



# BLenheim PALACE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE FILM & MUSIC

In association with *Harper's Bazaar*  
and *Town & Country* magazines

## Pocket Guide

Speakers include



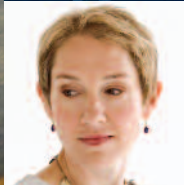
Alexander McCall Smith



Bettany Hughes



A C Grayling



Justine Picardie



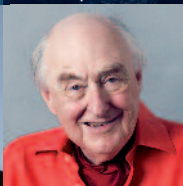
Philip Mould



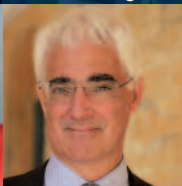
Sue MacGregor



Melynn Bragg



Henry Blofeld



Alistair Darling

*Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 October 2017*

Global banking partner



# Welcome to your pocket guide to the 2017 Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music

## **FESTIVAL TICKETS**

**Your ticket includes entry to the park and gardens of the estate and free parking on the day of the event (price normally £15.30).**

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

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

**IN PERSON** Oxford Visitor Information Centre, Broad Street, Oxford (an agents' booking fee of £1.50 will be added to all sales through the visitor centre). Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-3.30pm. They will also be available at The Feathers hotel in Woodstock (Mon-Sun, 10am-6pm, cash and cheques only).

**TELEPHONE 0333 666 3366** (an agents' booking fee of £1.50 will be added to all telephone sales).

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

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

**Disabled access:** All venues have disabled access with the exception of The Feathers hotel. Wheelchair spaces can be booked through all outlets.

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

This pocket guide was correct at the time of going to press. Events are sometimes subject to change, and a few more events may be added to the programme. For all the latest details, check our website at

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

**Enquiries Tel 07444 318986**

**Email [info@blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com](mailto:info@blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com)**

**FESTIVAL UPDATES**

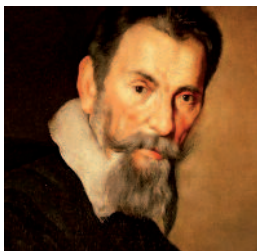
**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR  
DETAILS OF NEW SPEAKERS OR EVENTS**

## Oxford New College Choir and Michael Collins Monteverdi: A 450th Anniversary Concert

6pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12

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The world-famous Oxford New College Choir performs a selection of works by Monteverdi to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the composer's birth and mark the opening of this year's Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature Film & Music. The performance will be preceded by a short talk on Monteverdi by Vatican historian and priest Father Michael Collins. Event lasts 90 minutes.



Claudio Monteverdi



## Cyrus Todiwala Festival Opening Dinner: A Parsi Menu

8pm / Woodstock: Feathers Hotel / £80  
(Reception, dinner and wines)

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Acclaimed chef Cyrus Todiwala prepares this year's opening festival dinner, with a menu that reflects his own Indian Parsi heritage. The price includes a drinks reception, dinner and wines.



## **Aljos Farjon Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape**

**10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6-£12**

World-renowned Dutch botanist Aljos Farjon explains why England has more ancient native oak trees than the rest of Europe combined and how he uncovered the largest single collection of ancient oak trees in Europe on the Blenheim Palace estate.



## **Caroline Moorehead A Bold and Dangerous Family: The Rosellis and the Fight Against Mussolini**

**10:30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12**

Bestselling historian and journalist Caroline Moorehead explains how Mussolini terrorised Italy and how one remarkable family, the Rosellis, bravely stood up to the tyranny at enormous personal cost.



Yuri Slezkine

## **Yuri Slezkine talks to Nick Higham The Princeton University Press Lecture. The House of Government: A Saga of the Russian Revolution**

**12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12**

Historian and writer Professor Yuri Slezkine tells the extraordinary story of an enormous Moscow apartment building where Communist true believers lived until they were all sent to prison or their deaths in Stalinist purges.

## **Mark Price talks to Kamal Ahmed Fairness for All: Unlocking the Power of Employee Engagement**

**12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12**

Former trade minister and Waitrose managing director Lord Mark Price talks to the BBC's economics editor Kamal Ahmed about how including employees can drive business success.



