

THE THOMAS HOBBS FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

“Where Ideas Come Alive”

The Town Hall

Malmesbury Wiltshire

Saturday 4th October

and

Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October 2008

Programme

The festival examines many aspects of Hobbes’ thought and influence. It also gives space to two major themes of philosophical enquiry, namely, the meaning of life and how we are governed.

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

<u>Saturday 4th October</u> [1]	11.00am to 12.30pm	<u>A Beginners Introduction to the Life and Work of Thomas Hobbes</u> Andrew Pyle FREE (reserve a ticket)	
<u>Friday 10th October</u> [2]	5.15pm to 6.15pm	<u>Prof Thomas Sorell: The Relevance of Hobbes</u> FREE (reserve a ticket)	
[3]	6.30pm to 7.30pm	<u>Prof Philippe Sands QC: Torture Team: Deception and Compromise of Law at Guantanamo</u> FREE (reserve a ticket)	
<u>Saturday 11th October</u>		<u>Mainstream</u>	<u>Speakeasy</u>
[4]	10.00am to 11.00am	Sir Anthony Kenny: <u>Influences and Background in Hobbes’ Philosophy</u>	
[5]	11.15am to 11.45am		Prof John Cottingham: <u>The Meaning of Life</u>
[6]	12noon to 1.00pm	Sir Crispin Tickell: <u>Has Humankind a Future?</u>	
[7]	1.15pm to 1.45pm		Baroness Mary Warnock: <u>On Assisted Dying</u>
[8]	2.00pm to 3.00pm	John Cottingham <u>interviews Baroness Mary Warnock</u>	

<p>[9]</p> <p>[10]</p> <p>[11]</p> <p>[12]</p>	<p>3.15pm to 3.45pm</p> <p>4.00pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>5.15pm to 5.45pm</p> <p>6.00pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>7.15pm to 8.15pm</p> <p>8.30pm</p>	<p>Prof Anthony King: <u>The British Constitution</u></p> <p>Prof Stein Ringen: <u>Repairing Democracy in Britain</u></p> <p><u>Desert Island Philosopher</u> Jonathan Ree interviews Terry Eagleton</p> <p>LEVIATHAN PIE SUPPER</p>	<p>Michael J Benton: <u>The History of Life</u></p> <p>Prof John Morill: <u>The Life of Oliver Cromwell</u></p>
<p><u>Sunday 12th October</u></p> <p>[13]</p> <p>[14]</p> <p>[15]</p> <p>[16]</p> <p>[17]</p> <p>[18]</p> <p>[19]</p> <p>[20]</p>	<p>9.15am - 9.45pm</p> <p>10.00am -11.00am</p> <p>11.15am -11.45am</p> <p>12noon -1.00pm</p> <p>1.15pm -1.45pm</p> <p>2.00pm – 3.00pm</p> <p>3.15pm - 3.45pm</p> <p>4.00pm - 5.00pm</p>	<p><u>Mainstream</u></p> <p>Tim Stanton: <u>Hobbes and Locke</u></p> <p>Jon Parkin: <u>The Reception of Leviathan in England</u></p> <p>Helen Small: <u>The Long Life</u> in discussion with Prof Pat Kane</p> <p>Prof Joseph Silk: <u>Questions from the Frontiers of Cosmology</u></p>	<p><u>Speakeasy</u></p> <p>Hegel and Locke’s Breakfast: Terry Eagleton: <u>The Meaning of Life</u></p> <p>Hugo de Burgh: <u>England 2020</u></p> <p>Prof Richard Bellamy: <u>Citizenship</u></p> <p>Francis Beckett: <u>Academy Schools</u></p>

[21]	5.15pm - 6.30pm	<u>The End of New Labour?</u> Geoffrey Wheatcroft Prof Vernon Bogdanor David Goodhart	
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Here are some of Mike Cuthbert's notes on the first few speakers ...

[1] Andrew Pyle lectures on a wide range of topics in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bristol. He is an active member of the British Society for the History of Philosophy and he has produced a major study on the philosophy of *Malebranche* (2003), a *Reader's Guide to Hume's Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (2006) and c-edited (with Anthony Grayling and Naomi Goulder) the *Encyclopedia of British Philosophy* (4 volumes, 2006).

[2] Prof Tom Sorell

No-one is better qualified to put Hobbes in perspective than the Canadian Tom Sorell, John Ferguson Professor of Global Ethics and Director of the Centre of the Study of Global Ethics at the University of Birmingham. He was editor of *the Cambridge Companion to Hobbes* (1996), *Hobbes and History* (with John Rogers 2000), and *Leviathan After 350 Years* (with Luc Foisneau 2004) and publications on a wide range of philosophical subjects and history.

[3] Prof Philippe Sands QC

The story of the Bush administration's descent into coercive interrogation is meticulously investigated in *Torture Team: Cruelty, Deception and the Compromise of Law* (Penguin 2008) by Philippe Sands, a leading barrister and Professor of Law and Director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at University College, London. His view that America is undermining the global legal order established after WWII is explored in his earlier book, *Lawless World: American and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules* (Penguin 2005).

[4] Sir Anthony Kenny

Author of the recent magisterial 4 volume *A New History of Western Philosophy* for Oxford University Press, from the ancient Greeks to recent times, Sir Anthony Kenny is master of all he surveys in some 40 books on every aspect of philosophy, with particular specialisms on Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes and Wittgenstein. He has a facility for explaining complex issues to general audiences and here he will talk about the background influences on Hobbes. Long-time an academic at Oxford where he was Master of Balliol College and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University, he was elected President of the British Academy and his scholarship has been recognised by honorary doctorates from over a dozen universities at home and abroad.

[5] Prof John Cottingham

One of the leading philosophers in Britain, John Cottingham, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Reading, is an outstanding international scholar on Descartes but

has a wide range of interests and publications and well-developed skills for communicating the importance and relevance of philosophy to the general public. Here he gives an insight into his take *On the Meaning of Life* and is the public interviewer of Baroness Mary Warnock.

[6] Sir Crispin Tickell

A passionate and knowledgeable environmentalist, Sir Crispin will talk about human survival and global environmental degradation and catastrophe. A man of many parts and multifarious activities, he has been British Ambassador to the United Nations and Permanent Representative on the Security Council, President of the Royal Geographical Society, Chancellor of the University of Kent, British Ambassador to Mexico, Chef de Cabinet to the President of the European Commission, Warden of Green College, Oxford and now Director of Policy Foresight at the James Martin School at University of Oxford. He has written many books, including *Climate Change and World Affairs*, and has over 25 honorary doctorates from universities around the world.

I hope this brief summary enthralls you as much as the members of the Festival Committee. Tickets can be purchased from The Tourist Information Centre at Malmesbury Town Hall.

[Tel. 01666 823748 email TIC@malmesbury.gov.uk]

With kind regards

Jenny Woodcock Mayoress of Malmesbury