



# Gloucester History Festival

6<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2025



# 25

[gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk)

NOBLE CALEDONIA  
SMALL SHIPS - BIG EXPERIENCES

**101** HISTORY  
EXTRA

RICHMOND  
VILLAGES

Part of Bupa

# The Gloucester History Festival

# Welcome



I can't believe this is our 15<sup>th</sup> History Festival and I'm thrilled to introduce our most exciting programme yet. The nation's finest historians give us intriguing new perspectives and fresh voices on the past, and I can't wait to welcome you to our new free events in the Scriptorium Buttery. The Festival never fails to surprise

me, I always leave inspired and I hope you enjoy this special year as much as I do!

Prof Janina Ramirez  
President of the  
Gloucester History Festival

Welcome to our 15th anniversary programme, our most ambitious yet. We range from ancient stone circles to soft power today; the Bayeux Tapestry to the women of Bletchley Park; and we hear from Alice Roberts, Michael Heseltine, Celia Imrie and Peter Frankopan. We discuss a new Cold War and the heritage of Gloucester Rugby, witchcraft and magic.

So whether physically here in the magical setting of Blackfriars Priory, enjoying the

pageantry of Gloucester Day and Heritage Open Days, or joining us on livestream, my new Co-Chair Andrew Pitt and I believe you'll find much to enjoy. Join us as we set our compass for the next 15 years.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Graham'.

Richard Graham CMG,  
Co-Chair of the Gloucester  
History Trust



## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September

### Gloucester Day 6th September

Celebrate the Gloucester Day Parade

### Heritage Open Days 12th-14th September

Enjoy free entry to 100 of Gloucester's magnificent historic buildings

### The Blackfriars Talks 13th-21st September

Book now to hear Britain's 100 top historians and broadcasters in the magical setting of Blackfriars Priory

### The Scriptorium Buttery Programme

**13th-21st September.** Enjoy 25 free bite-sized events in the glorious surroundings of Britain's oldest library

**Frank Skinner**  
Alice Roberts,  
Celia Imrie,  
**Alan Johnson,**  
Lyse Doucet,  
David Olusoga,  
**Olivette Otele,**  
Jeremy Hunt,  
Michael Heseltine,  
**Greg Jenner,**  
Vince Cable,  
& Peter Frankopan

are just some of Britain's top historians, actors, broadcasters and authors at this year's festival.



**Both livestream and in-person tickets are available**

# Visiting the Festival

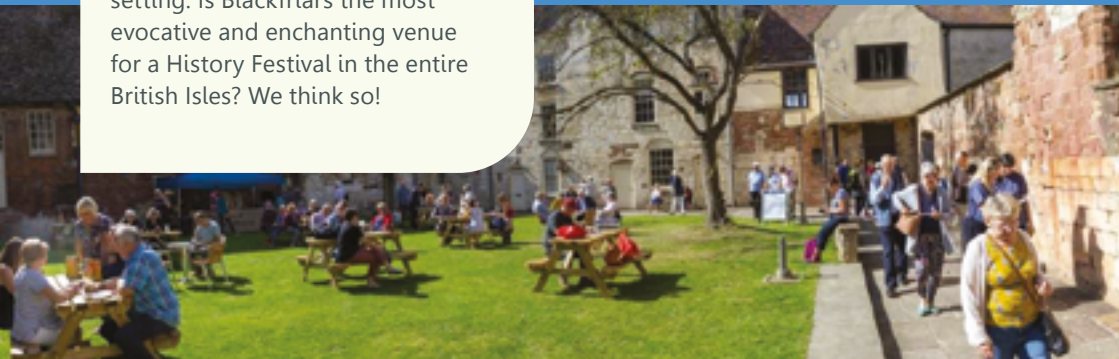
## Blackfriars Priory: A Jewel in Gloucester's Glorious Crown

**Festival site open 9am to 9.30pm**  
**Entry Free**

It's hard to imagine a better place to bring history-lovers together than the magnificent surroundings of Blackfriars Priory. Founded in 1239, it's the most complete historic building of its type in the country and one of the best in Europe. And it lies just 5 minutes walk from Gloucester's historic Docks and magnificent Cathedral.

This September you can follow in the footsteps of the friars because the Scriptorium Buttery, on the ground floor of Britain's best-preserved medieval library building, is open for a new series of free events, music and entertainment.

Together with a thrilling line up of guest speakers in the main hall and a new pop-up café to tempt your tastebuds, it promises to be an unforgettable event in a stunning setting. Is Blackfriars the most evocative and enchanting venue for a History Festival in the entire British Isles? We think so!



### **The Scriptorium Buttery** **Open daily 9am to 9pm**

With its twinkling fairy lights, centuries-old stonework and café-style seating, the Scriptorium Buttery is the perfect place to relax with a hot drink from the café, soak up the atmosphere and chat with other festival-goers between talks. This historic space will be a hive of activity hosting free events, exhibitions and in the courtyard music and Morris Dancing!

Choose from our of library of free second-hand history books to enjoy, pick up a free copy of BBC History Magazine and bring your own books to swap.

### **Blackfriars Festival Café** **Open daily 9am to 8pm in the Main Courtyard**

The much-loved sun-dappled courtyard hosts the Festival Café, serving hot and cold drinks and a mouthwatering selection of soups, hot paninis, sandwiches, homemade cakes, snacks and wine from the award-winning Woodchester Valley Vineyard.

### **The Waterstones Festival Bookshop** **Open daily in the Kitchen Courtyard**

Browse the Waterstones Festival Bookshop curated especially for history-lovers. Get your book signed and meet Britain's top historians where the 13th century friars cooked their supper!



# Gloucester Day

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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 to feature at the Gloucester Day Parade. There'll be stalls in all the Gate streets and King's Square. King's Square also features music and entertainment.

### **Mock Mayor of Barton's Parade**

11.00am

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

### **Thanksgiving Service**

12.00 noon-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 more formal affair – involving hundreds of participants led by the Right Worshipful Mayor of Gloucester. Hundreds of people, young and old, march to show their pride for their city.



© Reunion

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Heritage Open Days

Free Event from  
The Civic Trust

1926:  
Local Stories from  
A General Strike

**Tony Conder**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
September

Gala Club 7.30-8.30pm  
Entrance Free

On the centenary of the 1926 General Strike local historian **Tony Conder** explores the strike against the backdrop of the coal dispute in the Forest of Dean. He looks at the root of the crisis, who the strikers were, how radical the unions were locally and the levels of revenge threatened after the dispute had ended. Find out how the local press offered a different perspective from the national press with its tales of communist plots and political point scoring.

Gloucester is opening its doors  
on Heritage Open Days from  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
September with over  
100 events!



Organised by the Civic Trust, 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. 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. Immerse yourself in free talks, musical and cultural events all linked to the local area.

Full details: [gloucestercivictrust.org](http://gloucestercivictrust.org)



## Enjoy the Festival worldwide!

Enjoy the Festival from the comfort of home as Britain's top historians and broadcasters are live-streamed from the Priory between 13 and 21 September.

The Blackfriars Talks can be booked either to enjoy **in person at Blackfriars or live-streamed at home**. Both livestream and in person tickets are booked on the same event page of the website and viewing links are sent out one week before each event.

**Single Livestream event tickets cost £7 each**

**The Digital Festival Pass costs £65 allowing access to over 48 events**

Find out more details about our digital programme at [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/digital](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/digital)





## Booking Your Events

**Alice Roberts, Frank Skinner, Celia Imrie, Alan Johnson, Lyse Doucet, David Olusoga, Olivette Otele, Michael Heseltine, Greg Jenner, Vince Cable, Alice Loxton, and Peter Frankopan are just some of the 100 top historians, broadcasters and actors appearing this year.**

### Book a Festival Pass

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

**Day Pass: £55** available Monday to Friday offers entry to all events that day saving 20%.

**Festival Pass: £400** offers in person entry to all 48 Blackfriars events, Festival lanyard and the same reserved seat throughout saving 20%.

**Digital Festival Pass £65** offers livestream entry to the full digital Blackfriars Talks programme of over 48 events. View live or anytime until 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### How to Book

**Book tickets:** [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk)

**Book by phone:** 07834 406228

**Advance booking in person at:** Museum of Gloucester, Brunswick Road, Gloucester. Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm (closed Mondays).

**During the Festival:** Box Office at Blackfriars Priory open daily 9.30am to 8pm.

**Livestream tickets:** all livestream tickets are £7 and appear next to the in-person price.

**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 most events.



# Blackfriars Talks Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

## The Bayeux Tapestry: The Big Questions

Janina Ramirez & David Musgrove 10-11am £12 / £7 Livestreamed

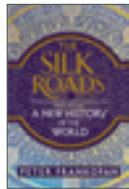


Join bestselling medieval historian **Janina Ramirez** and Bayeux Tapestry expert **David Musgrove** to explore the questions you need answered in advance of the biggest historical exhibition of our times: the loan of the Tapestry to the British Museum in September 2026. They'll explain all the things we know (and those we don't) about the great visual record of the events of 1066. Join them to hear why people say it's 'coming home' next year, find out who's in the tapestry (and who's not), why there's much more to it than the Battle of Hastings, and why it has some surprisingly rude bits in it.

*In partnership with BBC History Extra*

## Peter Frankopan

**The Silk Roads Revisited** 12-1pm £12



The ancient Silk Roads connecting Asia to Europe were the routes where empires rose and fell, ideas and goods flowed and the modern world began. It's 10 years since **Peter Frankopan's** groundbreaking book revolutionised long-held conceptions of history and empire. As the balance of global power shifts back towards Asia, he joins us for a dazzling new journey along the Silk Roads of history.

## Vince Cable

**Eclipsing the West: China & India Forging A New World?**

2-3pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



The western dominated world we've known for the past 300 years is coming to an end. China is vying with the US for the top spot in the global economy and by 2050 India will be number two. As power shifts East, where does the West stand? Join the former Liberal Democrat leader, cabinet minister and top economist as he explains with his trademark clarity what the future could bring. What might the political and economic landscape look like in 50 years time? And where does Britain stand? Chaired by **Vernon Harwood**.



## Frank Skinner

In Conversation 4-5pm £15



**Frank Skinner** is one of Britain's best-loved comedians, broadcasters and writers. In a unique event he joins forces with Janina Ramirez for a witty, warm and fascinating journey into the past. From Sutton Hoo to Viking swords, ancient coins to amazing ruins they share their passion for history - with plenty of laughs along the way. Chaired by **Janina Ramirez**.



## Celia Imrie & Fidelis Morgan

6-7pm £14 / £7 Livestreamed



Join Olivier award-winning actress **Celia Imrie**, star of *The Thursday Murder Club*, as she talks about her historical novel *Meet Me At Rainbow Corner*, inspired by the resilience and camaraderie of women during WWII. Together with **Fidelis Morgan**, actress, author and the book's researcher, Celia delves into the real-life events behind the book, where a group of courageous women find themselves working alongside GIs at London's Red Cross Club, Rainbow Corner. The illustrated event includes a presentation of photos and newsreels of the real women who inspired the novel as well as anecdotes from Celia's illustrious career.



## Eighteen: A History of Britain in 18 Young Lives

Alice Loxton 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Award-winning writer and broadcaster **Alice Loxton** delves into Britain's past, exploring the country through 18 notable figures at that most formative age - 18. From a young Elizabeth Tudor facing deadly intrigue at court to Empress Matilda, already changing the fate of nations, *Eighteen* invites you to join an eclectic cast of young Britons across the nation and throughout its history. Filled with fascinating stories of royalty, explorers, writers and entertainers, *Eighteen* asks what lessons we can learn for modern Britain.

'Utterly, utterly brilliant'. (Tracy Borman).

# Blackfriars Talks Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

## Aethelstan: The First King of England

David Woodman & Andrew Armstrong 10-11am £12 / £7 Livestreamed

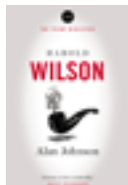


Marking the 1100th anniversary of Aethelstan's coronation, leading Cambridge historian **David Woodman** explores the reign of England's founder king whose achievements of 927, when he conquered the Vikings at York, rival the Norman Conquest in shaping Britain as we know it. Starting in Gloucester, he traces the influence of Aethelflaed on her nephew Aethelstan, the importance of Mercia to the King and the legacy of a visionary ruler. After his talk he's joined by City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** who explores the significance of St Oswald's Priory and chairs your questions.



## Alan Johnson

Harold Wilson: Twentieth Century Man 12-1pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Former Home Secretary **Alan Johnson**, postman, union leader and bestselling writer was a Labour MP for 20 years. There's no one better placed to explore the life and achievements of the twice-elected Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson. He brings to life his award-winning biography revealing a portrait of a truly 20th century man, whose 'white heat' speech heralded a technological revolution and who was as much a part of the sixties as the Beatles and the Profumo Scandal. Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

## Michael Heseltine

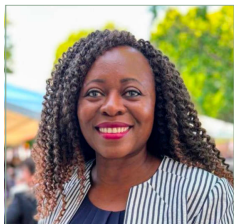
In Conversation 2-3pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



**Michael Heseltine** is one of the last great statesmen and has been at the forefront of British politics for 60 years. The former deputy Prime Minister explores his political career, shares new revelations about his time in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in the 80s, John Major's government in the 90s and when David Cameron returned him to the corridors of power. He offers a damning assessment of what he considers the self harm inflicted by Brexit and offers an urgent agenda to rebuild Britain. Chaired by **Vernon Harwood**.

## Doorway to the World

**Olivette Otele** 4-5pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Trailblazing historian **Olivette Otele** is a compelling voice reshaping our understanding of the past and its impact today. *African Europeans*, her acclaimed book, uncovered the long and complex history of people of African descent in Europe. Now in her forthcoming book she tells the story of 15 ports ranging from Amsterdam to Bristol, and the Bight of Biafra to the Virgin Islands, each one closely associated with five centuries of exploration, slave trading and empire building. Britain's first Black female history professor, now a professor at SOAS, is in conversation with **Janina Ramirez**.

## Tracy Borman

**The Stolen Crown: Death of the Tudor Dynasty** 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



In her new book, *The Stolen Crown*, leading historian and broadcaster **Tracy Borman** exposes the shocking truth behind Elizabeth I's succession revealing a tale of treachery, deceit and dynastic drama at the heart of the Tudor throne. With tales of forged manuscripts and secret plots, her new research rewrites the 1603 handover of power between Elizabeth I and James VI of Scotland. She join us to offer a game-changing new perspective on the Stuart regime.

## A Marvellous History of Magic

**Magician Andi Gladwin, Richard Wiseman & Steve Knibbs**

7.30-8.30pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Step into a world of wonder as master magician **Andi Gladwin** joins Britain's leading psychologist **Richard Wiseman** and BBC reporter **Steve Knibbs** to uncover the dazzling history of conjuring. From 19th-century legends

like Houdini to 21st-century greats including Derren Brown, discover the secrets behind the spectacles. With real tricks and live illusions performed before your very eyes, this spellbinding event promises surprises, sleight of hand and the magic of history brought thrillingly to life.



# Blackfriars Talks Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

## Crusaders: The Knights Who Went Rogue in the Holy Land

Steve Tibble 10-11am £12 / £7



Join historian **Steve Tibble** for a compelling journey into the underworld of the crusades. Discover how the Crusaders, founded in the 11th century to protect pilgrims, became legendary for their brutal campaigns in the medieval Holy Land. Explore the shadowy rivalries, daring adventures and dark crimes of these warrior monks who travelled to Jerusalem and fought, killed and conspired in the name of faith.



## Margaret Paston: God's Own Gentlewoman

Diane Watt 12-1pm £10 / £7 livestreamed



Leading medieval historian **Diane Watt** uncovers the remarkable world of Margaret Paston, the formidable matriarch at the heart of the Paston family. Set in the turbulent 15th century during the Wars of the Roses, this vivid exploration reveals forbidden love affairs, secret marriages, brutal battles and dramatic sieges. Discover how The Paston Letters, Britain's largest collection of medieval family correspondence ever discovered, brings both everyday medieval events and the Wars of the Roses thrillingly to life.

## Forgotten Churches: Exploring England's Hidden Treasures

Luke Sherlock 2-3pm £10 / £7 livestreamed



Followers of instagram's @englishpilgrim will know **Luke Sherlock's** passion for the hidden stories of England's most ancient parish churches from Gloucestershire's Duntisbourne Rouse to the Kent marshlands and Derbyshire hills. From secret symbols carved in stone to centuries-old legends echoing through sacred walls, discover how simple stone churches and ornate gothic abbeys shaped communities and faith. With vivid storytelling and striking images, Luke uncovers the treasures and mysteries waiting in plain sight. Join him for an inspiring pilgrimage into the heart of England's spiritual heritage. Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

## BBC Radio 4 Great Lives with Matthew Parris

Matthew Parris and guests 4-5pm Free



Join us for a special live recording of the much-loved Radio 4 series from Blackfriars Priory. Host **Matthew Parris** is joined by two special guests to explore the life of someone from the past who they love, admire or think should be better known.

*No ticket needed-just come along. Watch the Festival website for more details.*

## Sceptred Isle: A New History of the 14th Century

Helen Carr 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Join acclaimed historian **Helen Carr**, author of the bestselling *The Red Prince*, as she explores the turbulent 14th century, from the death of Edward II in 1307, when England was torn by war, plague and rebellion. Discover a world shaped by the bloody Hundred Years War with France, the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt, as powerful monarchs

and ordinary people struggled for survival and change. Praised as 'vivid and compelling' this is an unmissable journey into one of the most dramatic and transformative centuries in English history. Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

## Sir Francis Drake & the Secrets of the Severn

Mark Horton 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



During the Elizabethan era, the River Severn was one of the key waterways of England. Yet rarely does it feature in the standard maritime histories. Elizabeth I's explorer, courtier and privateer Francis Drake, visited and even hid there with his piratical treasure during the late 16th century. Top archaeologist and broadcaster **Mark Horton** has a particular interest as he lives in Drake's reputed house near Lydney, but has also researched Drake's activities in Panama, Virginia and California. In a brand new talk he offers a fascinating reassessment of Drake's extraordinary global career, and how his connection with Gloucestershire shaped his voyages.



# Blackfriars Talks Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

## Hiroshima Men

Iain MacGregor 12-1pm £10 / £7 Livestreamed



Marking its 80th anniversary, top historian **Iain MacGregor's** *Hiroshima Men* traces the dramatic decade-long journey to the world's first atomic attack in August 1945. Through the lives of key figures including Manhattan Project leader Leslie Groves, pilot Paul Tibbets and Hiroshima's mayor Senkichi Aways he explores the race for nuclear technology, the air war over Europe and Japan, and the devastating human cost of the bomb. Including Japanese perspectives often absent in Western accounts, he tells a gripping story moving from White House corridors to New Mexico labs and the ruined streets of Hiroshima.

## Mission Europe: The Secret Women of the SOE

Kate Vigurs 2-3pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



In her new book *Mission Europe*, award-winning historian **Kate Vigurs** tells the extraordinary stories of the women agents who served with Britain's Special Operations Executive. While SOE's exploits in France are well known, she uncovers the lives of lesser-known operatives, from locally recruited women in Belgium, Poland, Denmark and the Netherlands to Jewish agents from Mandate Palestine sent into Eastern Europe. Drawing on gripping accounts of bravery, sacrifice and survival, she discusses why women were recruited, celebrates their successes, and reveals how these ordinary women 'set Europe ablaze'.





## Bletchley Park: Remembering World War Two

Bletchley Veteran Ruth Bourne & Tessa Dunlop 4-5pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Bletchley Park veteran **Ruth Bourne** decrypted German Enigma codes and was a bombe machine operator at the very heart of Britain's war effort. In a rare appearance, she joins historian **Tessa Dunlop** to share her memories of life at Bletchley and her remarkable war time experiences. And 80 years on she discusses how Britain remembers those who were lost in WW2, the subject of Tessa Dunlop's powerful and moving new book on Britain's war memorials, *Lest We Forget*.

## Sebastian Faulks

From *Birdsong* to *Charlotte Gray* 6-7pm £14 / £7 Livestreamed



**Sebastian Faulks'** novels often engage with history at a deep level, whether in the First World War classic *Birdsong* or his brilliant recreation of behind-the-lines World War Two espionage in *Charlotte Gray*. His many other acclaimed novels also have a very particular sense of historical place and time and he now turns his attention to his own life in his latest book *Fires Which Burned Brightly*. He joins **Vernon Harwood** to discuss his life and writing, and how he puts the past onto the page.

## Shattered Lands: Unmaking the Indian Empire

Sam Dalrymple 8-9pm £10 / £7 Livestreamed



The British Indian Empire reached from the Red Sea to Southeast Asia, from India to Oman, Bhutan to Bangladesh. It was home to a quarter of humanity, yet shattered into twelve nations within fifty years. In a dazzling talk, **Sam Dalrymple**, one of the most exciting of a new generation of historians, discusses *Shattered Lands*, his sweeping history of how the Raj disintegrated after WW2. He reveals the forgotten wars, mass migrations, and political intrigues that reshaped Asia, leaving legacies that reverberate to this day from the Rohingya genocide to insurgencies in Kashmir and Burma.



# Blackfriars Talks Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

## Spice: The 16th Century Race That Changed the World

Roger Crowley 10-11am £10 / £7 Livestreamed



**Roger Crowley's** *Spice* tells the gripping story of the 16th-century race for control of the spice trade - a contest that reshaped the world. As cloves and nutmeg promised unimaginable wealth, Spanish and Portuguese explorers set out to find their source, leading to daring voyages, shipwrecks, sieges, and the birth of global trade. From Seville's dockyards to the Spice Islands of Indonesia, the Arctic Circle and the coast of China, join him for a thrilling account of how this fierce maritime rivalry forged empires, linked oceans, and laid the foundations of the modern world.



## Thomas More: Saint or Sinner?

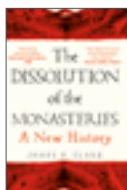
Joanne Paul 12-1pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor Thomas More is one of the most famous – or infamous – figures in English history. Worshipped as a saint, detested as a torturer, admired as a revolutionary, condemned as dogmatic. So is he a saintly scholar or the stubborn zealot famously portrayed in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*? Join leading historian **Joanne Paul** to hear the story of the man who opposed Henry's break from Rome, was executed in the Tower yet dominated England in the first half of the 16th century.

## Henry VIII's War on the Monasteries of Gloucester & the West

James Clark 2-3pm £10 / £7 Livestreamed



Join acclaimed historian **James Clark** as he uncovers the dramatic story behind Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries, with a vivid spotlight on the friars of Blackfriars Priory and the West of England's vanished religious houses. Discover intrigue, resistance and unexpected alliances in his "superbly researched and wonderfully told history" of this seismic event (The Times). His compelling talk offers a gripping tale of faith, ambition and loss that changed Gloucester and the nation forever.

## Britain's Greatest Megaliths

Mark Horton, Mike Pitts, & Fiona Robertson 4-5pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed

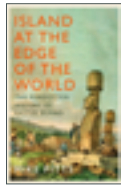


From the Rollright Stones to Avebury, Cornwall's Merry Maidens to the Orkneys Ring of Brodgar, the British Isles are scattered with the standing stones of our prehistoric ancestors. We're familiar with Stonehenge, but which other megaliths deserve greater recognition and which will you vote for as

Britain's greatest standing stone? Join Stonehenge archaeologist **Mike Pitts**, megalith enthusiast and *Stone Lands* author **Fiona Robertson** and Time Team archaeologist **Mark Horton** for a passionate debate as they argue for their favourites and offer fresh insights into our ancient past. Chaired by **Vernon Harwood**.

## The Forgotten History of Easter Island

Mike Pitts 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Easter Island's extraordinary statues have puzzled generations. Where did they come from? How did they get there? Why did the islanders carve the colossal, iconic statues – and how? And what happened to the civilisation they created? One of Britain's top archaeologists **Mike Pitts**, who has directed excavations at both Stonehenge and

Avebury, spent a month on Easter Island and led a pioneering study of the Easter Island statue in the British Museum. He shares exciting new insights into the statues and what really happened on Easter Island.

## Spycraft: From Elizabeth I to the Restoration

Nadine Akkerman & Pete Langman 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Forget 007, England's wildest spies were the Elizabethans. Unmask the hidden world of espionage with **Nadine Akkerman** and **Pete Langman's** thrilling journey through codes, ciphers and double agents, from Elizabeth I's court to the chaos of the Restoration. Discover secret plots that shaped a nation in this "utterly absorbing and brilliantly researched" history (The Guardian).

A dazzling tale of intrigue and betrayal that will leave you questioning everything you thought you knew about Tudor and Stuart England.

# Blackfriars Talks Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

## Tolkien's Gloucestershire: The Real Middle Earth

Andy Meller 10-11am £10 / £7 Livestreamed



From Stow's Tolkien Door to the enchanting Puzzlewood, Gloucestershire profoundly shaped JRR Tolkien's imagination. In 1929 he worked on a Roman dig at Lydney Park in the Forest of Dean which provided the inspiration for The Hobbit's Middle Earth and the discoveries made there were the starting point for the legendary ring in The Lord of The Rings. Join historian **Andy Meller** for an intriguing illustrated talk uncovering Tolkien's life-long passion for archaeology, myth and the Gloucestershire landscapes that brought Middle Earth to life.



## Magna Carta Discovered!

David Carpenter 12 – 1pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



The discovery in May that a copy of Magna Carta held by Harvard University is actually the genuine article raised a host of fascinating questions and was described by world authority **David Carpenter** as the most thrilling moment of his career. He joins **Vernon Harwood** to tell the illustrated story of Magna Carta and its significance and explain the intriguing tale of this ground-breaking new discovery.



## Muv: The Mitford Girls & Their Mother

Rachel Trethewey 2-3pm £10 / £7 Livestreamed



Everyone knows the six flamboyant Mitford sisters, but their formidable mother - 'Muv' - has long been overlooked. In Muv: The Story of the Mitford Girls' Mother, leading historian **Rachel Trethewey** uncovers Sydney Redesdale's pivotal role in shaping her daughters' strong wills, confidence and even their extremism. A divisive figure in life and legacy, she was seen as saint or scapegoat depending on which Mitford was speaking. In her vivid new talk she brings Muv centre stage for the first time, revealing the remarkable woman at the heart of Britain's most famous - and infamous - family.



## The Legacy of The Civil War in Gloucestershire

**Richard Graham** 4-5pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



We may be familiar with the Siege of Gloucester, the sacking of Sudeley Castle and the Battle of Stow, but the scars of the English Civil War are still visible right across Gloucestershire. Others have faded but are a powerful reminder of what happens when we fail to manage political and religious differences. Almost 400 years on, **Richard Graham** shares his exploration of ‘this war without an enemy’ right across the county in a brand new illustrated talk.

## Gloucester’s Greatest Building

**Janina Ramirez, Andrew Armstrong & Phil Moss** 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



From its magnificent Cathedral to its restored Victorian Docks, Gloucester is packed full of historic gems. Back by popular demand bestselling medieval historian **Janina Ramirez**, City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** and much-loved local historian **Phil Moss** fight it out to decide what will be crowned Gloucester’s Greatest Building 2025. What will be on the shortlist this year? And will our panel members sink to their knees once again to plead for your vote? Chaired by **Vernon Harwood**.

*In partnership with Gloucester Civic Trust*

## Gloucester Rugby: 30 Years of Glory

**Pete Glanville, Alex Brown, Andy Deacon & Rugby Legends** 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Celebrate 30 years since rugby turned professional in a rousing evening honouring Gloucester Rugby and the legendary Kingsholm ground. Our panel includes greats such as **Andy Deacon**, **Pete Glanville**, Club President and **Alex Brown**, Club CEO alongside leading rugby legends as they

share unforgettable memories, behind-the-scenes stories and insights into how professionalism transformed the game we love. Relive epic triumphs, fierce rivalries and the spirit that makes Gloucester rugby a powerhouse. A must for every Cherry and Whites supporter! Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

*In partnership with the Gloucester Rugby Foundation*

# Blackfriars Talks Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

## Women Who Ruled The World: 5000 Years of Female Monarchy

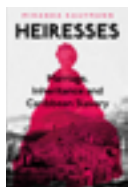
Elizabeth Norton 10-11am £10 / £7 Livestreamed



From Cleopatra to Catherine the Great, Boudicca to Elizabeth I, ancient Japan to 19th century Madagascar, female kings have always been a rarity, an oddity, or an undesirable outcome. In almost all places on the globe a male ruler was preferred to a woman, with female inheritance vanishingly rare and frequently disputed. In spite of this, women have secured crowns - or fought for them - over several millennia. Acclaimed historian **Elizabeth Norton** tells the scintillating story of the female kings: women who risked everything, sometimes unwillingly, to find a place in a man's world.

## Heiresses: Marriage, Inheritance and Slavery in the Caribbean

Miranda Kaufmann 11.45-12.45pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Bestselling historian **Miranda Kaufmann** reveals the hidden histories of the 18th and 19th century women whose Caribbean fortunes, built on the exploitation of enslaved Africans, propelled them into Britain's aristocracy. They loved, eloped, divorced, squandered fortunes, and shaped both English society and culture. In this keenly-awaited follow-up to *Black Tudors*, she challenges our pastel-hued image of the Georgian heiress and offers a fascinating account of how Britain profited - and still profits - from slavery's legacy.

## Margaret Thatcher: The Iron Lady at 100

Iain Dale 1.45-2.45pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Marking the centenary of the birth of Britain's first woman Prime Minister, political broadcaster **Iain Dale** discusses his new biography of the Iron Lady bringing her to life in all her paradoxes and contradictions. He deftly assesses her influence on Major, Blair, Cameron, Johnson and now Starmer, the real impact of her legacy at home and on the international stage and demonstrates how her election in 1979 was a turning point in British history.

*'Iain Dale introduces Margaret Thatcher to a new generation and intelligently explodes many of the myths about her'.*

## Malcolm X & the American Civil Rights Movement

**Kehinde Andrews** 3.30-4.30pm £10 / £7 Livestreamed



Malcolm X is a titanic figure in American political history but also one of the most misunderstood. Marking the centenary of his birth and the 60th anniversary of his assassination, Britain's leading expert **Kehinde Andrews** shares a fresh portrait of his life, explores his relationship with Martin Luther King and his role in the American Civil Rights Movement. He explodes the myths surrounding him and reassesses Malcolm X's legacy in a gripping new talk.

## Can We Be Great Again? Why A Dangerous World Needs Britain

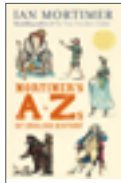
**Jeremy Hunt** 6-7pm 12 / £7 Livestreamed



Former Chancellor and Foreign Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** dealt with historical events. In a more unpredictable world, what part does Britain now play on the world stage? He challenges the narrative of Britain in decline arguing that we can recover our confidence and have a unique role to play in a chaotic world. William Hague, Anthony Seldon and Tony Blair have raved about the case Jeremy makes for the UK on security, the future of democracy, migration, trade and climate. Hear him in conversation with former Prime Minister's Trade Envoy and MP **Richard Graham**.

## Mortimer's A to Zs of English History

**Ian Mortimer** 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



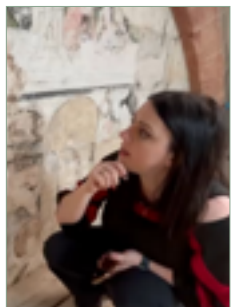
How did the introduction of the button change medieval life? Why were pistols safer than swords in a duel? And why did Regency Londoners drink so much port? **Ian Mortimer's** Time Traveller's Guides to history have delighted legions of devoted readers. Now his new A to Zs of English History tackles these burning questions and hundreds more. From the Great Plague to the Great Freeze, from the Armada to Austen and from tobacco to toenails, join him to shine a light into corners of history you never knew were so fascinating.



# Blackfriars Talks Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

## The Secret Wall Paintings of St Mary de Crypt

Janina Ramirez, Andrew Armstrong & Kirsty Hartsiotis 10-11am £12 / £7 Livestreamed



High above the altar in Gloucester's St Mary de Crypt are extraordinary medieval wall paintings - known about since Victorian restorations, but largely invisible. When scaffolding went up recently, **Janina Ramirez** climbed up for a rare filmed glimpse of what's there. Today she reveals what she saw, sharing the film for the first time, and discusses what these medieval church wall paintings tell us - and why they're more special than we ever knew. Join historian and broadcaster Janina Ramirez, City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** and church historian **Kirsty Hartsiotis** to find out.

*With thanks to the trustees of Discover de Crypt*

## The Life and Times of the Great Gloucester Cathedral Organ

Jonathan Hope, Suzanne Aspden, James Atherton & Andrew Pitt 12-1pm £10 / £7



Built in 1666, Gloucester's great organ has brought music to the cathedral and the city for more than 350 years and is undergoing restoration ready for next year's Three Choirs Festival. Join us to explore the organ's history, its inauguration and the music it's played. Learn about its place in Gloucester's story in a momentous year as the nation faced the plague and the Great Fire of London. Cathedral Organist **Jonathan Hope**, Oxford Professor of Music **Suzanne Aspden**, tenor and Head Voicer at Nicholson's organ builders **James Atherton** and historian of 17th century Gloucester **Andrew Pitt** share its extraordinary tale. Chaired by **Vernon Harwood**.

*In partnership with Gloucester Cathedral.*

## Alice Roberts

In conversation 2-3pm £15



Bestselling historian and broadcaster **Professor Alice Roberts** joins us for a wide ranging discussion about her journeys into the past. Following her acclaimed books *Crypt* and *Ancestors*, her latest *Domination* takes us on an enthralling investigation into the spread of Christianity and its complex changing relationship to the Roman Empire. Unearthing archaeological clues and challenging established histories, she takes us from remote Welsh valleys to the shores of Brittany; from the turbulent heart of the Roman Empire to ancient Corinth in the footsteps of the apostle Paul; from Alexandria to Constantinople. Chaired by **Janina Ramirez**.





## Lyse Doucet

**A People's History of Afghanistan** 4-5pm £14 / £7 Livestreamed



Since 1988 BBC Chief International Correspondent **Lyse Doucet** has reported from trouble spots all over the world from Bosnia to Gaza, Ukraine to Iraq. Today she tells the turbulent history of Afghanistan from 1969 to 2021 told through the changing fortunes of Kabul's Inter-Continental Hotel and its staff who have endured Soviet

occupation, multiple coups, a grievous civil war, a US invasion and the rise, fall and rise again of the Taliban. She will also share her thoughts about current events in the region.

## England, Scotland and James VI and I: The Mirror of Great Britain

**Clare Jackson** 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed

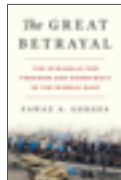


Leading Cambridge historian and Wolfson prize-winner **Clare Jackson** explores the dramatic story of how England and Scotland were brought together under a single crown. Discover the ambitions, intrigues and cultural shifts that defined the reign of James VI & I, who in 1603 was crowned the first monarch to rule both nations. With her

trademark clarity, she reveals what James' reign meant on both sides of the border in a compelling illustrated talk. The Times hails Clare as "A superb historian at the top of her game."

## Understanding The Middle East: The Great Betrayal

**Fawaz Gerges** 8-9pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Israel, Gaza, Iran... conflicts in the Middle East continue to send shockwaves across the globe. But why has political change been so difficult to achieve? And what could the future hold? Join Britain's top Middle East expert, LSE historian **Fawaz Gerges**, for a clear, comprehensive guide to the thorny issues. He traces more than a century of the region's vexed history, from

the end of the Ottoman Empire and the European carve-up of the Middle East to the Iranian Revolution, the Arab Spring and Israel's current conflict with Gaza and Iran. Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

# Blackfriars Talks Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September

## Alexandria: The City That Changed The World

Islam Issa 10-11am £10 / £7 Livestreamed



Founded by Alexander the Great on the Mediterranean coast, the city that bears his name evolved into one of the most dazzling metropolises in history. An intoxicating blend of Greek and Egyptian culture, Alexandria was a hub of philosophy, science and history, as well as a city of pleasure, politics and astonishing violence. A city for exiles that belonged to all. Leading historian and broadcaster **Islam Issa** offers a wonderfully entertaining tale of its history from ancient times to the present day.



## Legenda: The Real Women Behind the Myths that Shaped Europe

Janina Ramirez 12-1pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Join us for a world premiere as **Janina Ramirez** unveils her new book Legenda which sheds new light on the lives of remarkable medieval women whose achievements have been twisted – often by men – for political ends over the centuries. From Lady Godiva to Isabelle of Castile, Olga of Kiev to Joan of Arc she peels back the layers of time to show how, even today, these iconic women have been weaponised to justify the actions of those in power and she reveals their true stories.

## Greg Jenner

The Stone Age Runs Wild! 2-3pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Join the Horrible Histories guru and creator of the smash hit BBC podcast You're Dead to Me for a riotous journey through The Stone Age! Find out how cave paintings were made, how to cook the authentic Stone Age way and how henges were constructed. Full of fascinating facts and based on the very latest research, **Greg Jenner** joins **Janina Ramirez** to reveal prehistory as you've never seen it. "Hilarious and brilliantly clever" (The Times). History has never been this much fun.

*Suitable for history lovers age 10-110*

## David Olusoga

In conversation 4-5pm £14 / £7 livestreamed



Join BBC broadcaster and acclaimed historian **David Olusoga** as he discusses the overlooked stories that shaped Britain's past. From the hidden impact of the World Wars to the surprising legacy of the Industrial Revolution, David Olusoga reveals how ordinary lives intersect with epic events. Celebrated for BBC2's *A House Through Time*, he weaves together personal histories and global forces with wit, insight and humanity in this compelling exploration of our shared story.

## Mavericks: Britain's Secret Mission to the Caspian Sea

Nick Higham 6-7pm £12 / £7 Livestreamed



Join former BBC News Correspondent **Nick Higham** as he talks about *Mavericks*, the gripping unknown story of an audacious secret British mission around the Caspian Sea during the First World War's chaotic endgame. As regimes crumbled, an unlikely maverick band of British soldiers, diplomats and spies were sent in to block Turkish advances, counter Bolshevik threats, and secure Baku's vital oil. Drawing on personal diaries and top secret archives, he uncovers eccentric heroes and extraordinary intrigue in this forgotten theatre of war where rules were made to be broken.

## Witch Night! Blackfriars Bewitched

Janina Ramirez & Marion Gibson

The Three Ravens and Inkubus Sukkubus 8-10pm £12 / £7 livestreamed



Step into the candlelit shadows of Blackfriars Priory as *Witch Night* weaves its dark enchantment. Witchcraft historian **Marion Gibson** joins **Janina Ramirez** to uncover centuries of spellcraft and sorcery from Britain's past. The spellbinding **Three Ravens** conjure stories of witches and wonder, before **Inkubus Sukkubus** fill the vaulted Priory with haunting folk music. Surrender to a night of magic, myth and mystery.



This enchanting hub is the heart of our new free programme, where history comes alive through bite-size talks, hands-on workshops, powerful exhibitions, uplifting music and song, spellbinding storytelling, magical Morris dancing, Cider Nights and delicious Tudor Teas.

Relax with traditional Gloucestershire folk music from Bygonz and songs from the Shepherd's Crook Folk Choir, and be transported by Britain's finest storytellers, Fire Springs and The Three Ravens. Then catch the colour and rhythm of Gloucestershire's best Morris dancers on Blackfriars Green.

Don't miss fabulous pop ups from our friends at Voices Gloucester, Museum of Gloucester, the Heritage Hub, St Mary de Crypt & the University of Gloucestershire.

**Open daily from 9am to 9pm, the Scriptorium Buttery is the perfect place to unwind, share a drink, swap a history book or simply soak up the calm in the atmospheric Friars' dining room.**

## Free Events in The Scriptorium Buttery

Step into the Scriptorium Buttery, nestled in Britain's oldest surviving library building – a space steeped in centuries of story.



**Events are free – no booking needed. Just drop in and let history surprise you!**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

## VOICES GLOUCESTER SCRIPTORIUM SESSIONS

**Voices Gloucester is a charity that creates a community-led programme that aims to challenge what history is, respecting and representing new voices.**

### **SATURDAY 13TH, BLACKFRIARS 1.15-1.45pm THE GORGER GAZE**

– how gypsy culture is integral to Gloucestershire and Worcestershire’s cultural heritage. **3.15-3.45pm LOST LANGUAGES-NEW VOICES**–exploring how language evolves and informs the experience of generations. **5.15-5.45pm SIGHT LOSS-THEN AND NOW**–investigating experiences of sight loss in Gloucestershire in the 19th and 20th centuries.

### **SUNDAY 14th, BLACKFRIARS 1.15-1.45pm COSTUME FOR GLOUCESTER**–see how a gown made by 130 stitchers is a reimagined folk costume. **3.15-3.45pm CLOTHS OF IDENTITY-PRACTICAL**

**WORKSHOP**–join Jo Teague for a ‘no experience required’ stitching workshop, where you’ll create your piece of textile art exploring aspects of your identity. **5.15-5.45pm QUILTS-BELONGING AND UNBELONGING**–discover how textile traditions have explored themes of migration, displacement, and neurodiversity.



ALL VOICES GLOUCESTER SCRIPTORIUM SESSIONS ARE FREE TO ATTEND. FIND MORE INFORMATION AND SECURE YOUR SPOT AT [voicesgloucester.org.uk/voices\\_events](https://voicesgloucester.org.uk/voices_events)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

### **The Medieval Barber Surgeon 3.20-3.50pm**

Join the Barber Surgeon **John Putley** to hear gruesome tales of medieval medicine as he shares the reality of life in medieval times.

### **Gloucestershire’s Gardens Great and Small 5.20-5.50pm**

Starting with the very first time a garden is mentioned in our records join **Marion Hill** from the Heritage Hub to travel through time and visit a wonderful array of gardens from medicinal and culinary plots to glorious gardens simply created to enjoy.



**View the full programme: [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk](https://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk)**

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

### **Discover Gloucester's Archaeology** 3.20-3.50pm

Ever wondered what lies beneath your feet as you walk the streets of Gloucester? Join the **Museum of Gloucester** team to hear the story of some of the city's most important digs whose gems are now found at an amazing new Discovery Centre.

### **Three Finds That Shaped Gloucester** 5.20-5.50pm

Heard of the Birdlip Mirror or the Gloucester Tables set? Now go beyond the well-known and hear from the **Museum of Gloucester** team about three unknown yet thrilling treasures that give fascinating new insights into the city.

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

### **The Blackfriars Story with Phil Moss** 3.20- 3.40pm

Don't miss the chance to hear the extraordinary history of the Priory and its scriptorium from leading local historian **Phil Moss**.

### **George Whitefield 7.15-8pm**

Join **Andrew Armstrong** and our diverse panel to explore the contested history of the Gloucester-born evangelist George Whitefield marking the new exhibition at St Mary de Crypt Church.

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

### **100 Amazing Gloucester Characters** 3.20-3.50pm

**Paul James & Matt Cass** share stories of Gloucester's greatest residents over the last 70 years celebrating everything that's great about the cathedral city. And spot one or two characters in the audience!

### **The Festival Party 7-8pm**

On Thursday 18 September join us in the Blackfriars courtyard to celebrate the Festival's 15th Birthday!



## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

### **History Rage Live! 5-5.45pm**

Join **Paul Bavill** and leading historians for a live recording of the top podcast.

### **Fire Springs Storytellers 7.20-7.50pm**

Enjoy fabulous tales of ancient times from one of the country's leading storytellers **Kirsty Hartsiotis** in the atmospheric surroundings of the ancient scriptorium.

## Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

### **Fire Springs Storytellers 11.20-11.50am**

Enjoy more mesmerising tales of ancient times with **Anthony Nanson**, one of the country's leading storytellers.

### **Hidden Histories of Gloucestershire** 1.20-1.50pm

The History Students of the University of Gloucestershire share intriguing new research on the history of the county and its people. Chaired by **Christian O'Connell**.

### **Tudor Royal Graffiti at Gloucester Cathedral 3.15-3.45pm**

The walls of Gloucester Cathedral are covered in incised marks and graffiti. In this informal talk archaeologist **Chiz Harward** gives a brief overview before concentrating on one graffito in particular: that of a young man and his dog.

### **Cider Night! 7.30-8.30pm (tickets £15)**

Join leading historian and cider lover **Andrew Meller** to hear the extraordinary history of Gloucestershire cider and its makers-from fox whelps to firkins. Included are ciders of all vintages-and apple juices too!

## Sunday **21<sup>st</sup>** September

### **History Festival Members' Breakfast 11.15-11.45am**

Join Festival President Janina Ramirez to celebrate the final day of the Festival!  
(Book tickets in advance)

### **The Three Ravens Storytellers 1.15-1.45pm**

A rare chance to hear mesmerizing Folk Tales with the cult podcast storytellers

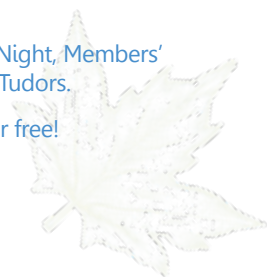
Eleanor Conlon and Martin Vaux.  
Celebrating publication of their new book  
The Three Ravens Folk Tales.

### **Tea with the Tudors 4-5pm (tickets £20)**

From rabbit to pottage, roasted peacock to spiced wine, and not forgetting the exotic imported orange, join **Kirstie Bingham** in her Tudor Kitchen to hear what everyday Tudor families ate and drank and enjoy a delicious and authentic 16th century afternoon tea!

[Booking needed for Cider Night, Members' Breakfast and Tea with the Tudors.](#)

[Pop into all other events for free!](#)



**Events are free – no booking needed. Just drop in and let history surprise you!**

# CIRENCESTER HISTORY FESTIVAL

Returning 24 October to 2 November

Join us in the Capital of the Cotswolds for a ten-day celebration of global, national and local history this October half term. Set in 17 beautiful historic venues, the festival returns with an exciting programme of talks, walks, tours, music, workshops and Halloween fun for all ages.



FOR NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY,  
PLEASE SIGN UP AT [cirencesterhistoryfestival.org](http://cirencesterhistoryfestival.org)

## The Winstone Talk

Putin and the Return of History: How the Kremlin Rekindled the Cold War

Martin Sixsmith

Saturday 25th October

6.30 – 7.30pm Cirencester Parish Church £12

Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Trump's second term and current conflicts in the Middle East mark one of the most challenging periods in Europe's history since WW2. After the collapse of Soviet Communism, the West convinced itself that liberal

democracy would be the dominant system of governance. However the rise of Vladimir Putin proves that it's often unwise to make such predictions. Former BBC Correspondent and leading historian **Martin Sixsmith** traces the historical forces and myths shaping Putin's politics, explores Russia's influence on current global conflicts and reveals how the Kremlin is rekindling the Cold War.



Book Martin Sixsmith tickets: [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk)



## Where To Find Us

**Main Festival Venue** Blackfriars Priory, Ladybellegate Street, Gloucester GL1 2HN



### **Parking**

24 hour parking is immediately opposite Blackfriars Priory. The Longsmith Street Car Park is 2 minutes walk away. Gloucester Docks Car Parks are 10 minutes by foot

### **Train and Bus**

Blackfriars Priory is 10 minutes walk from Gloucester bus station and Gloucester railway station through the historic city centre and Gate Streets.

**Full details here:** [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/visitus](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/visitus)



# Gloucester History Festival

## Join the Festival Family

### Become a Member

Join our fast-growing Festival family to enjoy a special early booking period, advance information about the programme, occasional special offers and the chance to join President Janina Ramirez at the new Members' Breakfast on Sunday 21 September at 11.15am.

**Donation: £30**

### Become a Patron

Join the new Festival Patron's Scheme to enjoy an exclusive early booking telephone hotline, our new Patron's gathering, VIP access to the Festival Writers' Room, a Festival Christmas book curated by Janina Ramirez and a whole host of benefits when you join the Festival Family.

**Donation: £500**

### Become a Sponsor

Be part of the Festival's future and support our mission by joining our growing number of Festival sponsors, large and small, who enjoy a range of bespoke benefits.

“ I'm so proud to be part of the Gloucester History Festival. We have big ambitions and our Members, Patrons and Sponsors are at the heart of making change happen. Join us on our journey! ”

Professor Janina Ramirez,  
Festival President



**More details: [www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/support-us](http://www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/support-us)**

## Looking Ahead to 2026

### Spring Weekend 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Our sell-out Spring Festival is back with a mouthwatering programme of 20 compelling events.

### Autumn History Festival 5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2026

The Autumn Festival returns with over 200 events featuring magnificent venues large and small and 100 of the history world's leading speakers.

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this year's Gloucester History Festival a success.

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



## Principal Sponsors

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SMALL SHIPS - BIG EXPERIENCES

**RICHMOND VILLAGES**

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## Podcast Partners

British History Tours, History with Jackson and History Rage

## Festival Patrons

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.



# Gloucester History Festival

6<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

## Enjoy the Festival

**Come for the talks, stay for the magic of Blackfriars**

**Visit the festival cafe open 9am to 8pm daily**

Our new pop up cafe in the sun-dappled courtyard is open all day for breakfast, lunch and supper serving delicious soup, hot and cold paninis, cakes, snacks, tea and coffee, wine from Woodchester Valley Vineyard, beer and Gloucestershire cider!

Eat in the courtyard or in the cosy new buttery space filled with cafe tables and nestled in Britain's oldest library building. Enjoy from breakfast time right through to nightfall when the lanterns are lit and the scriptorium twinkles in the dusk.

**Visit the Scriptorium Buttery Open 9am-9pm daily**

**25 inspiring free events over 9 days**

Enjoy our new programme of bite-size history talks, mesmerising storytelling, uplifting music, fabulous songs from historic choirs, fascinating exhibitions, morris dancing and merry making all at the heart of the glorious Blackfriars Priory.

