



Gloucester History Festival

2nd - 17th September 2023



gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk



Welcome to the 2023 Gloucester History Festival



I'm so thrilled that the Gloucester History Festival is back!

Putting the programme together has been a joy, a chance to put the big questions to some of Britain's most brilliant people. The nation's top historians, thinkers, actors and sportspeople will all be here to satisfy our curiosity and I can't wait to hear their answers.

From Rugby to Morris Dancing, Dick Whittington to Bridgerton, this year there really is something for everyone.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Dr Janina Ramirez,
President of the Gloucester History Festival

Welcome

The 2023 Gloucester History Festival follows our sell-out Spring Weekend. Our theme of Quests & Curiosity includes the chance to see (free) normally closed to the public buildings on Heritage Open Days Weekend, like the former Wotton Manor.

We start with the celebration of our city's finest hour – the unsuccessful Siege of Gloucester in August 1643 – followed by our largest ever Blackfriars Talks programme and a special anniversary event at Kingsholm. I'm sure you'll find much that's stimulating amongst the many great talks here. So do book at gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk - and note the King's Talks continue in the autumn.

I look forward to seeing you as we discover more of our city, country and world's history in Gloucester this September.

Richard Graham CMG, Chair of the Gloucester History Trust



Saturday 2nd - Sunday 17th September

Former Prime Minister Theresa May, Jeremy Bowen, David Olusoga, Michael Wood, Tom Holland, James Naughtie, Tracy Borman, Natalie Haynes, Susie Dent, Adam Rutherford, Iain Dale and Gary Younge are just some of Britain's top historians, broadcasters and authors at this year's Festival.

Exploring our theme of Quests and Curiosity, join us for a feast of compelling events in the magical setting of Blackfriars Priory, Britain's oldest History Festival venue. At the Festival's heart lies the unique tradition of Gloucester Day on Saturday 2nd September whilst Heritage Open Days from 8th-10th September throws magnificent historic buildings open to all.



See pages 7-25 for the full Blackfriars Talks programme

Gloucester Day

Saturday 2nd September

Join us for a day of celebrations!

Gloucester Day commemorates the lifting of the Siege of Gloucester in 1643 with a day full of frivolity, parades, music, street stalls, entertainment, and a Mock Mayor making ceremony with our very own Town Crier Alan Myatt.

Celebrating the rich heritage of our historic city, it's a day completely unique to Gloucester. Expect colourful regalia, decorations, national costumes, banners and flags all to feature at the Gloucester Day Parade.



Mock Mayor of Barton's Parade

11.00am

Starting along Constitution Walk
This intentionally comical parade is filled with larger than life Gloucester characters, traditional entertainers, music and above all fun.

Gloucester Day Thanksgiving Service

12.00noon-12.30pm

St Mary De Crypt
Everyone is invited to attend this free service.

Gloucester Day Parade

2.00pm

Starting along Constitution Walk
The second parade of the day is a far more formal affair – involving hundreds of participants led by the Right Worshipful Mayor of Gloucester. The parade is the finest example of community cohesion in the city today with hundreds of people, young and old, marching to show their pride for their city.

Events at Gloucester Day are free and no booking is needed.

**For more details visit:
gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk**

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th September

**Heritage
Open Days**

For the 28th year, Gloucester is opening its doors on Heritage Open Days from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September 2023.

Organised by the Civic Trust, come and celebrate Gloucester's history, architecture and culture by joining in the wide and varied range of events taking place over the weekend. Every event is FREE to participate in.

Make exciting new discoveries by visiting historic buildings which are usually closed to the public or charge admission, such as one of the finest examples of a Tudor Merchant's house in the country or by stepping aboard an unusual B&B housed in a lightship. Join themed guided walks around the city and find out about the people such as a Roman Emperor or a miserly banker who have played their part in making Gloucester what it is today. In addition immerse yourself in talks, musical and cultural events linked to the local area.

For the full Gloucester Heritage Open Days programme visit: gloucestercivictrust.org



heritage open days



Exploring Gloucestershire's History



150 Years of Gloucester Rugby

Thursday 7th September

The Captain's Lounge,
Kingsholm Stadium,
Kingsholm Rd,
Gloucester

7pm-9pm £12

From the first ever international rugby game in 1871 to the debut Rugby World Cup in 1987, from the creation of the Home Nation Championship in 1893 to the start of the professional game in 1995, things have certainly changed for the sport but the City's support for the Cherry & Whites remains unwavering. Join legendary players past and present and Gloucester Rugby historian Malc King to explore and celebrate key moments from 150 years of Gloucester Rugby. All proceeds go to supporting the Gloucester Rugby Foundation's heritage project.

Gloucestershire Battlefields

Wednesday 6th September

The Gala Club, Fairmile
Gardens, Tewkesbury
Road, Gloucester

7.30-8.30pm Free
No booking required

The popular local historian Tony Conder will again open the Gloucester Civic Trust's autumn/winter series of talks. Gloucestershire has been the site of several battles over the centuries. Invasion, dispute over who holds the crown and civil war all brought large scale warfare to corners of the county. Alongside these have been smaller disputes between neighbours, riots over workers' rights and the price of corn. The riot act has been read at the building of railways, bridges, canals and over land trespass. This talk looks at the places of battle and their consequences on the history of the country and the county.

