

## Richmond Literature Festival 2017: Arts Richmond events

Events on Wednesdays 8, 15 and 22 November, all at Duke Street Church at 7.30pm.

**8 November** – Books for Our Time event. *Grave New World* by Stephen D. King. Non-fiction, Yale University Press, 290 pp.

Straight talk with Q&A.

With Brexit and Donald Trump, is globalisation, long considered the best route to economic prosperity, fracturing? Is the global order being rejected in the face of nationalist, populist and protectionist ideas? If so what are the consequences for our economies and life styles? Are Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron reversing the trend?

Stephen D. King, author of *When the Money Runs Out*, is Senior Economic Adviser to HSBC and was, in the last Parliament, a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Treasury Committee. His brilliant and provocative new book, *Grave New World*, answers these questions and more as he examines what the end of globalisation would mean for prosperity, peace and the global economic order.

'A very important book at a crucial time', Lawrence Summers, former US Treasury Secretary

**15 November** – *Pocket Playhouse – Thirty Six Short Entertainments* by Michael Frayn, Faber and Faber

In conversation with his nephew, Julian Waters, sports presenter at Sky.

Michael Frayn needs no introduction to a Richmond – or any – audience. His many plays, ranging from the theatrical farce *Noises Off* to the deeply thoughtful *Copenhagen*, his novels from *Towards the End of the Morning*, a story of the old Fleet Street, to *Skios*, a comedy of errors on a Greek island, and his many witty and penetrating newspaper pieces, have delighted audiences and readers worldwide. His latest book is right in the middle of the Frayn tradition: *Pocket Playhouse - Thirty Six Short Entertainments*, dip in as you will.

On this privileged occasion, Michael Frayn is in conversation with his nephew, Julian Waters, a Sky sports presenter, on *Pocket Playhouse* and much more. Prepare to enjoy.

**22 November** – *War and the Death of News* by Martin Bell, Oneworld Publications, 295pp.

In conversation with John Stapleton followed by Q&A

Martin Bell has had a long career with the BBC as a war correspondent, covering every theatre of modern war you could name and encountering hideous experiences as well as extraordinary risks at times when many of his colleagues were being killed in the pursuit of accurate news. His experience in the field has made him question how far television news bulletins, especially 24 hour rolling news, get to the truth of what

is actually happening, whether because of undue sensitivity or self-censorship or shoddy reporting and editing.

His disenchantment with broadcasting and the state of politics led to his standing successfully for Parliament as an independent MP, prepared to stand up and challenge authority, of whatever party, when he believed the public was being misinformed.

*War and the Death of News* is the story of Bell's career as a war correspondent and political irregular, telling not just of his wars but of his battles with his editors when he fought to broadcast what he saw as the truth, with the sobering conclusion that, with the impending collapse of mentored news services through newspapers and broadcasting, we are facing the death of informed news, a disaster for our society.