Mark Price

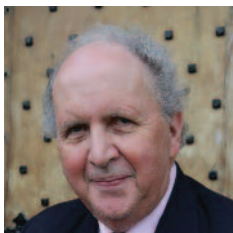


Kamal Ahmed

## Alexander McCall Smith talks to Sue MacGregor My Life in Music and Books

2pm / Blenheim Palace: The Orangery / £6-£12

One of the most prolific and popular writers of modern times Alexander McCall Smith talks with broadcaster Sue MacGregor about the music and books that have influenced his life and career. McCall Smith will select some music to be played and read some of his favourite passages.



Alexander McCall Smith  
(left) and Sue MacGregor

## Diana Moran and Muir Gray Sod Sitting, Get Moving!

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

The Green Goddess of BBC Breakfast Time Diana Moran joins forces with one of the country's leading public health experts Sir Muir Gray to explain how to keep fit and healthy in later life.



Diana Moran (left)  
and Muir Gray



## Cricket panel Chaired by Dan Norcross

3pm / Woodstock: Bear Hotel / £6-£12

Former England cricketers reflect on the ups and downs of life at the top of the English game in a discussion chaired by Dan Norcross, founder of Test Match Sofas, an alternative cricket commentary service, and a freelance commentator on BBC Test Match Special. Check website for details.



## Helena Matheopoulos Maria Callas: the Sacred Flame

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6-£12

Writer and journalist Helena Matheopoulos looks at the life and career of the legendary Greek-American soprano Maria Callas and explains why she remains one of classical music's best-selling artists and a defining figure 40 years after her death. The talk will be illustrated with music and film on CD and DVD.

## Stephen King talks to Alistair Darling Grave new World: The End of Globalisation, the Return of History

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Economist Stephen King, in conversation with former Chancellor Lord Alistair Darling, explains why globalisation is being rejected and warns that a world ruled by nations with conflicting aims could risk economic and political conflict and result in a race to the bottom. It is 10 years since the worst economic crisis in the post war world



Stephen King (left)  
and Alistair Darling

## Bettany Hughes and Danilo Cortellini Literary Dinner. Istanbul: A Tale of Three Cities

7.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £150

(Reception, dinner, wines and copy of book)

Dinner hosted by their Graces The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and HSBC Bank plc, in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO. Join award-winning historian and broadcaster Dr Bettany Hughes for a black tie literary dinner with a Venetian menu prepared by Italian Embassy head chef Danilo Cortellini and a talk on Hughes's latest book, *Istanbul: A Tale of Three Cities*.



Bettany Hughes (left)  
and Danilo Cortellini

Sponsored by







**Justine Picardie**  
**Coco Chanel and Harper's Bazaar**

**10.30am / Blenheim Palace: The Orangery / £6-£12**

Editor in chief of *Harper's Bazaar* Justine Picardie looks at the relationship between the magazine and the legendary French fashion designer and businesswoman Coco Chanel.



**Eleonora Galasso**  
**Women and Food Across the Centuries**

**10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12**

Food activist and writer Eleonora Galasso looks at how women have related to food across the centuries and gives a short cooking demonstration based around her book *As the Romans Do*.



**Melvyn Bragg**  
**William Tyndale: A Very Brief History**

**12noon / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12**

Writer and broadcaster Baron Melvyn Bragg explains what drove William Tyndale to create an English translation of the Bible in 16th-century England and how his work brought about profound change in the world and continues to resonate today. Introduced by the eminent historian Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch.



Abigail James

**Abigail James, Alyson Walsh,  
 Katy Young and Sian Ranscombe**  
**How to Look and Feel Good**

**12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6-£12**

Skin expert Abigail James and fashion journalist Alyson Walsh join forces with *Harper's Bazaar* beauty director Katy Young and *Harper's Bazaar* beauty editor Sian Ranscombe to offer some inspiration on how you can feel good and look elegant and stylish.