The October King's Talk Windrush 75: Welcome to Gloucester

Carlton Green,
Gail Johnson
& Bernard Westcarr

Ivor Gurney Hall,
King's School,
Pitt St, Gloucester

6-7pm £6

Carlton Green, author of High Hopes and Great Expectations and Bernard Westcarr, creator of Memoirs of A Peasant Boy, were both born in Jamaica and came to live in Gloucester in 1957 and 1960. They join Gail Johnson, whose A Long Five Years explores the lives of older Black citizens most of whom came to the City from Jamaica in young adulthood, to talk about their lives. Curated by Carole Francis-McGann and the St Ann Society of Gloucester.

For date and full details visit the website.

Book these events at gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

Visiting the Blackfriars Talks

Former Prime Minister Theresa May, Jeremy Bowen, David Olusoga, Michael Wood, Tom Holland, James Naughtie, Tracy Borman, Natalie Haynes and Gary Young are just some of the top historians, broadcasters and authors taking part in a feast of compelling events in the magical setting of Blackfriars Priory.

How to Book

Book tickets: gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

Book by phone: 07834 406228

Tickets available in person at:

Museum of Gloucester, Brunswick Road, Gloucester
Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm
(closed Sundays only from 3rd September)

There is a Box Office onsite but we recommend booking ahead to avoid disappointment.

Reservable seating:

You can now choose and book specific seats when you book online, via phone or in person.

Book signings: are organised by Waterstones and take place after each event.

Book a Festival Pass

Quench your curiosity and enjoy one of our great value Festival Passes. Limited numbers are available and often sell out quickly.

Day Pass: £40 available Monday to Friday offers entry to all events that day saving 20%.

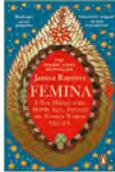
Festival Pass: £380 offers entry to all 44 Blackfriars events, Festival lanyard and the same reserved seat throughout saving 20%.



Blackfriars Talks Saturday 9th September

Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages Through the Women Written Out Of It

Janina Ramirez Time: 12.00-1.00pm £12

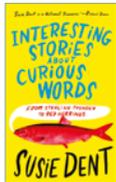


The Middle Ages are often seen as a bloodthirsty time of warriors, saints and kings: a patriarchal society oppressing and excluding women.

Janina Ramirez digs beneath the surface to reveal that the Dark Ages were anything but. In a gripping new talk she explores the lives of extraordinary medieval women from Hildegard of Bingen to the Cathar Spies, casts fresh light on the women behind the Bayeux Tapestry and uncovers some intriguing 'everyday women' whose lives reveal fascinating issues of migration, race, gender and sexuality. Join Janina for a brand new talk with material unexplored in her Spring Weekend event.

Interesting Stories About Curious Words

Susie Dent Time: 2.00-3.00pm £12



Who was Sweet Fanny Adams? Why are circles vicious? And, what's so bad about a white elephant? Join **Susie Dent**, lexicographer extraordinaire, Queen of Countdown's Dictionary Corner and star of 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown for a curious and exceedingly interesting adventure through the English language. She explores those words that have fallen out of use, and those words now locked in the past that really should be revived.

Call the Midwife

Stephen McGann & Heidi Thomas Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10



Join **Stephen McGann**, who plays Dr Turner, and series creator **Heidi Thomas** as they take us behind the scenes of Nonnatus House and discuss the pleasures and perils of creating one of Britain's best-loved TV dramas. Starting in the fifties and travelling through the white heat of the sixties to Enoch Powell's 1968 Rivers of Blood speech and beyond, they explore the challenges of translating the social history of a fast-changing era onto the screen, the portrayal of women's lives and the now global influence of the series.

David Olusoga in Conversation

David Olusoga & Janina Ramirez Time: 6.00-7.00pm £12



Join us for a special event with **David Olusoga**, the BAFTA award-winning historian, presenter, filmmaker and author of *Black and British: A Forgotten History*. His many television credits include *Civilisations*, *Black and British* and the much-loved *A House Through Time* which returns with a new series in the Spring. He joins **Janina Ramirez** to discuss his role as a writer, filmmaker and historian, his new series on the Union of the British nations and why black British History matters.

Stone Blind: Medusa's Story

Natalie Haynes Time: 8.00-9.00pm £10



Natalie Haynes, 'rockstar mythologist', brings us her irresistible take on the snake-haired gorgon. Medusa is one of the most recognisable figures in Greek myth, her face has stared out at us for millennia, from Agamemnon's shield in *The Iliad* to Versace's logo today. But was she always the terrifying monster we have made her? Join the star of Radio 4's *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics* for a thrilling fast-paced tour through Medusa's history as she brings her to life as you've never seen her before.

'Witty, gripping, ruthless.' (Margaret Atwood)

Blackfriars Talks Sunday 10th September

Beowulf & the Anglo-Saxon World

Janina Ramirez Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



Warriors. Monsters. Dragons. Gold. Join bestselling Femina author **Janina Ramirez** as she explores the spellbinding world of Beowulf, the daring hero who slayed a monster and became a King. This 6th century story, which survived in a single burnt manuscript, opens an extraordinary window into the culture of the Anglo-Saxons and is now published in a stunning new Folio Society edition. She offers a fascinating insight into Beowulf's origins, its legacy and takes us on an enthralling journey into the rich culture of the Anglo-Saxon world.

