

# Cambridge Literary Festival

Spring 2025  
23–27 April

Highlights include

Diane Abbott  
Richard Ayoade  
Emma Barnett  
Diana Evans  
Diana Henry  
Michael Heseltine  
Lindsey Hilsum  
Ian Hislop  
Anthony Horowitz  
Samantha Harvey  
Katie Kirby  
Andrey Kurkov  
George Monbiot  
Jamie Smart  
Kit de Waal  
Gary Younge

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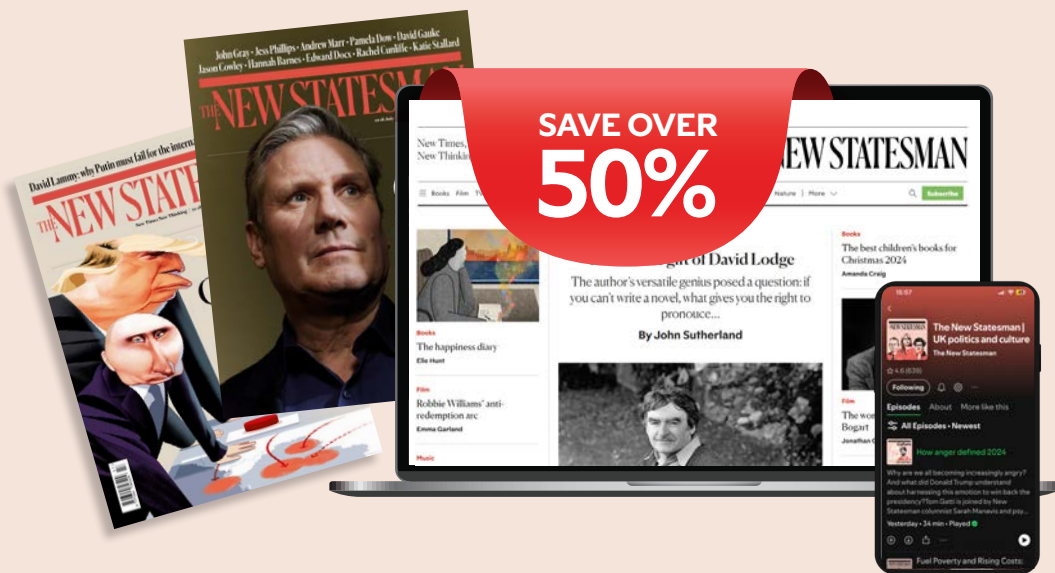
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Free  
Children's  
Festival

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# Director's welcome



This year as we welcome in spring, we also open our doors to children from Cambridge and beyond to our FREE Children's Festival. Topping the bill are Cressida Cowell, Katie Kirby, Jamie Smart and Jacqueline Wilson. Do encourage the young people in your life to join us.

For the second year running, we open the Festival with the latest Booker Prize-winner, Samantha Harvey, and across the weekend present a cornucopia of top-notch novelists including Ukrainian writer Andrey Kurkov, Anthony Horowitz, Kit de Waal and Diana Evans, plus a roll call of Irish novelists: Kevin Barry, Eimear McBride and three rising stars from the Emerald Isle on our debut panel. We also celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen plus the centenary of the publication of *The Great Gatsby*.

It is said that knowledge is power. As inequality deepens and the fear of things beyond our control encroaches, we have a range of speakers and events to address the big issues of the day: the rise of neoliberalism, the march of the far right, the situation in the Middle East, our changing climate, and the thorny issue of private education.

You will also hear from veteran politicians Michael Heseltine and Diane Abbott, BBC Radio 4's Emma Barnett, food writer Diana Henry and actor and comedian Richard Ayoade.

Join us and them for a weekend of literature, learning, life, and laughter.

**Cathy Moore**  
**CEO & Artistic Director**

## Festival team

### CEO & Artistic Director

Cathy Moore

### Operations Director

Angela Golby

### Fundraising & Partnerships

Elizabeth Froy

### Events Coordinator

Callia Kirkham

### Administrator

Blakeney Clark

### Finance Manager

Jackie Latham

### Honorary Patrons

Dame Gillian Beer

Melissa Benn

Alex Clark

Jill Dawson

Dame Margaret Drabble

Sophie Hannah

Robert Macfarlane

Helen Macdonald

Michael Morpurgo

Rowan Pelling

David Reynolds

David Runciman

Ruth Scurr

Elif Shafak

Ali Smith

Frances Spalding

Preti Taneja

Bee Wilson

### Programme Design

Mark Mniszko

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## Diary Dates 2025

Winter Festival 22 & 23 November



@camlitfest



Cambridge Literary Festival



@camlitfest



cambridge-literary-festival

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## One-Off events – Thursday 20 March



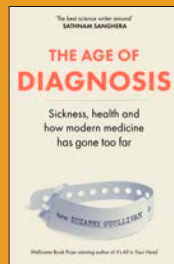
6pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

**Suzanne O'Sullivan**

***The Age of Diagnosis***

Join neurologist and award-winning author Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan, to discuss her new book *The Age of Diagnosis: Sickness, health and how modern medicine has gone too far*. At a time when genetic screening for potential abnormalities is becoming routine and diagnoses for conditions such as ADHD, autism and long covid are increasing, Suzanne O'Sullivan reframes, with wisdom and compassion, how we might approach our health and our suffering.

In conversation with  
Hannah Barnes.



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

8pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

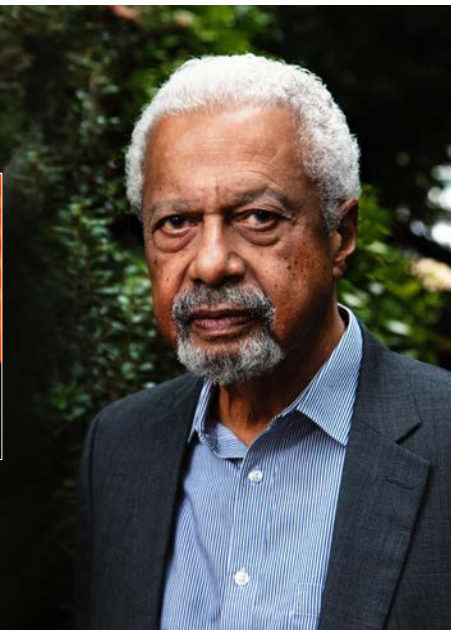
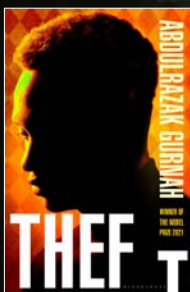
**Abdulrazak Gurnah**

***Theft***

We are delighted to welcome back Nobel Prize-winner Abdulrazak Gurnah, to share his first novel since winning the prize. *Theft* is the captivating story of the intertwined lives of three young people coming of age in postcolonial East Africa. As they take their first steps in love, infatuation, work and parenthood, can their bond withstand a betrayal that will change their lives forever?

