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Web: [www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries) or [www.londonhistoryfestival.com](http://www.londonhistoryfestival.com)

**Festival directors:**

Richard Foreman, Chalke

Dave Walker, Kensington and Chelsea libraries

**Tickets: Kensington and Chelsea events**

**Price: £5 (£3 concessions) per event**

Tickets for events at Kensington Central Library are on sale at all Kensington and Chelsea libraries. Postal applications for tickets can be sent to the Local Studies Library at Kensington Central Library.

Payments in person or by post should be made in cash or by cheque only. Please make cheques payable to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Payments by credit or debit card can be made via Librariesline on 020 7361 3010.

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**Tickets: Waterstone's events**

**Price: £5 (£3 concessions) per event**

Tickets for events at Waterstone's Kensington are on sale at Waterstone's Kensington.

Waterstone's

193 Kensington High Street, London, W8 6SH

Tel: 0843 290 8419



The London History Festival

Max Hastings Jessie Childs Antonia Fraser Artemis Cooper Marc Morris

Dan Snow Saul David Stuart Tootal Paul Lay Charles Moore

## The London History Festival

18 to 28 November 2013

Kensington Central Library  
and Waterstone's Kensington

[www.londonhistoryfestival.com](http://www.londonhistoryfestival.com)



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## 2013 London History Festival Introduction

Welcome to the fifth London History Festival. For me and for many other librarians and archivists 2013 is a year of preparation for marking next year's centenary of the start of the First World War. The same is true for authors and so we are pleased to present Sir Max Hastings who will be talking about his new history of the war. The military theme continues with events on medieval warfare and the British soldier. But it's not all about war. We also welcome Lady Antonia Fraser, Artemis Cooper and Charles Moore to talk about quite different aspects of history.

This year the Festival also has some fringe events: Sophie Parkin on the Colony Club and Lucinda Hawksley on the Suffragettes. So the programme is bigger and more varied than ever. I hope you enjoy it.

**Dave Walker, Local Studies Librarian, Kensington and Chelsea Libraries**

If you are interested in local history why not visit my blog *The Library Time Machine* at: <http://rbkclocalstudies.wordpress.com/> in which I explore the history of Kensington and Chelsea through the photographs and artworks in our Local Studies collection.

## Author Interviews

**Saul David**

Appearing on 26 November



### Saul David, 100 Days to Victory

**What is the book about?** It's a history of the Great War told through a hundred key dates and events from 1914 to 1918. I have tried to cover the whole war from the perspective of all the belligerents: not only those who fought for each side – on the ground, in the air and at sea – but also those who played a vital role on the home front. The result, I hope, is a history with a wonderfully eclectic cast of characters that includes emperors, volunteer soldiers, journalists, suffragettes, conscientious objectors, spies, secret agents, revolutionaries, freedom fighters and patriots – many of whom were prepared to, and did, lay down their lives for their country and their principles.

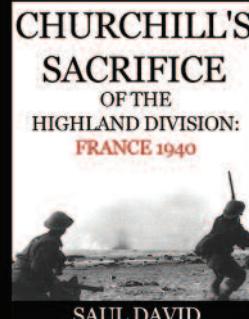
**Do you have any personal connection to the stories?** Yes. The fatalities included two of my great uncles, both volunteers keen to do their bit. I'd heard about their sacrifice as a boy, but knew nothing of the details. It was particularly moving, therefore, to read of the death of one of them in a cache of letters written by officers and soldiers who had served with him. The

letters had been transcribed by my heartbroken grandmother (younger sister to my two great-uncles) and inherited by my father. When I visited my father's house to collect them, he could not remember where he had put them. But it eventually came to him in the middle of the night and, having found them, he left them on my bed. Thus was I able to piece together the last dramatic moments of a young dentist whose soldiers would, in the words of one, have 'followed him anywhere'.

**Is the popular perception of the fighting on the Western Front – that of 'Lions led by Donkeys' – an accurate one?** No. Many mistakes were made by senior commanders but, far from all being 'Donkeys', some like Generals Haig, Allenby, Plumer and Byng made a positive contribution in very difficult circumstances; battles like the Somme and Passchendaele may have exacted a terrible cost in lives lost, but they also played a vital role in wearing the Germans down in a long war of attrition; and the trench warfare on the Western Front was not simply a case of two sides banging their heads unimaginatively against a brick wall, but rather an extraordinarily fertile period of military innovation in terms of weapons, tactics, training, logistics and the treatment of casualties – innovations that in 1918 would help the Allies to pierce the German lines and win the war.

