

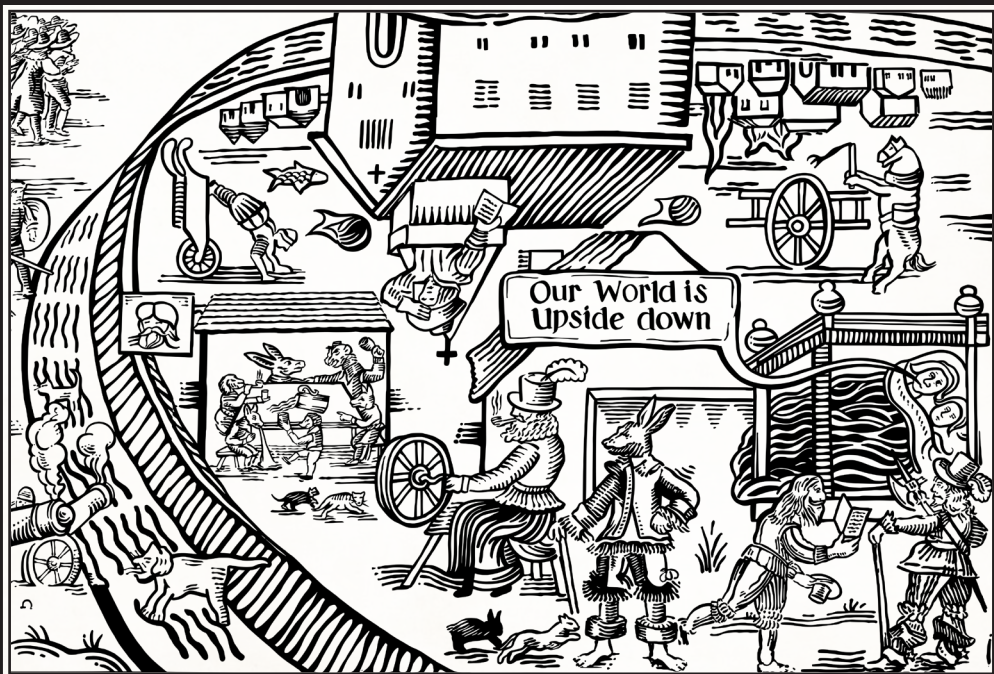


CHRIST CHURCH

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SPECIAL INTEREST EVENT

THURSDAY 26–SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026



BRITAIN TURNED
UPSIDE DOWN
CIVIL WAR & REPUBLIC, 1640–1660

PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

Professor Andrew Hopper

The British and Irish Civil Wars of the 1640s and 1650s were a foundational series of conflicts. They forged the relationships between the English, Scots, Irish and Welsh peoples that have lasted for centuries. The Civil Wars were the most destabilising and complicated conflicts that these island peoples have ever endured. They led in England to the unprecedented trial and execution of King Charles I, and the foundation of a creative period of republican rule. They also brought about the English conquest of Scotland and the colonisation of Ireland. No wonder those living through the turmoil articulated that their world had been turned upside down. During this event we will look beyond the battles and generals to better understand the people's experience of war and revolution.

Contemporaries' sense of dramatic crisis and overturning was heightened by moments of intense religious and political excitement and experimentation. We will examine the change and novelty brought about by these wars through the voices of their participants, from maimed soldiers and war widows to Oliver Cromwell himself. The notion that authority was divine and came down from above was challenged by the idea that power originated in the people, who should entrust it to their chosen representatives for only a limited period. These English ideas influenced later revolutions. For a time, fundamental changes to society looked possible, even likely. Meanwhile an English empire was forged to the westward, into Ireland and the Atlantic beyond.

Join us for this **Special Interest Event** as our team of experts explore with you what the causes, costs, consequences and legacies of Civil War and Republic mean for us today.

How should we remember this revolutionary period in British History and how might we learn from it as we face an uncertain future?



Bruno Ryves and others, *Mercurius Rusticus: The Country's Complaint Recounting the Sad Events of the late Unparalleled Rebellion* (London, 1648). Image courtesy of the Governing Body of Christ Church, Oxford.



Mary Frith (c1584-1659), alias Moll Cutpurse, English pickpocket and fence. Illustration from Woodburn's *Gallery of Rare Portraits* (George Jones, London, 1816). © Look and Learn / Bridgeman Images.