In conversation with  
Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson.

**With thanks to the British Academy**





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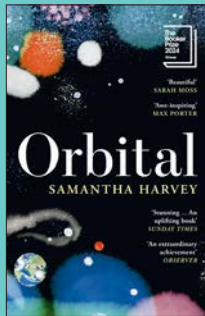
## Spring Festival – Wednesday 23 April

6pm | University Arms | £17/£10

### **Samantha Harvey** *Orbital*

How lucky are we to be kicking off the Spring Festival with Samantha Harvey talking about her Booker Prize-winning novel *Orbital*? This beautiful, uplifting book follows a team of astronauts in the International Space Station as they circle the Earth in all its spectacular beauty and begin to ask, 'What is life without Earth? What is Earth without humanity?'

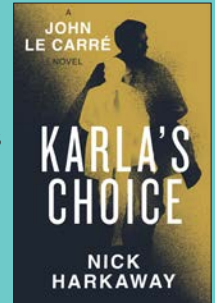
In conversation with Alex Clark.



8pm | University Arms | £17/£10

### **Nick Harkaway** *Karla's Choice*

Discover the most talked-about thriller of the year! Acclaimed novelist Nick Harkaway's gripping *Karla's Choice* is set in John le Carré's world of espionage. It's a momentous return for George Smiley, one of spy fiction's greatest characters – even more momentous as Nick is Le Carré's son. Come and hear how this literary legacy has passed so brilliantly from father to child.



In conversation with Alex Clark.

## Join us

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It is your kind support that allows us to do what we do. From as little as £30 a year, you can access priority booking and jump the queue, while enabling us to bring the best writers, speakers and thinkers to Cambridge.

There is a membership level to suit everyone. Come and find us at the Friends Desk in the Old Divinity School over the festival weekend, or have a look online for the full range of benefits.

## Thursday 24 April

4pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**Michael Banner**

### *Britain's Slavery Debt*

'Slavery ended a long time ago' is a standard objection to Britain paying reparations for historic wrongs to present Caribbean inhabitants. In *Britain's Slavery Debt*, Michael Banner, Dean of Trinity College, carefully considers and answers objections like this and acknowledges the complexities and practical problems involved. Come and join the discussion of why reparations are not punishment and what can be done, here and now, by individuals and institutions.



4pm | Newnham College

£17/£10

**Gwyneth Lewis &**

**Pascale Petit**

### *Two Poets, One Story*

Join two of our finest poets as they present their latest collections of lyrical and redemptive poetry, which include reflections on their experiences of parental abuse. In *First Rain in Paradise*, Gwyneth Lewis maps trauma, illness and catastrophic landscapes with realism and – most importantly – with joy. Pascale Petit's latest collection *Beast* asks if survival is possible in an abusive family and on an abused Earth, with poems that face up to difficult challenges but insist that making art is an act of love and hope.



6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage |

£17/£10

**George Monbiot**

### *Neoliberalism & How It Came to Control Your Life*

In his explosive new book, George Monbiot describes how we live under an ideology that preys on every aspect of our lives: our education, jobs, healthcare, leisure, relationships and mental wellbeing. Join George as he traces neoliberalism back to its roots, bringing it into the light – and shares how to build a new system that is worth fighting for.

In conversation with Will Dunn.



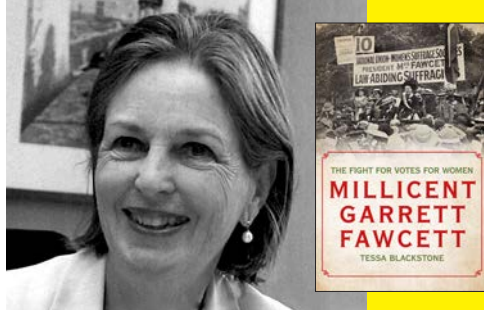
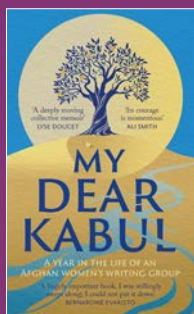


## Thursday 24 April

### 6pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10 *A Year in the Life of an Afghan Women's Writing Group*

In August 2021, as the Taliban approached the gates of Kabul, a writing group of twenty-one women writers in Afghanistan shared the devastating changes to their lives. *My Dear Kabul* is their courageous collective diary of that chaos, protest and flight. We are humbled to be joined by writer Batool Haidari, translator Dr Negeen Kargar and editor Lucy Hannah.

Chaired by  
Mary Hockaday.



### 6pm | Newnham College | £17/£10 **Tessa Blackstone** *Millicent Garrett Fawcett:* *The Fight for Votes for Women*

Labour member of the House of Lords and former minister for education, Tessa Blackstone joins us to share how she came to write her definitive new biography of Millicent Garrett Fawcett, the undaunted campaigner who dedicated her life to securing the right to vote for women. Come and hear what Tessa has uncovered about this extraordinary activist, campaigner and co-founder of Newnham College, who changed Britain's political landscape forever.

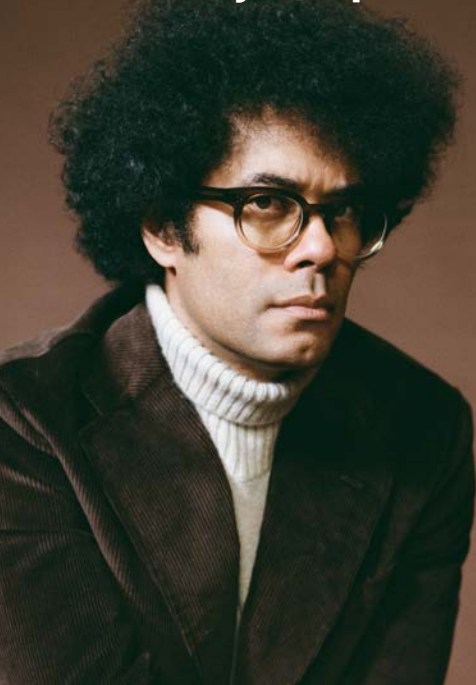
# Free Children's Festival

Don't miss our Free Children's Events throughout the weekend. A fun-packed, interactive festival featuring some of the biggest names in children's literature awaits. Something for all ages.

Lanisha Butterfield  
Cressida Cowell  
Dr Letizia Diamante  
Katie Kirby  
Christopher Lloyd  
Jamie Smart  
Jacqueline Wilson



Thursday 24 April



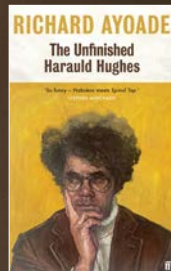
7.30pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £17/£10

**Richard Ayoade**

***The Unfinished Harauld Hughes***

Beloved actor, comedian and author, Richard Ayoade, brings us his fictional memoir of a little-known and blazingly pretentious writer, poet and filmmaker. *The Unfinished Harauld Hughes* is vintage Richard Ayoade – the story of a quest by a self-confessed gifted filmmaker, corduroy activist and amateur dentist. Grab your tickets now!

In conversation with  
Alex Clark.



7.30pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**Abi Daré**

***And So I Roar***

*The Girl With the Louding Voice* was an international bestseller that resonated with readers everywhere. We are hugely excited to be welcoming Abi Daré with her follow-up novel *And So I Roar*, which continues Adunni's captivating story. A sudden knock at the gate threatens to prevent Adunni's much-desired education. Despite the devastating effects of climate change on the lives of poor rural women, Adunni must roar in her fight for a brighter future.

In conversation with  
Jendella Benson.





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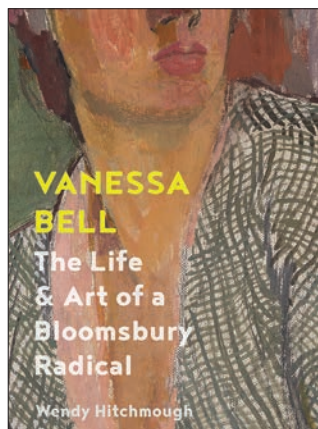
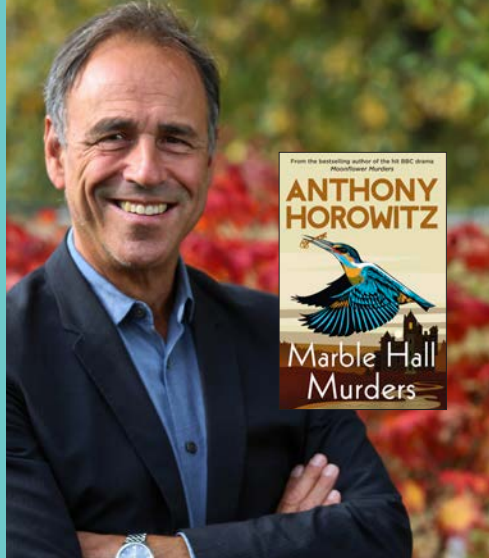


# Friday 25 April

## 12.30–2.30pm | University Arms | £46 Literary Lunch with Anthony Horowitz

Book early for this year's two-course lunch with wine, where murder is firmly on the menu. Anthony Horowitz sets down his pen, picks up his fork and treats us to a criminally good discussion about his life in crime, including *Foyles War*, two new Sherlock Holmes novels and his latest page-turners the *Magpie Murders* trilogy. For an amuse bouche, he will introduce the final instalment *Marble Hall Murders*.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

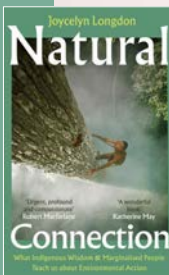


## 4.30pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10 Wendy Hitchmough & Fay Blanchard Vanessa Bell: The Life & Art of a Bloomsbury Radical

Vanessa Bell's approach to life as well as to art was trail-blazing: she rejected conventions and challenged the structures of early-twentieth-century society. Wendy Hitchmough, writer of Vanessa's new biography and former curator of the Bloomsbury artists' home, Charleston, discusses the impact of this most radical and influential of artists with Fay Blanchard, curator of the recent largest-ever solo exhibition of Vanessa's work. They will be joined in conversation by Bloomsbury scholar Frances Spalding.

## 4.30pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10 Joycelyn Longdon Natural Connection

Award-winning Joycelyn Longdon, a University of Cambridge environmental justice researcher, uses her lyrical book *Natural Connection* to inspire us to view climate action as a shared goal rather than an individual burden. Join Joycelyn to better understand how – beyond being an activist or an observer – we can all contribute to the fight for sustainability and find our way back to our roots.





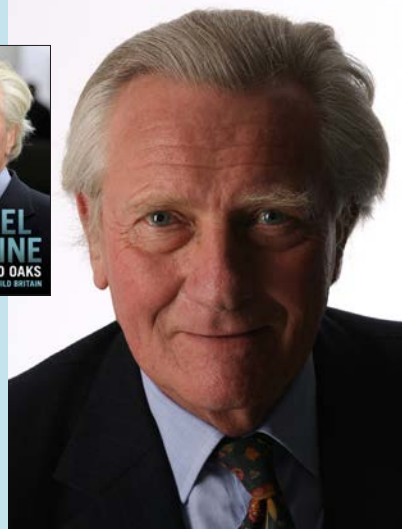
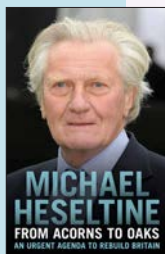
**Friday 25 April**

**6.30pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage |  
£17/£10**

**Michael Heseltine**

***An Urgent Agenda to Rebuild Britain***

Join this unmissable event with Lord Heseltine, one of our last great statesmen, who has been at the forefront of politics for the past sixty years. In his extraordinary new memoir, *From Acorns to Oaks*, Lord Heseltine combines reminiscence with a damning assessment of what he considers the grievous self-harm inflicted by Brexit. Above all, he offers an urgent agenda to rebuild Britain, charting a way forward that any government could accept.



**6.30pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10**

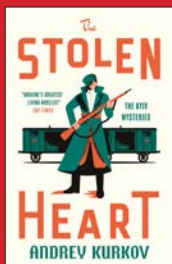
**Andrey Kurkov**

***The Kyiv Mysteries***

Ukraine's greatest living writer Andrey Kurkov, author of the international bestseller *Death and the Penguin*, introduces his new series of historical mysteries set amidst the chaos of the Russian Revolution.

As well as writing fiction for adults and children, Andrey has become known as a commentator and journalist since the start of the Ukraine war. Join this master storyteller for an event not to be missed.

In conversation with Megan Gibson.



**6.30pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10**

**Diana Henry**

***Crazy Water, Pickled Lemons***

A shout out to home cooks and hungry readers everywhere! Bestselling food writer Diana Henry makes her Cambridge debut with the glorious new edition of *Crazy Water, Pickled Lemons* – a book beloved by Claudia Roden, Nigel Slater and Yotam Ottolenghi. Diana gathers dishes from the Middle East, the Mediterranean and North Africa to bring pleasure to your kitchen and an intoxicating whiff of warmer climates to your table. An event to whet appetites and lift hearts.

