

# 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

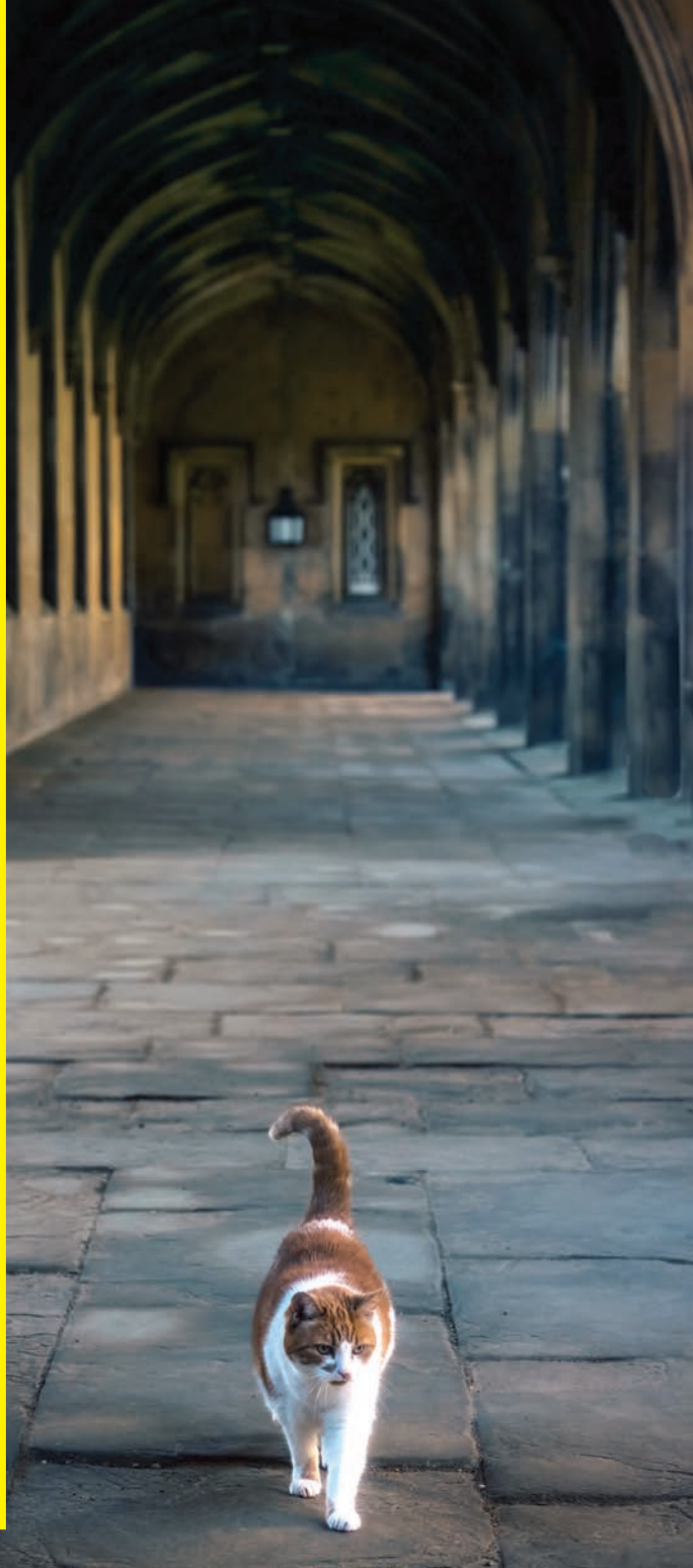
Elif Shafak

Alex T Smith

**CAMBRIDGE  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL**

**FOR THE  
LOVE OF  
BOOKS**

[cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](http://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)



# Bon Appetite



Take a bite out of your week with the full New Statesman experience delivered to your door or within your pocket. We're offering attendees of the Cambridge Literary Festival an **exclusive 20% off** our annual bundle plan- saving you money on journalism that matters. Simply use code CLF20 at the checkout.



Scan for prices

\*Offer is 20% off our all-access print and digital plan for the first year only – valid until 31st May 2024. Visit [newstatesman.com/subscribe](https://newstatesman.com/subscribe) to see our plans

## 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](https://acambridgediary.co.uk)

## Festival team

**CEO & Artistic Director**  
Cathy Moore

**Assistant Director**  
Angela Golby

**Programme & Digital Support**  
Marina Scott

**Events Producer & Administration**  
Alison Stockham

**Fundraising & Partnerships**  
Elizabeth Froy

**Finance Manager**  
Jackie Latham

## Board

Eleanor Birne  
Julia Collins  
Karen Duffy  
Henry Elliot  
Anna Lawlor  
Jeremy Newsum (Chair)  
Sian Reid