The Wolfson Prize: Clare Jackson

Devil-Land: England Under Siege Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10



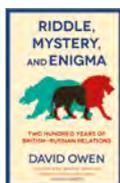
From the Spanish Armada in 1588 to the not-so 'Glorious Revolution' a hundred years later, from the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 to the Great Fire of London, late Tudor and Stuart England was remarkably unstable, a country under siege. In a gripping talk, presenter of the landmark BBC2 series The Stuarts and winner of the 2022 Wolfson History Prize for Devil-Land, **Clare Jackson** tells the enthralling story of this remarkable century offering a spectacular reinterpretation of England's past that will change our view of 17th century England forever.

In association with the Wolfson History Prize.

'Amazing, extraordinary, perception-changing'
(Andrew Marr)

Riddle, Mystery & Enigma: 200 Years of British-Russian Relations

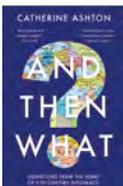
David Owen Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10



From his first meeting with President Brezhnev in Moscow in 1977, former Foreign Secretary, member of the Gang of Four and leader of the SDP, **David Owen** was fascinated by Britain's relationship with Russia. From George Canning's time as Foreign Secretary to the impact of Communism on 20th century politics and Russia's war with Ukraine, he offers a unique perspective on the ebb and flow of two hundred years of British-Russian relationships which in recent times he describes as 'the good, the bad and the ugly'. He explores the increasingly complicated relations between Russia, Britain and the West – past and present.

Dispatches from 21st Century Diplomacy

Catherine Ashton Time: 6.00-7.00pm £10



So much of modern day diplomacy still takes place behind closed doors, away from prying eyes. So what does this vital role really look like in today's world – and what does it take to do it well? From 2009-2014 **Catherine Ashton** was Europe's foreign policy supremo working with John Kerry and Hillary Clinton, negotiating historic settlements such as the Iran nuclear deal, encountering dictators, war criminals and natural disasters from Serbia to Somalia, Kosovo to Kyiv. She joins Gloucester's MP and former diplomat **Richard Graham** to speak frankly about what really happens behind the scenes on the world stage.

'Extraordinary stories, extraordinary woman' (Richard Osman)

Dispatches from the Diaspora: From Nelson Mandela to Black Lives Matter

Gary Young Time: 7.30-8.30pm £10



Broadcaster, author and former editor-at-large of The Guardian, **Gary Young** accompanied Nelson Mandela on his first election campaign, entered New Orleans days after Hurricane Katrina, watched the Black Lives Matter movement take off from a St Louis suburb, witnessed the effects of Covid on Black communities and has interviewed icons from Maya Angelou to Desmond Tutu. Join him as he shares his dispatches from the frontline of global events translating history into words 'fused with truth, power and illumination' (David Lammy).

'Gary Young writes with Swiss-watch attention to detail about the things that really matter.'
(Lenny Henry)

Blackfriars Talks Monday 11th September

Roman Glevum: The Final 100 Years

Neil Holbrook Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



The Roman name for Gloucester was Glevum, best translated as 'the bright city'. It was one of only a handful of towns in Britain that had the highest legal status as a colony (colonia) of Roman citizens.

In a compelling new talk Cotswold Archaeology chief

Neil Holbrook explores the city's last century from c AD 350-450. Was this a period of slow decline, or were the city's fortunes little diminished right up until the end of the Roman period? Evidence, some of it brand new, for high-ranking officials drawn from across the Roman Empire in Gloucester in the 5th century provides tantalising insights into the importance of the town at the time when Britain was ceasing to be recognisably Roman.

Blackfriars: The Priory & its People

Phil Moss Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10



Leading local historian **Phil Moss** reveals the intriguing story of Blackfriars Priory, built in 1249, home to Britain oldest surviving library building and a stunning architectural time capsule. He tells its extraordinary tale through the lives of its dwellers between the 13th and 19th centuries. From the medieval friar who went rogue causing the townsfolk to lay siege to the building to Thomas Bell, the Bill Gates of Elizabethan Gloucester, who saved the Priory from destruction by Henry VIII. And from Raikes the Elder who printed the 18th century Gloucester Journal at the Priory to Thomas Talbot who manufactured his bestselling Victorian mineral water, the Evian of its day, right here at Blackfriars.

Monday to Friday only: **Day pass to all events today: £40**

Black Portraiture Across the Centuries

Peter Brathwaite Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10

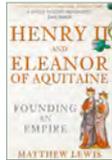


From The Adoration of the Magi by Georges Trubert and Portrait of an Unknown Man by Jan Mostaert to Barack Obama by Kehinde Wiley, Black subjects have been portrayed in Western art for nearly a millennium. Opera singer and Radio 3 broadcaster **Peter Brathwaite** takes us on an extraordinary visual journey through the representation of Black subjects in Western art from medieval Europe to the present day, following his recent BBC programme and exhibition at Bristol Art Gallery & Museum.