In conversation with Bee Wilson.

# Friday 25 April

8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £17/£10

**John Crace**

***Taking the Lead***

From the ingeniously quick-witted John Crace, parliamentary sketch writer for *The Guardian*, comes a satirical memoir from the eyes of his beloved dog, Herbie. This is the story that the politicians didn't want you to know and now, finally, Herbie the hound tells all. As Westminster veterans, boy, do John Crace and Herbie have stories to share... Come join the fun with one of newspapers' most beloved columnists.

In conversation with Alex Clark.



Kit de Waal



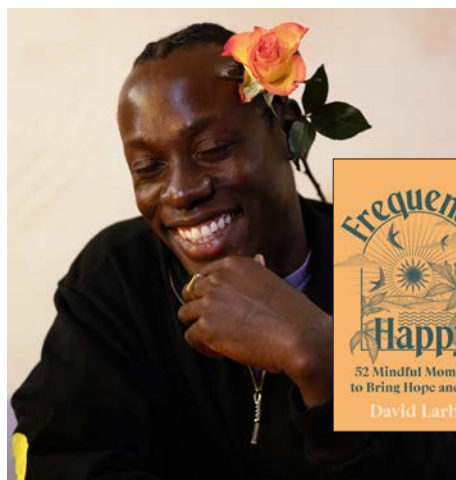
Diana Evans

8pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

**Kit de Waal & Diana Evans**

Just what the reading doctor ordered: award-winning and best-selling writers Kit de Waal (*The Best of Everything*) and Diana Evans (*I Want to Talk to You*) join us to share their wonderful new books. Join the discussion of their writing and influences, the importance of supporting writers and the most valuable ways of doing so. Sure to be a lively and invigorating conversation about turning life into literature.

Chaired by  
Jo Browning Wroe.



8pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**David Larbi**

***Frequently Happy***

Oh happiest of days! Writer and musician David Larbi brings his new book *Frequently Happy: 52 Mindful Moments to Bring Hope and Joy* to show us how to see beauty in the everyday and build pockets of joy, inspiration and calm into our lives. Although life can often be stressful, and each day might seem like a struggle, David Larbi helps us to explore our emotions, seize opportunities to grow, and find happiness all year round.

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# Saturday 26 April

10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £17/£10

**Rob Cowen**

***The North Road***

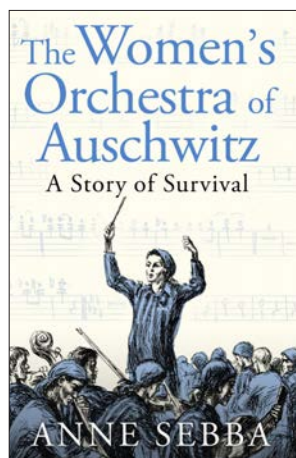
Rob Cowen is one of our most original voices on nature, place and people. His work *Common Ground* was voted one of the nation's favourite nature books of all time in a BBC poll. In his new and profoundly personal book, the award-winning author journeys *The North Road* – the A1, the Great North Road – weaving the people, history and places in a work of unforgettable prose. Join Rob Cowen in discussion with festival honorary patron Robert Macfarlane, who describes the book as 'Radical and beautiful. Haunted and haunting... A dazzlingly inventive work of literature.'



Rob Cowen



Robert Macfarlane



10am | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

**Anne Sebba**

***The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz:  
A Story of Survival***

Prize-winning biographer Anne Sebba draws on first-hand accounts to tell the astonishing story of the female Auschwitz prisoners who were forced to play music for other inmates and the camp's Nazi officers. What was the effect on those musicians who owed their survival to a Nazi propaganda project? In the year of the 80th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation, Anne Sebba untangles this complex story with sensitivity and care.

In conversation with Midge Gillies.

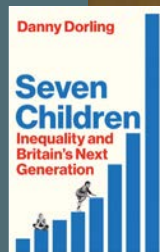
10am | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**Danny Dorling**

***Seven Children: Inequality and Britain's  
Next Generation***

Danny Dorling, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Oxford, shares his highly original new book *Seven Children*. He asks, 'If we found seven typical five-year-olds to represent today's UK, who would they be?' Danny's typical seven were born in 2018, when inequality was at its worst in the UK. They turned five in 2023, amid a devastating cost-of-living crisis. Join Danny to discuss how, despite these negative trends, hope can still endure.

In conversation with Melissa Benn.





## Saturday 26 April

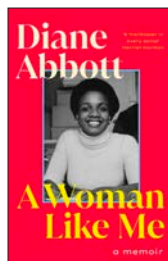
12pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage |

£17/£10

### Diane Abbott MP *A Woman Like Me*

Diane Abbott MP is unique. The first Black woman elected to the House of Commons; the longest-serving Black MP; the current Mother of the House; above all, a fearless and vocal champion for the causes that matter in Britain today. We are thrilled that Diane joins us to share her frank and wry memoir of how she has succeeded against massive odds and built such an extraordinary legacy.

In conversation with Rachel Cunliffe.



12pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 7-11

FREE

### Jacqueline Wilson *The Seaside Sleepover*

Much-loved author Jacqueline Wilson is returning to Cambridge this spring to share her latest book, *The Seaside Sleepover*. She'll be chatting all things friendship, bullies, sleepovers and dogs, as well as answering questions from the audience. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to her books, this promises to be a summer holiday of an event, full of fun, storytelling and behind-the-scenes insights.



Roisín O'Donnell



Garrett Carr



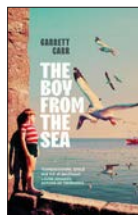
Louise Hegarty

12pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

### Irish Debut Novelists Roisín O'Donnell, Garrett Carr & Louise Hegarty

Ireland has always produced powerful and inventive writers – from reinventors of the form such as James Joyce to barrier-breaking Edna O'Brien and lyrical geniuses Sebastian Barry and Colm Tóibín. In recent years, a new generation of novelists has come to the fore – Sally Rooney, Paul Murray and Kevin Barry among them. We're delighted to play host to three of the brightest debuts of the year from the island of Ireland.

Selected and chaired by  
Alex Clark.



# Saturday 26 April

2pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage |

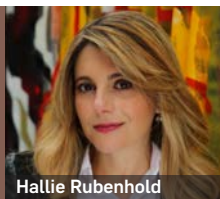
Ages 7-11 | FREE

**Jamie Smart**

***Bunny vs Monkey***

***The Great Big Glitch***

Get ready to laugh out loud with comic genius Jamie Smart. He'll be talking all things *Bunny vs Monkey* with his new book, *The Great Big Glitch*, where Bunny declares himself a magical protector of the woodland, Pig becomes a superspy, and Weenie gets some serious muscles! With hilarious stories, live drawing and Jamie's brilliant behind-the-scenes tips, this event is perfect for children, families and comic fans.