## Honorary Patrons

Dame Gillian Beer  
Melissa Benn  
Alex Clark  
Jill Dawson  
Dame Margaret Drabble  
Sophie Hannah  
Robert Macfarlane  
Helen Macdonald  
Michael Morpurgo  
David Reynolds  
David Runciman  
Rowan Pelling  
Ruth Scurr  
Elif Shafak  
Ali Smith  
Frances Spalding  
Preti Taneja  
Bee Wilson

**Programme design**  
Mark Mniszko

## Diary Dates 2024

Winter Festival 23 & 24 November

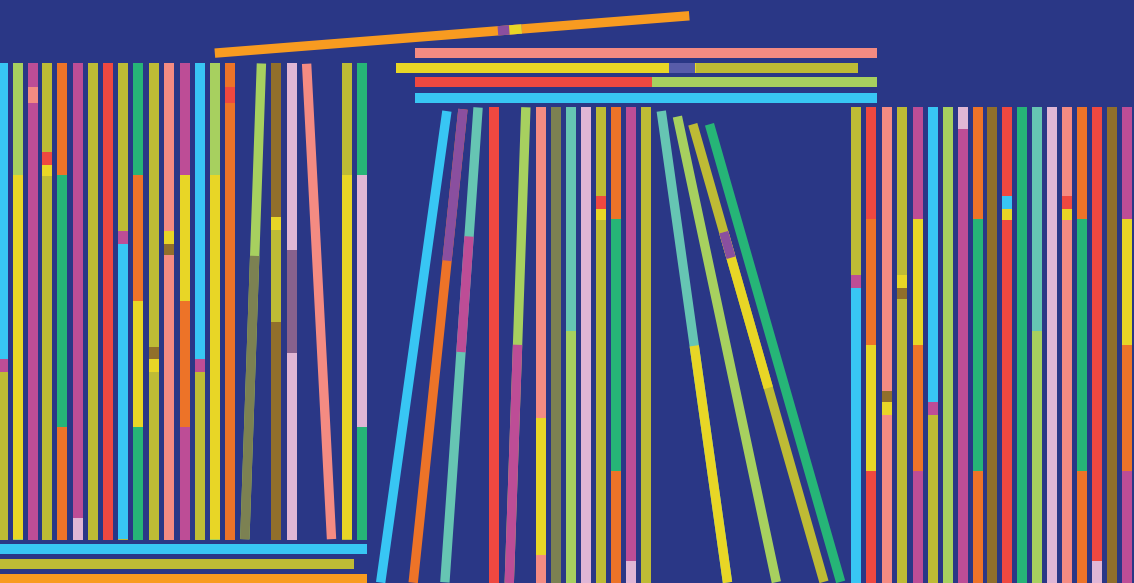
@camlitfest

Cambridge Literary Festival

@camlitfest

cambridge-literary-festival

Book online: [cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](https://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com) 03



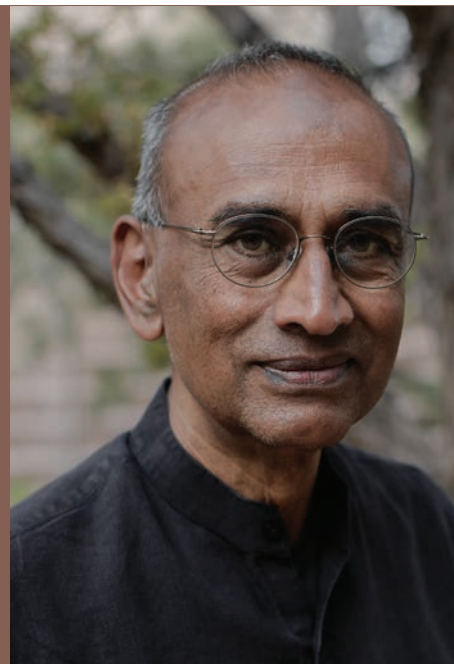
## Ideas come first

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](http://bailliegifford.com/literaryprize)

## One-off events – Thursday 21 March

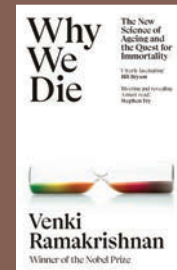


6pm | Palmerston Room | £14/£10

### **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.







# Make brilliant things happen.

Working at the intersection of science and engineering we create valuable new technologies and deliver breakthrough product design. For over 35 years clients world-wide have trusted us with their most technically challenging projects.

See the possible  
at [ttp.com](http://ttp.com)



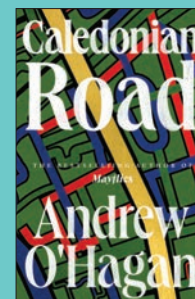
## Spring Festival – Wednesday 17 April

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.

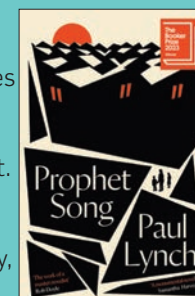


8pm | University Arms | £14/£10

**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.

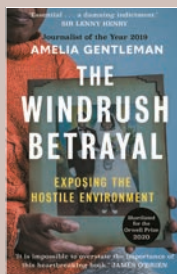


**Thursday 18 April**

**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: [cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](http://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com).

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

**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.



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.



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.

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

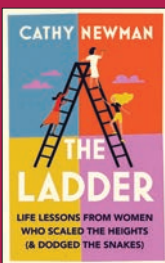
**Cathy Newman**

***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**



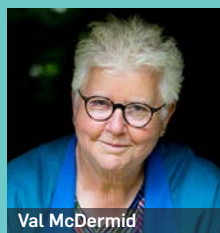


## Friday 19 April

### 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.

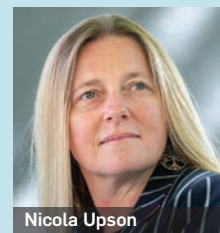
In conversation with Alex Clark.



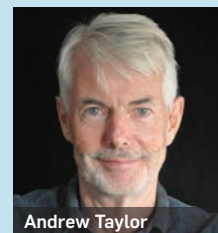
Val McDermid



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.

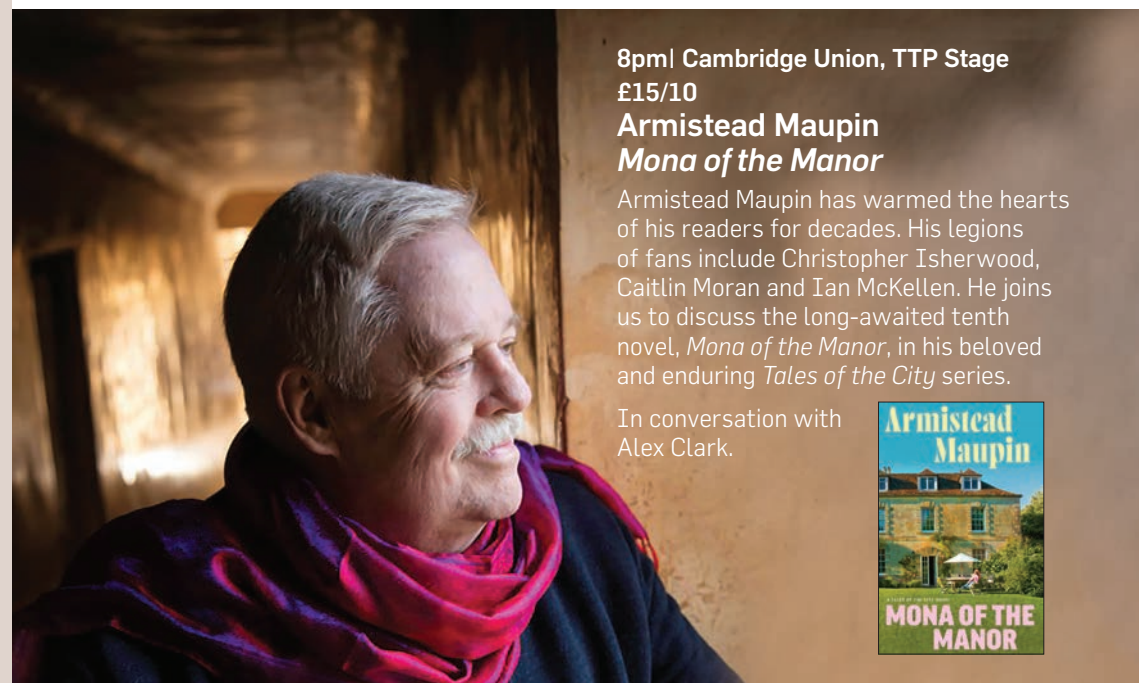
In conversation with Jo Browning Wroe.



### 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.





St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

Independent day and boarding

school for girls aged 3 - 18

Proud event  
sponsor of

**Cathy  
Newman**

Journalist, Presenter  
and Author

Discover more at [stmaryscambridge.co.uk](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk)



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT

# Become a Cambridge examiner

We are expanding our examiner network, and inviting teachers to develop their professional practice by becoming examiners across our range of syllabuses in Cambridge IGCSE, O Level and AS & A Level.

You'll gain insight into the teaching and assessment of Cambridge International Education qualifications, and we offer training and support with freelance opportunities which fit around existing commitments.

For more details, just visit [cambridgeinternational.org/examiners](http://cambridgeinternational.org/examiners)



FREE PUBLIC EXHIBITION AT  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

# MURDER BY THE BOOK

A CELEBRATION OF 20TH CENTURY  
BRITISH CRIME FICTION



23 MAR – 24 AUG 2024

Booking essential  
[lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions](http://lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions)  
@UL #MurderByTheBook

Cambridge University Library  
West Road, Cambridge  
CB3 9DR

 UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Cambridge University Libraries



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

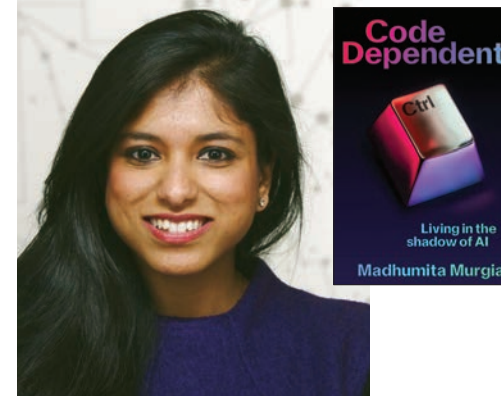
Saturday 20 April



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*

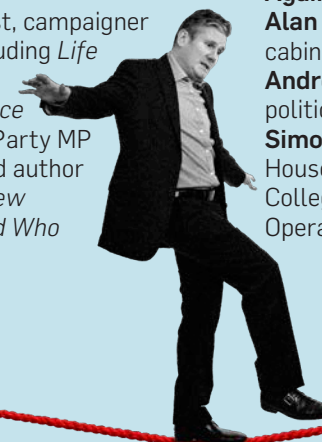
**Final speaker TBC**

### 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

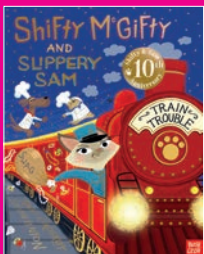


Chaired by **Anoosh Chakelian**, *The New Statesman* Britain Editor

## 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.



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.

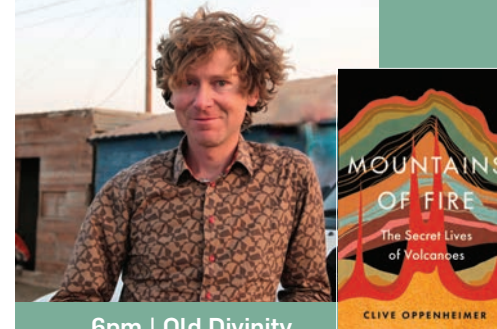
## Saturday 20 April



### 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*

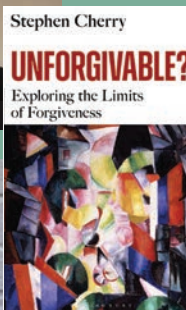
Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, considers the place of forgiveness in a troubled world. In recent decades, forgiveness has been promoted in situations ranging from therapy to politics, and at times advocated in the aftermath of abuse and atrocity. Not everyone is impressed. Join Stephen 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.





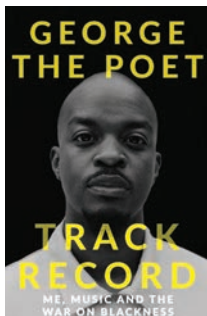
**Saturday 20 April**

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.

# BLAKE'S UNIVERSE

## WILLIAM

23 February—19 May 2024  
**The Fitzwilliam Museum**

Exhibition in partnership with Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany







# U3AC

Inspiring, Educational, Sociable.

**Retired or semi-retired?**

Now it's your time to explore new ideas, skills and interests, meet new people and enjoy yourself!



From astronomy to history, Bridge to botany - there is something for everyone!

- Run by members for members
- Meet people with common interests
- Choose from over 300 educational, social and leisure day-time activities in Cambridge.

27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ

Telephone: 01223 321587

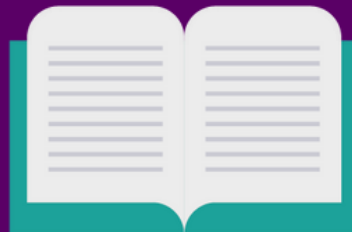
Registered Charity No: 1180769

**Join us today**  
[www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)

**Proud sponsors of the  
Spring Festival  
Children's Programme**

**MILLS & REEVE**

Achieve more. Together.