EVENT TIMELINE



THURSDAY 26 MARCH

- 14.00** Registration & Afternoon Tea
- 16.00** Programme Welcome
Professor Andrew Hopper
- 16.15** The Blood in Winter:
A Nation Descends, 1642
Dr Jonathan Healey
- 18.30** Drinks Reception
- 19.30** Dinner

FRIDAY 27 MARCH

- 8.00** Breakfast
- 9.15** The Three Kingdoms and
the Outbreak of Civil War
Professor Laura Stewart
- 10.45** Morning Refreshments
- 11.15** The Reality of War:
A Civil Conflict or 'England
Turned Germany'?
Dr David Appleby
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Cavalier Capital:
Oxford during the Civil Wars
Professor Lloyd Bowen
- 15.30** Afternoon Refreshments
- 16.00** Paper Bullets: Prince Rupert,
Pamphlets and Propaganda
Professor Mark Stoye
- 19.30** Dinner

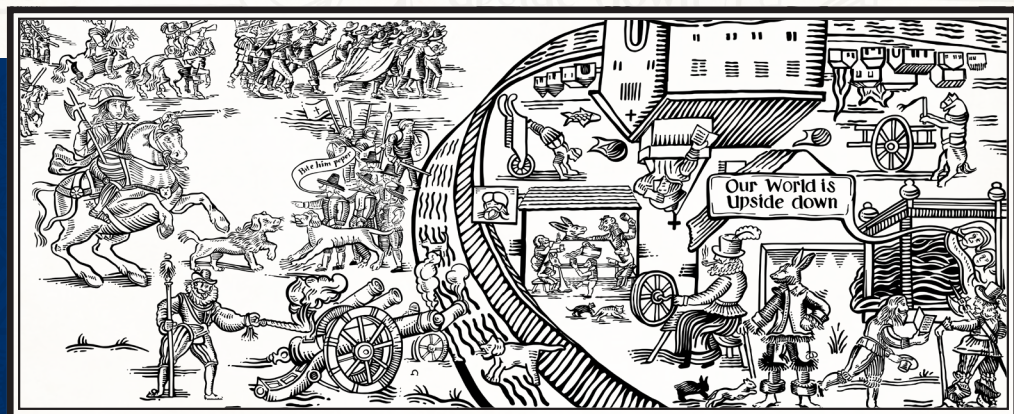
SATURDAY 28 MARCH

- 8.00** Breakfast
- 9.15** The People's Stories
Dr Ismini Pells
- 10.45** Morning Refreshments
- 11.15** Finding Cromwell's Voice
Professor John Morrill
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Optional activities
Civil War Oxford Exhibition
Arms and Armour Demonstration
- 15.00** Afternoon Refreshments
- 16.15** Confederacy, Conquest and
Colonisation: Ireland 1641-1660
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer
- 19.00** Closing Drinks Reception
- 19.30** Gala Banquet

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

- 8.00** Breakfast
- 9.30** The 1650s and the Making of the
British Atlantic World
Professor Carla Gardina Pestana
- 10.45** Morning Refreshments
- 11.15** How Do We Remember? Legacies
of Civil War and Republic for
Britain and Ireland Today
Dr Imogen Peck
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Depart

Oliver P.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



ANDREW HOPPER

The Academic Director for this course and Professor of History in Oxford Lifelong Learning at the University of Oxford

He completed his doctorate at the University of York in 1999 and is known for his books *Black Tom: Sir Thomas Fairfax and the English Revolution* (Manchester, 2007), and *Turncoats and Renegadoes: Changing Sides in the English Civil War* (Oxford, 2012). He was Principal Investigator of the Civil War Petitions Project, whose research underpins his next book *Widowhood and Bereavement during the English Civil Wars* (Oxford, 2027). He is the co-editor of the *World Turned Upside Down* and general editor of the *Civil War in 100 Objects* (History West Midlands, 2025).



DAVID J. APPLEBY

Co-Investigator of the Civil War Petitions Project and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham

David completed his doctorate at Keele University and won the Richard L. Greaves Prize in 2010 for his book *Black Bartholomew's Day: Preaching, Polemic and Restoration Nonconformity* (Manchester, 2007). With Andrew Hopper, he was co-editor of *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester, 2018). His latest book, *A Short History of the English Revolution and the Civil Wars* (Bloomsbury Academic) is scheduled for e-publication on 11 December 2025, with hard-copy publication scheduled for 8 January 2026.



LLOYD BOWEN

Professor of Early Modern History at Cardiff University and was a Co-Investigator of the Civil War Petitions Project

Lloyd is a specialist on Wales, gentry culture, and the nature of Civil War royalism. His books include *The Politics of the Principality: Wales, c.1603-42* (Cardiff, 2007), *Family & Society in Early Stuart Glamorgan* (Cardiff, 2007), *John Poyer, The Civil Wars in Pembrokeshire and the British Revolutions* (Cardiff, 2020), *Anatomy of a Duel in Jacobean England: Gentry Honour, Violence and the Law* (Boydell, 2021), *Early Modern Wales: Ambiguous Nationhood, c.1536-1689* (Cardiff, 2022), *The Trials of Edward Vaughan: Law, Civil War & Gentry Faction in Seventeenth-Century Britain, c.1596-1661* (Cardiff, 2025).



JONATHAN HEALEY

Associate Professor of Local and Social History in Oxford Lifelong Learning at the University of Oxford

He completed his doctorate in 2008 at Magdalen College, Oxford. His first book, *The First Century of Welfare* was a study of poverty and the poor laws in seventeenth-century Lancashire and was published by Boydell in 2014. His recent books include *The Blazing World: A New History of Revolutionary England* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and *The Blood in Winter: A Nation Descends, 1642* (Bloomsbury, 2025).



JOHN MORRILL

Reverend Professor Emeritus at the University of Cambridge and is an Emeritus Fellow of Selwyn College

He has written and edited 19 books and is a prolific author of essays on many aspects of civil-war history, including the tense relations between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.

A former President of the Cromwell Association, John has written extensively about Cromwell, including as general editor of the three-volume series, *The Letters, Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* (Oxford, 2023). He is a Fellow of the British Academy.



JANE OHLMEYER

Erasmus Smith's Professor of Modern History at Trinity College Dublin and a former Chair of the Irish Research Council

Jane has published extensively on early modern Irish and British history, including *Making Ireland English: The Irish Aristocracy in the Seventeenth Century* (Yale, 2012) and volume 2 of *The Cambridge History of Ireland* (2018).

Jane delivered the Ford Lectures at the University of Oxford in 2021 which formed the basis for her recent book *Making Empire: Ireland, Imperialism and the Early Modern World* (Oxford, 2023).



IMOGEN PECK

Assistant Professor of History at the University of Birmingham and co-editor of the academic journal, *Midland History*

She completed her doctoral thesis at the University of Bristol in 2018. She is the author of *Recollection in the Republics: Memories of the British Civil Wars in England, 1649-1659* (Oxford, 2021).

Her current research project, 'Family Archives and their Afterlives', explores the construction and curation of family archives from the late sixteenth to the early nineteenth century.



ISMINI PELLS

Departmental Lecturer in History in Oxford Lifelong Learning at the University of Oxford and Project Manager of the Civil War Petitions Project

She completed her doctorate at the University of Cambridge in 2014 and was then postdoctoral research associate on the Early Modern Medical Practitioners project at the University of Exeter. Her books include *Philip Skippon and the British Civil Wars: The 'Christian Centurion'* (Routledge, 2020) and *New Approaches to the Military History of the English Civil War* (Helion, 2016). Ismini is also President of the Cromwell Association.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



CARLA GARDINA PESTANA

Distinguished Professor and Joyce Appleby Endowed Chair of America in the World at the University of California, Los Angeles

She is a specialist in early American history and the early modern Atlantic world.

Her books include *The English Atlantic in an Age of Revolution, 1640-1661* (Harvard, 2004), *Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World* (Philadelphia, 2009), and *The English Conquest of Jamaica: Oliver Cromwell's Bid for Empire* (Harvard, 2017).



LAURA STEWART

Professor in Early Modern British History at the University of York where she recently completed 4 years as Head of Department

She is the author of *Urban Politics and the British Civil Wars: Edinburgh, 1617-1653* (Brill, 2006) and co-author, with Janay Nugent, of *Union and Revolution, Scotland and Beyond, 1625-1745* (Edinburgh, 2021). *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1637-53* (Oxford, 2016), won the 2017 Morris D. Forkosch Prize for the best book in British History.



MARK STOYLE

Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Southampton

Mark obtained his doctorate at Oxford in 1992. His particular research interests include the English Civil War; the history of witchcraft; the history of the early modern town and the history of the South-West.

His most recent monographs include *Soldiers and Strangers: An Ethnic History of the English War* (Yale, 2005), *The Black Legend of Prince Rupert's Dog: Witchcraft and Propaganda during the English Civil War* (Exeter, 2011), and *A Murderous Midsummer: The Western Rising of 1549* (Yale, 2022).



The Kingdom's Monster Unlocked from Heaven, c.1640-43 (woodcut) (b/w photo) © Bridgeman Images.



Frontispiece to Eikon Basilike, said to have been written by Charles I shortly before his execution on 30th January 1649. Charles I is shown at prayer, discarding his worldly crown while seizing a crown of thorns and looking up to a celestial crown awaiting him in heaven. From *Basilika. The Workes of King Charles The Martyr* (London, 1662). Image courtesy of the Governing Body of Christ Church, Oxford

HOW TO BOOK

2026 Special Interest Event

The programme fee is:

- £799 per person
- En-suite supplement is £110 per room

The fee includes:

- The full lecture programme
- Three nights' accommodation
- All meals, dinner wines and refreshments as timetabled

A three day delegate ticket is also available. Gratuities are not expected. Bookings can be made online or by phone.

Full payment must be made at the time of booking. A full refund (subject to an administration fee) will be offered in the event of cancellations made up to and including 60 days prior to the start of the event. No refunds will be offered after this time. All monies are held by Christ Church.

Please direct enquiries to:

Special Interest Event
The Steward's Office Christ Church
Oxford
OX1 1DP

Tel **+44 (0)1865 286996**

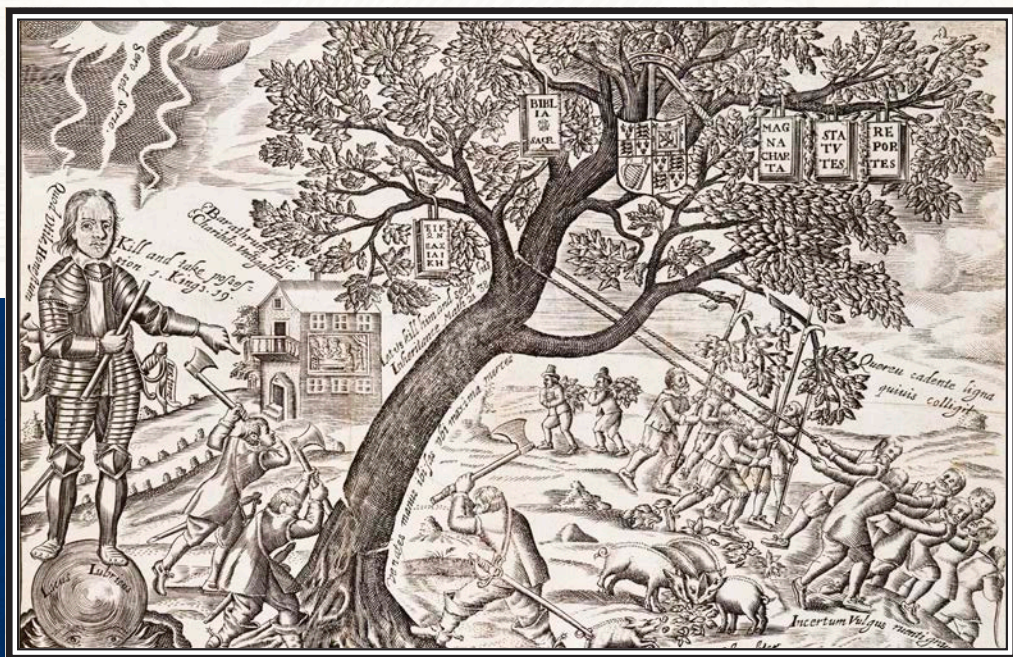
Email **specialinterest@chch.ox.ac.uk**

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/visit/special-interest-event



FORCE MAJEURE

The College reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the programme. It will not be liable for any non-performance under this contract arising out of circumstances beyond its control.



Satirical print made by Cromwell's political opponents after the King's execution in 1649 shows Cromwell cutting down the royal oak, along with the Bible, Magna Carta and British liberties. From Clement Walker, *History of Independency*, (London, 1661). Image courtesy of the Governing Body of Christ Church, Oxford

THE CHRIST CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Christ Church, established by Henry VIII in 1546, is a unique foundation of college and cathedral. It is home to some 650 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over eighty Senior Members. Christ Church occupies a 150-acre site in the heart of the city, including the Meadow, a tranquil area of pasture, preserved for centuries and bounded by the Rivers Isis and Cherwell.

Lectures take place in the Sir Michael Dummett lecture theatre, located on the ground-floor in Blue Boar Quad. The lecture theatre has fixed seating with foldaway writing tables and is fitted with a sound amplification system with an induction loop for hearing-aid users. Accommodation is located in buildings of architectural and historical interest which reflect the different centuries since the

college's foundation. Rooms are single, twin occupancy or double occupancy and are situated on the ground, first, second and third floors (low floor rooms are available on request). All rooms have tea and coffee making facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi and a refrigerator. A laundry room is also available.

Meals are prepared under the direction of the college's Executive Head Chef and are served in the magnificent Tudor Great Hall. Dietary requirements can be catered for provided they are requested at the time of booking. Refreshments are served in the Sir Michael Dummett Exhibition Space. The Buttery Bar, adjacent to Hall, will be open at set times during the event. House wines, included in the price, will be served at dinner. Lift access is available to the Buttery Bar and Hall.



The Great Hall, Christ Church. © Christ Church