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Waterperry Retreat Programme 2023 / 24

Join us for a few days of stimulating study
in the beautiful surroundings of Waterperry
House and Gardens

A True Spiritual Holiday



The Retreat Programme for 2022-23 was a great success and we seek to build on that for the year beginning September 2023. A new addition for this year is Sacred Geometry. As before the events will be open to all students of the School together with friends and family. The idea is to share fully the insights into a variety of subjects that have been acquired by members of the School over many years. New comers to the subjects on offer are most welcome as well as those with previous experience.

I hope the events all will be enjoyable, restful and refreshing for everyone who comes.

Donald Lambie

List of Events

*The midweek events will start on Mondays at 9.00pm
and finish on Thursdays at 9.00am, giving two full days.*

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|------------|---|--------------|
| 01. | Marsilio Ficino 16 - 19 October 2023 | P. 02 |
| 02. | Economics, Justice and the Way We Live Now 30 October - 02 November 2023 | P. 04 |
| 03. | Sanskrit Weekend 24 - 26 November 2023 | P. 03 |
| 04. | Sacred Geometry 11 - 14 December 2023 | P. 06 |
| 05. | The Waterperry Frescos & Creative Writing 05 - 08 February 2024 | P. 05 |
| 06. | Bhagavad Gita 11 - 14 March 2024 | P. 03 |
| 07. | Vedic Astrology 20 - 23 May 2024 | P. 03 |
| 08. | Plato 10 - 13 June 2024 | P. 04 |
| 09. | Meditation* 24 - 27 June 2024 | P. 02 |



Freedom is ever present, ever available.
- Sri Shantananda Saraswati – 1991

* The Meditation event is only for students who have been introduced to meditation by the School.

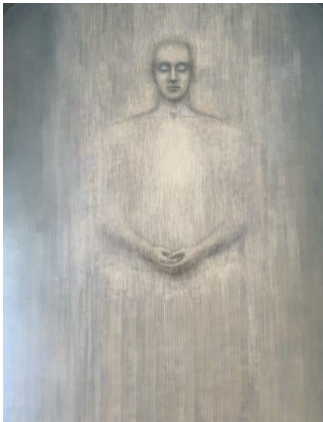
Marsilio Ficino

Monday 16 to Thursday 19 October 2023

This year's Ficino retreat at Waterperry House will give us a unique opportunity to hear and experience a great teacher's rich words on accessing the fullness of being, revel in each other's company, and delight in the magnificence of the celebrated Gardens. Whether or not this is your first visit, you will be welcomed wholeheartedly and made to feel at home.

Marsilio Ficino is the man who gave us Plato and made a resounding contribution to the Renaissance of the fifteenth century. The icing on the cake of our retreat will be a celebration of his birthday!

"Having bathed in the goodness and splendour of Ficino's words and enjoyed the good company of others, we thank you for initiating this event and showering us with your generosity."



Meditation*

Monday 24 to Thursday 27 June 2024

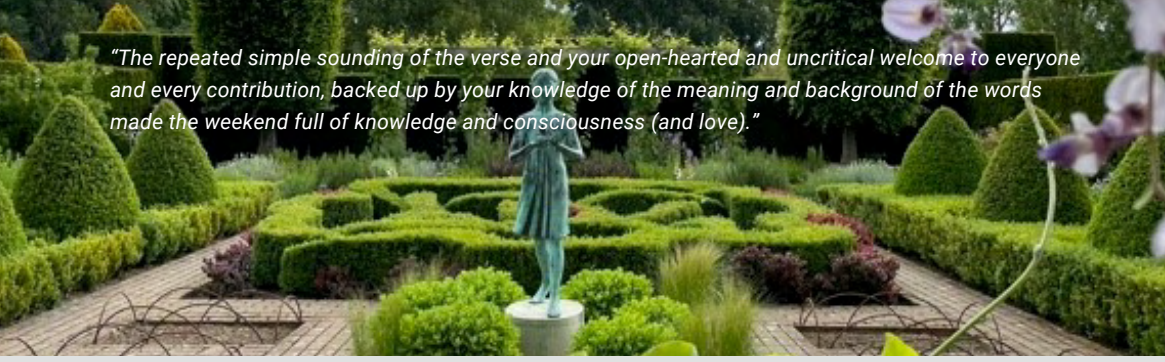
In Chapter 6 of Bhagavad Gita Krishna speaks to Arjuna about the practice of Meditation and tells him he should find a comfortable place and sit upright, "*without any aspirations and without any sense of ownership.*" This is such a helpful attitude to take when we practise meditation. If we relinquish any "sense of ownership" over what happens next, we begin to trust the Mantra and experience a sense of freedom and total ease of being. This freedom is like sky-space; it stays the

same untouched by what passes through it.