Alyson Walsh



Katy Young



Sian Ranscombe

## Laura Thompson

### Life in a Cold Climate: Nancy Mitford The Biography

12 noon / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12



Laura Thompson

Writer Laura Thompson talks about the life of the novelist and biographer Nancy Mitford while an actor will read a recently discovered short story written by Mitford for *Harper's Bazaar*. Event lasts 1 hour 15 minutes.



## Peter Snow and Ann Macmillan

### War Stories: Gripping Tales of Courage, Cunning and Compassion

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Gallery / £6-£12

The husband and wife broadcasting team of Peter Snow and Ann Macmillan introduce their new book of stories of ordinary men and women who rose to the challenge of war with acts of great courage and humanity.

## Alex Preston and Paula Byrne talk to Justine Picardie

### The World According to Evelyn Waugh

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Gallery / £6-£12

Novelist Alex Preston and biographer Dr Paula Byrne talk about the life and loves of Evelyn Waugh that were at one time played out on the pages of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine.



Alex Preston



Paula Byrne



## Michael Collins

### Books that Changed History

3pm / Woodstock: Bear Hotel / £6-£12

Writer, priest and former adviser to the Vatican Father Michael Collins looks at 75 of the world's most celebrated, rare and important books and talks about their purpose and their creators.





**Tatiana de Rosnay and Justine Picardie. Daphne du Maurier: Her Life and Influence**

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Fellow novelists and biographers Tatiana de Rosnay and Justine Picardie discuss the life of Daphne du Maurier and the influence her work has had on them and others.

**Philip Mould talks to Steven Parissien Compton Verney Lecture: Fake or Fortune?**

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12

Art dealer and star of the internationally popular BBC *Fake or Fortune?* series Philip Mould talks about his working life both on and off screen and about the challenges of buying art.



Philip Mould



Steven Parissien



**Erica Wagner Chief Engineer: The Man Who Built the Brooklyn Bridge**

4pm / Indian Room / £6-£12

Writer and critic Erica Wagner looks at the life and achievements of the engineer Washington Roebling, who built New York's iconic Brooklyn Bridge.

**Paul Henry and Brian Briggs The Glass Aisle: Poetry and Song**

6pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Poet Paul Henry and lead singer of the Oxfordshire band, Stornoway, Brian Briggs join forces for a session of poetry and song featuring their recent collaboration on the long poem, *The Glass Aisle*.



Paul Henry

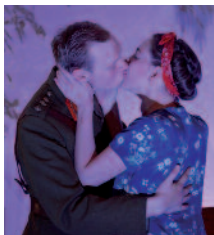


Brian Briggs

## Split Second Productions Much Ado About Nothing

10am / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12

Split Second Productions returns to Blenheim with a 'joyous and youthful' production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Event lasts 1 hour 45 minutes.



## Lucy Hughes-Hallett Peculiar Ground

10.30am / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Award-winning biographer Lucy Hughes-Hallett talks about her first novel – a haunting tale about game keepers, witches, agitators and aristocrats.



## Nicholas Parsons Just a Laugh a Minute: A One-man Comedy Show

12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Entertainer Nicholas Parsons takes his audience on a humorous and nostalgic journey through his long and eventful life with a version of his one-man comedy show. Parsons sees the funny side of every situation as he highlights with superb and often hilarious observation those events that have shaped his career.



## Alex Preston As Kingfishers Catch Fire

12.30pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6-£12

Bestselling novelist Alex Preston takes his audience on an illustrated journey through his new book – an exploration of birds through literature.



**A C Grayling**  
**Democracy and its Crisis**

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Orangery / £6-£12

Leading philosopher Professor A C Grayling explains why democracy is failing and explains how to put it right.



**Martin Kemp**  
**Mona Lisa: The People and the Painting**

2pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

One of the world's leading experts on Leonardo da Vinci Professor Martin Kemp sheds new light on the iconic painting Mona Lisa through previously undiscovered revelations about the life of the artist and the people behind the paintings.



**Stephen Westaby**  
**Fragile Lives: A Heart Surgeon's Stories of Life and Death on the Operating Table**

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Marlborough Room / £6-£12

Pioneering heart surgeon Professor Stephen Westaby offers an insight into how it feels to literally hold a patient's life in your hands.



David Bolchover

**David Bolchover talks to Matt Stadlen**  
**The Greatest Comeback, From Genocide to Football Glory, the Story of Béla Guttmann**

4pm / Blenheim Palace: Indian Room / £6-£12

Author and commentator David Bolchover tells the story of Europe's first superstar football coach Béla Guttmann, a survivor of the Holocaust who rose to twice lead the great Benfica team of the 1960s to the European Cup.



Matt Stadlen



**Lord Carey**  
**Just Five Ingredients!**  
**Making Britain Great Again.**

4pm / Blenheim Palace / £6-£12

Applying Jamie Oliver's famous dictum to a post-Brexit Britain, Lord Carey explores, in a light-hearted way, how we might overcome our Brexit fears. Lord Carey was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2002.



**Henry Blofeld talks to Alex Preston**  
**Over and Out: My Innings of a Lifetime with Test Match Special**

6pm / Blenheim Palace: The Orangery / £6-£12

The voice of test-match cricket on BBC radio Henry Blofeld talks about his half century of commentating on the sport he loves.

Henry Blofeld

**The Marlborough School Festival Programme**

sponsored by Owen Mumford Ltd  
in association with Oxford Brookes University

**Featuring writers**

Dr Sally Bayley, Aljos Farjon, Professor Simon Kövesi

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

**The Non Fiction Essay Prize**

sponsored by Blythe Campbell

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

The subject of this year's essay is rural England. The writer of the winning essay will receive £200, the runner-up £100 and third place £50. The class of the winning writer will also get to choose books worth £150 for the school library.

The competition is open to pupils in years 7 to 12 at The Marlborough School, and pupils have to write a well-argued piece inspired by 'rural England'.



**The Duke of Gloucester Lecture 2017**

at the personal invitation of  
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO  
Royal Patron of The Festival

**Details of the lecturer to be announced**

(please see website for details)

2015 Lecture given by the Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP

2016 Lecture given by Professor Louise Richardson FRSE



# Festival Patrons, Sponsors and Partners



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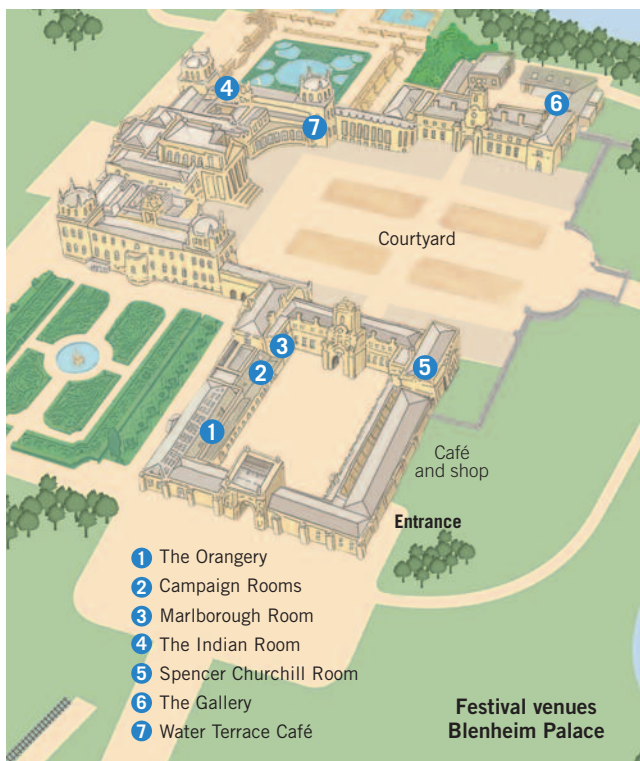
Save the Children Bookshop

Wake up to Woodstock

For information on sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 Festival (Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th October), please contact Tony Byrne at [tb@anthonybyrne.com](mailto:tb@anthonybyrne.com) or on 07801 287510



# FESTIVAL VENUES



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

An agents' booking fee of £1.50 will be added to all telephone sales