'DAVID DOES FULL JUSTICE TO THIS "FORGOTTEN PIECE" OF HISTORY' MILITARY ILLUSTRATED

SAUL DAVID'S OTHER ENDEAVOUR TITLES INCLUDE: GREAT MILITARY COMMANDERS, MUTINY AT SALERNO 1943, PRINCE OF PLEASURE, THE DEVIL'S WIND AND THE HOMICIDAL EARL

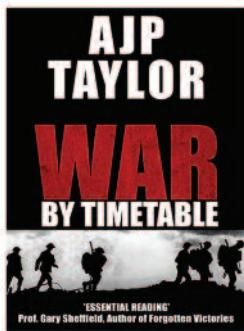


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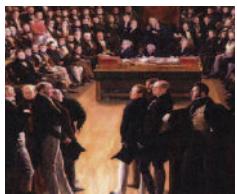
'HIGHLY ORIGINAL AND PENETRATING ... NO ONE WHO HAS DIGESTED THIS ENTHRALLING WORK WILL EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE PERIOD AGAIN IN QUITE THE SAME WAY'  
- THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH



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## ♪ The London History Festival, 18 to 28 November 2013 ♪

### **The Iron Lady**

**Monday 18 November, 7pm**  
Waterstones High St Kensington



Charles Moore talks about the life and career of Margaret Thatcher, how she used both her femininity and modest background to her advantage.

Margaret Thatcher first assessed the age and then shaped it, changing the political and economic landscape of the country to such an extent that we may consider that we are still living in Thatcher's Britain.

### **The First World War**

**Tuesday 19 November, 7pm**  
Kensington Central Library



Sir Max Hastings (*Catastrophe*) talks about the origins and early campaigns of the First World War. Sir Max will discuss how inevitable, or

avoidable, the Great War was. Was our going to war a mistake, or was it one of our finest hours? Ask questions and join in the discussion at the end.

### **Kings of the Castles**

**Thursday 21 November, 7pm**  
Kensington Central Library



Dan Snow (*Battle Castles*) and Marc Morris (*The Norman Conquests*) talk about medieval England – its monarchs and its strongholds. How significant were the kings and castles during the period? Ask questions about the age and its great personalities.



### **Perilous Question: The Great Reform Bill of 1832**

**Monday 25 November, 7pm**  
Kensington Central Library



Bestselling historian Antonia Fraser discusses the human and political drama of the events surrounding the Reform Bill of 1832.

How close did the country come to revolution? How do the events relate and resonate in regards to today's political and social landscape?

### **Soldiers**

**Tuesday 26 November, 7pm**  
Kensington Central Library



Saul David (*Victoria's Wars*) and Col. Stuart Tootal (*The Manner of Men*) discuss the British Army and its soldiers, from the Restoration to today.

How much has the British soldier changed, or stayed the same, during the period? The authors will also talk about their latest books and take questions from the audience.

### **Patrick Leigh Fermor – his life and times**

**Thursday 28 November, 7pm**  
Kensington Central Library



Bestselling biographer Artemis Cooper talks about the life and times of the enigmatic writer Patrick Leigh Fermor. Artemis will also discuss *The Broken Road*, Fermor's final book about his journey through Europe in 1933, and take questions on the art of researching and writing biography.

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Every ticket holder to the London History Festival will be entitled to a FREE copy of *History Today*

## Author Interviews

### Mark Morris

Appearing on 21 November

**It's been ten years since you presented the TV series Castle and wrote its accompanying book. Have your views about castles changed much in the meantime?**



Not very much, no. When we made *Castle* back in 2003 I tried to ensure it was as up to the minute as could be in terms of scholarship.

There was a strong desire on the part of some people in the production process to have as much blood and thunder as possible – boiling oil, crossbows, sieges – and of course we did all that. But I was insistent that warfare was only a very small part of the story. Castles were sometimes built as weapons of conquest, and when war erupted they were absolutely crucial. But even in the Middle Ages, such conflict was

unusual: there are plenty of castles that were never besieged at all. Ninety-nine percent of the time, castles were homes to their aristocratic owners – palaces, designed to provide the most comfortable possible living for the very richest people in society. This still surprises some people, so it's still a point worth emphasizing.

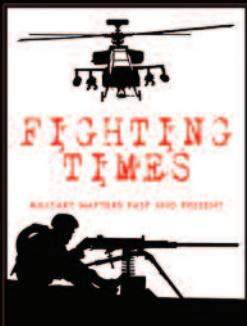
### So what's new in your ebook, *Kings and Castles*?

*Kings and Castles* is a collection of the articles and essays that I've written in the past ten years. It's a nice companion piece to *Castle* because it deals with some great buildings – Goodrich, Framlingham, Castle Acre – not featured in the first book. It also has an essay on the castles of the Norman Conquest in which I reject the extreme revisionist view which says castles are all about status. I know the Conquest period pretty well now (it's the subject of my latest book) and this idea just won't wash. If there's one time when castles were used as weapons pure and simple, it was in the years after 1066.

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EDITED BY BESTSELLING AUTHOR PATRICK BISHOP OUR FIRST ISSUE CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF GENERAL SIR DAVID RICHARDS.



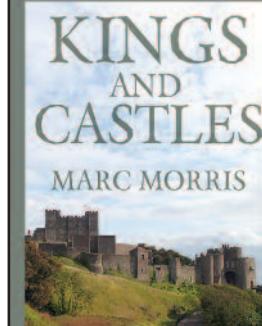
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MEDIEVAL BRITAIN WAS DOMINATED BY ITS KINGS, AND ITS KINGS DOMINATED THE LAND WITH THEIR CASTLES.

BUT WHAT WERE THOSE CASTLES? WERE THEY FORTRESSES? PALACES? OR SYMBOLS OF THEIR OWNERS POWER?



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## This year's fringe events:

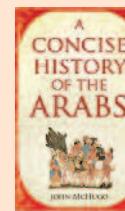
### John McHugo: A Concise History of the Arabs

Tuesday 15 October, 6.30 to 8pm  
Kensington Central Library



Join John McHugo who will talk about his recently published work *A Concise History of the Arabs* which deals with the political, social and intellectual history of the Arabs from the Roman Empire right up to the present day. He will cover the mission of the Prophet Muhammad, the expansion of Islam, medieval and modern conflicts, the interaction with Western ideas, the struggle to escape foreign domination, the rise of Islamism, and the end of the era of dictators. The book reveals how the Arab world came to have its present form, why change was inevitable and what choices lie ahead following the Arab Spring. This will be followed by a Q&A session.

John McHugo is an international lawyer and Arabist, with over forty years' experience of the region. He has worked as a lawyer in many Arab countries, notably Egypt, Bahrain and Oman.



This event will be hosted by Kensington and Chelsea libraries in partnership with Al Saqi Books and is part of the Nour Festival.

### Sophie Parkin: The Colony Room: a history of Bohemian Soho 1948-2008

Thursday 17 October, 6.30 to 8pm  
Kensington Central Library



Sophie Parkin tells the story of the Colony Room which opened in Dean Street in 1948. For sixty years it became a meeting place for some of the most creative minds of modern times in

music, theatre, art, literature, comedy and espionage. Sophie has collected tales of high jinks and low tragedy over 50 interviews with the members of one of London's unique institutions.

Sophie first went to the Colony with her mother Molly in 1975 and was a member of the club from the age of 18. She has written nine books including the *Life and Loves of Lily* series.



### Lucinda Hawksley: March, Women, March

Tuesday 29 October, 6.30 to 8pm  
Kensington Central Library

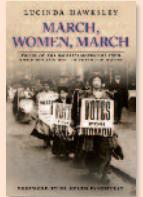


Lucinda Hawksley will be talking about her new book, *March, Women, March*, which traces the voices of the women's movement in Britain, from Mary

Wollstonecraft in the 18th century through to the "Flapper Election" of 1929, when all adult women were finally permitted to vote. As well as the famous names *March, Women, March* also recalls the many brilliant campaigners whose names have been forgotten over the years. Come and hear the witty, inspirational and shocking stories of how the vote was won

Lucinda became interested in the history of women's movement while researching the lives of 19th-century female artists. Her biographies include *Lizzie Siddal, The Tragedy of a Pre-Raphaelite Supermodel*; *Katey, the Life and Loves of Dickens' Artist Daughter* and *Charles Dickens*.

In November she will publish a biography of one of Kensington's most famous and artistic residents, the sculptor Princess Louise.



For tickets and contact information for all these events – see back of programme.