

Wednesday Lectures – Autumn term 2024

Except for 23 October, lectures this term are being run as 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 take place in the Pink room here at Bridge Street. Places can be booked 7 days before each lecture. Please contact the Office to book, giving your name and membership number. 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 2.15pm. No entry to the Pink room before 2.00pm.

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

9 October **Cambridge Children's hospital** **HYBRID**

Speaker Dame Mary Archer, co-chair of the Campaign Board raising funds to build Cambridge Children's Hospital.

The East of England is the only area of the country that does not have a specialist children's hospital. This unfortunate anomaly will be rectified by the creation of Cambridge Children's Hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Scheduled to open in 2028/29, this hospital will treat the whole child, mind and body together, using advanced diagnostics and genomic medicine not just to treat disease, but in some cases to prevent it completely.

16 October **'One of our own' Victor Ekins** **HYBRID**

Speaker David Duker, editor of diaries.

One of Our Own tells the remarkable story of local Battle of Britain pilot Victor Ekins, based on the wartime diaries that he began in 1940 and meticulously kept every single day of the war. These diaries had lain unread for over 80 years. The book of the same title was released in July last year.

23 October **MAiD-The Journey So Far - The Road Ahead** **ZOOM ONLY**

Speaker Dr Jean Marmoreo, one of Canada's first practitioners to provide Medical Assistance in Dying.

The history of the legislative changes in Canada that introduced MAiD to Canadians and moving into the changes and evolution of the more controversial changes that occurred in 2023: mental disorders as the sole underlying cause of the request as well as advanced requests.

Please note: 3rd International Wednesday lecture live from Canada

30 October **Trailblazer: the extraordinary life and work of Barbara Leith Smith Bodichon** **HYBRID**

Speaker Jane Robinson, Senior Associate of Somerville College, Oxford.

Victorian Barbara Bodichon was responsible for the development of feminism in Britain. She campaigned for equal opportunity in the workplace, the law, the polling booth, at home, and in the world beyond the kitchen or the drawing-room; she co-founded the first university college for women in Britain (Girton) and the first women's suffrage society.

6 November Russians at war: what the Russian people think HYBRID

Speaker Alla Viktorova, from Russia, had a successful career in business and journalism in Moscow.

The War in Ukraine is likely to be long and presents the West with numerous challenges, economically, militarily and strategically. The Lecture provides a unique perspective; Alla draws on Russian public sources, data and research, as well as information from her contacts inside Russia, to describe public opinion in Russia, and related topics such as propaganda, trust in information sources, the fluctuating popularity ratings of Putin and the effect of the War on Russian attitudes to the West.

13 November The USA elections: consequences for the UK and Europe HYBRID

Speaker Lord Balfe of Dulwich, Member of The House of Lords since 2013

Richard was a member of the European Parliament sponsored Transatlantic Policy Network from the Mid 1980s until 2004 during which time he made many visits to the United States. Since then, he has visited on several occasions and has been part of the briefing programme for newly elected Members of the House of Representatives. He has lectured on modern United States social and political policy developments post 1912 and on the Lyndon B Johnson Presidency.

20 November An Archivist's View of 490 Years of Cambridge University Press HYBRID

Speaker Dr Rosalind Grooms, Cambridge University Press Archivist.

In 1534, Henry VIII granted Letters Patent to Cambridge University authorising the printing of 'all manner of books', marking the beginning of Cambridge University Press. Celebrating the 490th anniversary of the world's oldest university press, Rosalind Grooms will give an illustrated talk presenting the archival documents which bring to life the history of the people, the publishing landmarks and the changing technologies of Cambridge University Press.

27 November The versatile nerve cell HYBRID

Speaker Dr Brian McCabe, Fellow and Deputy Senior Tutor of Robinson College Cambridge.

Nerve cells are quite astonishing. Simple modifications of their basic design have led to exquisitely sensitive sense organs and some bizarre lifestyles. I'll be focussing on the use of electric fields for hunting and social communication, how a simple molecular accident enables an otherwise lethal lifestyle, and how this modification has implications for pain control.

4 December A suitable stone HYBRID

Speakers Lida Cardozo Kindersley &/or Roxanne Kindersley, Sculptors

Geology has shaped the beautiful variety of British stones used for fine carving and letter-cutting, but how do we choose which one to use? Coming from renowned letter-cutting studio The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, Roxanne and Lida explore the properties and qualities of several categories of British rocks and stones, looking at their colouration, lastingness and response to a chisel.

11 December British Antarctic Survey report HYBRID

Speaker to be confirmed