

Wednesday Lectures – Spring Term 2024

The lectures this term are being run as either Zoom or hybrid events, giving members the opportunity to attend either via Zoom, or apply for a limited number of pre-booked places to attend in person. The talks will be in the Pink room here at Bridge Street. Places can be booked 7 days before each lecture. Zoom links are on the website and will be included in the Bulletin each Wednesday on the day of the lecture. Lectures will start at 2.15 pm.

Please note that the lecture on 17 January is via Zoom only.

Any last-minute changes to the programme will be publicised in the weekly Bulletin.

17 January Canada across time: Ten events that shaped the national character **Zoom only**

Speaker Professor Adam Chapnick

Modern Canada is nothing like the land that was first inhabited by Indigenous peoples thousands of years ago. This lecture will explore how significant events in the national past, from the arrival of European settlers, through Confederation, the World Wars, the patriation of the Constitution, and many more shaped the national character. The ten events to be explored reveal a country that gives Canadians reason to feel proud, in spite of its imperfections.

Adam is a Professor of Defence Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He is located in Toronto, where he also serves as Deputy Director of Education at the Canadian Forces College.

N.B. This is the first of our International Wednesday Lectures live from Canada.

24 January Women, status and religion in 7th-century eastern Britain: the Trumpington Cross in context **Hybrid**

Speaker Dr Sam Lucy

In this talk, Sam will place into historical context the highly unusual 'bed burial' of a mysterious teenager laid to rest with a stunning gold cross at Trumpington some 1,300 years ago. The cross is currently on display at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge, until the 14th of April, 2024 (do visit).

Sam is the Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges; Admissions Tutor, Newnham College; and an archaeologist of Roman and Anglo-Saxon Britain.

31 January Gilbert White: the Curate Naturalist of Selborne **Hybrid**

Speaker Emeritus Professor Philip Stott

Published in 1789, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* has appeared in over 300 editions, and is reputedly the 4th most published work in Britain. In this lecture, we explore the life and importance of Gilbert White (1720-93), aiming to locate him in his C18th context as a parson-naturalist so well portrayed in the writings of poets like Oliver Goldsmith.

Philip is Emeritus Professor of Biogeography in the University of London and Vice Chair of U3AC.

- 7 February OLEM: Yolande Lyne-Stephens and the creation of a Cambridge church Hybrid**
- Speaker Nigel Kerry
- OLEM is one of the great landmarks of central Cambridge. In this talk, Nigel will reveal the extraordinary story of its founding, construction, development, and importance in the life of the city. Nigel is Director of Music at the Church of Our Lady of The Assumption and The English Martyrs (OLEM), Cambridge.
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- 14 February Please Miss We're Boys Hybrid**
- Speaker Susan Elkin
- Susan taught secondary school English for 36 years. Her 2019 book, *Please Miss We're Boys*, will provide the background for this intriguing talk, which examines how things used to be, and demonstrates that, although education remains fraught with problems, in many ways things are better than they were 56 years ago.
- Susan is a well-known journalist and author, with 54 books to her name.
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- 21 February Later life as adventure: Changing the narrative of ageing Hybrid**
- Speaker Professor Emeritus William L. Randall
- In this lecture, Bill will draw on nearly 30 years of teaching gerontology to explore with us the possibility of later life as an adventure: the adventure outward, the adventure inward, the adventure backward, and the adventure forward.
- Bill is in the Department of Gerontology, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, N.B., Canada, and he will be the Derek Brewer Visiting Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, during Lent 2024.
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- 28 February Secrets never to be told: an investigative journey from Edwardian Cambridge to modern Vancouver Hybrid**
- Speaker Fiona Chesterton
- In this talk, Fiona will reveal the compelling story of Jessie Heading Underwood (aka McDonald), a domestic servant in Cambridge from her teens to her late-30s, who then emigrated to the far reaches of Western Canada, to British Columbia, in 1912. It is also a remarkable examination of how Jessie's history was pieced together.
- Fiona formerly worked for the BBC and Channel 4, aligned with groundwork in Family and Local History, including in Cambridge.
- There will be an opportunity to buy Fiona's book *Secrets Never To Be Told* at the lecture.
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- 6 March Scientists and politicians: why are they incompatible? Hybrid**
- Speaker Professor Herbert Huppert
- In this talk, Herbert will address an increasingly important issue, namely the difficult relationship that exists between scientists and politicians, an issue that has been starkly exposed during the recent pandemic and with respect to climate change.
- Herbert is a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and a theoretical geophysicist.

13 March Roman emperors in political culture

Hybrid

Speaker Dr Shushma Malik

In this talk, Shushma will build on her research interests which include Roman emperors in political culture, Roman historiography, and classical receptions (particularly in the C18th and C19th). She has worked extensively on emperor Nero's portrayal in Christian history as the Antichrist and has published on portrayals of Roman emperors in the works and letters of Oscar Wilde.

Shushma is the Onassis Classics Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at Newnham College, Cambridge. She is an increasingly well-known broadcaster.

20 March

There will be no lecture as the Ron Gray Annual Conference will take place during this week (details on page 2).

27 March AGM with lecture - details to follow in the weekly Bulletin