# Runnymede International Literary Festival

Monday 19 February to Saturday 3 March 2007





Monday 19 February to Saturday 3 March 2007

### Programme of events

Patrons: Andrew Motion and Hilary Mantel Royal Holloway programme: Thursday 1 (World Book Day) – Saturday 3 March Community activities throughout the festival

#### Box office:

01784 477304 www.rfest.co.uk email: info@rfest.co.uk

#### How to book

You can book by phone or in person.

Call 01784 477304 and book using credit cards or debit cards. American Express, Solo and Electron cards cannot be accepted. All credit card payments will be subject to a 1.44% handling charge. Please have your card ready when you call.

Or call in to the R:Fest Box Office at:

The College Bookshop Weybridge Books
Crosslands Bungalow, 28 Church Street
Royal Holloway, University of London Weybridge
Egham TW20 0EX Surrey KT13 8DX

Tickets can be ordered up to five working days before the event. Where applicable a charge of 50p is payable to cover postage. We are unable to offer refunds or exchanges once tickets are booked, unless the event is cancelled in which case a full refund will be given.

You must book in advance for all workshops. You can buy tickets at the door for all readings, discussions and performances, provided there are tickets left. However, as all the events are likely to be very popular, you are strongly advised to book in advance to make sure of your ticket.

R:Fest 2007 – the second Runnymede International Literary Festival – is supported by: Royal Holloway, University of London, Runnymede Borough Council, LCACE (London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise), The College Bookshop/Weybridge Books, Radio Jackie, Surrey Herald and News, Surrey Libraries, Alldridge Print Group and THE SOUTH. The Community & Education Programme is supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Design by Curious (www.curiousdesign.com) Illustration by Clementine Mitchell Printed by APG

















### Introduction

#### Welcome to R:Fest!

A very warm welcome to the second Runnymede International Literary Festival. After the success of last year's festival, we are looking forward to an even bigger and better festival this year. Whatever your taste in literature, during the festival you should find something to suit you.

Like last year, Royal Holloway, Runnymede Borough Council, and literature agency THE SOUTH, the principal festival partners, are working together to bring a programme of literary activities to Runnymede, including a range of community events and a three-day festival of national and international writers at Royal Holloway.

The festival includes a broad range of activities, from poetry and fiction workshops, through readings by leading poets and novelists, to talks on writing for radio and television. This year's writing competition for schools was on the theme of 'Motoring', and we are very pleased to welcome Simon Taylor to talk about 'Writing and Broadcasting about Cars and Motorsport'. We are also very pleased to welcome Professor Tim Unwin, who will talk on 'Wine and Fashion' and conduct a guided wine-tasting session.

I wish you a very enjoyable time at this year's R:Fest, and I look forward to seeing you at the events.

#### Professor Robert Hampson

Royal Holloway, University of London www.rhul.ac.uk/English

# Festival guide at a glance

Thurs 1 March				Sat 3 March			
2:00-3:30	Windsor 001/002 (£5/£3)	Jo Shapcott	Poetry workshop	10:30-12:00	Intern'l Bldg Common Room (IN243) (£5/£3)	Redell Olsen	Poetic practice workshop
3:30-4:30	Windsor 001/002	MA Creative	Poetry performance	12:30-1:30	Windsor 101/102	Simon Taylor	Talk
5:00-6:00	Windsor 004	Writing students Adam O'Riordan,	Poetry reading	12:30-1:30	Intern'l Bldg Common Room (IN243)	MA Poetic Practice students	Poetic practice performance
6:00-7:15	Windsor 001/002	Charles Bennett Akachi Ezeigbo,	In conversation 1:30-2:00	12:30-1:30	The Hub	RSA et al	RSA Coffee House Challenge
		Elleke Boehmer		1:30-2:00	Windsor 101/102	Competition winners	Prize-giving
7:30-8:30	Windsor 004	Simon Brett	In conversation	2:00-3:00	MLT	Justin Champion	Talk
7:30-9:00	Windsor 001/002 (£5/£3)	Penelope Shuttle, Richard Price	Poetry reading	2:00-3:00	Windsor 104	Sean Bonney, Andrea Brady,	Poetry reading
Fri 2 March						Elizabeth James	
2:00-3:30	Bedford Library Seminar Room (£5/£3)	Giles Foden	Fiction workshop	2:00-3:00	Windsor 103	Runnymede: The Street and Me	Community workshop work
4:00-5:00	Windsor 103	MA Creative	Readings	3:00-4:00	Windsor 104	Jay Boyer, Dan Rebellato	In conversation
		Writing Students		4:00-5:30	MLT	Tim Unwin	Talk
5:00-6:30	Windsor 101/102	Donna Daley-Clarke, Taminah Aman, Delia Jarrett-Macaule	3	4:00-5:00	Windsor 103	Gavin Selerie, Kai Fierle-Hedrick, Jeff Hilson	Poetry reading
7:30-9:00	Windsor 101/102 (£5/£3)	Hilary Mantel, Robert Hampson	In conversation	5:30-7:00	Venue TBC	Tim Unwin	Wine tasting
				7:30-10:00	Windsor Auditorium	Music Dept	Carmina Burana, Passing of the Year

