

8 October 2019

Dickie Arbiter

*The British Monarchy
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

The best known of all HM The Queen's former press secretaries, Dickie Arbiter is the man the world's press always call when the Royals are in the news. An exceptionally talented speaker Dickie has over 50 years of experience covering royalty, heads of state, and other globally recognised personalities. He will dip into the history of the monarchy from the Hanoverian Georges to the present day Elizabethan age and beyond.

22 October 2019

Michael Green

Sudden Death in Shakespeare's Plays

Professor Green is a retired forensic pathologist with an interest in researching deaths described in the past. There are 74 sudden and unnatural deaths on-stage in the plays of William Shakespeare – and more off-stage. However, one has to ask how many of his deaths, are credible. How much knowledge of poisons was available, did henbane (or hellebore) get in through King Hamlet's ear? All (well some) will be revealed!

5 November 2019

Lois Pryce

Iran on a Motorcycle

Lois set off on her 3000 mile journey around Iran with some trepidation. Was it wise to ride a motorbike alone around this pariah nation of Islamic extremists? As soon as she crossed the border it became apparent that the Iranian people were going to make her fall head over heels in love with their country. She had never experienced such a warm welcome and effortless kindness and hospitality from a nation. Her book about this journey, "Revolutionary Ride", was published in 2017.

19 November 2019

Lucinda Hawksley

Celebrating 200 years of Charles Dickens

Lucinda is a biographer, travel writer, art historian and has inherited her great-great-great grandfather's (Charles Dickens) skill at speaking to audiences giving lively talks on a variety of subjects. 7 February 2012 marked the two hundredth anniversary of Dickens birth and Lucinda will talk about the lesser known aspects of her great-great-great grandfather and why he is still relevant today.

3 December 2019

Paul Atterbury

40 Years of the Antiques Road Show

Antiques Roadshow has graced our screens for forty years and has become one of the nation's most beloved television programmes and a national institution. It has featured thousands of unique stories over the years, and introduced many incredible characters and unforgettable moments. In this anniversary celebration, Paul Atterbury looks back at the quintessential moments from the show's illustrious history, providing a look at the history behind the very best and most intriguing objects that have appeared on the show.

14 January 2020

Martin Pailthorpe

From One Extreme to Another

Martin Pailthorpe picks the highlights from 30 years of film-making in some of the most challenging environments on earth. From the slopes of Everest to the searing heat of the Australian Bush - from the tropics to the bitter cold of Siberia. With travelling companions like Ray Mears, Monty Halls and Bear Grylls, and subjects that could eat you or kill with a single bite, this talk is informative as well as entertaining - leaving you wishing you had been there too (or glad that you weren't!).

28 January 2020

Lydia Slack

That Awkward Age

Lydia is the daughter of hill farmer Peter Slack who is one of the most popular speakers in the country and she has inherited his gift for telling wonderful stories. This is a humorous account of a young girl growing up on a farm, from her childhood to her teenage years until she finally escaped to Swaziland on a gap year.

11 February 2020

Brian Wilson

The Jacobite Rebellion of 1745

The removal of James II in 1688 by William of Orange resulted in the formation of the Jacobite movement with the aim of restoring the Stuarts. After several minor rebellions the most serious rebellion took place in 1745 under the command of “Bonnie Prince Charlie”. This talk concentrates on “The 45” and its impact on the NW of England and ends with the defeat of the Jacobites at the battle of Culloden.

18 February 2020

Michael Crick

*Our New Politics
It's Not All Doom and Gloom?*

Michael was a founding member of the Channel 4 News team when the programme was launched in November 1982 and joined the BBC in 1990, working on Panorama and Newsnight. In the 2005 election year it was observed that the five most terrifying words in the political lexicon were "Michael Crick is in reception". In 2011 he returned to Channel 4 News but recently resigned to become a freelance journalist. He gave us a very informative and entertaining talk on “Pursuing Politicians” in 2015 and this talk promises to be equally entertaining.

10 March 2020

Fraser Hunter

Roman Silver and Frontier Politics in North Britain

Fraser is principal curator of Iron Age and Roman collections at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. His principal interests are in Roman and Celtic finds at sites in Scotland. Our view of the Roman frontier is shaped by Hadrian's Wall, but military power alone was not enough to control the northern border. New research has revealed the widespread use of frontier diplomacy and bribery as Rome attempted to hold the area down. Much of this involved silver, both coin and bullion, passing into local hands. The talk will look at some of the treasures of the period and the impact this had on societies in the north.