'A breathtaking visual explosion in which Brathwaite reimagines a wide variety of portraits of Black people in a stunningly creative way...but also an important historical work.' (Floella Benjamin)

Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine: Founding An Empire

Matthew Lewis Time: 6.00-7.00pm £10



Henry II, the founder of England's most successful and longest-ruling dynasty, became the first Plantagenet King of England in 1154 after 20 years of civil war. But he didn't come to the throne alone. He had married the feisty and formidable Eleanor of Aquitaine ten years before and with them the Angevin Empire was born. Historian, TV presenter and host of the Gone Medieval podcast **Matthew Lewis** tells the gripping story of the ultimate medieval power couple examining the impact of their union on European politics, and the rise and demise of the Angevin Empire which spread from the Northumberland coast to Mediterranean shores.

Finding Whitefriars: The Rediscovery of Gloucester's Lost Friary

Andrew Armstrong Time: 8.00-9.00pm £10



You might be familiar with St Oswald's Priory, Llanthony Priory, Blackfriars and Greyfriars, but Gloucester actually had a fifth friary - the Whitefriars. This Carmelite Friary built in 1270 was a thriving and vital part of the medieval city. Today nothing survives above ground, but the King's Quarter redevelopment provided a thrilling once in a generation opportunity to solve the mystery of this magnificent lost building. In a compelling talk City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** brings the Carmelites vividly to life, explores how archaeologists investigated the site and shares their extraordinary discoveries.

Blackfriars Talks Tuesday 12th September

Apperley to Dymock: Place Names in the Gloucestershire Landscape

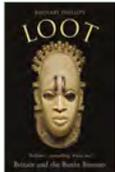
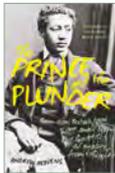
Simon Draper Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



From Apperley 'apple-tree wood' to Hartpury 'pear-tree with hard pears', Saintbury 'Saewine's enclosure' to Dymock 'fort of the pigs', Gloucestershire's place names tell us more about our ancestors than we could ever imagine! Join Cambridge historian **Simon Draper**, leading expert in landscape archaeology, as he explores the fascinating hidden history of Gloucestershire's place-names, revealing the mysteries they unlock about the county's people, places and landscapes more than 1,000 years ago.

Loot & Plunder

Andrew Heavens & Barnaby Phillips Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10



Andrew Heavens tells the extraordinary story of Ethiopia's 'Elgin Marbles', the Victorian kidnap of a young Ethiopian Prince who was taken to England with the country's treasures and the campaign to return them to their original home. He's joined by **Barnaby Phillips**, who has followed the worldwide trail of the Benin Bronzes. They tell tales of African loot and plunder – treasures stolen in the days of Empire and now stashed in Western museums - exploring where the treasures ended up and how those institutions are responding to mounting calls for their return.

Monday to Friday only: **Day pass to all events today: £40**

Spitfire!

Air Marshal Black Robertson & Dilip Sarkar Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10



Why does the Spitfire have such a powerful hold over our imaginations? An icon of the Battle of Britain and the courage of The Few in England's greatest hour of need, it's become the stuff of legend. Leading Battle of Britain historian **Dilip Sarkar** explores the legendary aircraft and the stories of those men and women who built, maintained and flew in it, including Gloucestershire's own fascinating Spitfire connection. He's joined by author and former RAF pilot **Air Marshal Black Robertson**, ambassador for the National Spitfire Project, whose father was a decorated Spitfire ace, to share tales of triumph and tragedy.

Victory to Defeat: The British Army 1918 – 1940

General Lord Richard Dannatt & Robert Lyman Time: 6.00-7.00pm £10

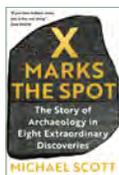


Join **General Lord Richard Dannatt**, former senior Army Officer and Chief of the General Staff, and **Robert Lyman**, Britain's top military historian, as they bring to life their compelling new history of the decline of an army from the triumph of victory in 1918 to defeat in 1940. With the British Army now to be cut to its smallest since 1714, it's both a fascinating story and a cautionary tale for modern Britain.

X Marks the Spot:

The Story of Archaeology in Eight Extraordinary Discoveries

Michael Scott Time: 8.00-9.00pm £12



Through eight sensational stories of discovery, from the Rosetta Stone and the Terracotta Warriors to Machu Picchu, **Michael Scott** traces the evolution of archaeology itself from colonial expeditions to today's cutting-edge digs. Trekking from the jungles of South America to the frozen highlands of Central Asia, investigating ancient human footprints and stunning shipwrecks, the star of BBC2's *Ancient Invisible Cities* reveals just how much the discovery of our past is intertwined with the concerns of our present in a compelling new talk.

Blackfriars Talks Wednesday 13th September

Who was the Real Dick Whittington?

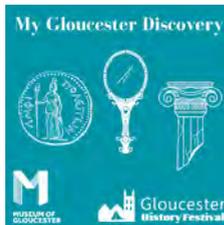
Michael McCarthy Time: 1.00-2.00pm £10



Leading historian **Michael McCarthy** follows the clues to discover the real Dick Whittington. On the 600th anniversary of the 1423 death of the Gloucestershire boy who became the Lord Mayor of both London and Calais, he starts at his birthplace Pauntley Court in Redmarley. Solving the mystery surrounding the early life of the cat-loving Cotswold mercer, he reveals how he made his fortune in the City of London, explores his dealings with Richard II and Henry IV and his remarkable influence on Henry V's victory at Agincourt in 1415 in this fascinating illustrated talk.

