

SPRING 2026 PROGRAMME OF LOCAL EVENTS

All the events listed are held at **St Augustine's Church and Community Centre in Richmond Road** and are open to all. Entry is normally free, with a retiring collection, although a small charge may be made when 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**. Further details of most of the events will follow nearer the date specified below.

FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 6 - 7 PM MASS OBSERVATION:AN ARCHIVE OF EVERDAY LIFE, THOUGHT AND FEELING

KIRSTY PATTRICK

Founded in 1937, with roots in anthropology, sociology and documentary film, Mass Observation sought to document people's everyday lives. From wartime morale, religion and politics, to dreams and happiness, it captured behaviours, thoughts and feelings, using unique research methods. The archive, kept at the University of Sussex, is vast and offers a fascinating and valuable insight into Britain's social history. **Kirsty Pattrick**, Mass Observation's Research Manager, will share insights to the collections and its work today as a national charity supporting research, teaching and learning.

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 6PM - 7 PM BANTABA - "THE MEETING PLACE" - HELPING GAMBIAANS TO HELP THEMSELVES

JOHN MARTIN AND IRENA CHILDERLEY

The Bantaba Project is designed to help a local community in Saloum Daba in The Gambia, West Africa. It focuses on empowering that community through education and training workshops to benefit disadvantaged people by tackling illiteracy, health and poverty. **John Martin and Irena Childerley** will explain the project's history, successes and challenges.

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 6PM - 7PM FROM THE RAILWAY STATION TO THE SENATE HOUSE: WOMEN AT CAMBRIDGE 1869-1948

LIZ DUGNAN

This illustrated talk by Liz Duignan will examine the complexities of the almost eighty year struggle for women's higher education at Cambridge, set against a backdrop of societal attitudes and the resistance of both the University and the colleges.

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 6PM - 7 PM THE HISTORY OF THE HUNTINGDON ROAD ESTATE

MICHELLE BULLIVANT

This illustrated talk looks at how the Huntingdon Rd Estate took shape, from open farmland and ancient routeways to the familiar neighbourhood we know today. Using maps, photographs and local stories, it explores the area's changing landscape and community over time. Join local historian, **Michelle Bullivant**, for a fascinating journey through the history of the Estate, an area which embraced many of the roads where we now live and use every day.

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 6PM- 7PM CONCERT WITH ST AUGUSTINE'S SINGERS - THE MAGNIFICAT BY FRANCESCO DURANTE AND HANDEL'S DIXIT DOMINUS

St Augustine's Singers and Players, conducted by Paul Jackson, will perform two great masterpieces from the choral repertoire: Francisco Durante's *Magnificat*, a short and compact work full of charming melodies, and George Frederic Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, a virtuosic work for five-part chorus, soloists and orchestra.

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 6PM -7 PM CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND DILEMMAS

LORAINA GELTHORPE

The English and Welsh criminal justice system was once the envy of many countries, but this is no longer the case. Has the system lost its way? Do we imprison too many people or not enough? And what actually works to reduce reoffending? **Loraine Gelthorpe** is Professor Emerita Criminology and Criminal Justice, and former Director of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. She remains active in the field, both doing research and teaching, and is Chair of the Probation Institute: England and Wales.

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 6PM - 7PM CHARLES DARWIN IN PERSON: WORKING WITH THE DARWIN CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT

ALISON PEARN

2023 saw the publication of the 30th and final volume of a series containing more than 15,000 letters written by, and to, the evolutionary thinker, Charles Darwin. They chart Darwin's own life and development, as well as the work that resulted in his theory of species change through natural selection. **Alison Pearn** was part of the editorial team for 26 years and she will reflect on what we have learnt from the letters and on the privilege and fun of meeting Darwin in person.

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 7PM TO 10PM QUIZ NIGHT 2026

All are very welcome to take part in Richmond Road Residents' Association's Annual Quiz Night. Teams of up to 6 people compete for the prestigious trophy awarded to the winning team. A simple supper and drinks are included in the entry charge of £10 for adults and £5 for those under 18. Book your place now with Sarah (skh1000@cam.ac.uk) or with Richard (jr.footitt@gmail.com). Further details will follow in due course.

..... and don't forget on **Sundays 4 January, 1 February, 1 March and 12 April** to come and share a **COMMUNITY LUNCH** at St Augustine's starting at 1pm with 2 courses - including a veggie dish for those who wish - wine or fruit juice - all for only £10.00ph. Everyone is welcome.

And why not enjoy a coffee and cake at **CAFÉ@99**? Open every **Monday and Friday** from **10.30am to 12pm** at St Augustine's in Richmond Road - a café run by and for the local community. Come and meet your neighbours, share conversations, read a paper, or simply relax. Hosted by RRRA and St Augustine's, with takings going to a range of charities, local, national and international.