Hallie Rubenhold



Kate Summerscale

2pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

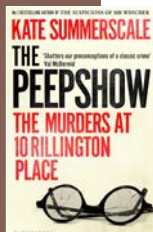
**Hallie Rubenhold &**

**Kate Summerscale**

***Why Do Men Kill Women?***

In 2024 in the UK, 80 women were allegedly killed by men. This shocking statistic begs the question: why does a man kill a woman? To answer this, award-winning authors Hallie Rubenhold (*Story of a Murder*) and Kate Summerscale (*The Peepshow*) have forensically researched notorious crimes of the past. Join the discussion of how understanding the shocking murders by Dr Crippen and Reg Christie can help us to prevent violence and misogyny in the future.

Chaired by Alex Clark.



2pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**Ash Sarkar**

***Minority Rule: Adventures in the Culture War***

Leading political commentator Ash Sarkar tours the culture wars in her explosive debut *Minority Rule*. Ash exposes the forces that disempower and divide people today – and how landlords, media barons, hedge fund managers and CEOs are profiting from them. Join Ash to discuss how a deafening culture of distraction hides what we have in common, and how we can take the first steps towards a better future.

# Saturday 26 April

4–5.30pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £18/£10

## New Statesman Debate

THE NEW STATESMAN

### *This house believes private schools should be abolished*

7% of British children attend private school – a tiny minority – and yet they retain a grip on our elite institutions. The latest figures show that 65% of judges, 44% of newspaper columnists and 23% of MPs were independently educated. It's a divided, divisive system that perpetuates inequality, and charging VAT on fees, as Labour have done, won't fix it. Fee-paying schools, however, do not merely cater for the privileged few, but hard-working aspirational parents who want the best for their children. They also allow for a quality that is essential in all aspects of raising children: choice. Is this two-tier system an archaic injustice that needs total reform? Or is it the route to a better education for all?

#### For the motion

**Danny Dorling:** Professor of Human Geography at the University of Oxford and author of *Seven Children: Inequality and Britain's next generation*

**Terri White:** writer, columnist, presenter, investigative journalist and author of *Coming Undone*

**Aaron Reeves:** Professor of Sociology at LSE and author of *Born to Rule: The Making and Remaking of the British Elite*

#### Against the motion

**Mona Siddiqui:** academic, broadcaster and Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh

**Julie Robinson:** Chief Executive Officer at the Independent Schools Council and former headteacher

**Baroness Sally Morgan:** Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and former Chair of Ofsted

Chaired by **Hannah Barnes**, *New Statesman* Associate Editor





## Saturday 26 April

4pm | Palmerston Room | Ages 7-11 |

FREE

### Christopher Lloyd *It's Up to Us!*

Storyteller extraordinaire Christopher Lloyd presents the story of climate change – with unexpected props tucked within his coat of many pockets, a supersized foldout timeline, high-energy fun, and crazy quizzes galore. Expect an uplifting roadmap for saving our planet in many little ways.

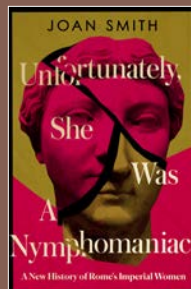


4pm | Old Divinity

School | £17/£10

### Joan Smith *Unfortunately, She Was a Nymphomaniac*

The women described in acclaimed campaigner Joan Smith's new book might have been the most privileged women of Imperial Rome, but they suffered everything from child marriage and marital rape to exile and murder. Until now, their reputations have been shaped by emperors and their chroniclers. Join Joan Smith to hear how she has revisited the original Roman texts to tell a new story – of spirited, inspiring and sometimes reckless resistance to male authority.

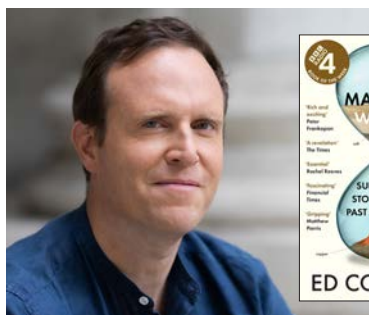
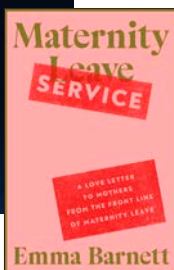


6pm | Cambridge Union,

TTP Stage | £17/£10

### Emma Barnett *Maternity Service*

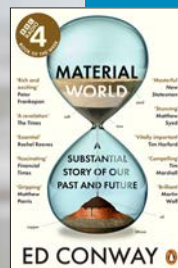
Award-winning broadcaster and journalist Emma Barnett's new book *Maternity Service* captures the truth of maternity leave – or 'maternity service', as it could more aptly be named – in real time. It celebrates and acknowledges the vast amount of work required throughout this period, with its soaring highs and challenging lows, and the impact it has on women's sense of identity and purpose. Join the discussion about the unsung workforce who are caring for the next generation – for all of us.



6pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

### Ed Conway *Material World: A Substantial Story of Our Past and Future*

Ed Conway has written an eye-opening history of human civilisation from the ground up. Far from living in a weightless world of information, we dug more stuff out of the earth in 2017 than in all human history pre 1950 and it is getting worse. Join him to hear his compelling narrative of the human story and our material world.



**With thanks to the British Academy**



# Saturday 26 April

6pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10  
**Sarah Churchwell & Erica Wagner**  
***The Great Gatsby at 100***

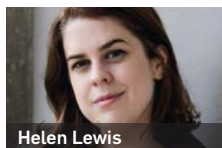
Marking 100 years of F. Scott Fitzgerald's literary masterpiece *The Great Gatsby* – often called the great American novel. Fitzgerald's classic tale of illicit desire, grand illusions and lost dreams revives a vanished world of parties and jazz where money and deceit walk hand-in-hand. Join Professor Sarah Churchwell and Erica Wagner to explore persistent myths about Fitzgerald, his greatest novel, and the age he embodies.

Chaired by Tom Gatti.

With thanks to Cambridge University Press



## PRIVATE EYE



8pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10  
**Private Eye Podcast Live**  
**Helen Lewis, Ian Hislop,**  
**Andrew Hunter Murray &**  
**Adam Macqueen**

Join Ian Hislop and the Page 94 team – Andrew Hunter Murray, Adam Macqueen and Helen Lewis – for a live recording of *Private Eye*'s hit podcast. What's the next big scandal you should know about? Which politicians should fear the Curse of Lord Gnome? And are there any more jokes left to make about Donald Trump?



8pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10  
**Kaliane Bradley**  
***The Ministry of Time***

*The Ministry of Time* was one of the biggest debut novels of 2024. Utterly hilarious and almost unbearably sexy, this literary romcom (with added time-travel) explores what it means for Britain to reckon with its past. Come along and discover what all the fuss is about.

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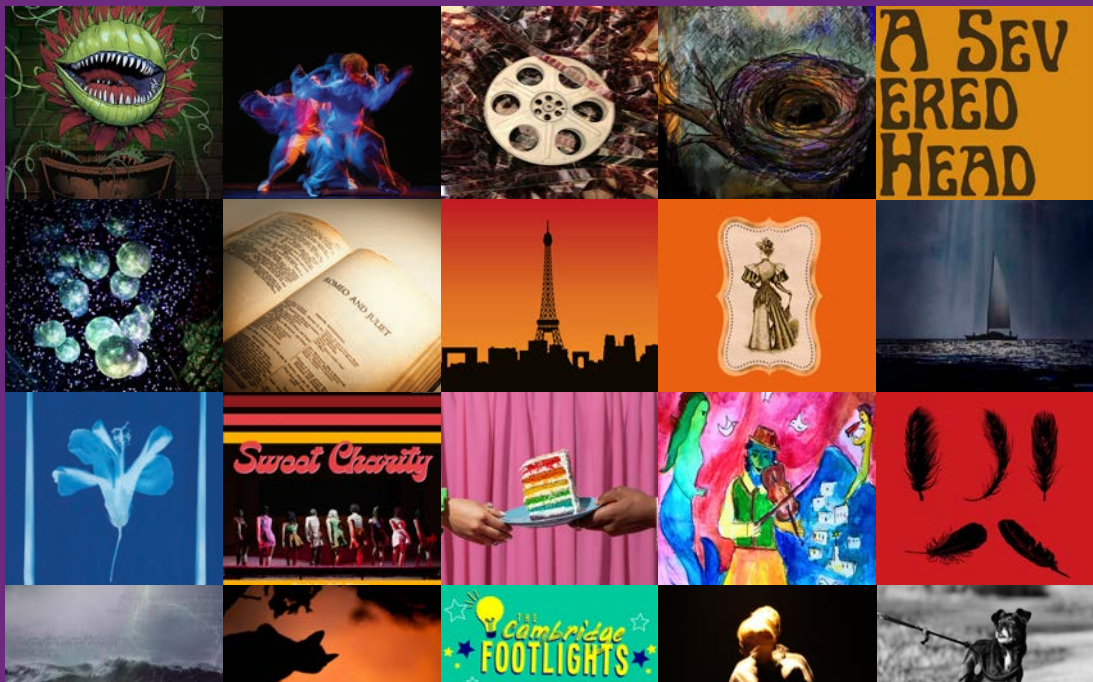
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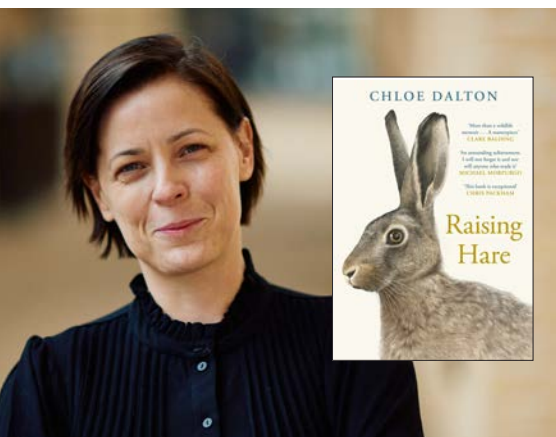
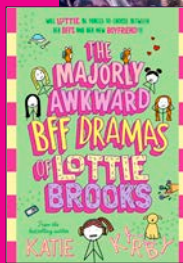


# Sunday 27 April

10am | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | Ages 9-12 | FREE

## Katie Kirby *The World of Lottie Brooks*

Join bestselling author Katie Kirby for a laugh-out-loud event all about the lovable Lottie Brooks. With a new boyfriend, a new dog (the very cute but chaotic Pot Noodle), and trying to keep all her best friends happy at once, Lottie's life is as messy as ever. Don't miss the chance to hear all about the world of Lottie Brooks from the amazing Katie Kirby herself and ask all your questions this spring.



10am | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

## Chloe Dalton *Raising Hare*

Political adviser and foreign policy expert Chloe Dalton was living a busy London life when lockdown brought her back to the countryside. There she found a newly born hare, endangered, alone and no bigger than her palm. Join Chloe as she introduces *Raising Hare* and recounts the building of an extraordinary relationship between human and animal – reminding us that the most remarkable experiences, inspiring the most hope, often arise when we least expect them.

With thanks to Mills & Reeve



Helena Kelly



Alex Clark



Bharat Tandon

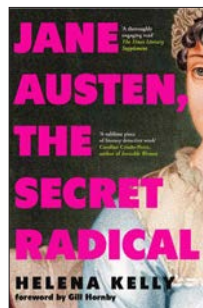
10am | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

## Helena Kelly, Alex Clark & Bharat Tandon

### *The Life, Writing & Legacy of Jane Austen*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Cambridge Literary Festival must be in want of a Jane Austen event to mark the 250th anniversary of her birth. We have gathered a veritable throng of experts to celebrate and revere the brilliance that is Jane Austen and to ignite your passion to read her books all over again.

Chaired by Erica Wagner.





# Sunday 27 April



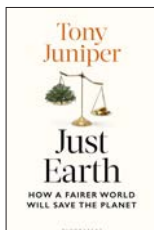
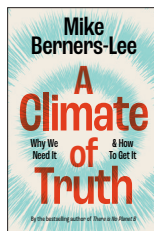
## 10–11.30am | University Arms | £22 Breakfast with the Editors

Over coffee and pastries, join leading journalists from *The New Statesman* – Andrew Marr, Hannah Barnes, Megan Gibson and special guest Helen Lewis – for a discussion of the major news stories of the moment, and a chance to make sense of our turbulent and ever-changing world.

## 12pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage £17/£10 Mike Berners-Lee & Tony Juniper *The Climate Dilemma*

Floods, wildfires and extreme weather are now common worldwide, making climate breakdown undeniable. We have most of the technology we need to combat the climate crisis – and most people want to see more action, so what's holding us back? To discuss solutions and a way forward, join two of our most committed environmentalists as they discuss their latest books and the climate crisis.

With thanks to  
Cambridge University Press



## 12pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10 Jon Bloomfield & David Edgar *March of the Populist Right*

With Trump back in the White House, Reform UK making gains in the UK and the Freedom Party forming the Austrian Government, there is no better time to join a discussion with the authors of *The Little Black Book of the Populist Right*. Exposing the fallacies, flaws and fantasies of national populism, they will show us how progressives can fight back.



## 12pm | Union Library | Ages 5-8 | FREE Dr Letizia Diamante *Open Wide!*

Join science writer Dr Letizia Diamante for a jaw-dropping adventure inspired by her fascinating new book *Open Wide!* Discover the weird and wonderful world of mouths – why we have teeth, how animals use their mouths in surprising ways, and meet creatures with the sharpest teeth, longest tongues, and stickiest spit in the animal kingdom! Packed with fun, games, quizzes and animal facts, this event will leave you open mouthed. Stick around afterwards for a book signing!

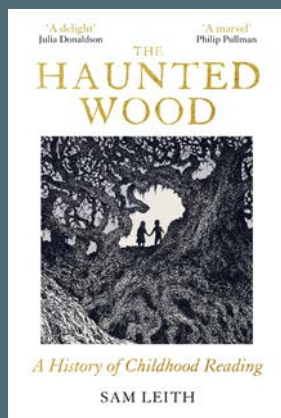
# Sunday 27 April

12pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10

**Sam Leith & Lucy Mangan**

***Growing Up with Books***

OECD research shows that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of future success for children, but today only 1 in 3 children do so. Join Sam Leith (*The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading*) and Lucy Mangan (*Bookish*) to discuss the importance of reading as a child, and how stories written for children offer a glimpse into our deepest hopes, joys and anxieties – and how they stay with us far beyond the books we read as adults.



2pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage |

£17/£10

**Gary Younge**

***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 will be delivered by Gary Younge. Gary is an award-winning journalist, author, broadcaster and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester.

**With thanks to the British Academy**

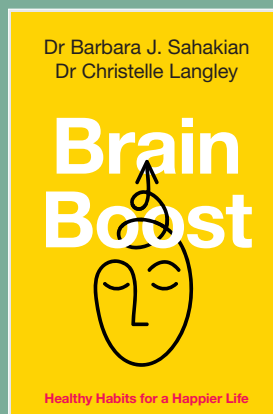
2pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

**Barbara Sahakian & Christelle Langley**

***Healthy Habits for a Happier Life***

Raise the flags for this fascinating book from award-winning neuroscientists Dr Barbara Sahakian and Dr Christelle Langley. Surveys show that our New Year's resolutions are mostly about becoming fitter and slimmer and that, whilst people monitor their physical health, they rarely monitor brain health. *Brain Boost* makes the case for improving brain health alongside physical health. Come along to find out how simple changes can improve brain fitness, cognition and overall wellbeing.

**With thanks to the British Academy and Cambridge University Press**



Cambridge Series

**Sunday 27 April**



**2pm | Old Divinity  
School | £17/£10**

**Eimear McBride**

***The City Changes Its Face***

A new novel from prize-winning Eimear McBride is always exciting and her latest is no exception. *The City Changes Its Face* is an intense story of passion, jealousy and family, which takes place on a rainy Camden night between twenty-year-old Eily and forty-year-old Steven, as they retrace the course of their two-year love affair in search of what's gone wrong.



**2pm | Union Library | Ages 4-6 |**

**FREE**

**Lanisha Butterfield**

***Flower Block Storytime***

When Jeremiah plants a packet of sunflower seeds, the very last thing he expects is for the vines and leaves to grow overnight and burst through the ceiling of his apartment. Join Lanisha Butterfield for a magical storytime session of *Flower Block* – her debut picture book that celebrates the magic that comes from planting seeds of love, and the power of nature to bring communities together.



**4pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10**

**Ashley John-Baptiste**

***A Childhood in Care***

We know award-winning BBC presenter and broadcast journalist Ashley John-Baptiste from his appearances presenting on *The One Show* and *BBC News*, covering topics such as adoption, race, homelessness and the care system. Now, in his unflinchingly honest memoir, he shines a very personal spotlight on the state of the UK's social care system through his own experiences as a child.

In conversation with Martin Figura.





## Sunday 27 April

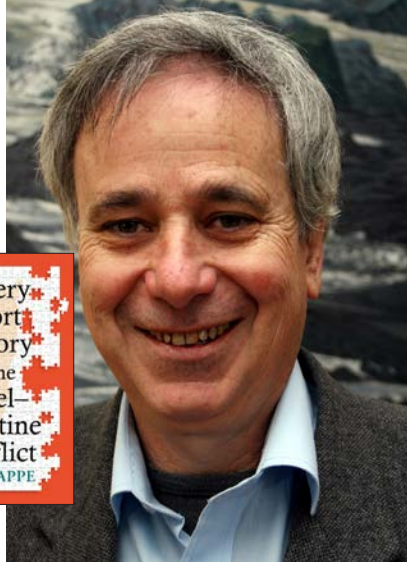
4pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10

**Ilan Pappé**

### *What Next for Israel & Palestine?*

We are delighted to welcome Professor Ilan Pappé to share his latest book on the histories of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ilan Pappé, a foremost historian of the conflict, expertly takes us through the twists and turns of international policy towards Israel–Palestine, Palestinian resistances, and the changes taking place in Israel itself. What do we make of October 7 and the war on Gaza? Where and when did it all begin, and how will it all end?

In conversation with Mezna Qato.



4pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | FREE | Ages 7-12

**Cressida Cowell**

### *How to Train Your Dragon School*

Soar into adventure with Cressida Cowell's new book *How to Train Your Dragon School: Doom of the Darkwing*. Discover the brand-new spin-off featuring Hiccup, Toothless, and Windwalker as they tackle the perils of Viking and Dragon Training School and finish bottom in pretty much everything. With a live-action movie and theme park attraction on the way in 2025, it's a great time to be a *How To Train Your Dragon* fan!

With thanks to St Mary's School

6pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £26

**Frances Spalding**

### *Room of One's Own Lecture*

An annual opportunity for one of our foremost women writers to contemplate how far we have come since Virginia 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 third lecture in this series will be delivered by Festival Honorary Patron Frances Spalding. A commemorative pamphlet containing the lecture is included in the ticket price.