My Gloucester Discovery

Janina Ramirez, David Carpenter & Andrew Armstrong Time: 3.00-4.00pm £10



Greg Jenner, Helen Carr and Yasmin Khan are just some of Britain's top historians who've been filmed meeting their own special treasure at the Museum of Gloucester this year. Today **Janina Ramirez** joins one of Britain's most admired medieval historians, Henry III expert **David Carpenter**, and City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** to discuss their own favourite discoveries live at Blackfriars. Janina's treasure is the mysterious Birdlip Mirror, Andrew's is the priceless Gloucester Venus and David has chosen Gloucester's huge 13th century East Gate! Join them for an entertaining hour as they explore the intriguing stories of these objects and share their love of Gloucester's rich history.

#mygloucesterdiscovery

In association with the Museum of Gloucester.

Travels in Time

Michael Wood Time: 5.00-6.00pm £14



Join historian and film maker **Michael Wood** in conversation with **Janina Ramirez** telling stories from his long and varied career in television, from the Dark Ages and Troy, to

Alexander the Great, the lost cities of the Incas, and his epic grand sweep histories of India and China. Full of fascinating anecdote and sometimes hilarious - occasionally hair-raising - adventures, this special one-off promises to be a real treat and will be followed by a question and answer session.

Why the Anglo-Saxons Matter

Michael Wood Time: 7.00-8.00pm £14



Leading historian and broadcaster **Michael Wood** looks at the roots of England in the formative centuries between the Romans and the Norman Conquest when many crucial aspects of English culture were formed. Along with portraits of great rulers such as Alfred the Great and Athelstan, Michael will show exciting new manuscript evidence for less well known figures like Archbishop Theodore of Tarsus and Abbot Hadrian of Canterbury - the 'man of the African nation' as Bede calls him - and also Aethelflaed Lady of the Mercians, and Eadgyth Queen of Germany, arguing that biography is possible for women too in this very creative and exciting time.

Monday to Friday only: **Day pass to all events today: £40**

Blackfriars Talks Thursday 14th September

In Search of Mary Seacole

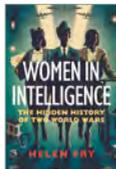
Helen Rappaport Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



Nurse, healer, humanitarian and entrepreneur: Mary Seacole born in Jamaica became the most famous black woman in Victorian Britain thanks to her vital work in the Crimean War. But her life story is plagued by myths and misconceptions, facts buried, narratives twisted to suit the teller, sometimes even by Mary herself. From her supposed rivalry with Florence Nightingale to her personal life, her celebrity status to her later bankruptcy, leading historian and Russia expert **Helen Rappaport** uncovers the truth behind the extraordinary story of 'Mother Seacole'.

Women in Intelligence: The Hidden History of Two World Wars

Helen Fry Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10

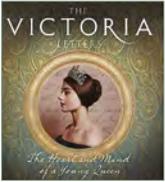


From Bletchley Park to Belgian spies knitting coded messages into jumpers, from parachuting in behind enemy lines to running spy networks and interrogating prisoners, women took on an extraordinary range of roles in intelligence in both world wars defying the conventions of their time. Join bestselling intelligence historian **Helen Fry** as she reveals just how crucial women were in the intelligence mission and shares their courageous stories for the very first time.

Monday to Friday only: **Day pass to all events today: £40**

From Bridgerton to Poldark: The Secret Life of the Historical Consultant

Hannah Greig, Helen Fry & Helen Rappaport Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10

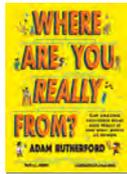


What does a TV historical consultant do? How do they square the need for accuracy with the demands of the plot? **Hannah Greig**, consultant to Bridgerton, Poldark and Oscar-winner The Favourite, **Helen Rappaport**, consultant to TV series Victoria, and **Helen Fry** whose TV docu-dramas include Spying on Hitler's Army's and the Hunt for Hitler's Missing Millions, are three of Britain's top historical advisors. Join them as they reveal their secrets and share the highs and lows of this fascinating yet sometimes challenging job. Chaired by HistoryExtra Content Director **David Musgrove**.

In association with HistoryExtra.

Where Are You Really From?

Adam Rutherford Time: 6.00-7.00pm £12

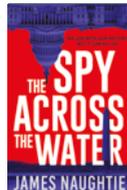


Join writer and broadcaster **Adam Rutherford**, star of Radio 4's The Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry and author of the bestselling How to Argue with a Racist, for a compelling journey through millions of years of human history exploring evolution, race and the real human story. Showing just how far and wide humans

have migrated around the world, he dismantles common myths of who we really are – what race is, where we come from and what it means to be human. Mind-boggling, entertaining and illuminating, join him for the epic journey.

James Naughtie in Conversation: The Spy Across The Water

James Naughtie Time: 8.00-9.00pm £12



Top BBC broadcaster **James Naughtie** presented BBC Radio 4's Today for 21 years, is a special correspondent for BBC News and has reported on America for over five decades from Nixon to Trump. His latest novel The Spy Across the Water explores statecraft and spy craft from Northern Ireland to Washington in the long shadow of the Cold War. He discusses his experiences and explores

the challenges of translating politics onto the page, when truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.

Blackfriars Talks Friday 15th September

Margaret Beaufort: The Mother of the Tudor Dynasty

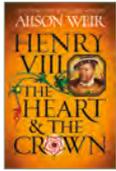
Nicola Tallis Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



Join leading Tudor historian **Nicola Tallis** to explore the extraordinary life of the courageous and ambitious Margaret Beaufort, the mother who created the Tudor Dynasty. She narrowly avoided the headman's axe as she plotted to overthrow Richard III in her efforts to secure her son the throne. And, against all odds, saw her son Henry Tudor crowned King Henry VII after his victory at the Battle Bosworth in 1485 making her the most powerful woman in England - a Queen in all but name.

Henry VIII: The Heart & The Crown

Alison Weir Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10



A second son, not born to rule, becomes a man and a King. His brother Arthur's untimely death sees Harry crowned in 1509 soon becoming the most infamous monarch in English History. **Alison Weir**, the Sunday Times bestselling historian, joins us to share a compelling new exploration of the life of Henry VIII, the man behind the myth. 'Piecing together a wealth of rich period detail and eyewitness accounts she gets under the skin of the man who is so often dismissed as a much-married monster and gives us an altogether more nuanced, compelling and human portrayal'. (Tracy Borman).

The Princes in the Tower: Murder, Mystery or Myth

Nathen Amin, Nicola Tallis & Matthew Lewis Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10



The murder of the Princes in the Tower in 1483 must be the most famous cold case in British history. Traditionally considered victims of their ruthless uncle Richard III, there are other suspects too often and too easily discounted. Three of Britain's top medieval and Tudor historians **Nathen Amin**, **Matthew Lewis** and **Nicola Tallis** offer fresh insights and radically different opinions on one of the classic mysteries of English history. Hear their evidence, have your say – and vote at the end for the most convincing argument!

On This Day in Politics & Kings and Queens

Iain Dale Time: 6.00-7.00pm £12



When did Big Ben first Bong? When did the first woman cast her vote? (clue: it wasn't 1918) From the first meeting of an elected English parliament in 1265 to the Bill of Rights in 1689 and the Peterloo Massacre in 1819, acclaimed political broadcaster **Iain Dale** explores the history of our constitutional settlement, our party system and our parliamentary democracy. Writing as an observer of political history, and now royal history in his new book **Kings and Queens**, he's famously not short of an opinion or two. He joins Gloucester's MP **Richard Graham** for a journey through Britain's political history, meeting Prime Ministers and Peers, **Kings and Queens** and - of course - the great British electorate.

Britain is Better than This

Gavin Esler & Iain Dale Time: 8.00-9.00pm £12



For centuries, British identity has been shaped by ideas of exceptionalism, grandeur and competence. Yet, argues **Gavin Esler**, British democracy is failing with fundamental flaws in core institutions including both Westminster and the media. The former BBC Newsnight presenter and award-winning journalist

joins leading political broadcaster **Iain Dale** for an urgent and timely exploration of how the British political system has developed over the 20th century and the challenges it faces, both at home and overseas, in the 21st. And if our political system is in peril, what should we do to save it?



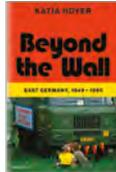
Monday to Friday only: **Day pass to all events today: £40**

Blackfriars Talks Saturday 16th September

Beyond the Wall:

East Germany from the Berlin Blockade to the Fall of Communism

Katja Hoyer Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



When the iron curtain fell in 1990, East Germany simply disappeared. For over 40 years, the GDR presented a radically different German identity to anything that had come before. Socialist solidarity, the Stasi, central planning, barbed wire: this was a Germany forged on the fault lines of ideology. From the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 to its destruction in 1989, bestselling historian **Katja Hoyer** argues that amid oppression and hardship, East Germany was home to a rich political, social and cultural landscape, a place far more dynamic than the Cold War caricature of the West. In a compelling talk she explores the unique life and society that developed beyond the Wall.

'Profoundly insightful, it explodes many of the lazy Western clichés about East Germany.' (Andrew Roberts)

The Weimar Years: Rise and Fall

Frank McDonough & Paul McGann Time: 2.00-3.00pm £10



Established in 1918 after Germany's catastrophic defeat in the First World War and ushering in a new era of widespread social reform, deliciously decadent culture and the most democratic conditions the German people had ever known, Weimar was a regime that provided hope for democracy, stability and prosperity. But it was rapidly undermined by economic upheaval and political violence. By 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed as Chancellor and the rest is history. Acclaimed historian **Frank McDonough** talks about his magisterial new portrait of the Weimar Years with dramatised readings from the book by one of Britain's leading actors **Paul McGann**. Chaired by **Janina Ramirez**.

'Magisterial, terrifyingly relevant and yet also a celebration of Weimar's delicious decadence.' (Simon Sebag Montefiore).

Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age

Tom Holland Time: 4.00-5.00pm £12



Join **Tom Holland**, the award-winning historian, and co-presenter of the podcast *The Rest is History*, to explore his definitive history of Rome's Golden Age – antiquity's ultimate superpower at the pinnacle of its greatness. Beginning in AD69, a year that saw four Caesars and ending seven decades later with the death of Hadrian, this dazzling event explores the destruction of Jerusalem and Pompeii, the building of the Colosseum and Hadrian's Wall and demonstrates how Roman peace was in fact the fruit of unprecedented military violence.

Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I: The Mother and Daughter Who Changed History

Tracy Borman Time: 6.00-7.00pm £12



Bestselling Tudor historian and top history broadcaster **Tracy Borman** explores one of the most extraordinary mother and daughter relationships of all time. Elizabeth I, the 'Virgin Queen', was less than 3 years old when her mother Anne Boleyn was executed on the orders of Henry VIII. Yet Tracy Borman uncovers compelling new evidence that Anne exerted a profound influence on her daughter's character, beliefs and reign. Piecing together original documents and artefacts she sheds an extraordinary new light on two of the most famous women in history.

Hampton Court: From the Tudors to the Windsors

Tracy Borman & Gareth Russell Time: 8.00-9.00pm £12



For 500 years Hampton Court has been a place of power, scandal and intrigue: a stage for events that have shaped the nation. From the kitchens of Henry VII and the dreams of Anne Boleyn to Elizabeth I's brush with death and the mistresses of Charles II. The palace has been the backdrop to feuding Georgian aristocrats and the era of the Windsors when it hosted Elizabeth II's coronation ball and gave refuge to the last Tsar's sister. Bestselling Tudor historian **Tracy Borman**, joint Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces including Hampton Court, joins **Gareth Russell**, author of a compelling new history of the building to explore the personal tragedy and political importance of this magical royal residence.

Blackfriars Talks Sunday 17th September

The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho

Paterson Joseph Time: 12.00-1.00pm £10



Charles Ignatius Sancho was an 18th century composer and campaigner and one of Britain's first recorded Black voters. Born on a slave ship where his parents both died, he went on to tread the boards in London theatres, become a highly acclaimed musician, lead the fight to end slavery, meet the King and become the first Black person to cast his vote. Join one of Britain's best-loved actors, **Paterson Joseph** as he talks about his award-winning, captivating and bestselling novel and tells the true story of a Great Black Briton at the heart of Georgian London.

'An absolutely thrilling, throat-catching wonder of a historical novel.'
(Stephen Fry)

Former Prime Minister Theresa May in Conversation: The Abuse of Power

Theresa May Time: 2.00-3.00pm £15



©Rory Lewis



Former Prime Minister and Home Secretary **Theresa May** discusses her remarkable new book, a searing expose of the abuse of power by public institutions and politicians in a series of riveting first-hand accounts from her time in office. From the Hillsborough and Grenfell tragedies to parliamentary scandals, Stop and Search and the Salisbury Poisonings, she draws on her experiences in domestic and international affairs at the highest level. She reveals how the powerful repeatedly chose to use their power to serve themselves and argues for a radical rethink in how we approach our politics and public life.

The Bone Chests: Unlocking The Secrets of the Anglo-Saxons

Cat Jarman Time: 4.00-5.00pm £10



Join **Cat Jarman** the brilliant bioarchaeologist and bestselling author of *The River Kings* for a gripping new history of the Anglo-Saxons told through six bone chests, stored for over a thousand years in Winchester Cathedral. Almost destroyed by the Parliamentary Army in 1642, they hold the remains of kings, saints and bishops including Edward the Confessor, Edmund Ironside and Queen Emma of Normandy. Using detective work and cutting-edge forensic techniques, she unlocks the secrets of the Anglo-Saxons drawing astonishing new insights into the lives of these men and women who witnessed and orchestrated the creation of England.

The Making of the Modern Middle East

Jeremy Bowen Time: 6.00-7.00pm £14



Jeremy Bowen, the BBC's International Editor, has been covering the Middle East since 1989 and is uniquely placed to explain its complex past and troubled present. From countries as diverse as Erdogan's Turkey, Assad's Syria and Netanyahu's Israel, he takes us on a journey across the Middle East and through its history meeting ordinary men and women on the front line, and their leaders, whether brutal or benign. He joins us to offer a gripping and invaluable guide to the modern Middle East and explore how it came to be and what its future might hold.

The Art of Darkness: Goth Night

Janina Ramirez, John Robb & live music from Inkubus Sukkubus

Time: 8.00-10.00pm £10



From the fall of Rome to Lord Byron, Edgar Allan Poe to the Cathedrals of Gothenburg, join us to explore the dark history of Goth. Tonight we leave no (grave) stone unturned in our celebration of pop's darker subculture. John Robb, The Membranes frontman, is the legendary music journalist who was the first to interview Nirvana and has now written the definitive history of Goth via The Doors, Bauhaus, The Cure, The Sisters of Mercy, and Nick Cave through to Billie Eilish and The 1975. Grab a drink and join us for fabulous music from **Candia** and **Tony McKormack** and **Inkubus Sukkubus**, and great conversation with **Janina Ramirez** and **John Robb** all in the candlelit, after-dark Gothic heaven of Blackfriars Priory.

