

# THE BIRMINGHAM LECTURE SERIES 2010



Tuesday 9 February

**CHILLINGTON HALL: THE NEXT 800 YEARS**

John and Crescent Giffard

John and Crescent Giffard have lived at Chillington Hall, an eighteenth-century house near Brewwood in Staffordshire, for the past eleven years, but the site has been the home of the Giffard family since 1178. In this lecture, John and Crescent will talk about their fascinating family history, their award-winning restoration of the house, and their plans for securing its future for the next 800 years.

John and Crescent Giffard have been married for 32 years and have two children. John Giffard was the Chief Constable of Staffordshire from 1996 until his retirement in 2006. During his career, he held several important, national posts, including Senior Professional Advisor to the Home Secretary and Vice President of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Tuesday 23 February

**CAPABILITY BROWN: VANDAL OR VISIONARY?**

Neil Cook and Michael Smith

Was the eighteenth-century landscape architect, Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, a visionary who revolutionised the world of landscape design or a vandal who swept away the formal, geometric, French style of garden? In this debate, Neil Cook and Michael Smith from the National Trust will go head to head and passionately argue the case for and against Capability Brown and his impact on English landscape history.



Neil Cook is Head Gardener at Hanbury Hall, where he has been responsible since 1988 for the development of the gardens and, in particular, the recreation of the formal, George London garden. Michael Smith is Property Manager of Croome Park and has recently supervised the restoration of the Park’s landscape, which was Capability Brown’s first, landmark commission.

*The* **BARBER**  
Institute of Fine Arts



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BIRMINGHAM**

Tuesday 9 March

**The Michael Cadbury Memorial Lecture**

**BIRMINGHAM: THE NEW JERUSALEM**

Professor Robert Beckford

Christian religion was a major feature of West Indian life in post-war Britain and establishing churches was as important as finding a job or a place to live. In this lecture, Robert Beckford explores the significance of naming African Caribbean churches in the Midlands, a practice that, at the time, represented social and theological resistance to marginalisation, and that, even today, continues to contest the meaning of faith and the nature of belonging.



Robert Beckford is an educator, author and award-winning broadcaster. He started his career teaching adult literacy at Bournville College in Birmingham, before becoming the first ever tutor in Black Theology at Queen's College, Birmingham, and then researching and teaching Black Theology at the University of Birmingham and Oxford Brookes University. He is currently Visiting Professor of Sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

This lecture is sponsored by the National Trust *Whose Story?* project



Tuesday 23 March

**PLAYED IN BIRMINGHAM**

Simon Inglis and Steve Beauchampé

Birmingham is a city founded upon hard work, enterprise and civic pride, characteristics that have also helped to shape its sporting map. This richly illustrated lecture focuses on Birmingham's historic sporting landscapes – from stadiums to swimming baths, parks to pavilions, golf clubs to billiard halls – and reveals little known aspects of a heritage that has

touched the lives of millions of Brummies, whether inclined towards sport or not.

Simon Inglis is an architectural historian and editor of the English Heritage series *Played in Britain*. He is the co-author with Steve Beauchampé of *Played in Birmingham*, the fifth book in the series, and has also written a history of Villa Park. Steve Beauchampé is an expert on Birmingham's sporting architecture and heritage and is currently writing a history of the Grade II\* listed Moseley Road Baths in Balsall Heath.

**LECTURE DETAILS & TICKETS**

All lectures are held at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and begin at 7.30pm. Lectures are preceded at 6pm by a finger buffet, including a choice of wine, soft drink or coffee, and a private view of the Barber Institute galleries. Admission is by ticket only.

Lecture and buffet: £15 per ticket or £55 for the series. Lecture only: £7.50 or £27.50 for the series.

To book, please contact the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS. 0121 414 7333. [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

Payment by credit or debit card; cheques are payable to the University of Birmingham.