### **Special Event**

### Wednesday 21 February

### Wednesday 21 Tebraary

#### Brian Patten

£7/£5 concessions & students
St George's College, Weybridge Road, Addlestone, KT15 2QS
Follow directions on arrival

"Patten composes rhapsodies and lamentations to the terrible beauty of human love" Literary Review

A special performance by Brian Patten, marking the appearance of two new books – *Collected Love Poems* (Harper Perennial) and *Selected Poems* (Penguin).

Widely acknowledged as one of Britain's foremost poets, Brian Patten's love poems have earned him recognition far and wide. Truthful and tender, profoundly aware of the possibility of magic and the miraculous, these poems capture both the joys and the sadness of love.

"Undiluted poems, beautifully calculated, informed – even in their darkest moments – with courage and hope" Charles Causley

### Royal Holloway Programme

### Thursday 1 March

#### 2.00-3.30 Poetry Workshop: Jo Shapcott

£5/£3 concessions & students, Windsor Building 001/002 20 places (advance booking recommended)

Ever wondered what happens in a poetry workshop? This workshop provides an opportunity for you to work with an exceptional poet and experienced creative writing teacher, to try out your own poetic skills and receive feedback on your work within a workshop context.

Jo Shapcott teaches on the MA in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway. Her first book, *Electroplating the Baby* (Bloodaxe, 1988) won the Commonwealth Poetry Prize for Best First Collection, and her collection *My Life Asleep* (1998) won the Forward Poetry Prize. She has twice won the National Poetry Competition, and, in 2006, received the prestigious Cholmondeley Award from the Society of Authors. Her selected poems, *Her Book: Poems 1988-1998*, has recently been re-issued, and her translations from Rilke have been published as *Tender Taxes* (Faber, 2006). She is the current President of the Poetry Society.

# 3.30-4.30: Poetry Performance: Students from the MA in Creative Writing

Free, Windsor Building 001/002

Come and hear the work produced by students currently on the MA in Creative Writing.

### Thursday 1 March

# 5.00-6.00: Poetry Reading: Adam O'Riordan and Charles Bennett

#### Free, Windsor Building 004

Adam O'Riordan completed the MA in Creative Writing last year and was awarded an Arts Council grant to finish his first collection.

Charles Bennett completed his doctorate (on Seamus Heaney) at Royal Holloway some years ago and has since then published two collections of poetry. His acclaimed first collection, *Wintergreen*, was published by Headland, and in 2007 Enitharmon will publish *How to Make a Woman Out of Water.* After six years as Director of the prestigious Ledbury Poetry Festival, he now teaches Creative Writing at various universities.

# 6.00-7.15: In conversation: Akachi Ezeigbo with Elleke Boehmer

#### Free, Windsor Building 001/002

Akachi Ezeigbo is a Professor of English at the University of Lagos and vice-president of PEN in Nigeria. She is also a novelist, children's writer, short-story writer and the author of *Gender Issues in Nigeria* and *Fact and Fiction in the Literature of the Nigerian Civil War*.

Elleke Boehmer is the Hildred Carlyle Professor of Literatures in English at Royal Holloway, an internationally recognised postcolonial critic and the author of three novels.

### Royal Holloway Programme

### Thursday 1 March

#### 7.30-8.30: In conversation: Simon Brett

#### Free, Windsor Building 004

Simon Brett began his professional life at the BBC working on radio programmes like *Week Ending* and the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. At the age of 35 he became a full time writer. The result has been a string of radio comedy series, including *After Henry*, *No Commitments* and *Smelling of Roses*. He has appeared in quiz shows such as *Quote Unquote*, and has chaired the *News Quiz*. He has written a variety of books, the most celebrated being his Charles Paris and Mrs Pargeter novels.

