The Robert Penson Lecture Series, St John’s College

List of speakers

2000 Dr Mark Laird, Toronto

2001 Stephen Daniels, Professor of Cultural Geography, University of Nottingham: ‘Picturing Georgian gardens’

2002 J. Dixon Hunt, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania: ‘Word v Image in the picturesque garden’

2003 Mr T. Longstaffe-Gowan: ‘Gardens with quaint old-world arrangements: popular tourism at Hampton Court parks and gardens in the 19th century’

2004 John Phibbs: ‘The Englishness of Capability Brown’

2005 Professor Lucia Tongiorgi Tomasi: ‘Gardens of knowledge’

2006 Professor M. Leslie: ‘Guilt and the garden: fear and loathing’

2007 Dr G. Wolf, Kunsthistorisches Institut von Florenz: ‘The Pineapple, the Peacock and the Pope: A gift from Mexico for Paul III’

2008 Professor F. Egmond: ‘Gardens as living collections in the decades before Tradescant’

2009 Professor Timothy Mowl: ‘Catholic symbolism, Pan worship and the true origin of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein – eccentrics and the English landscape’

2010 Dr Kathryn Gleason, Cornell University: ‘Of the garden of the ancients: fortunes of the cruciform garden’


2012 Dr Jon Whiteley, Department of Western Art, Faculty of History, University of Oxford: ‘Gardens and the cult of the picturesque’

2013 Dr Sarah Whittingham, Graduate of the University of Bristol: ‘Fern fever: the story of pteridomania’

2018 Dr Oliver Cox, Heritage Engagement Fellow, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities: ‘Beyond ‘Capability’ Brown: what next for garden history?’