This event will be led by Therese Glover.

** The Meditation event is only for students who have been introduced to meditation by the School.*

"The repeated simple sounding of the verse and your open-hearted and uncritical welcome to everyone and every contribution, backed up by your knowledge of the meaning and background of the words made the weekend full of knowledge and consciousness (and love)."



Vedic Astrology

Monday 20 to Thursday 23 May 2024

Both astrology students and astrologers will meet together for two days of immersion into the world of Jyotish or Vedic Astrology in the beautiful and enlivening surroundings of Waterperry Gardens. Beginners are welcome. In our world today astrologers and astronomers study the heavens but seem to disagree on almost everything. There is really only one science here with one body of law. We can rediscover how this is so and learn about ourselves through our astrology charts. Retreat leader Gordon Brennan is an internationally well-known expert in this field.

Sanskrit

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 November 2023

The Gāyatrī Mantra is full of spiritual significance and is a doorway to the divine. This weekend with retreat leaders Warwick and Elena Jessup is offered as an introduction to Sanskrit with study of this most sacred mantra. Expect chanting and calligraphy, profound study and contemplation, mythology, good food and great company. Those having no prior experience of Sanskrit are very welcome, as well as those with some experience.

Bhagavad Gita

Monday 11 to Thursday 14 March 2024

The Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord, is a record of Krishna's teaching to Arjuna. It is composed of 18 chapters. Each chapter is described as a Yoga, a path leading to unity. Why are different paths? Because different paths are useful at different points in our lives. We will look at these different chapters with an aim of understanding their relevance for us.

Retreat leader Stephen Silver has an abiding love for the Gita and has run similar events for many years, which have been inspiring and uplifting.

Plato

Monday 10 to Thursday 13 June 2024

In 399 BCE Socrates was tried, found guilty, and put to death. Plato, who gave up political life and devoted the rest of his life to philosophy, wrote *The Apology*, some years after the death of Socrates. Socrates, in his defence speech, addresses the Athenians repeatedly, as if trying to wake them from a sleep and he urges them on to a better way of life. We, all generations, are Athenians and Plato's message, spoken by Socrates, is universal and timeless. We will read and study the dialogue in groups; both first-time readers and the more experienced will find that there is much to be discovered and much that is mysterious in this text.

"It has been a happy and relaxing few days studying the miraculous words of Plato and letting them flow through me."

Economics, Justice and the Way We Live Now

Monday 30 October to Thursday 2 November 2023

It is easy to say that the way we live now is characterised by consumerism, concern about living standards, helpless dismay about climate change and ecological harm, and obsession with economic growth. But what do you think? What is your experience and observation? Is all this growth really necessary, or as harmful as it sometimes appears? How is it measured and what are its consequences? Here is a chance to be well informed about the issues around economic growth and how just and equitable solutions can be found to today's economic challenges. The draft programme allows for short presentations, discussion and feedback as well as keynote contributions. Economics is philosophy in action. Come and take part.

Course leader, Ian Mason is a barrister and former head of economics in the School. He has contributed to the United Nations dialogue on Harmony with Nature and written and spoken extensively about Economics with Justice, Wild Law and Earth Jurisprudence.

The Waterperry Frescos and Creative Writing

Monday 05 to Thursday 08 February 2024

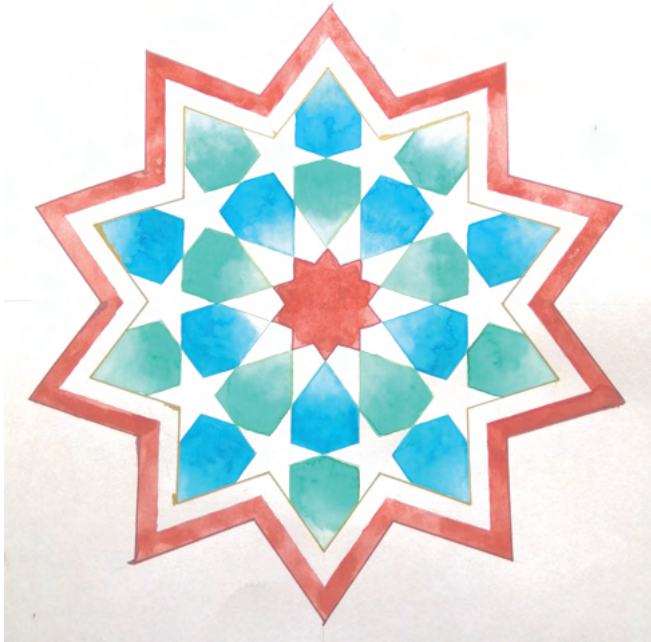
Spanning three floors of the Artist's Hall, the frescos in Waterperry House illustrate tales from some of the world's great spiritual traditions. Through a series of creative writing workshops we will reflect on these powerful artworks, reimagining their meaning through our own experience, and our own stories. There will be a chance to hear about the frescos, their conception, the architecture, and its meaning, along with opportunities to write in a supportive space, and to share our writings in creative company.

No previous experience of writing is necessary. You will be guided through the creative process, and the writing itself can take many forms. The Artist's Hall is a place of profound inspiration, suffused with artistry and the power of story. This is an opportunity to bring that inspiration to our own reflection, creativity, and writings.

The event will be led by the architect Richard Ibbett who worked on the Artist's Hall, and the writer Robin Mukherjee.

"Many thanks for facilitating the 'Writing Around the Frescoes' in January. It was a truly wonderful time of togetherness and trust and rich writing and conversation."





Sacred Geometry

Monday 11 to Thursday 14 December 2023

According to Galileo, “The grand book of the universe was written in the language of mathematics, its characters are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without which it is impossible to understand a single word of it.”

This retreat will be contemplative, creative and colourful. There will be ample time to construct both simple and more complex geometric patterns before finishing them off with an accent of colour. This process will provide an opportunity to connect with the hidden harmony and beauty of the patterns as well as being an exercise to focus the mind and bring it to rest. According to Plato, geometry is a subject that draws the soul towards truth and produces a philosophical mind. Come along and see what happens in practice.

Those who have never swung a circle with a compass are welcome as are those with compass experience. All materials and equipment will be provided but anyone already in possession of a good compass and a sturdy ruler are welcome to bring their own equipment.

The organiser, Barbara Ryan has been practising geometry for several years, having been introduced to the practice and study of it by Tom Bree and The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts. She has taught classes to both children and adults.

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure people's health and wellbeing.

The days will begin each morning at 6.30am with meditation/quiet time. There will be study and group discussions. Participants will be asked to look after some catering and cleaning, although this will be kept to a minimum.

Accommodation will, as far as possible, be in single rooms (or double on request) with shared bathroom facilities. Please bring a duvet cover, sheet, pillowcase and bath towel. If this is not possible, there will be a charge of £14 for these items. In the evening smart/casual wear is usual to give a sense of occasion.

The cost for the midweek events will be £190 and for the Sanskrit event £120. Charges are payable in advance and a place is only confirmed after payment.



People will be accepted on a first come first served basis, so early booking is recommended. If unforeseen circumstances prevent your attendance, the fee is non-refundable within 2 weeks of the retreat, but may be transferred to another retreat (once). For cancellations more than two weeks before the retreat, an administration fee of £20 will be taken off the full refund.

Please note: we have started some renovation work at Waterperry House. While this will not affect the retreats themselves, it has meant that we have lost use of nearly half of our bedrooms. To continue to be able to run the retreats for as many as possible it would be very helpful if people were willing to share bedrooms with one other person, if necessary.

HOW TO GET HERE



BY CAR

If driving, the Satnav postcode to use is OX33 1LA.

Entry to the estate is also entry to the Garden Centre, which you do not want to go to. So, on entering the estate turn right, then left which will take you up to the house.



BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By public transport, there are buses from London to Oxford, which stop at the Thornhill Park and Ride. By train to Oxford, buses to the Thornhill Park and Ride are right outside the station.

From Thornhill Park and Ride, we may be able to collect or you may need to take a taxi.

The programme is designed for those who are attending a retreat with the School for the first time, as well as those who have enjoyed these events before.

Register Here

<https://schoolofphilosophy.org/products/wrp2023>

The School is a place of spiritual, mental and physical riches that are available to all who come.

www.schoolofphilosophy.org

Registered charity numbers 313115 and SC039950

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