**Sunday 27 April**

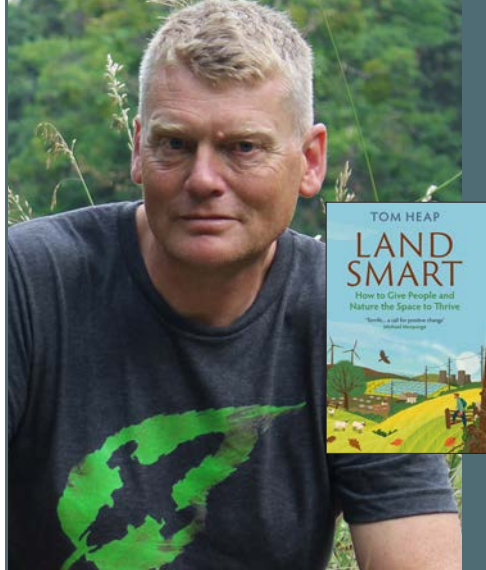


**6pm | Old Divinity School | £17/£10**

**Kevin Barry**

***The Heart in Winter***

Kevin Barry makes a welcome return to the festival with his first novel since the Booker longlisted *Night Boat to Tangier*. His latest, *The Heart in Winter*, is a dazzling tale of lovers on the run in Montana in the 1890s: a world of bounty hunters, knife fights and whiskey-soaked songs amongst a hard-living crowd of immigrant Irish workers.



**6pm | Palmerston Room | £17/£10**

**Tom Heap**

***Land Smart***

Tom Heap has dedicated his career to nature and the environment: a regular presenter on *Countryfile*, co-presenter of Radio 4's *Rare Earth*, creator of *39 Ways to Save the Planet*, and the anchor of *The Climate Show* on *Sky News*. In his latest book, *Land Smart*, he turns his attention to the most sustainable use of land and makes a plea for positive change.



**8pm | Cambridge Union, TTP Stage | £17/£10**

**Lindsey Hilsum**

***Stories and Poems from the Front Line***

*Channel 4 News*' International Editor Lindsey Hilsum has spent nearly four decades covering conflict from Rwanda and Kosovo to Ukraine and Palestine. Throughout those years, she has always carried a book of poetry with her and in Ukraine she tweeted a poem a day. In this special event, Lindsey will share her favorite poems alongside memories of her work in conflict zones, exploring the pity of war and its fatal attraction.

In conversation with Alex Clark.

**With thanks to Sustainable Tech 4 Good**



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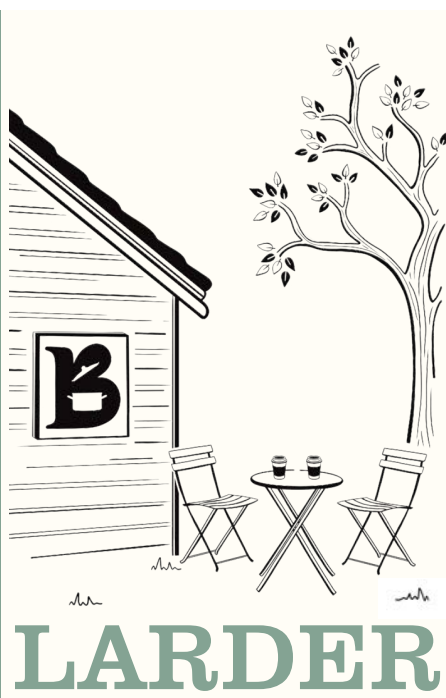
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## *Time & Space*

With a photograph for each day of the year, Martin Bond's second book from his much-loved *Cambridge Diary* project, leads the reader towards and into the global pandemic. The book is a striking visual record of a historical era, with images that capture the desolate streets, alongside stories of people searching for normality and perspective during these lost years.

Bond's photographs are theatrical, dramatic, cosy, clever, fantastical, poignant, witty and romantic; everyday scenes made extraordinary by a shaft of light, an unexpected gesture or an odd juxtaposition.

Again and again, Bond shows his gift for bringing a distinctive twist or an arresting angle to a familiar scene, making even those who live and work in this city question whether they really know it at all.

Bond's engaging writing style moves from short and snappy to ponderous and reflective, from historically insightful to personal and anecdotal. As the city adjusts to post-pandemic life, Bond is there to capture the return of the routines and rituals, the joy and the humour, the quirkiness and the tenderness of human life on the streets of Cambridge.

With a foreword by Sebastian Faulks



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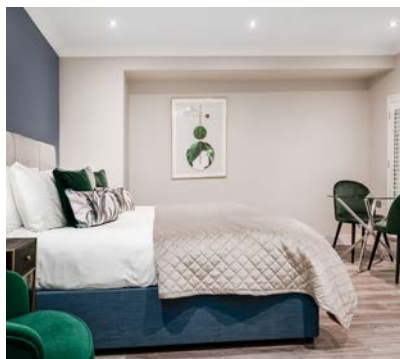
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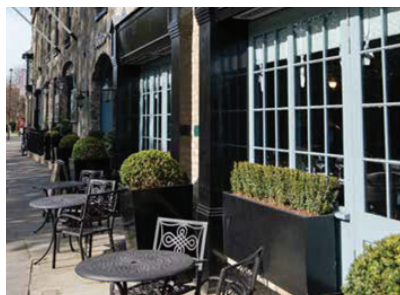
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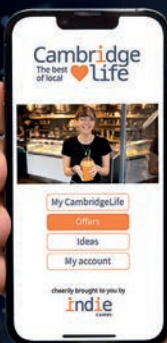
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# Festival venues and booking information

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Refunds will only be made where an event is sold out or cancelled. Contact: by email  
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Children under the age of 14 must be always accompanied by an adult.  
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## Accessibility

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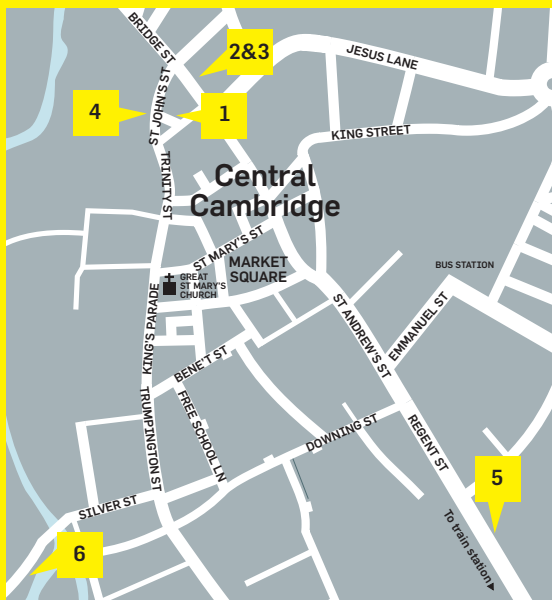
Located in the Kennedy Room at the Cambridge Union.

## Box Office, Friends Desk

Open throughout the festival at ODS.

## Festival telephone

01223 515335



## Venues and walking time from Box Office

1. Old Divinity School (0 mins)
2. Cambridge Union, TTP Stage (5 mins)
3. Union Library (5 mins)
4. Palmerston Room, St John's College (10 mins)
5. University Arms (20 mins)
6. Newnham College (off map, 25 mins)

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

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## Festival highlights

