

## **Monty Halls, Broadcaster, Explorer, Leadership trainer, Speaker**

**Thursday 20 September 2018**

### **Title: Redefining Limits – How to Magnificently Fail and Ultimately Prevail**

A former Royal Marines Officer who worked for Nelson Mandela during the peace process in the early 1990's, Monty left the forces to pursue a career in expeditions, travel journalism and marine biology. He has since lead teams in some of the most challenging environments on earth, presented numerous award-winning documentaries, launched his own production company and become a renowned inspirational speaker and writer.

He is best known for his three BBC2 series 'Great Escapes', where he lived on the west coast of Scotland and Ireland with his dog Reuben. He also presented the multi-award winning series 'Great Barrier Reef'. His last series on Channel Four – 'WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails: broadcast to critical acclaim in 2017. His next Channel four series – 'My Family and the Galapagos' airs this summer and features the whole Halls family in a poignant conservation mission to the Galapagos.

## **Libby Jackson, Physicist, UK Space Agency**

**Thursday 11 October 2018**

Libby Jackson manages the Human Spaceflight and Microgravity programmes at the UK Space Agency, and previously managed the hugely successful education and outreach programme that supported Tim Peake's flight. Prior to her time at the UK Space Agency, Libby worked in Mission Control as a Flight Director for the Columbus module, Europe's laboratory on the ISS.

Libby's book, 'A Galaxy of Her Own', tells the stories of 50 women who have played their part in the history of human spaceflight. She has appeared on numerous television programmes, including; Stargazing Live, Blue Peter, and Astronauts.

## **Dr David Starkey, CBE FSA RHistS, English constitutional historian; author, radio and TV presenter**

### **Title: Henry VIII and the First Brexit**

**Monday 15 October 2018**

Dr David Starkey is Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and one of Britain's leading historians. He is the author of many books as well as guest-curating several major historical exhibitions and making some of the most important and widely watched historical documentary series on TV.

He is winner of the W.H Smith Prize for Biography and the Norton Medlicott Medal for services to History presented by the Historical Association. He is an Honorary Doctor of Letters of the Universities of Kent and Lancaster; Visiting Professor at Kent and Canterbury Christ Church Universities and Trustee and Honorary Commodore of the Mary Rose. He was made a CBE in 2007.

## **Dr Lucy Worsley - "The undisputed Queen of TV History" – The Guardian**

**Wednesday 7 November 2018**

Dr Lucy Worsley is the Chief Curator at the Historic Royal Palaces which is responsible for the unoccupied royal palaces of London including the Tower of London, Kensington Palace State Apartments and Hampton Court Palace.

She is passionate about making history engaging to the widest possible audience and is well known as a TV presenter of a number of BBC TV series on historical topics, including most recently, 'Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley'. She has written a number of books for both adults and children and her latest, a biography of Jane Austen was received with critical acclaim

## **Frank Gardner OBE – BBC Security Correspondent**

**Tuesday 5 February 2019**

Frank Gardner is the BBC's security correspondent reporting for TV and radio on issues of both domestic and international importance. A fluent Arabist with a degree in Arabic and Islamic studies from Exeter University, Frank spent nine years as an investment banker before switching to journalism and becoming the BBC's Middle East correspondent based in Cairo.

In 2004, while reporting in Saudi Arabia, he was shot and left partly paralysed in an attack by al-Qaeda terrorists. Now dependent on a wheelchair, he has relearned to ski using a bob ski and is currently President of the Ski Club of Great Britain.

## **Alison Mitchell – Award-winning sports broadcaster**

**Thursday 7 March 2019**

Alison Mitchell is a leading sports commentator and the first woman to commentate regularly on the BBC's Test Match Special. She has now toured to every Test playing nation in order to cover the England team. She has a breadth of sports broadcasting experience having covered cricket World Cups, the Ashes, Wimbledon, the Olympic and Commonwealth Games, the World Snooker Championships, the Open golf, international hockey and artistic gymnastics.

As well as cricket, Alison has commentated on and presented live from Wimbledon and the Australian Open tennis, the Open golf, international hockey and artistic gymnastics.

## **Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards**

**Thursday 25 April 2019**

Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards is Great Britain's first Olympic Ski Jumper. He was ranked 55th in the world which qualified him as the only GB applicant for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. With the UK firmly backing the plasterer from Gloucestershire, Eddie competed in the 70m and 90m jump events, but came last in both events.

Although he did not win an Olympic medal, he became famous for his pure determination and 'have a go' attitude.

Eddie is a commentator for programmes such as ITV's 'The Jump' and has taken part in TV shows including Sport Relief and the celebrity diving show 'Splash' which he won. He returned to ski jumping in 2015 to raise funds for Ski4Cancer, a charity of which he is patron. A film about his life was released in 2016, starring Taron Egerton as Eddie and Hugh Jackman as his trainer.