Simon Brett's latest novel is *The Stabbing in the Stables* published in 2006 with *Death under the Dryer* due in 2007.

### Thursday 1 March

## Friday 2 March

## 7.30-9.00: Poetry Reading: Penelope Shuttle and Richard Price

#### £5/£3 concessions & students, Windsor Building 001/002

Penelope Shuttle was born in Staines but has lived in Cornwall since 1970. She is the widow of Peter Redgrove. Their study of menstruation, *The Wise Wound*, was published in 1978 to wide acclaim, and has been in print ever since. She has also published 8 collections of poetry, the most recent being *Redgrove's Wife* (Bloodaxe, 2006), which was nominated for this year's Forward Prize for Best Collection.

Richard Price is the author of the poems Lucky Day (2005). He co-edited the essay collections The Star You Steer By: Basil Bunting and British Modernism (2000) and La Nouvelle Alliance: Influences Francophones sur la Litérature Écossaise Moderne (2000). He is the curator of the forthcoming exhibition 'Migrant Magazine and the Possibility of Poetry' at the British Library (Jan-March 2007), where he is Head of Modern British Collections. He has just published, co-authored with David Miller, British Poetry Magazines 1914-2000: A History and Bibliography of 'Little Magazines' (British Library, 2006).

### 2.00-3.30: Fiction Workshop: Giles Foden

Royal Holloway Programme

£5/£3 concessions & students, Bedford Library Seminar Room 20 places (advance booking recommended)

Giles Foden's first novel, *The Last King of Scotland*, won numerous prizes including the Whitbread First Novel Award and a Somerset Maugham Award. It has just been made into a film, which opened the London Film Festival in 2006.He has gone on to write two further novels with African themes, *Ladysmith* and the highly praised *Zanzibar*, as well as the non-fictional narrative *The Battle for Lake Tanganyika*.

# 4.00-5.00: Fiction Reading: Students from the MA in Creative Writing

#### Free, Windsor Building 103

Come and hear new work by the fiction writers from the MA in Creative Writing.

### Friday 2 March

### 5.00-6.30: Reading: Delia Jarrett-Macauley/ Donna Daley-Clarke/Taminah Aman

#### Free, Windsor Building 101/102

Delia Jarrett Macauley made her name as the author of *The Life of Una Marson, 1905-1965*. Her first novel, *Moses, Citizen & Me*, about child soldiers in Sierra Leone was awarded the 2005 Orwell Prize.

Donna Daley-Clarke is the author of *Lazy Eye*, which was winner of the Commonwealth First Novel Prize in 2006. She was a graduate of the MA programme in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, and has been the recipient of a Hawthornden Fellowship as well as writers awards from the Society of Authors, the Jerwood Foundation and the Arts Council for England.

Taminah Aman completed the MA in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway and has just published her first novel.

### Royal Holloway Programme

### Friday 2 March

# 7.30-9.00: The Gwendoline Butler Evening: Hilary Mantel in conversation with Robert Hampson

#### £5/£3 concessions & students, Windsor Building 101/102

Hilary Mantel is one of the leading contemporary British novelists. Her novels include *Eight Months in Ghazzah Street* (1988); *Fludd* (1989), which was awarded the Winifred Holtby Prize, the Cheltenham Festival Prize and the Southern Arts Literature Prize; *A Place of Greater Safety* (1992), which won the Sunday Express Book of the Year Award; *A Change of Climate* (1993); *An Experiment in Love* (1995), which won the Hawthornden Prize. Her most recent works are her outstanding memoir, *Giving up the Ghost* (2003) and the novel *Beyond Black* (2005), which was the Yorkshire Post Book of the Year and short-listed for a Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. She was awarded an OBE for services to literature.

Beyond Black was described as 'dark, unsettling, and gleefully tasteless' by the London Review of Books. This novel, set in Chertsey, Dorking and Windsor, engages with 'spiritualism, Hell and the state of contemporary England'.

Robert Hampson is Professor of Modern Literature and Head of the Department of English at Royal Holloway. He has published extensively on Conrad, and edited Conrad, Kipling, and Haggard for Penguin.

