A Brave New World?
Malvern Festival of Ideas 2020

A weekend of themed talks, discussion, debate and activities

6-8 March 2020, Malvern, Worcestershire
Welcome

The Festival of Ideas at Malvern is one of the most thought provoking and considered of its kind in the UK. There is plenty of time to think, debate and question with no rushing between sessions and complicated ticketing. Set between the hills, in a beautiful town, this is a highlight in the year.

Professor Danny Dorling, University of Oxford

Malvern Festival of Ideas is a multidisciplinary and inclusive themed weekend of events on what matters. The theme for the 2020 Weekend is A Brave new World? In a rapidly changing world, can we look to the future positively and with hope? In what ways can emerging ideas in areas relating to social policy, economics, medicine, science, politics, psychology, arts, foreign policy and faith lead to a better world? Themed sessions explore the topic from some of these perspectives and the accompanying discussions and activities will allow participants to follow up their own interests within the overall theme.

The Family Day Programme is an essential part of the Weekend. This year, it includes interactive story-telling, hands-on physics and a themed mathematics session on the environment.

There is no charge for entry to the events at Malvern Festival of Ideas, though there are considerable expenses. As in previous years, we will ask at each event for your donations towards those costs. It is also possible to donate online via the website.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of going to press. Any changes will be notified via the Festival website.

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available at many of the venues. Buffet lunches must be booked in advance—please see the event descriptions.

Booking

Booking for the events is strongly recommended. This can be done via the website or Eventbrite or by telephone. Details are found below.

Contact and booking details

Website: www.malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk
Booking: mfi2020.eventbrite.com
Facebook: @malvernfestivalofideas
Twitter: @MalvernFI
Email: info@malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk
Telephone: 01684 565708

Front cover

Brave New World by Scottie Marsh, painted live at Zigi’s Art Wine & Cheese Bar during the BEAMS Arts festival in Chippen-dale, part of the Art & About festival.
Brave New World

The Past, Present and Future of the Human Brain

Professor Sir Colin Blakemore

7.30pm to 9.30pm Friday 6th March 2020

The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3NZ

Sir Colin Blakemore recently moved to become Professor of Neuroscience at City University of Hong Kong. He also holds honorary appointments at the School of Advanced Study, University of London and at the University of Oxford. He is a former Chief Executive of the British Medical Research Council. He has had an illustrious research career and has published hundreds of papers in peer reviewed journals. The Observer newspaper once referred to him as ‘One of the most powerful scientists in the UK’. In parallel with his academic career, Colin Blakemore has championed the communication of science and engagement with the public. He was the youngest person ever to present the BBC Reith Lectures and he has also given the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. In addition, he has written and presented many other programmes about science, including a 13-part series, The Mind Machine, on BBC television, a radio series about artificial intelligence, Machines with Minds, and a documentary for Channel 4, God and the Scientists. He has written or edited several popular science books, including Mechanics of the Mind, The Mind Machine. Gender and Society, Mindwaves, Images and Understanding and The Oxford Companion to the Body. From 2004-15 he was Honorary President of the Association of British Science Writers.
Brave New World: Social and Political

Saturday 7\textsuperscript{th} March 2020
The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3NZ

10.00am to 11.00am  
**Inspiring Futures**  
Dr Irene Guijt

11.30am to 12.30pm  
**Towards a Good Society**  
Professor Baroness Ruth Lister

1.00pm to 2.00pm Lunch

2.00pm to 3.00pm  
**The Systems That Make and Break Us**  
Mr Anthony Painter

3.30pm to 4.30pm  
**Stolen: How to Save the World from Financialisation**  
Ms Grace Blakeley

---

**Tea and Coffee** will be provided during the morning and afternoon sessions. A **buffet lunch** will be available. Lunch must be **booked** via the website or telephone.

**Malvern Book Co-operative** is providing a bookstall at the Festival. They will be offering books **for sale** by speakers at the whole of the Malvern Festival of Ideas.
Dr Irene Guijt

Irene is Head of Research and Publishing at Oxfam Great Britain. The team generates and shares evidence on problems and solutions to influence economic, environmental, and social justice. Before joining Oxfam GB in 2015, Irene worked for 25 years in rural development, natural resource management, collective action and social justice. She is a keen advocate for making the less heard voices more audible and influential. Irene has been active in global evaluation capacity building through BetterEvaluation (an international collaboration to improve evaluation practice and theory) and working on the root causes of poverty and inequality. Her presentation on Inspiring Futures links well to the positivity focused spirit of the Festival - Big Ideas for Big New Futures.

Professor Baroness Ruth Lister

Ruth Lister is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University and sits in the House of Lords as a Labour peer. There have been two main strands to her research: poverty (together with social security and the welfare state) and citizenship. In both cases this has embraced theoretical, conceptual, empirical and policy analysis and has involved a strong gender dimension. She is currently writing a second edition of her book on the concept of poverty. From 1971 to 1987 she worked for the Child Poverty Action Group, the last 8 years as director and was elected honorary president in December 2010. She is the President of the Social Policy Association, Chair of the board of Compass (a left of centre pressure group) and on the board of the High Pay Centre.
Brave New World: Economics

Mr Anthony Painter

Anthony Painter leads the Research and Impact team at the RSA, and its social change work ranging from economy to education to the future of public services. His own work focuses on a range of policy issues including the impact of new technology on the economy and society, reform to welfare, work, learning and skills, and reform to public services and a range of public institutions. He previously directed the Independent Review of the Police Federation. He is author of three books, most recently *Left without a future? Social Justice in anxious times* and has written a number of very high impact policy and research reports such as *Creative citizen, creative state: the principled and pragmatic case for a Universal Basic Income* and *The New Digital Learning Age*. His Twitter feed is @anthonypainter

Ms Grace Blakeley

Grace Blakeley is a British author, economics commentator and a research fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research. Grace graduated from Oxford with a First Class Honours Degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, after which point she joined KPMG’s Public Sector and Healthcare Practice as a management consultant. Her areas of expertise include Macroeconomic policy; Financial regulation; and Regional economics. She was appointed economics commentator at the New Statesman in January 2019. She sits on the Labour party’s National Policy Forum. She has appeared on UK television as a politics and economics commentator. Her first book, *Stolen: How to Save the World from Financialisation*, was published in September 2019.
Brave New World: Philosophical

How the World Thinks
Dr Julian Baggini
7.30pm to 9.30pm Saturday 7th March 2020,
The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern,
Worcestershire, WR14 3NZ

Dr Julian Baggini

Our increasingly interconnected world needs truly global thinking. By understanding the world’s great philosophical traditions, we can begin to understand how we and others think better. This in turn can help us come up with the philosophies of the future, fit for a globalised planet. Julian Baggini is a philosopher, journalist and the author of over 20 books about philosophy written for a general audience. He has also written books on atheism, food, identity, free will and the nature of national identity, among others. In 2019 he was appointed academic director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

Malvern Festival of Ideas is very grateful for the support it has received from Malvern Hills District Council and individual sponsors.
Art and Science Programme:

10am to 4pm Saturday 7th March 2020
Malvern Cube, Albert Road North, Malvern, WR14 2YF

Bernadette Russell is an award-winning storyteller and author of short stories and creative non-fiction for adults and children, including *The Little Book of Kindness* and *Be the Change, Make it Happen*. She is also a playwright and poet. She has been a monthly columnist for Balance magazine since 2016, and has created work for National Theatre, Southbank Centre, National Trust and English Heritage amongst many others.

Bernadette will lead three interactive story-telling and activity sessions based on her book, *The Wishing Tree*, at 10am, 11.45am and 1.45pm.

Physics for a Better World

Hands-on physics activities from the Institute of Physics
Making a Difference

How Mathematics Can Save the Whale
Gresham Professor of Geometry, Chris Budd OBE, is based at the University of Bath, where he is Professor of Applied Mathematics and Director of the Centre of Nonlinear Mechanics. He has a long history of engagement in the public understanding of science and mathematics through institutions such as the Royal Institution and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

Saving the whales and curing cancer are two of the great challenges of the present day, and mathematics has a part to play in addressing them. This talk will use these two examples to illustrate the process of mathematical modelling to gain insights into how the world works and how we can change it.

How Mathematics Can Clean up Ocean Pollution
Tom Crawford is a tutor at St Hugh’s College, St Edmund Hall and St John’s College at the University of Oxford where he teaches maths to the first and second year undergraduates. He also runs his award-winning website www.tomrocksmaths.com and associated social media profiles on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube @tomrocksmaths.

Tom describes his research looking at where river water goes when it enters the ocean and how we can use this knowledge to help to fight ocean pollution.

Timetable—at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Physics for a Better World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>The Wishing Tree 1: Bernadette Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>The Wishing Tree 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45pm</td>
<td>The Wishing Tree 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Mathematics: Chris Budd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Mathematics: Tom Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Close</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mathematics sessions take place in the Cube Theatre and are aimed at a general audience (teenage and adults).
10.00am Sunday 8th March 2020

How Can Intelligent Robots Help in the Operating Theatre?

Dr Subramanian Ramamoorthy

Subramanian Ramamoorthy is a Reader in Robotics within the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, where he has been on the faculty since 2007. He is an Executive Committee Member for the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics and at the Bayes Centre, and he is a Turing Fellow at the Alan Turing Institute. He has been an elected Member of the Young Academy of Scotland at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Visiting Professor at Stanford University and the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'. He serves as Vice President - Prediction and Planning at FiveAI, a UK-based start-up company focused on developing a technology stack for autonomous vehicles. His research focus is on robot learning and decision-making under uncertainty, with particular focus on achieving safe and robust autonomy in human-centred systems.

11.30am Sunday 8th March 2020

Artificial Intelligence: Utopia or Dystopia, or Both?

Ms Ivana Bartoletti

Ivana is a Privacy and Data Protection professional, and a keynote speaker and media commentator in the UK and overseas. In her day job, Ivana helps businesses with their privacy by design programmes especially in relation to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain technology. In May 2018, Ivana launched the Women Leading in AI network, an international lobby group of women advocating for responsible AI. The network’s 2018 report garnered mass interest from tech leaders, international institutions and the media. A regular contributor to media platforms, Ivana comments on privacy, data ethics and innovation for international programmes and publications, including the Victoria Derbyshire programme, BBC, the Telegraph and the Guardian. Co-editor of the Fintech Circle’s AI book, the first major publication focused on how AI is reshaping financial services, Ivana is also writing her own publication on the socio economic consequence of AI expected to be released in 2020 by Indigo Press.

Both the above events take place at The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern, WR14 3NZ

Lunch must be booked via the website or telephone.
Brave New World: Human Rights

What next for LGBT+ rights?

Mr Peter Tatchell

2pm Sunday 8\textsuperscript{th} March 2020

The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3NZ

Peter Tatchell was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1952 and has been campaigning since 1967 on issues of human rights, democracy, civil liberties, LGBT equality and global justice. His human rights inspirations include Mahatma Gandhi, Sylvia Pankhurst and Martin Luther King.

In 2009, he co-proposed a UN Global Human Rights Index, to measure and rank the human rights record of every country – with the aim of creating a human rights league table to highlight the best and worst countries and thereby incentivise governments to clean up their record and improve their human rights ranking.

He has proposed an internationally-binding UN Human Rights Convention enforceable through both national courts and the International Criminal Court; a permanent rapid-reaction UN peace-keeping force with the authority to intervene to stop genocide and war crimes; and a global agreement to cut military spending by 10 percent to fund the eradication of hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and homelessness in the developing world.

Since 2011, he has been Director of the Peter Tatchell Foundation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>The Past, Present and Future of the Human Brain</td>
<td>Colin Blakemore</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Inspiring Futures</td>
<td>Irene Guijt</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Towards a Good Society</td>
<td>Ruth Lister</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>The Systems That Make and Break Us</td>
<td>Anthony Painter</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Stolen: How to Save the World from Financialisation</td>
<td>Grace Blakeley</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>How the World Thinks</td>
<td>Julian Baggini</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>10am to 4pm</td>
<td>Art and Science Programme: Making a Difference</td>
<td>Bernadette Russell, EnviroMaths: Chris Budd and Tom Crawford, Physics for a Better World: Institute of Physics</td>
<td>The Cube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>How Can Intelligent Robots Help in the Operating Theatre?</td>
<td>Subramanian Ramamoorthy</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>11.30pm</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence: Utopia or Dystopia, or Both?</td>
<td>Ivana Bartoletti</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>What next for LGBT+ rights?</td>
<td>Peter Tatchell</td>
<td>Chase School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Malvern Festival of Ideas is part of the charity EngageMalvern (registered charity no. 1175088), with the objects of community capacity building and the advancement of education for the public benefit in Malvern and surrounding areas.

www.engagemalvern.org.uk