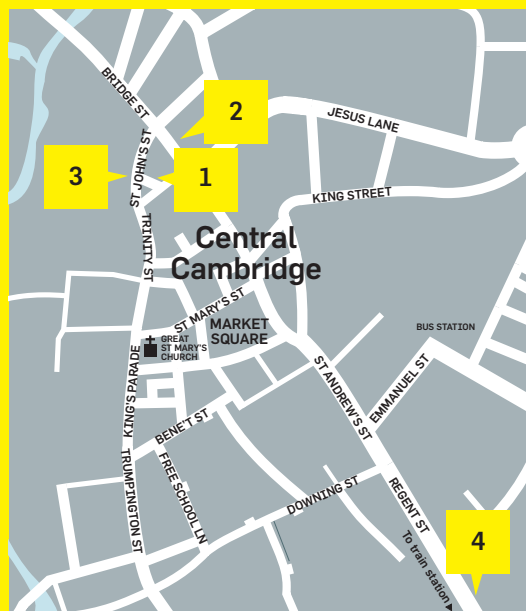
All our venues are accessible, please contact us in advance if you require assistance
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Box Office & Friends Desk

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

Festival telephone

01223 515335



Venues and walking time from Box Office

1. Old Divinity School (0 mins)
2. Union Chamber, TTP Stage (5 mins)
3. Palmerston Room (8 mins)
4. University Arms (20 mins)



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Festival highlights