# HEFFERS BOOKSELLERS

Proud partners of the  
Cambridge Literary Festival

Visit our bookshops at the  
Festival venues to pick up books  
by all of the Festival's featured authors

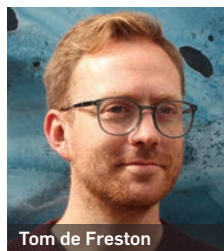
Ask us about discounts for Friends  
and other Festival supporters

**heffers:**  
A Blackwell's Bookshop

[Blackwells.co.uk](http://Blackwells.co.uk)



**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

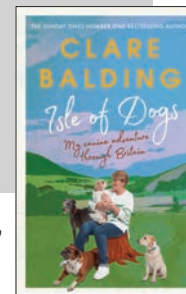


Alan Johnson

**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.

**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 | 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.

**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.



**12pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 5+ | £7**  
**Alex T Smith**  
***Astrid and the Space Cadets***

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.



**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**

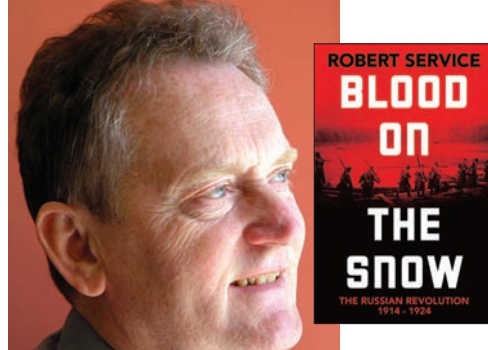
What was it like as one of a handful of women at the heart of the alternative comedy scene in the 1980s? Piece of cake? Bit of a laugh? Well, yes... and no. Join Helen Lederer for Aperitivo Hour for a drink and snacks as she speaks to Alex Clark about her frank, moving, and characteristically hilarious 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**



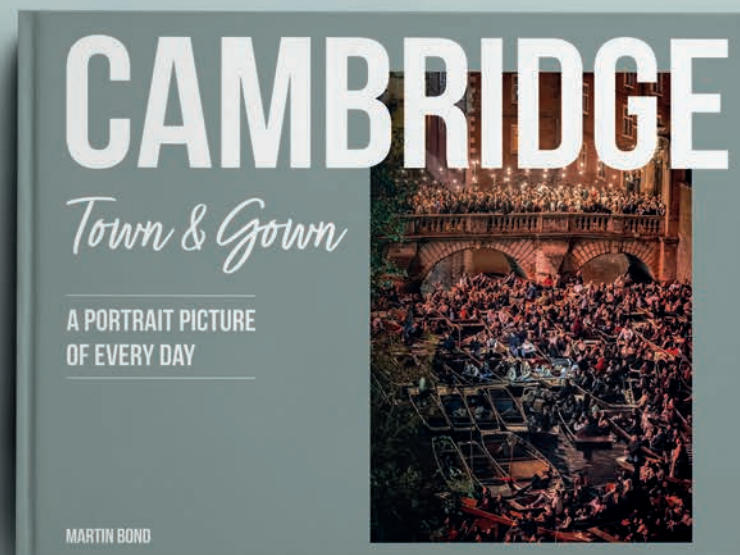
After thirteen years of continuous daily images, photographer Martin Bond has published a collection of pictures from his project, *A Cambridge Diary*.

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.

Available in all Cambridge bookshops and online at:

[www.cambridgebooks.co.uk](http://www.cambridgebooks.co.uk)



**CAMBRIDGE BOOKS**

CHANGING THE WAY YOU LOOK AT CAMBRIDGE



# Creative Writing and Literature

Study part-time with Oxford



Develop your own creativity or examine that of others with a short course or part-time qualification from one of the world's oldest and largest communities of part-time adult learners.

## Short courses in Oxford and online

- Workshops and day schools
- Weekend events
- Weekly learning courses
- Summer schools in Oxford

## Part-time qualifications

- Certificate in English Literature
- Diploma in Creative Writing
- MSt in Creative Writing
- MSt in Literature and Arts



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE



  @OxfordConted



[www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cw-lit-2024](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cw-lit-2024)



# CUCKOO

[www.cuckooclothing.co.uk](http://www.cuckooclothing.co.uk)

Burwash Manor, New Rd,  
Barton, Cambridge, CB237EY

 @cuckooclothing  
 @cuckooclothing



# Trumpington Physiotherapy

Coach House Health Care, Maris Lane CB2 9LG

**Nick Smith** MCSP HCPC  
Chartered Physiotherapist

*Treating musculoskeletal conditions including:*

Hip and groin  
Knee

Neck and back pain  
Shoulder and elbow

Foot and ankle  
Sports injuries

Please get in touch to discover how we can help

Telephone - **01223 340 491**

Mobile - **07879 408 796**

Email - [nick@trumpingtonphysiotherapy.com](mailto:nick@trumpingtonphysiotherapy.com)



please scan to  
visit our website

Get the very **BEST** out of  
*Cambridge*  
with  
**Cambridge  
Tour Guides**

DAILY  
Public Walking Tours  
at 13.00  
from the  
CAMBRIDGE GIFT  
SHOP  
18 Rose Crescent  
CB2 3LL

