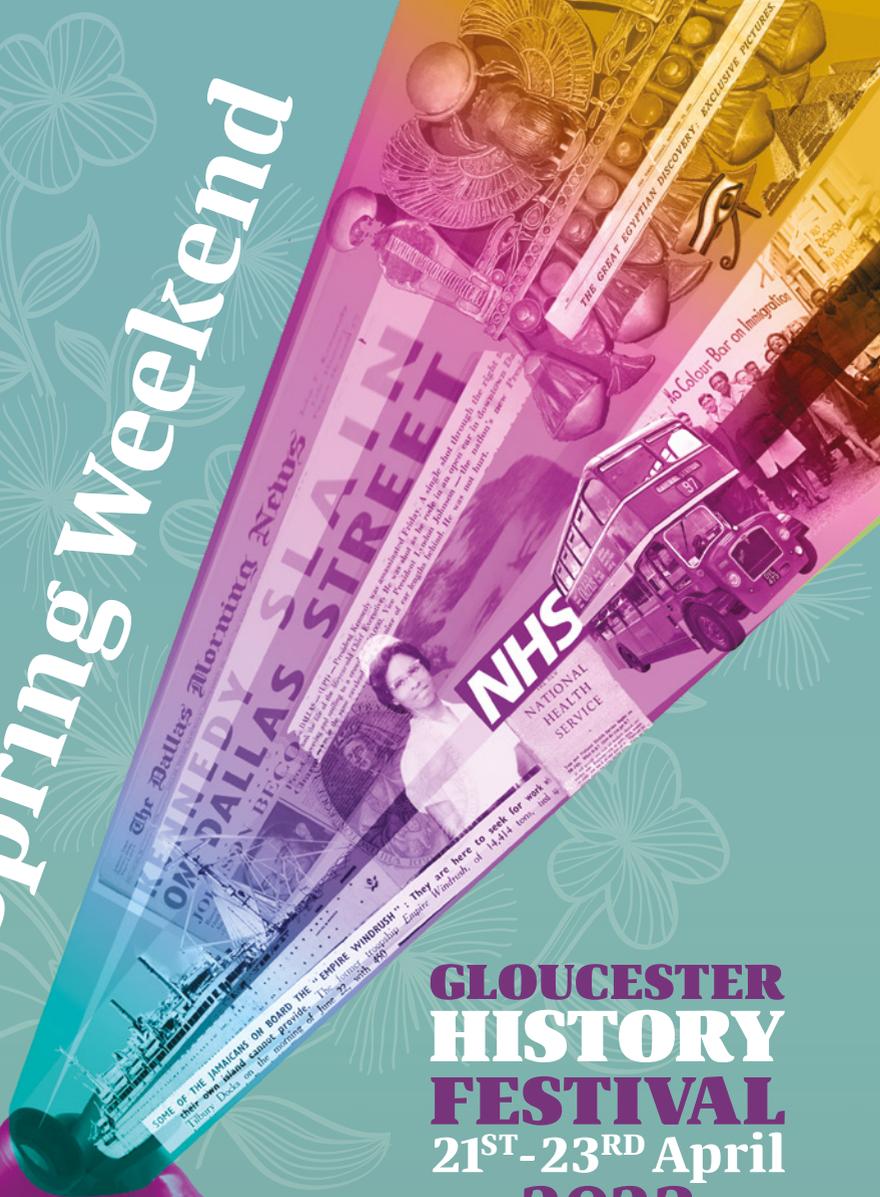


Spring Weekend



GLOUCESTER HISTORY FESTIVAL 21ST-23RD April — 2023 —

gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

The Gloucester History Festival Spring Weekend 2023

I'm incredibly proud to be back for our very first Spring Weekend at Blackfriars Priory! A fortnight before the Coronation we feature no less than a dozen monarchs in our new three-day programme. From Alfred the Great to Elizabeth I, Tutankhamen to Charles III, where better to explore royalty than in Gloucester where Henry III was crowned? The only English monarch since William the Conqueror with a coronation outside Westminster.

This year's Festival themes, Quests & Curiosity, span the Spring Weekend and the Autumn Festival and who better than Professor Alice Roberts, Greg Jenner and Peter Frankopan to start us on our journey. Join us this April and take a moment to reflect on what historic times we live through. I can't wait to see you there!

Dr Janina Ramirez
President of the Gloucester History Festival



Welcome



History both ancient and modern comes alive again in 2023 with our new Gloucester History Festival Spring Weekend and annual Autumn Gloucester History Festival. Our themes of Quests & Curiosity take us to strange and familiar places, including the Coronation: what does make a great monarch?