VOICES

GLOUCESTER

Our Living History, Told By You



KUSHTI DIVVUS – Forgotten Stories of Gloucester's Romany Gypsy Community

The Folk of Gloucester
8 July–21 August
Thursday–Sunday 10am–4pm

Kelly Marie Horsley has been recording her family's rich heritage across the generations and will share her stunning collection of photography and stories. With a special event on 8 July that includes music and food.



Image credit: Elle Shipman

KINGSHOLM LOOKING UP AND MONUMENTS

Launch 5 August 10am–4pm

A day of free and fun activities throughout Kingsholm – at the Heritage Hub, Clapham Court and Roots Cafe. See the website for the full map and list of activities.

Monuments is an interactive, animated art trail created to celebrate Hillfield Gardens. When you discover a QR-code, you've found an animation that shows moving monuments.

FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT VOICESGLOUCESTER.ORG.UK

Our year-round programme is created by people from every walk of life who share a passion for storytelling and a deep sense of pride in Gloucester.

This is living history, art and heritage – creating an important legacy for future generations.

Our projects are as diverse as the city itself and all our events are free to attend.

Here is a small selection of our coming programme, full details can be found at voicesgloucester.org.uk...



THE GLOUCESTER GATES

The Folk of Gloucester
1-15 September
Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm

'The Gates' – four streets at the heart of Gloucester packed with heritage – is being given a fresh perspective by six local primary schools and local artist Catherine Hawkrigde to create a child's eye map of this historic city centre.

THREADS – A COSTUME FOR GLOUCESTER

Gloucester Cathedral
15 September-1 October

A Costume for Gloucester has been created by more than 100 stitchers and will be worn in the Gloucester Day parade on Saturday 2 September before going on display in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral 15 September-1 October, accompanied by Gloucester garments with a story to tell. A two-day textiles symposium takes place at The Folk, 29-30 September, with industry luminaries.

AND SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO KEEP UP TO DATE



ABOUT VOICES GLOUCESTER

Our exciting, community led programme offers funding, mentoring and support to individuals or organisations that want to tell their story about Gloucester's history.

Our programme aims to challenge what history is, in a safe, supportive environment, respect and represent new voices, offer unexpected perspectives on events, spark new conversations, connect communities with shared experiences and inspire more people to connect with the heritage, history and community of Gloucester.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMME

Do you have an idea for a project or event that celebrates Gloucester's culture, heritage and communities? We welcome applications for our grants from anyone in our community. Details can be found at our website – voicesgloucester.org.uk or email info@voicesgloucester.org.uk for enquiries.

VISIT [VOICESGLOUCESTER.ORG.UK](https://voicesgloucester.org.uk)
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Our programme of events are created by individuals from every walk of life. From historical talks to works of art, from theatre to exhibitions, from poetry to podcasts – we want to hear the voices of Gloucester.

Visit voicesgloucester.org.uk to get involved and see our full programme of year round events.

Voices Gloucester is supported by



The Festival Patron's Scheme

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Dr Janina Ramirez,
Festival President



Find out more: www.Gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/support-us/



The Waterstones Festival Bookshop

Books are available to browse and buy at Blackfriars Priory from Waterstones, the Festival Bookseller. Book signings organised by Waterstones take place after each event. Why not also visit the Waterstones shop just 3 minutes' walk away? 13-15 Eastgate Street, Gloucester.

Waterstones

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Thank you to everyone who has helped make the Gloucester History Festival 2023 a success.

And particular thanks to Andrew Pitt whose especially generous financial support has been integral to our success.



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Thank you to all of our individual Festival Patrons for their kind support. We acknowledge all of our Patrons ahead of each Blackfriars Talk and also on our website.

Save the Dates for 2024

Spring Weekend: Friday 12th – Sunday 14th April 2024

The Gloucester History Festival: Saturday 7th – Sunday 22nd September 2024

And our monthly King's Talks continue all year round

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Gloucester History Festival

The Secrets of Stonehenge: The Stones Through the Centuries

Julian Richards

Saturday 21st October

6.30-7.30pm £10

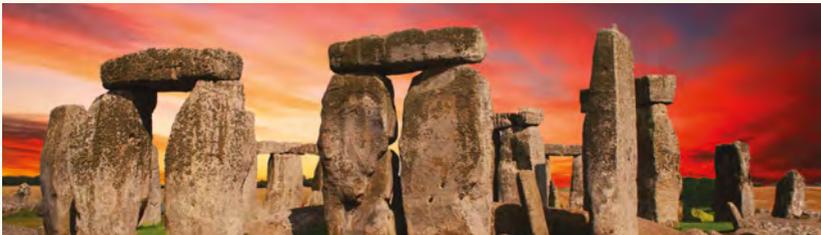
Cirencester Parish

Church, Cirencester



Stonehenge is the most famous megalithic structure in the world. Instantly recognisable yet infinitely mysterious, after 5000 years still nobody knows what it was or why it was created. Loved by 18th-century astronomers, Victorian romantics and 20th century druids alike, it's become a cultural icon. Join one of Britain's leading archaeologists and broadcasters Julian Richards, star of BBC2's *Meet the Ancestors* and world expert on Stonehenge, as he explores our enduring fascination with the stones across the centuries and reveals the latest cutting-edge research on the question of exactly who built them and why.

The Winstone Talk is supported by The K D Winstone Charitable Trust and held in partnership with the Corinium Museum.



Book tickets: gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk