

Not only artists, everyone needs time off to soak up good impressions, to 'feed the soul'. This day of talks is designed to give you the best such food, in good company and in one of the most beautiful settings in Oxfordshire.

**Fee: £50** includes refreshments and buffet lunch.

**Pre-booking is essential. To obtain forms call or email us, as below.**

#### Finding Waterperry

From Oxford take the A40 towards London and turn off at the Wheatley exit, before reaching the motorway. Follow the brown signs to Waterperry Gardens.

From London and Banbury, leave M40 at Junction 8 and follow the signs to Wheatley and then to Waterperry Gardens.

**SATNAV—use OX33 1LG**

#### Car Parking

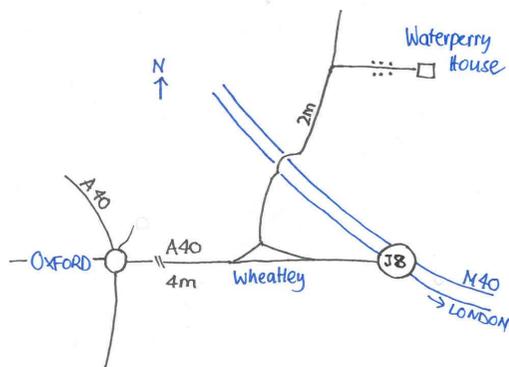
Drive up to the house from where you will be directed to free parking.

#### Disabled

The house has wheelchair access and all floors are accessible by lift.

#### Programme

- 9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 – 11.00 Brian Smith
- 11.00 – 11.30 Refreshments
- 11.30 – 12.30 Robin Mukherjee
- 12.30 – 2.00 Buffet lunch
- 2.00 – 3.00 Graham Skelcey
- 3.00 – 3.30 Refreshments
- 3.30 – 4.30 Group Sessions
- 4.30 – 5.00 Panel Discussion
- 5.00 – 5.30 Convivium



School of Economic Science (Oxford Branch)

Enquiries and Bookings: David and Linda Smith  
01865 556215

[info@ses-oxford.org.uk](mailto:info@ses-oxford.org.uk)

Educational charity no. 313115



## Shakespeare

Waterperry House, Waterperry, nr Wheatley, Oxon  
Sunday June 1, 2014 9.30 – 5.00

Brian Smith *The School of Night*  
Robin Mukherjee *The Play's the Thing*  
Graham Skelcey *Shakespeare—conduit for the divine?*  
Group Sessions

**Places are limited and pre-booking is essential:**

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Portraying the Divine

## Shakespeare—a conduit for the divine?

After 400 years Shakespeare's plays continue to attract large audiences regularly to productions around the world. This fact alone places them among the most influential literature of recorded history and testifies to a creative genius beyond the reach of ordinary mortals, which at once entertains, informs and instructs, and speaks directly to the soul. The qualities and profound insights displayed in the works evidence an innate understanding of both the profane and the divine. This talk will focus on a selection of passages that demonstrate spiritual insights, and draw parallels with concepts found in the ancient Indian teaching of Advaita Vedanta and other spiritual references.

**Graham Skelcey** is a past Principal and currently President of the School of Economic Science, which he joined in the mid-1960s. He has developed a keen interest in examining apparent parallels between the works of Shakespeare and Advaita Vedanta, the philosophy that lies at the heart of the School's teaching.

## The School of Night

Shakespeare portrays the divine, the ordinary and the demonic in scenes from almost every level of human society. He does so with extraordinary insight and understanding. Men in our time and in previous times have wondered how someone who was the son of a glove maker and who did not attend university could have done this. Was Shakespeare the mouthpiece of a secret school of knowledge? Was he a frontman for some other great writer or group of writers? This talk looks into the fabled *School of Night* and the claims of some of the main contenders for writing Shakespeare's plays.

**Brian Smith** is a retired English and Drama teacher. He attends the Guildford branch of the School of Economic Science where he co-ordinates the activities of its two Shakespeare groups.

## The Play's the Thing

We're all familiar with drama. But what is it, exactly? A diversion? An illusion? A morally instructive charade? We all have a sense of ourselves. But who are we, really? Constant, true and beautiful? If not, then what?

Could it be that drama is all of the above, but above all an instrument of self-knowledge? Is drama itself constant, true and beautiful? Can we, by its means, be divested of what we are not to become who we are?

In this talk we shall explore the relationship between the Play and the Self in drama, using one of its greatest practitioners, William Shakespeare, as our guide.

**Robin Mukherjee's** work has included film, the stage, television and radio. He was nominated for a BAFTA in 2010, and won the Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, 2013. His first feature film won the Audience Award at the London Film Festival. His most recent film was Australia's official entry for the Oscars in 2012.

## Group Sessions

### Who's Voice is it Anyway? – Workshop

**Neville Wortman**

Neville is a RADA voice and drama coach and former BBC staff producer.

### Temptation, Justice and Redemption in *Measure for Measure* and *The Winter's Tale* – Seminar

**Brian Smith and Ian Ricketts**

Ian is an actor who teaches at the Guildford School of Acting.

### Exploring the Sonnets – Workshop/Discussion

**Graham Skelcey**