So do book online via gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk for our talks from 21-23 April, and do 'reserve the dates' for our two-week festival from 2-17 September. We've also launched the King's Talks with David Evans on Ancient Schools of Gloucester and details of further talks, some purely for schools, are on page 10. Come and discover more of our city, country and world's history in Gloucester 2023!

Richard Graham

Richard Graham, Chair of the Gloucester History Trust

The Gloucester History Festival Spring Weekend 2023

Professor Alice Roberts, Greg Jenner, Peter Frankopan, Tim Marshall and Kavita Puri are just some of the 20 speakers taking us on a quest into past, present and future this Spring.

A royal theme weaves through the programme as we return to the magnificent Blackfriars Priory just two weeks before the arrival of a new King. Elizabeth I and the Tudors, Alfred and Aethelflaed, Medieval monarchs Edward III and King John and two great Boy Kings - Henry III crowned in Gloucester aged 9 and Tutankhamun buried by the Nile aged 19 - all feature in the Spring Weekend. In the 13th century Henry III himself donated the Blackfriars beams that lie above our speakers' heads, so there really is nowhere better to explore Britain's best - and worst - Kings and Queens.

Visiting the Spring Weekend

Book tickets: gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

Book by phone: 01452 396131

Tickets available at: Museum Of Gloucester, Brunswick Road, Gloucester. Tuesday – Saturday 10.00-17.00, Sunday 11.00-16.00

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.

The Spring Pass

Quench your curiosity and enjoy 14 of the Festivals' events for just £100 saving 30% on ticket prices. Limited numbers are available. To book, visit gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk



Blackfriars Talks Friday 21st April

The Secrets of Gloucester's Westgate Street Film Premiere & Live Discussion

Andrew Armstrong & Phil Moss Time: 12.00-13.00 £6



Westgate is Gloucester's most important street. Begun by the Romans, it soon grew into a vital artery from which goods, people, ideas and culture flowed in and out of the city for over two thousand years. But now repair and redevelopment along the street has provided a unique opportunity to make some truly remarkable new discoveries.

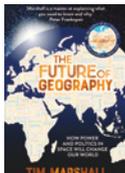
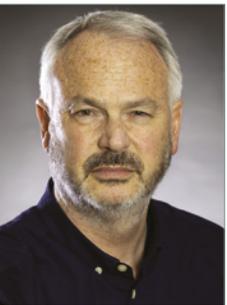
After the premiere of a brand new film, join City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** and local historian **Phil Moss** to uncover how this extraordinary street came to be and discover its fascinating secrets, revealed for the first time.



These new discoveries are part of the Cathedral Quarter project funded by Historic England.

The Future of Geography: How Power & Politics in Space will Change our World

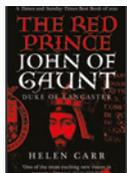
Tim Marshall Time: 14.00-15.00 £10



Spy satellites orbiting the moon, Chinese spy balloons shot down over US soil, space metals worth more than most countries' GDP. People on Mars within 10 years. This isn't science fiction. It's astropolitics. Internationally bestselling author of Prisoners of Geography, former Foreign Correspondent and Britain's most popular geopolitical expert, **Tim Marshall** uses his trademark wit and insight to lay bare the new geopolitical realities. He reveals the history of how we got here and where we're going, exploring the new space race, Great Power rivalries, economics, politics and what it means for all of us down here on earth.

The Red Prince: John of Gaunt

Helen Carr Time: 16.00-17.00 £10

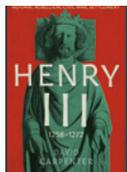


Son of Edward III, brother to the Black Prince, father to Henry IV and sire of all the Tudors, John of Gaunt was always close to the English crown. But was he too rich and too powerful and did he have his eye on his nephew's throne? Why was he such a focus of hate in the Peasant's Revolt of 1381? Bestselling historian **Helen Carr** tells the story of this extraordinary medieval figure who held the power behind the English throne, passionately upheld chivalric values, and took huge risks to woo the woman he loved.

'Superb, gripping and fascinating, here is John of Gaunt and a cast of kings, killers and queens brought blazingly, sensitively and swashbucklingly to life' (Simon Sebag Montefiore).

Henry III, Westminster Abbey & the Coronation

David Carpenter Time: 18.00-19.00 £10



Crowned in Gloucester Cathedral aged 9 in 1216, Henry III went on to rebuild the national treasure that is Westminster Abbey. The needs of future coronations deeply influenced Henry's stunning Gothic design and profoundly shaped the building and the service we'll see on May 6th.

David Carpenter, the world's leading authority on Henry III, gives a brand new talk exploring Henry's creation of the Abbey and the fascinating historic roots of Charles III's Coronation Service.

What Makes A Great Monarch?

David Carpenter, Helen Carr & Janina Ramirez Time: 20.00-21.00 £10



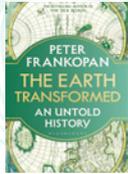
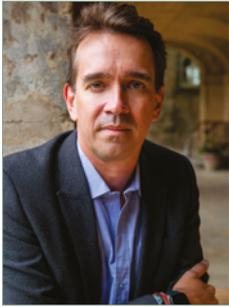
From Henry VIII to Elizabeth II, Edward the Confessor to Henry V, King John to Charles II, how should we judge our monarchs, what defines greatness and how will Charles III fare? Three of the nation's leading historians

David Carpenter, Helen Carr and **Janina Ramirez** join the BBC's Vernon Harwood to assess our best – and worst – English monarchs in a no-holds-barred debate.

Blackfriars Talks Saturday 22nd April

The Earth Transformed

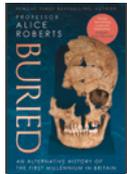
Peter Frankopan Time: 12.00-13.00 £10



Peter Frankopan, author of the bestselling *The Silk Roads*, joins us to talk about how a changing climate has dramatically shaped the development - and demise - of civilisations across time. Most people can name the famous leaders and major battles of the past. Few can name the most destructive storms, the worst winters or the most devastating droughts. In his groundbreaking new book, he shows that engagement with the natural world and climactic change are not new. He traces how growing demands for harvests resulted in the increase in slavery, explains the long history of trying to understand and manipulate the weather and explores humankind's continuing efforts to make sense of the natural world.

Buried

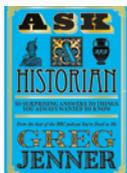
Professor Alice Roberts Time: 14.00-15.15 £12



Bestselling historian and broadcaster **Professor Alice Roberts** (*The Incredible Human Journey* and *Digging for Britain*) offers a new alternative history of the first millennium in Britain. From Roman cremations and graveside feasts, to deviant burials with heads rearranged, from richly furnished Anglo-Saxon graves to the first Christian burial grounds in Wales, she sheds fresh light on how people really lived by examining the fascinating stories of the dead. Starting with the Romans, then the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, she combines archaeological finds with DNA research to bring the buried back to life, offering an extraordinary new perspective on early Britain and its peoples.

Ask A Historian!

Greg Jenner & Janina Ramirez Time: 16.00-17.00 £12

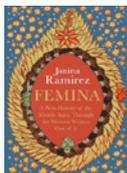


Why is Italy called Italy? How old is curry? How fast was the medieval Chinese postal system?

Greg Jenner, Horrible Histories expert and host of top BBC podcast You're Dead to Me, joins Raiders of the Lost Past's **Janina Ramirez** for an entertaining rollercoaster ride through history. From the Stone Age to the Swinging Sixties, ancient joke books to African Empires, they explore some of the amazing history hidden in the things we use everyday from the humble paper clip that led an anti-war movement to the first TV made out of biscuit tins! Join them as they reveal some of the most intriguing and often unexpected facts from history.

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

Janina Ramirez Time: 18.00-19.00 £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. Based on 5 years of original research sweeping across 1,000 years she re-examines extraordinary women like Hildegard of Bingen, casts a new light on females like King Jadwiga and finds lost individuals like the Loftus Princess and the Birka Warrior Woman. Revealing new material for the first time at Gloucester, she paints a vivid picture of the lives and influence of women on the medieval world.

Inside The Cold War Mind: The War of Nerves

Martin Sixsmith Time: 20.00-21.00 £10



More than any other conflict, the Cold War was fought on the battlefield of the human mind. 30 years since the Soviet Union's collapse its legacy still endures - and with war in Ukraine is more resonant than ever. We welcome leading historian **Martin Sixsmith** who witnessed the end of the Cold War reporting first-hand for the BBC from

Moscow during the Gorbachev and Yeltsin years. Using a vast array of untapped archives and unseen sources he vividly recreates the tension and paranoia of the Cold War on both sides of the Iron Curtain and explores the Cold War's powerful legacy in 2023.

Blackfriars Talks Sunday 23rd April

Gloriana: Elizabeth I & the Art of Queenship

Siobhan Clarke Time: 12.00-13.00 £10



In a Reformation kingdom unused to Queens, how did Elizabeth I create a powerful image to hold her divided country together? The cult of Gloriana elevated the queen to the status of a Virgin Goddess, aided by writers, musicians and artists from Shakespeare and Spenser to Tallis and Byrd. Leading historian **Siobhan Clarke** from the Historic Royal Palaces explores the stunning artworks of the sovereign's reign, telling the story of Elizabethan art as a powerful tool for royal magnificence and propaganda, and offering an intriguing portrait of Elizabeth as she's never been seen before.

