



GLADSTONE'S LIBRARY STARTS OF 2018 WITH A BANG!

After a wonderful festive period, the Gladstone's Library team is back in action and raring to go for another year. We've an exciting array of events to begin 2018 including poetry

masterclasses and talks, silent reflective retreats, and of course, our spring *Hearth* festival!

As ever, it's the people who attend these events and courses

and engage in thoughtful discussion, asking intelligent questions, who make them, so please do read on to see what you could be part of in the next few weeks...

JUST ANNOUNCED: IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO WRITE! WITH VANESSA GEBBIE

Sunday, 11th February | 2.30pm

Writing, including learning to write well and then finding opportunities to be published, is not restricted to those with youth on their side. Writing is for us all - but sometimes, you'd be forgiven for thinking it isn't.

Join us for a fascinating look at how one of our very first Writers in Residence cracked the age issue in her writing career - not starting until well into her 50s. Maybe much has to do with gently breaking the unstated

rules of writing and the writing world - come along and find out!

Vanessa Gebbie's first book, *Words from a Glass Bubble*, was published in 2008. Her books since include the novel *The Coward's Tale* (Bloomsbury UK / USA, 2011) which became a Financial Times Novel of the Year; two further collections of short stories (2010 and 2017); and two collections of poetry.

Tickets are priced at £8. For more information or to book, please call 01244 532350.



HISTORY OF THE READING ROOMS

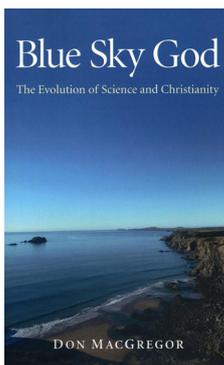
Monday, 19th March | 7.30pm

Why does Gladstone's Library look like it does, with crenelated bookcases and carved columns? Join the Library's Director of Collections and Research, Louisa Yates, as she suggests some ways of reading the features of our famous Reading Rooms - including the staircases and even the shelves!

As well as her role at Gladstone's Library, Louisa is also a Visiting Lecturer in English at the University of Chester. She writes on literary re-vision and the curious afterlives of the nineteenth century; her latest collaboration investigates Victorian manufacturing through its products. Louisa often delivers keynote talks and workshops to libraries and archives in the UK, usually on the theme of outreach and collaboration. She is Festival Director of the literature festival *Gladfest*.

Tickets are priced at £8. For more information or to book, please call 01244 532350.

BLUE SKY GOD: THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY



Friday, 16th – Saturday, 17th March

Based on his book of the same title which joins up current scientific views of reality with Christian theology, this course with Don MacGregor looks at some of the big questions around how we think about God and Jesus. Under

consideration will be quantum consciousness, the power of the intentional mind, morphic resonance and other new scientific theories.

Don MacGregor is an Anglican Priest living in Fishguard, West Wales. His Christian journey has moved from evangelical

and charismatic to mystical and esoteric with aspects of contemporary holistic spirituality.

Residential prices start from £125, non-residential from £90. Discount rates for clergy and students apply. To book, please call 01244 532350.



FOUR EXCITING AUTHORS ANNOUNCED FOR HEARTH!

Saturday, 3rd – Sunday, 4th February

The lineup for our February *Hearth* festival, has been revealed!

Dipika Mukherjee is an author and sociolinguist whose second novel, *Shambala Junction*, is a sharp exploration of corruption within international adoptions. At *Hearth* Dipika will talk about *Shambala Junction* as well as her debut novel, the contentious *Ode to Broken Things*, a story set

among the political scandals of modern Malaysia.

Annabel Abbs is a writer of historical-biographical fiction and a food writer. Her debut novel, *The Joyce Girl*, was a *Guardian* reader's pick of 2016. Via an exploration of some of her inherited cookery book collection, Annabel will consider questions including 'How did ingredients change from the mid sixteenth century to the swinging sixties?' and 'Who were the earliest writers of the form?'

Sheena Wilkinson is a novelist and short-story writer. Her historical novels, *Name Upon Name* and *Star by Star*, are set in Ireland during World War One and focus on war, identity and suffrage. At *Hearth* she considers how to create characters who are accessible to a modern reader but not ahistorical and how to negotiate the complexities of the past.

Jenny Lewis is a poet, playwright and children's author. Jenny's father served in Mesopotamia

(Iraq) in the First World War and at *Hearth* she explains how her investigations into his service led to her discovery of the Gilgamesh epic and the way that this research has influenced her writing.

Individual event tickets are priced at £14, Day Tickets are priced at £35 and Weekend Tickets are priced at £60. For further information or to book, please call 01244 532350.

CLEAVE THE WOOD AND THERE I AM



Friday, 2nd – Sunday, 4th March

A retreat which uses woodcarvings and music to prompt imaginative reflection on life in a way that words alone cannot achieve. Christopher's practice is to place one of his carvings without title or comment, and to invite participants to form their own reactions to it. Only then does Christopher offer his own interpretation, followed by music and reflective silence.

Christopher Lewis has been working with wood since the early 1970s when he was an Anglican missionary in Borneo

of the huge variety of timber available there. It was 30 years before he realised others might take what he did seriously when, as a residentiary canon at Bradford Cathedral, he was invited to contribute some of his work to an exhibition there by local artists. Since his retirement in 2007 he has had much more time for carving, and his ministry of conducting retreats and quiet days using these carvings has taken him all over the country. In 2017 he used them to conduct the Annual Day of Prayer at Westminster Abbey.

Residential prices start from £230, non-residential from £160. Discount rates for clergy and students apply. For more information or to book, please call 01244 532350.

FIRST WRITER IN RESIDENCE OF 2018 PREPARES TO BEGIN RESIDENCY



Gladstone's Library is looking forward to welcoming its first Writer in Residence of 2018, Polly Atkin, who will be taking up residency from 1st February.

Polly is a poet whose debut collection, *Basic Nest Architecture*, was published by Seren in 2017. It was described by the London Review Bookshop as 'precise and assured and sad and superb'.

Polly was recently diagnosed with Hypermobile Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and Genetic Haemochromatosis. Through writing and speaking about her life with chronic conditions, Polly hopes to raise awareness and

provoke discussion.

During her time at Gladstone's Library, Polly will lead two events – an 'Evening with...' talk and a practical day masterclass.

On Tuesday, 6th February Polly will give a talk considering the balance we all seek in our lives. For Polly, writing is part of a wider practice of self-care - this promises to be a thoughtful, reflective hour. Tickets are priced at £15 which includes a copy of *Basic Nest Architecture*.

On Saturday, 24th February Polly will lead a practical day masterclass entitled 'Writing the Body'. Using examples of writing about bodies in different scenarios, participants will be guided in penning a creative piece of work. Tickets are priced at £35 which includes lunch and tea / coffee.

To book either event, please call 01244 532350.

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