

POLITICAL TOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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Experts Weekend – 2 nights

Dates:

March 2019, Friday 8th to Sunday 10th

Goodnestone Park, Nr Canterbury, Kent

With Stryker McGuire, Nicholas Blanford, Elisabeth Kendall, David Torrance and Konstantin Von Eggert.

Political Tours is bringing together leading experts on key foreign policy areas for a weekend of discussion and debate in one of the UK's most beautiful Queen Anne stately homes, which was frequently visited by Jane Austen.

The weekend will be an opportunity to discuss key global issues including relations between Russia and the west, the conflict in the Middle East as well as the fallout from Brexit. Each speaker is very highly regarded and noted for their expert analysis.

Stryker McGuire is the London-based senior editor for Bloomberg Markets, a monthly magazine published by Bloomberg News. Prior to that, he was a correspondent, bureau chief and senior editor at Newsweek magazine and the editor of LSE Research at the London School of Economics. **David Torrance**, a leading political biographer and constitutional expert who now works advising MPs in the House of Commons Library, **Elisabeth Kendall** widely regarded as one of foremost experts on fundamentalist Islam in the world and a lecturer in Islamic Studies at Oxford University. **Konstantin Von Eggert**, formerly Moscow bureau chief of the BBC's Russian service and editor of Kommersant Radio. A lively and frequent commentator on Russian politics. **Nicholas Blanford**, by popular demand, Nick, returns: perhaps the foremost expert on Hezbollah and Iran's role in Lebanon and Syria.

The house with its stunning drawing room, formal dining room and well stocked library will be ours for the weekend. In between talks we will have the opportunity to experience quintessential English gracious living at its best. The weekend includes full board including dinner with speakers.

Places will be strictly limited as there are only 11 bedrooms in the house. Other accommodation will be available, please contact us for details.

Price* to stay at Goodnestone House (2 nights): £1330.00

Single supplement: £270.00

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Guest Speakers



Stryker McGuire is the London-based senior editor for Bloomberg Markets, a monthly magazine published by Bloomberg News. Prior to that, he was a correspondent, bureau chief and senior editor at Newsweek magazine and the editor of LSE Research at the London School of Economics. McGuire has also been an associate at Lombard Street Research, an economics consultancy in the City of London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



David Torrance is a distinguished Scottish journalist, broadcaster and contemporary historian. He was born and raised in Edinburgh and attended the University of Aberdeen and the prestigious Cardiff School of Journalism. In April 2018 he left journalism to become a librarian in the House of Commons where he provides research for MPs. He is widely regarded as a leading commentator on the British constitution. He is the author of numerous political biographies. He has been a reporter for several different Scottish news organisations, including Scottish TV and Grampian TV, as well as a political commentator on the BBC and Sky News. From 2005-07, he took a break from journalism to work at the House of Commons as Parliamentary Aide to the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell.



Nicholas Blanford has been a correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor, writing on Lebanon and other areas of the Middle East, since 2002. He has covered Lebanon's complex and turbulent politics, including the 2005 assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri, the 2006 Hezbollah-Israel war, and the uprising in Syria. He has also reported for the Monitor from Iraq, Syria, Qatar, and Kuwait. In addition, he writes regularly for The Times (London), The Daily Star (Beirut), and Al-Jazeera America. His work has also appeared in the New York Times, The Boston Globe, USA Today, and The National (Abu Dhabi). Nicholas is a defense and security consultant for IHS/Jane's. He is a Non-resident Senior Fellow with the Middle East Peace and Security Initiative (MEPSI) at the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security. He has lived in Beirut since 1994. Blanford covers the politics and security affairs of Lebanon and Syria. He is an acknowledged expert on Lebanese Hezbollah, particularly the organisation's evolving military activities which have remained a focus of his work for two decades. He regularly participates in seminars and conferences and has briefed government agencies and militaries on issues related to the Levant. He has also participated in Track II discussions connected to the Middle East peace process.

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Elisabeth Kendall is Senior Research Fellow in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Pembroke College, Oxford University. Her current work examines how militant jihadist movements exploit traditional local Arab culture(s). Previously, she held positions at the Universities of Edinburgh and Harvard as well as serving as Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, a UK government sponsored initiative aimed at building Arabic language-based research expertise. In addition to lecturing at numerous universities and think tanks around the world, she has been invited to present her research to the following state institutions: House of Commons, House of Lords, FCO, GCHQ, Home Office, MOD, SAS, NATO, US State Department, US Central Command, EU Council and various intelligence and security audiences around the world. She features regularly in the international television, radio and print media, including BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN and various European national broadcasters.



Konstantin Von Eggert is a Russian journalist and political commentator. He was a diplomatic correspondent for Izvestia daily in the 1990s, Moscow bureau chief for the BBC Russian Service in 2002–08, and deputy editor and then editor in chief of Kommersant FM in 2012–13. In 2009–10, he also worked as vice president for public affairs of ExxonMobil Russia Inc. In 2008, for services to the BBC, Queen Elizabeth II created him Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire.

**Price includes two nights' accommodation at Goodnestone House, afternoon tea on arrival and dinner on Friday. Breakfast, elevenses, lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast, elevenses and lunch on Sunday and access to all discussion groups held throughout the weekend. We will have entire use of the house and gardens and the services of a butler throughout.*

Political Tours Limited Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham OX15 4FF. UK.