Gwendoline Butler has had a long association with Royal Holloway and has written over 50 books, the latest being *Dread Murder* (2006). Her crime novels are popular in Britain and the United States, and her many awards include the Crime Writers' Association Silver Dagger. This event celebrates her achievements and is generously supported by her family.

### Saturday 3 March

# 10.30-12.00: Poetic Practice Workshop: Redell Olsen

### £5/£3 conc & students, International Building IN243 20 places (advance booking recommended)

Do you want to push the boundaries of your writing? This workshop will provide you with the opportunity to explore a range of process-based approaches to poetry. You will consider the space of writing both on and off the page and the visual possibilities of poetry. You will explore a range of techniques for writing such as working with chance procedures and assembling texts from 'found' materials.

Redell Olsen is an innovative poet and teacher. Her work includes the acclaimed collection, *Secure Portable Space* (Reality Street, 2004) and visual, performative and collaborative projects in a wide variety of media. She is the Director of the MA in Poetic Practice at Royal Holloway, where she teaches contemporary poetry and new technologies of writing.

# Royal Holloway Programme

### Saturday 3 March

# 12.30-1.30: Lecture: Writing and Broadcasting about Cars and Motorsport: Simon Taylor

#### Free, Windsor Building 101/102

Simon Taylor started out in 1966 as a junior reporter on the British weekly bible *Autosport*. In two years he had risen, at the age of 23, to be its Editor. In 1973 he devised a new monthly motor magazine, *What Car?*, which became the highest-selling car magazine in Britain. In 1984 he was involved in the takeover and re-launch of the long-established *Autocar*, now probably the world's most respected magazine covering the car industry. He went on to be Managing Director and then Chairman of Haymarket Magazines, a £100million company which is now the largest publisher of motor magazines in the UK.

Simon was BBC Radio's F1 correspondent from 1976 to 1996 and spent nine seasons as race commentator for ITV's International Motor Racing series. He has been the TV commentator for every Goodwood Revival meeting since the event's inception, and helped organise the Motor Racing Legends series of historic sports car races at Le Mans.

Today he is Editor At Large both of *Motor Sport* magazine and *Classic & Sports Car.* He is one of five authors of the mammoth *Autobiography of Formula One.* His other book credits include *Formula One Heroes*, co-authored with Murray Walker; *The Glory of Goodwood*, the official history of the Goodwood racing circuit, with Mike Lawrence; *AC Heritage*, a history of the AC marque: and *The Shelsley Walsh Story*, which covers the hundred-year history of the famous Worcestershire hillclimb. This book won the Guild of Motoring Writers' Timo Makinen Award for the best motor sports writing of 2005.

### Saturday 3 March

### Royal Holloway Programme Saturday 3 March

# 12.30-1.30: Poetic Practice Performance: Students from the MA in Poetic Practice

#### Free, International Building IN243

Come and hear the work of the current students on the MA in Poetic Practice.

### 12.30-1.30: Royal Society of Arts Coffee House Challenge: Creative Industries and Civic Regeneration

#### Free, RSA Coffee House: The Hub

What are the Creative Industries and what can the arts do for civic regeneration? Can the success of the Baltic in Newcastle be repeated elsewhere? Could the money destined for the Olympics have been more productively used by the arts? This is the first of the RSA's 2007 Coffee House Challenges. It follows last year's successful Coffee House Challenge discussion of Creative Writing and Creative Industries. Come and have your say, or come and just listen.

#### 1.30-2.00: Presentation of Writing Competition Prizes

#### Free, Windsor Building 101/102

Ferrari GB has very generously sponsored this year's writing competition: a competition for local schools on the theme of 'Motoring'. Come and hear the winning entries. Simon Taylor will be presenting the prizes.

# 2.00-3.00: Lecture: History on Radio and Television: Professor Justin Champion

#### Free, Main Lecture Theatre, Founders' Building

What is it like for a historian to work with radio and television? What happens to history when it leaves the archive and the library for the studio? Justin Champion is Professor in the History of Early Modern Ideas and Head of the Department of History at Royal Holloway. He is an expert on religious and social change in 17th-century Britain, and a well-known figure on radio and television. His most recent television programme, *The Mystery of the Plague*, explored the causes, effects and beliefs surrounding the Black Death pandemic, which killed nearly one third of Europe's population in the fourteenth century.

### 2.00-3.00: Poetry Reading: Sean Bonney/ Elizabeth James/Andrea Brady

#### Free, Windsor Building 104

Sean Bonney is widely regarded as one of the most interesting London poets of his generation. His poetics of total critique and his distinctive reading style make for a memorable experience. His works include *Notes on Heresy* (Writers Forum, 2002), *Poisons, Their Antidotes* (Westhouse, 2003) and *Blade Pitch Control Unit* (Salt, 2005).

Elizabeth James collaborated with Frances Presley on *Neither the One Nor the Other*. Her own work, from 1:50,000: Sixteen Short Poems (1992) to her most substantial collection to date, Base to Carry (Barque Press), represents a serious engagement with the possibilities of contemporary poetry.

### Saturday 3 March

Andrea Brady teaches at Brunel University and is Director of the Archive of the Now, an archive of contemporary innovative poetry. She runs the highly-regarded Barque Press with Keston Sutherland and co-edited with him 100 Days (Barque Press, 2001), a rapid response to the Bush presidency. She also co-edited Sanctions on Iraq: Background, Consequences, Strategies (2000). Her poetry has been published in a number of smaller collections, including Liberties (Barque, 1999), Cold Calling (Barque, 2004) and Embrace (Object Permanence, 2005), and the more substantial collection, Vacation of a Lifetime (Salt, 2001). Her poetry characteristically engages with social and political concerns, its urgent ethical negotiations articulated through a layering of discourses.

### 2.00-3.00: Runnymede: The Street & Me

#### Free, Windsor Building 103

Work by workshop leaders and participants in the community programme. Introduced by John Davies, the Director of THE SOUTH.

## 3.00-4.00: In conversation: Jay Boyer and Dan Rebellato

#### Free, Windsor Building 104

Jay Boyer is an established playwright and fiction-writer, and a Professor in the Creative Writing program at Arizona State University. Dan Rebellato, a Professor in the Drama Department at Royal Holloway, is an experienced writer for radio and the stage. He recently adapted John Wyndham's *The Midwych Cuckoos* and Gogol's *Dead Souls* for Radio 4.

### Royal Holloway Programme

### Saturday 3 March

# 4.00-5.30: Lecture: Wine and Fashion: Professor Tim Unwin

#### Free, Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building

Have you ever wondered about the wine-drinking habits of the inhabitants of these islands? When were French and German wines introduced? What have been the fashions in wine and wine-drinking?

Tim Unwin is a Professor of Geography at Royal Holloway. From 2001 to 2004, he led the Prime Minister's Imfundo initiative based in the Department for International Development. He also has a research interest in the wine trade, focusing on the historical geography of viticulture, and is academic adviser to the Institute of Masters of Wine.

#### 4.00-5.30: Poetry Reading: Gavin Selerie/ Jeff Hilson/Kai Fierle-Hedrick

#### Free, Windsor Building 103

Gavin Selerie has built up a substantial body of work since *Azimuth* (1984), including his sonnet sequences, *Elizabethan Overhang* (1989) and *Tilting Square* (1992), his long poem *Roxy* (1996) and his collaboration with Alan Halsey *Days of '49* (1999). His most recent work, *Le Fanu's Ghost* (2006), combines serious literary scholarship with a sustained formal inventiveness.

Jeff Hilson teaches Creative Writing at Roehampton University. He co-edited the magazine *Cul-de-qui* and is co-organiser of the London poetry-reading series Crossing the Lines. His visual work was published in *Tracey Traces* (Kater Murr, 2002). His most recent poetry publication was *Stretchers* (Reality Street, 2006).

### Saturday 3 March

### Community activities

Kai Fierle-Hedrick is a Canadian-American site-specific mixed-media writer. Her work in various media negotiates between semantic, visual and sonic expression. Her publications include *String Theories* (Bad Press, 2004), *Motion Study* (Bad Press, 2005) and a poetic essay *Pantoume* (2006).

#### 5.30-7.00: Guided Wine Tasting

#### £10, venue to be confirmed

Wines from Stanlake Park Estate. Located within Windsor Great Park, Stanlake Park has a rich and fascinating history. Its origin is in the 12th century, when it was called Hinton Pippard. The name changed to Stanlake Park in the Tudor period. A vineyard was first planted in 1979 – originally known as 'Thames Valley Vineyards', and then simply 'Valley Vineyards'.

#### 7.30: The Royal Holloway Chorus

£12, £10 Senior Citizens, £3 students, Windsor Building Auditorium Seats are unreserved, with tickets available at the door. Doors open at 7.00.

Director: Rupert Gough

#### Programme:

Carl Orff, Carmina Burana Jonathan Dove, The Passing of the Year The Community and Education Programme, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, is focussed on young people through schools and colleges. It includes workshops at Addlestone Youth Centre; Magna Carta School, Staines; St George's College, Addlestone; Strodes College, Egham and many other local primary and secondary schools. Activities will include creative writing linked with dance, video, street arts and performance.

From World Book Day Thursday 1 March to Saturday 3 March, Shedman will be in residence at The College Bookshop on campus, which is itself an old shed and a listed building. Come and say hello to Shedman, share your shed stories and join in the fun. www.shedman.net

The theme of the community and education programme is 'Runnymede: The Street & Me'. It creates an opportunity for young people to focus on Runnymede as a place – its street scene and landscape, as well as placing their own personal experience within it.

The organisers acknowledge the kind support of Ferrari GB Ltd for a special writing competition for local school children.



### Information

### Map

### Runnymede & Royal Holloway

#### Refreshments

Festival food and refreshments will be available from The Hub.

### Festival Bookshop

The College Bookshop on campus is the official festival bookshop and they will run a book stall at the main events. Poets and authors will allow time for book signings. Call in to The College Bookshop on campus and Weybridge Books in Weybridge for more information or see their website www bookstore could

#### **Venues**

The Main Lecture Theatre is in the Founder's Building, the main building at Royal Holloway.

Windsor Building is the newest building on the Royal Holloway campus and is opposite the Founder's Building.

International Building Board Room & Common Room are in the International Building.

The Hub is a catering outlet serving drinks and food all day.

Bedford Library Seminar Room is on Level 1 of the Bedford Library.

Café Jules in the International Building will be open Thursday to Friday, and the Crosslands Suite in the Founders' Building will be open Thursday to Saturday.

#### Maps & travel directions:

www.rhul.ac.uk/visitors-quide www.st-georges-college.co.uk

# FGHAM. THORPE • VIRGINIA WATER • CHERTSEY . Р ADDLESTON •

#### Kev

- 1 Main Lecture Theatre/ Founder's Building
- 2 Windsor Building

- International Building
- The Hub
- Bedford Library

### Advertising

Did you know that the Royal Holloway, University of London bookshop is open to the general public? And we don't just stock academic books, but a great range of fiction, biography, reference, travel, local history, cookery, children's books, philosophy, history and more. We also have a growing number of used titles.

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At www.thecollegebookshop.co.uk, you can browse every title in print in the UK and Ireland (over 1.5 million titles). We also provide an out-of-print book search service.

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Tel: 01784 477304 Open Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm We are also at:

Weybridge Books 28 Church Street Weybridge Surrey KT13 8DX

Tel: 01932 842498 www.bookstore.co.uk

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The local independent bookshop for Englefield Green and Egham

### **Advertising**

### THE SOUTH

#### Literature with a new direction

THE SOUTH is a friendly organisation that has fun with words. We're a writers' network and literary arts agency that develops projects, talent, audiences, readers and communities in the south of England. We work in partnership locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We have a deep commitment to freedom of expression, diversity and equality of opportunity.

### THE SOUTH

Brighton Writers' Centre 49 Grand Parade Brighton BN2 9QA

01273 571700 www.thesouth.org.uk



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From What Say the Reeds at Runnymede? Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

At Runnymede, at Runnymede, What say the reeds at Runnymede? The lissom reeds that give and take, That bend so far, but never break, They keep the sleepy Thames awake With tales of John at Runnymede.

At Runnymede, at Runnymede,
Your rights were won at Runnymede!
No freeman shall be fined or bound,
Or dispossessed of freehold ground,
Except by lawful judgment found
And passed upon him by his peers.
Forget not, after all these years,
The Charter signed at Runnymede.'

And still when mob or Monarch lays
Too rude a hand on English ways,
The whisper wakes, the shudder plays,
Across the reeds at Runnymede.
And Thames, that knows the moods of kings,
And crowds and priests and suchlike things,
Rolls deep and dreadful as he brings
Their warning down from Runnymede!