'This is a jewel of a book, a fascinating overview of an iconic queen and her portraits.'
(Alison Weir)

Fortress of God:

Alfred, Aethelflaed, Gloucester & the Reconquest of England

Andrew Armstrong Time: 14.00-15.00 £10



In a new talk, City Archaeologist **Andrew Armstrong** casts fresh light on the fascinating story of the defence and re-conquest of England from the Vikings. Starting with Alfred the Great, he discusses the innovation that more than anything else stopped the Vikings: the creation of the burhs, a system of fortresses established across the kingdom of Wessex. He reveals how Alfred's daughter Aethelflaed used these fortresses to defend the kingdom of Mercia, and then to re-conquer the Midlands. For father and daughter, this was also a spiritual battle as he discovers how in Gloucester the two English monarchs sought divine approval and support against the pagan invaders.

20th Century Prime Ministers: Harold Wilson

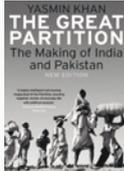
Nick Thomas-Symonds Time: 16.00-17.00 £10



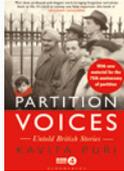
Harold Wilson, twice Labour Prime Minister between 1964 and 1976 and four time election winner, has a longstanding reputation for political chicanery, but MP and top political biographer **Nick Thomas-Symonds** disagrees. Under Wilson's government homosexuality was decriminalised, abortion legalised and capital punishment abolished, making way for the changes of the 'swinging sixties'. With unprecedented access to Wilson's cabinet papers he makes a powerful and intriguing new case for Wilson as one of the 20th century's greatest Prime Ministers. Introduced by Gloucester MP Richard Graham CMG.

The Partition of India

Yasmin Khan & Kavita Puri Time: 18.00-19.00 £10



The Partition of India in 1947 divided the country into India and West and East Pakistan at the cost of over a million lives and is the biggest mass migration of people in modern history. Mahatma Gandhi called the traumatic experience of Partition 'the vivisection of India' and in *The Great Partition* Oxford Professor **Yasmin Khan** shows how this operation was performed.



Kavita Puri's award-winning Radio 4 series and book *Partition Voices* shares the stories of people in Britain who experienced Partition first-hand. They join Jo Durrant to discuss the events of 1947 and Partition's enduring legacy, as its impact reverberates to this day for the many families who were divided by the lines that were drawn.

Unearthing Tutankhamun: 100 Years On

Janina Ramirez Time: 20.00-21.00 £12



This spring marks the centenary of the moment Howard Carter broke open the Boy King's burial chamber in 1923. Exploring the most celebrated dig of all time, **Janina Ramirez** offers a new perspective on the discovery of Tutankhamun's mummy, telling the story of that fateful day and the contested histories surrounding the Boy King's legacy of golden treasure. She reveals the challenges faced by the Raiders of the Lost Past film crew and what Egypt's historians really told her after the cameras were switched off.

King's Talks Friday 31st March

Join us at the Festival's new year-round talks taking place in the intimate and atmospheric Ivor Gurney Hall at the King's School Gloucester.

Gloucester Revealed: Fact, Myth & Legend!

Matt Cass & Paul James Time: 18.00-19.00 £6



Do you really know the history of Gloucester? Well think again! Did you know that Humpty Dumpty was created in Gloucester during the English Civil War, that Gloucester Cathedral was destined for demolition, that a Gloucester poem kept Nelson Mandela's spirits up in prison, that the Beatles played at Wetherspoons or that the vacuum cleaner was invented here? Join **Paul James** and **Matt Cass** as they reveal the City's fascinating secret histories explored in their book 100 Facts, Myths & Legends about Gloucester.

King's Talks events must be booked at: gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

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 visit the Waterstones shop just 3 minutes' walk away? 13-15 Eastgate Street, Gloucester.

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With thanks also to Andrew Pitt who has provided generous financial and strategic support to the Festival.

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



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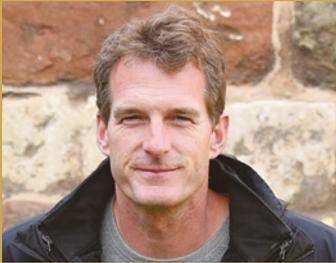
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GLOUCESTER HISTORY FESTIVAL

**2nd-17th September
— 2023 —**



Lucy Worsley, David Olusoga, Dan Snow and Mary Beard are just some of the world-class speakers who have shared their love of history at Blackfriars Priory. Join over 100 top historians for two weeks of extraordinary events in September. This year's programme is released in July!



gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk