

Saturday 17th November at 3.00pm  
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

**'Writing for the Royal Court'**  
- Professor Harriet Devine.

Theatre historian and academic Harriet Devine will discuss the work and creative processes of Arnold Wesker, David Storey, and David Hare among other distinguished playwrights all of whom were connected with the famous Royal Court Theatre during a key period of its artistic ambitions.



Saturday 1st December at 3.00pm  
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

**'The Girl Who Would Be God: Sylvia Plath's Art of the Visual'**

- Dr Sally Bailey and Professor Suzie Hanna.

From a very young age the American writer Sylvia Plath was actively engaged with visual culture: painting, film, television, and animation. This lecture will look at these visual sources of inspiration and will be focussed on an animation piece 'The Girl Who Would be God' devised by Suzie Hanna in collaboration with Sally Bailey. Dr Sally Bailey is a Fellow of The Rothermere

American Institute and Suzie Hanna is Professor of Animation at Norwich's University College of the Arts.



**Membership Details:**

Chair: Linda Glees 01993 813009  
Vice-Chair: Angela Marshall 01993 811302  
Membership Secretary: Stephanie Bliss  
Email: [blisses@waitrose.com](mailto:blisses@waitrose.com)

Annual subscription: £22.00  
Cheques payable please to:  
The Woodstock Literature Society

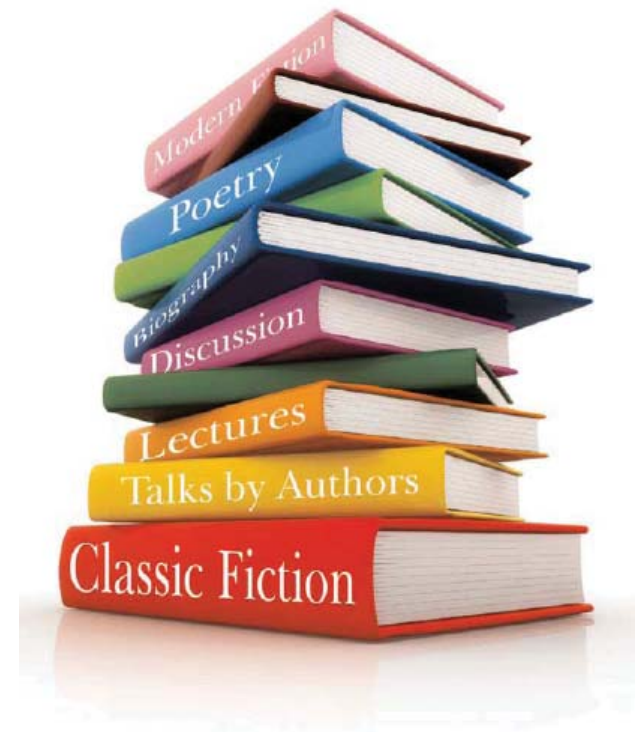
and posted to:  
S.Bliss, 6, Parkside, Woodstock, OX20 1UR.

Visitors:  
Library talks £4.00  
Museum and Town Hall talks £5.00

Under-18's free.

[www.woodstockliteraturesociety.com](http://www.woodstockliteraturesociety.com)

# WOODSTOCK LITERATURE SOCIETY



## 2012



# CALENDAR 2012

Saturday 21st January at 3.00pm  
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

## 'Shakespeare and Elizabeth: the Meeting of Two Myths' - Professor Helen Hackett

Shakespeare and Elizabeth I never met, yet many biographers, critics, novelists and film-makers have imagined that they did. Helen Hackett will explore why we feel the need to bring the playwright and the Queen together, and will describe imagined meetings. A revealing study in cultural cross-currents and historical possibilities. Helen Hackett is a Professor of English at UCL.



Saturday 25th February at 3.00pm  
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

## 'Romantic Moderns' - Alexandra Harris

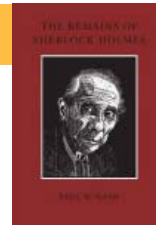
This illustrated talk will look at the work of a wide group of creative artists in England in the 1930's and 1940's who can be seen now to have generated an English renaissance. Alexandra Harris, a writer and Lecturer at Liverpool University, will look at writers including Evelyn Waugh, Virginia Woolf, and E.M. Forster; artists such as John Piper, Graham Sutherland, and Eric Ravilious; and photographers Bill Brandt and Cecil Beaton. *To be followed by tea and the AGM of the Society at 4.40p.m*



Wednesday 21st March at 8.00pm  
Woodstock Library

## 'Resurrecting Sherlock Holmes' - Dr Paul Nash

Holmes is perhaps the most famous fictional character in the world, and this talk will range widely over the enduring charm of the character, the delightful if insane work world of the 'Holmesians', and the bibliography and cryptobibliography of the Holmes books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Dr Paul Nash is the author of *The Remains of Sherlock Holmes*.



Tuesday 17th April at 8.00p.m  
Woodstock Town Hall

## The Dickens Bi-centenary lecture by Dr David Grylls: 'Dickens and Childhood'

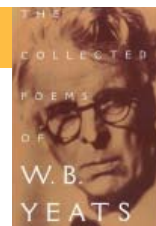
Charles Dickens was the first English novelist to write at length about childhood. This talk will explore the ways in which he did so and the personal and cultural factors that informed his obsession with the subject. Dr Grylls, a specialist in Victorian fiction, is director of Oxford University's Continuing Education programme in literature.



Tuesday 8th May at 8.00pm  
Woodstock Town Hall

## 'The Poetry of W.B.Yeats' - Dr Peter McDonald.

This talk will approach Yeats's changing styles of lyric poetry, from the poems of the late nineteenth-century to the major sequences of the 1920s and 1930s, in an attempt to chart the elements of both innovation and continuity that mark this poet's work. Peter McDonald is a poet and critic. He has published five books of poems, is the author of four books of literary criticism, and reviews regularly for the *TLS* and the *Guardian*. He is also Tutor in Poetry in the English Language at Christ Church, Oxford.



Wednesday 13th June at 8.00pm  
Woodstock Library

## A talk from novelist Joanna Kavenna

Joanna Kavenna's first book *The Ice Museum* was about travelling in the North. Her second was a novel, *Inglorious*, which won the Orange Award for New Writing. Her latest novel is *The Birth of Love*. Kavenna's writing has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Guardian*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The International Herald Tribune*. She is the current Writer-in-Residence at St Peter's College, Oxford.



Tuesday 25th September at 8.00pm  
Woodstock Town Hall.

## 'Queens of Crime' - Professor Heather O'Donoghue.

This talk will cover several great female crime writers, such as Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Margery Allingham, and Dorothy L.Sayers, and ask how their gender contributed to their craft. Professor O'Donoghue is a Professor of Old Norse and Fellow of Linacre College, Oxford. A self-confessed crime fiction addict, she is a judge of the annual Golden Dagger Award for Crime Fiction.



Wednesday 17th October at 8.00pm  
Woodstock Library

## 'The Short Stories of Franz Kafka' - Dr James Hawes.

Throughout his career as an actor, archaeologist, novelist, and academic Dr James Hawes has been convinced that everyone was wrong about Kafka, whom he prefers to read as black comedy. His biography *Excavating Kafka* appeared in 2008 and presents an entirely new, approachable, and entertaining look at this iconic author.