Historic Cambridge  
People & Places  
Cambridge Science  
Ghost Tours  
Alan Turing's Cambridge  
Literary Cambridge

[www.cambridge tour guide.co.uk](http://www.cambridge tour guide.co.uk)  
**07940 999 364 or 07814 765 151**

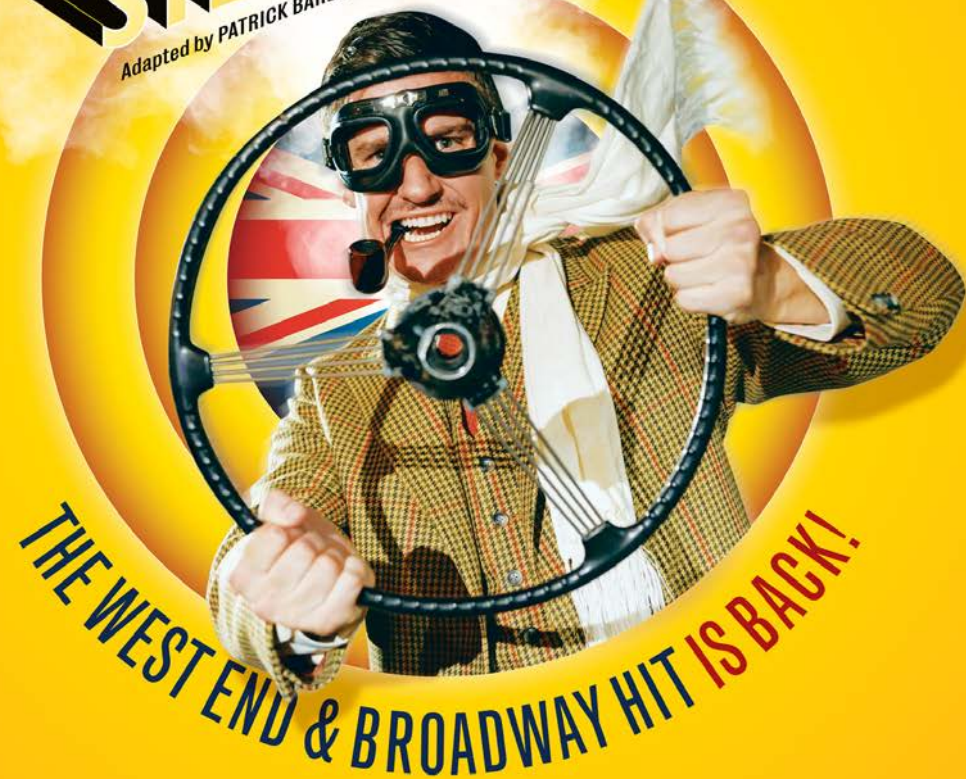
4 ACTORS ★ 139 CHARACTERS  
100 HILARIOUS MINUTES!

ALFRED  
HITCHCOCK'S  
**'THE  
39  
STEPS'**

Adapted by **PATRICK BARLOW**

★★★★★  
**'HILARIOUS'**  
SUNDAY  
EXPRESS

**'A JOYOUS VERSION OF THE  
HITCHCOCK CLASSIC'**  
SUNDAY  
TIMES



Cambridge Arts  
Theatre

**TUE 7 - SAT 11 MAY**  
[CAMBRIDGEARTSTHEATRE.COM](http://CAMBRIDGEARTSTHEATRE.COM)





**KCP**  
FURNITURE & FINISHING

Beautiful bespoke furniture for every room  
07787 502224  
[www.katepolakdesigns.co.uk/](http://www.katepolakdesigns.co.uk/)



TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST  
PUNTING TOURS IN CAMBRIDGE

SCAN TO  
VISIT ARE  
WEBSITE



@rutherfordspunting



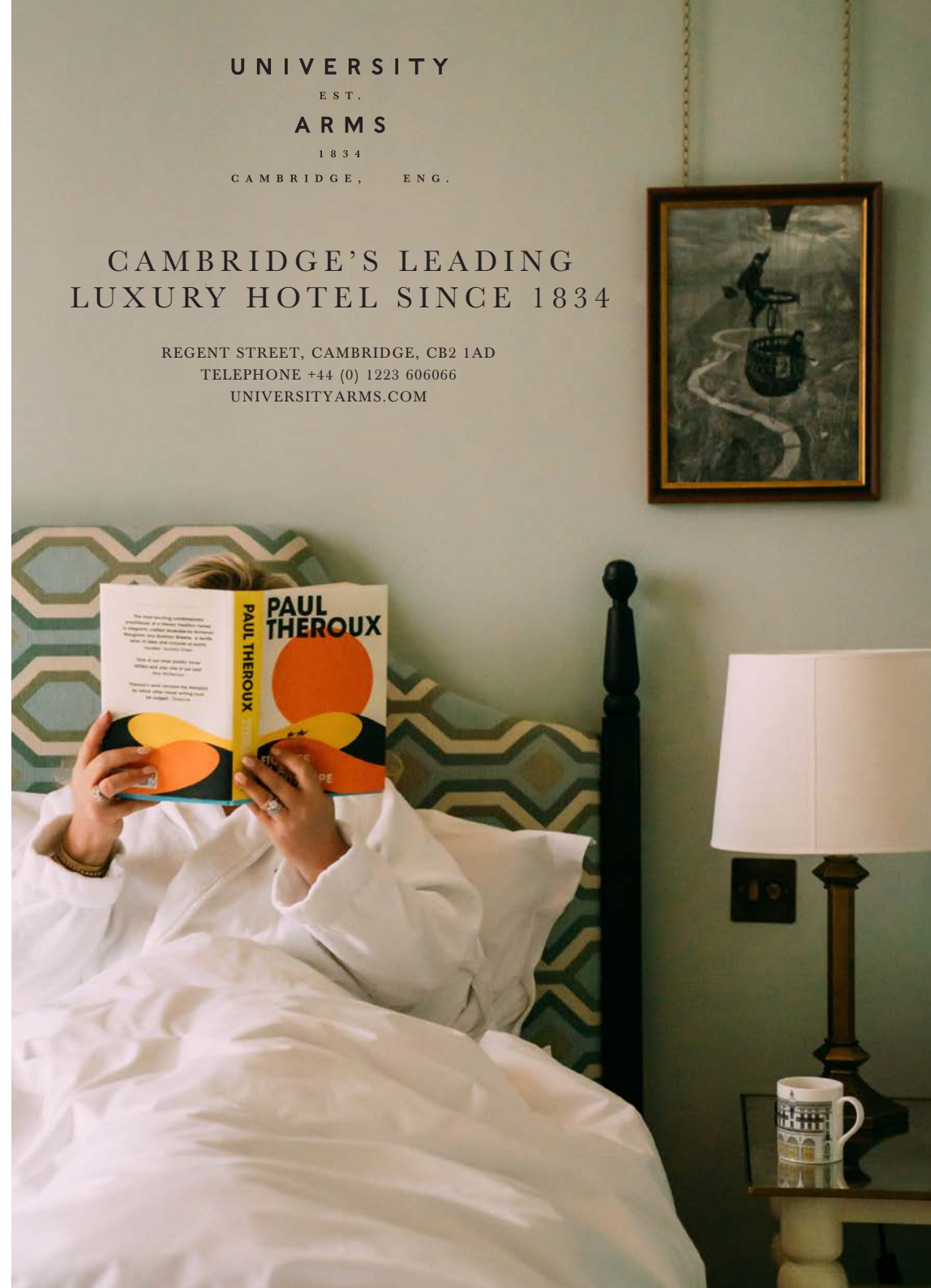


INFO@RUTHERFORDSPUNTING.COM  
01223 322200

UNIVERSITY  
EST.  
ARMS  
1834  
CAMBRIDGE, ENG.

CAMBRIDGE'S LEADING  
LUXURY HOTEL SINCE 1834

REGENT STREET, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 1AD  
TELEPHONE +44 (0) 1223 606066  
UNIVERSITYARMS.COM





## Where to stay



**The Clayton**  
27-29 Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2FB  
01223 792888  
[info.cambridge@claytonhotels.com](mailto:info.cambridge@claytonhotels.com)  
[www.claytonhotels.com/cambridge/](http://www.claytonhotels.com/cambridge/)  
Clayton Hotel Cambridge is ideally located, just a 1-minute walk from Cambridge train station, a short 10-minute walk from Cambridge city centre, and near the beautiful Botanic Gardens. With great hotel deals available to explore the city or escape on a romantic getaway, there's something for everyone at our Cambridge hotel.



**The Gonville Hotel**  
Gonville Place, Cambridge, CB1 1LY  
01223 366611  
[office@gonvillehotel.co.uk](mailto:office@gonvillehotel.co.uk)  
[www.gonvillehotel.co.uk](http://www.gonvillehotel.co.uk)  
A recently renovated, family-run hotel, The Gonville has chic bedrooms and a luxury feel-offering a two AA-rosette restaurant, wellness rooms, its own Bentley, Gonville bicycles and a full events calendar.



**The Graduate**  
Granta Place, Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1RT  
01223 2590988  
[info@graduatecambridge.co.uk](mailto:info@graduatecambridge.co.uk)  
[www.graduatehotels.com/cambridge](http://www.graduatehotels.com/cambridge)  
Nestled on the banks of the River Cam, Graduate Cambridge is an idyllic retreat inspired by centuries of rich traditions, storied histories and academic life. Unmatched views, seasonal culinary experiences and a cosy bar at the centre of the hotel are just a few of the things that make Graduate Cambridge unique.



**The Regent**  
41 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AB  
01223 351470  
[reception@theregentcambridge.com](mailto:reception@theregentcambridge.com)  
[www.theregentcambridge.com](http://www.theregentcambridge.com)  
Cambridge's first centrally located aparthotel backing onto Parker's Piece. The Georgian Grade II listed building offers a unique accommodation experience where flexible, easy apartment living meets hotel comfort.

## Where to stay



**University Arms**  
Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AD  
01223 606066  
[enquiries@universityarms.com](mailto:enquiries@universityarms.com)  
[www.universityarms.com](http://www.universityarms.com)  
A stunning five-star hotel, offering exceptional rooms, an elegant bar and Parker's Tavern restaurant. The hotel's luxury rooms offer views over Parkers Piece, historic Regent Street, and the hotel's courtyard.



**Hotel Du Vin**  
15-19 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA  
01223 928991  
[info.cambridge@hotelduvin.com](mailto:info.cambridge@hotelduvin.com)  
[www.hotelduvin.com](http://www.hotelduvin.com)  
Lovingly converted from old University buildings whilst retaining the original character and stunning architectural features, this boutique Cambridge hotel is the ideal place to relax, celebrate or do business.

## CLF Player



### YOU'RE NEVER TOO FAR AWAY.

All our digital content is available to watch or listen to in our CLF Player. With new content being added throughout the year, dip in and enjoy talks dating back to 2017 right up to our most recent festivals in 2023.

**Annual subscription for just £15.**  
**Subscribe at [cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](http://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)**

## Festival venues and booking information

### Booking & Access

Further information on booking and access  
[www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](http://www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)

### Refunds

Refunds will only be made where an event is sold out or cancelled. Contact: by email  
[hello@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](mailto:hello@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)

### 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).

### Accessibility

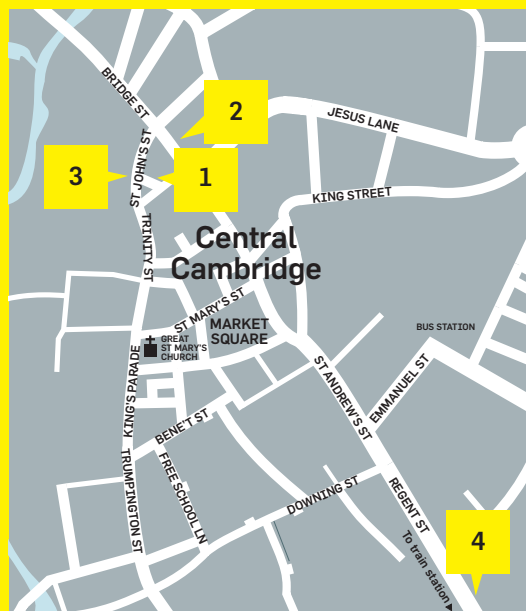
All our venues are accessible, please contact us in advance if you require assistance  
[hello@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](mailto:hello@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)

### 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)



## Leave a legacy

Help to ensure future generations can explore their love of books, by leaving us a legacy.



Please contact [elizabeth@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](mailto:elizabeth@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com) to discuss how a legacy gift could contribute to the Festival.

## We would like to thank our supporters

### Principal supporters



Baillie Gifford™

UNIVERSITY ARMS  
 CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

Binks Trust

### National and local media partners

THE NEW STATESMAN

Cambridge EDITION

BBC CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge Independent

### Venue partners

the CAMBRIDGE UNION



### Supporters and event partners



MILLS & REEVE  
 Achieve more. Together.



faber



### Festival bookseller

heffers  
 of Cambridge

### Patrons

Daphne Astor  
 Livia Galbraith  
 Jeremy Newsum  
 Edith Eligator  
 Adam Glinsman  
 Paul Taylor  
 Henry & Karin Elliot  
 Katherine Luc  
 Fiona Dickinson

### Benefactors

Marina Bernard  
 Kathy Robinson  
 Alison Shakespeare  
 Miranda Smith  
 Hilary Crowe  
 Jenny Robson  
 Becky Matthewson  
 Fran Brosan  
 Nancy Harding  
 Willa McDonald

Fiona Crawley  
 David & Margaret Reynolds  
 Jackie Latham  
 Jackie Newton  
 Rosemary Talbot  
 Vera Schuster-Beesley  
 Ann McAllister  
 Julia Ann Collins



## Festival highlights

