

Autumn Term 2025 Encounters

Friday 12 September Dr Stephen Belding An Encounter with the Chemistry of Explosives



Dr Stephen Belding is Head of Chemistry at Rugby School. His lecture, *"An Encounter with the Chemistry of Explosives"*, promises a thrilling journey through both the history and cutting-edge science of explosives. With spectacular live demonstrations, students will experience first-hand the reactions that made Chemistry famous for its "wow factor." The lecture ranges from the volcanic eruption that caused the largest recorded explosion in history to the very latest research, including the 2025 synthesis of what may be the most explosive molecule ever made. This unique event will combine dramatic science with real historical and modern discovery, offering students an unforgettable insight into the power and excitement of Chemistry.

Friday 19 September Nicholas Milton An Encounter with Neville Chamberlain



Nicholas Milton is a journalist, historian and natural historian. He has written a biography of Günther Niethammer, “The Birdman of Auschwitz” and in this Encounter will investigate whether Neville Chamberlain’s reputation can ever recover from appeasing Hitler and whether modern politicians can learn from his actions.

This Encounter will include a book sale.

Friday 26 September An Encounter with Trade Unionism

Fraser McGuire



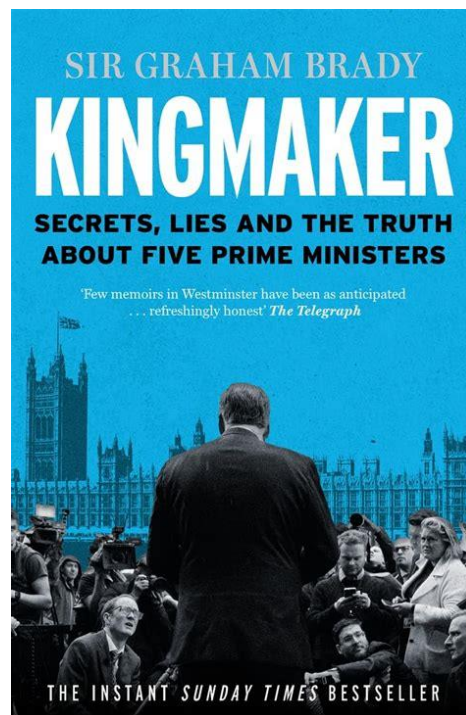
Fraser is 21 years old and a trade union rep in the hospitality sector, where he organises with other young workers against precarious conditions and low pay. He has also been involved in conversations with young workers - typically not trade union members - about how a decline in community assets and engagement in trade unions has played a significant role in the growth of far-right ideas among young people, and what trade unions and different community organisations can do to challenge this.

Friday 3 October An Encounter with Donald Trump



Join Jennifer Ewing and Greg Swenson from Republicans Overseas for their assessment of what Donald Trump means for the US, the UK and the rest of the world!

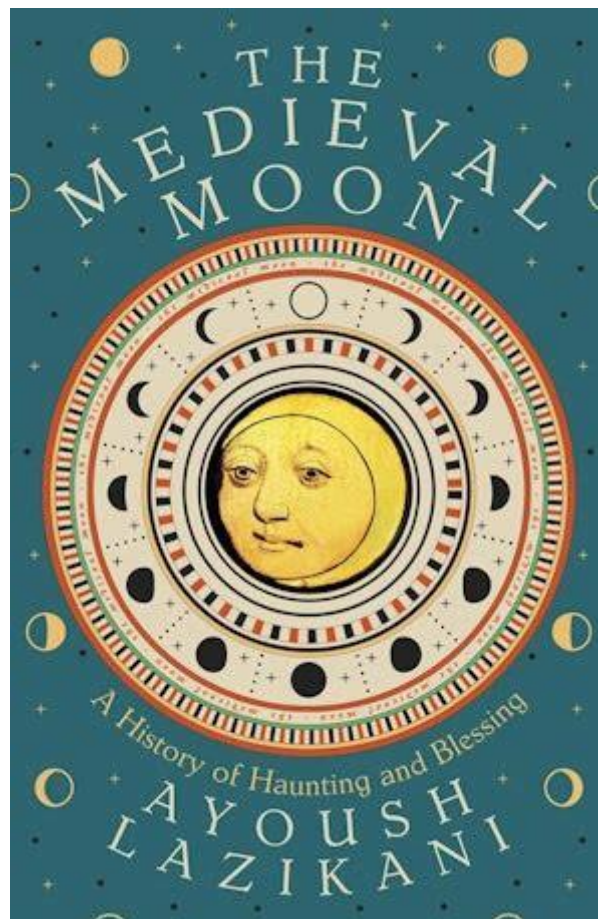
Friday 14 November Lord Brady An Encounter with the Kingmaker



Graham Brady was a Conservative MP from 1997-2024 and chairman of the highly influential 1922 Committee from 2010 to 2024. The 1922 Committee represents backbench Conservative MPs and Sir Graham chaired it during the most tumultuous period for the Conservative Party since the 1840s. In his extraordinary memoir he provides an unparalleled insight into the decline and fall of five Conservative Prime Ministers.

This Encounter will include a book sale.

Friday 21st November An Encounter with “The Medieval Moon”



Dr Ayoush Lazikani is an expert on cross-cultural medieval literature, specifically Christian and Islamic. Her third book 'The Medieval Moon' has just been published by Yale University Press in which she explores how across the global medieval people perceived the moon.

This Encounter will include a book sale.

Friday 28 November Richard Orwell An Encounter with my father, George Orwell



Richard Orwell was born in 1944 and moved to the Isle of Jura in 1946 with his father, George Orwell. On Jura Orwell wrote 1984 and George and Richard narrowly escaped disaster by sailing too close to the notorious Corryvreckan whirlpool. After George Orwell's death in January 1950, he moved to the mainland and was brought on a farm close to Jura. He retired in 2008 to spend more time with the Orwell Foundation and the newly formed Orwell Society, of which he is Patron of both. Richard Orwell married in 1964 and has two sons and five grandchildren.

This Encounter will include a book sale.

Friday 5 December An Encounter with the last years of the British Empire

Robin Rhoderick-Jones OW



Robin was a dayboy at Warwick School from 1949 to 1956. He joined the British army as a National Service Trooper and concluding as a Brigadier. Robin saw active service in Malaysia and Aden as well as undertaking spells in Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Cyprus and Libya. In Aden he flew helicopters. When commanding my regiment, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars he was detached as a part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Group to oversee the first free Rhodesian elections leading to the creation of Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe.