

SPRING 2023 PROGRAMME OF LOCAL EVENTS

All events below are held at **St Augustine's Church and Community Centre in Richmond Road** and are open to all. Entry is normally free, although a small charge or retiring collection may be held where requested by speakers or performers. A complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles are served at most events.

The programme is supported by **Richmond, Oxford and Windsor Roads' Residents' Associations**, and **Benson Area Residents' Association**, and compiled by **St Augustine's Church**.

FRIDAY 13 JANUARY 6 – 7 PM A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO RETROFIT

“Retrofit” means redesigning existing buildings to make them more energy efficient. Most of us can see that this is important, but where do you start and which measures are best? **Margaret Reynolds** is an architect of 40 years standing and is now a qualified Retrofit Co-ordinator. She will be taking us through Cambridge City Council's new guide “Retrofitting your Home” launched in December 2022 – see <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/11676/retrofitting-your-home-report.pdf>

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 6 – 7 PM DEALING WITH DROUGHT – FROM THE PRACTICAL TO THE EXOTIC

A changing climate is making us realise that traditional gardening must adapt to cope with more extreme conditions by using more sustainable inputs with reduced carbon emissions. **Howard Griffiths**, recently retired Professor of Plant Ecology in the Department of Plant Sciences, will muse on various aspects of dry gardening, and whilst his own background on tropical succulents suggests that we might encourage plants from warmer climes, the recent cold snap provides a timely reminder of the sensitivity of such plants – and those of climatic extremes!

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 6 – 7 PM CAMBRIDGE MUSEUM AND WHAT IT CAN TELL US ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Roger Lilley from the Cambridge Museum will describe the origin and history of this fascinating local museum, the story behind some of its intriguing exhibits, and how and why they came to be here.

SATURDAY 18 FEB 6 – 7.30 PM WINTER DREAMS: ROMANTIC, BEAUTIFUL AND EXCITING

Cambridge Chamber Music presents a concert dedicated to WINTER – including pieces by Sibelius (*Spring Quartet Intimate Voices*), Grieg (*Two Elegaic Melodies*), Telemann (*Concerto for Two Violins*), Bach (*Concerto for Two Violins*), Haas (*Duo for Viola and Cello*), Schubert (*Trout Quintet theme and variations*) and Elizondo (*Danzas Latinoamericanas*).

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 6 – 7 PM WHY ALL IS NOT WELL WITH THE RIVER CAM

Stephen Tomkins, Chairman of the Cam Valley Forum, will explain in an illustrated talk and follow-up discussion, why there is now so much concern about the River Cam, as a chalk-aquifer sourced stream, and about its future ecological well-being.

FRIDAY 10 MARCH 6 – 7 PM THE MIGRANTS OF CALAIS

It is difficult to comprehend the degree of desperation which motivates refugees to risk their lives in refrigerated lorries and small dinghies to get from Calais to Britain, or to live rough for months in the freezing cold without shelter or food while they wait their chance. **Mary Stretch**, founder of **Calais Light** (which runs w/e convoys to volunteer with refugee charities in Calais), will outline why refugees want to come to the UK and why so many volunteers are willing to help them keep their hopes alive.

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 6 -7 PM FINDING W H HUDSON: THE WRITER WHO CAME TO BRITAIN TO SAVE THE BIRDS

WH Hudson, one-time celebrated author and naturalist, played a key part in the creation of the RSPB and the rise of the modern day conservation movement. **Conor Jameson** reveals how this unschooled, impoverished, battle-scared immigrant from Argentina achieved what he did. He travels to Hudson's homeland and discovers that he is remembered and celebrated there, links his life and legacy to today, and compares then and now. It's a costume drama, with plenty of birds!

FRIDAY 31 MARCH 6 – 7.30 PM RRA CHILDREN'S AFTERNOON CONCERT

- details to follow

SATURDAY 1 APRIL THE DAWN OF HOPE

Cambridge Chamber Music presents a dramatic programme in Poetry and Music about the season of SPRING and its resonances of hope for peace in the world. Highlights include Vivaldi's *Spring* from his *4 Seasons*, Piazzolla's *Spring from the 4 Seasons in Buenos Aires*, and Jose Elizondo's *The Dawn of Hope*..

..... and don't forget on **SUNDAYS 8 January, 5 February, 5 March and 2 April** to come and share a **COMMUNITY LUNCH** at St Augustine's starting at 1 pm : two courses with wine or fruit juice for only £8.00 per head.

And why not enjoy a coffee and cake at **Café@99?** **Open every Monday and Friday from 10.45am to 12.15 pm** at St Augustine's – a café run by and for the local community. Come to meet neighbours, share conversation, read a paper, or simply relax. Hosted by RRA and St Augustine's.