



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2009



Alexei Sayle

Ray Mears

Dick Strawbridge MBE

Tim Smit CBE

Jonathon Porritt CBE

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FREE ENTRY

YEAR OF THE

environment

TUESDAY
21 APRIL 2009



STALIN ATE MY HOMEWORK: GROWING UP IN THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENT OF POST-WAR LIVERPOOL

Alexei Sayle

Comedian, author and actor

Alexei's varied career spans work as comic, novelist, actor and columnist. Alexei's series about his hometown, *Alexei Sayle's Liverpool*, was one of the BBC's flagship events to mark Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture 2008.

His television comedy career includes six series of *Alexei Sayle's Stuff* for the BBC, playing the whole Balowski family in *The Young Ones*, and several films in *The Comic Strip Presents* series. Other television includes *Miss Marple* for ITV, to be shown later this year. Alexei's films include *The Thief Lord*, *Gorky Park* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Alexei has established himself as a successful and critically acclaimed novelist. In recent years has published three novels, *Overtaken*, *The Weeping Women Hotel* and *Mister Robert*, and two collections of short stories, *Barcelona Chairs* and *The Dog Catcher*. He has the distinction of being the UK's best-selling author of short stories.

WEDNESDAY
27 MAY 2009



SURVIVORS

Ray Mears

Author, presenter and survival expert

Over the last decade, Ray Mears has become recognised throughout the world as an authority on the subject of bushcraft and survival. He has also become a household name through his television series: *Tracks*, *World of Survival*, *The Essential Guide to Rocks*, *Extreme Survival*, *Trips Money Can't Buy* with Ewan McGregor, *The Real Heroes of Telemark*, *Bushcraft Survival*, and, more recently, *Wild Food*.

These programmes highlight Ray's down-to-earth approach, his obvious love for his subject and the empathy and respect he shows for indigenous peoples and their cultures.

Ray has spent his life learning these skills and is truly a master of the subject he calls 'wilderness bushcraft'. Growing up in the North Downs, he discovered a countryside abundant with wildlife and learned to track foxes into the forest, embarking upon a journey that would become his life's mission. Wanting to be able to sleep out on the trail yet unable to afford camping equipment, he resorted to a more 'Robinson Crusoe' approach to solving the problem.

It was his judo teacher, who had fought behind enemy lines in Burma during the Second World War, who taught Ray to challenge conventional wisdom and look at the world in a different way. 'Maximum efficiency from minimum effort' was a principle that has become enshrined in Ray's bushcraft philosophy.



MONDAY
7 SEPTEMBER
2009



LIVING GREEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Dick Strawbridge MBE

Engineer, presenter and
environmental pioneer

Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Strawbridge is a British engineer and television presenter. Born in Burma, he served in the Royal Corps of Signals for more than 20 years and was awarded an MBE in 1993 for his distinguished service.

He is best known to the general public as an engineering expert on such television programmes as *Scrapheap Challenge* (on which his team, Brothers In Arms, were series champions) and the six-part BBC2 series *Crafty Tricks of War*, of which he was the main presenter. He also had a major role in the BBC's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, and was the co-host and resident 'boffin' on the 2005 game show, *Geronimo!* He also appeared as a regular team captain in the US series, *Junkyard Mega-Wars*.

His latest series, *It's Not Easy Being Green* sees Dick and his family taking on a derelict farm house in Cornwall in an attempt to live a 21st century lifestyle with a minimal ecological footprint.

Dick's interests include cooking, inventing, writing poetry, keeping bees, self-sufficiency, field sports and outdoor activities. In addition to television work, Dick develops some of his own inventions that are ready to be patented and marketed.

TUESDAY 22
SEPTEMBER
2009



ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

Tim Smit CBE

Chief Executive and co-founder
of the Eden Project

Eden began as a dream in 1995 and opened its doors to the public for an exhibition in 2000. The press dubbed it 'the Eighth Wonder of the World' and today it is rated the nation's fourth most popular visitor attraction.

The Project has picked up the prestigious Excellence in England Large Attraction of the Year Award and has been named Best Long Visit Attraction by the Group Travel Industry for two years running. It also recently won the Silver Guild Award for Lifelong Learning at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Tim is also on the Board of the Prince's Trust Business Division, a member of the Cornwall Gardens Trust, and a Director of Kneehigh Theatre. He was recently appointed Patron of the Urban Parks Forum and chaired The Landscape Heritage Trust's feasibility study of urban parks and gardens throughout the UK, presenting their findings to the Government Select Committee on the Environment.

The former record producer, who enjoyed success with Barry Manilow and the Nolan Sisters, has received numerous accolades for his environmental achievements, including a CBE in 2002.

This lecture is also the inaugural Bradshaw Trust lecture in memory of Emeritus Professor Tony Bradshaw, an evolutionary biologist who was at the cutting edge of land restoration and founding member of Merseyside Environmental Trust.

MONDAY
19 OCTOBER
2009



RECESSION AND RECOVERY: IT'S THE ECOLOGY, STUPID

Jonathon Porritt CBE

Environmentalist, writer and campaigner

Jonathon Porritt, Co-Founder and Programme Director of Forum for the Future, is an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development. Established in 1996, Forum for the Future is now the UK's leading sustainable development charity.

Jonathon was appointed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission in July 2000. This is the Government's principal source of independent advice across the whole sustainable development agenda. In addition, he has been a member of the Board of the South West Regional Development Agency since December 1999, and is Co-Director of The Prince of Wales's Business and Environment Programme. In 2005, he became a Non-Executive Director of Wessex Water, and a Trustee of the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy. He is also Vice-President of the Socialist Environment Resources Association (SERA).

He was formerly Director of Friends of the Earth, co-chair of the Green Party, of which he is still a member, chairman of UNED-UK, chairman of Sustainability South West, the South West Round Table for Sustainable Development and a Trustee of WWF (World Wildlife Fund) UK.

Jonathon received a CBE in January 2000 for services to environmental protection.



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

ALL LECTURES WILL
BE HELD AT LIVERPOOL
PHILHARMONIC HALL,
STARTING AT 6.30PM.

THE PUBLIC LECTURES
ARE FREE BUT PLACES
ARE LIMITED – YOU WILL
NEED A TICKET TO
GAIN ENTRY.

Tickets are available to reserve
from the following dates:

Tuesday 24 March
for the Alexei Sayle lecture

Tuesday 24 March
for the Ray Mears lecture

Monday 22 June
for the Dick Strawbridge lecture

Monday 22 June
for the Tim Smit lecture

Tuesday 1 September
for the Jonathon Porritt lecture

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