

BRISTOL  
FESTIVAL  
OF AUTUMN  
SEASON  
IDEAS

A short season of talks on

SCIENCE,  
POLITICS,  
LIBERTY  
AND RIGHTS

[www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)



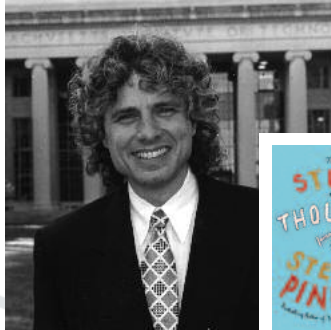
# BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF AUTUMN SEASON IDEAS

The Festival of Ideas, in addition to the May events, is now running an annual short Autumn season. We're excited to have such a wide range of excellent speakers coming to Bristol with four major events. The subjects range from the life of one of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century, James Watson, to the work of one of our leading contemporary psychologists, Steven Pinker. We've also got two sessions on key issues of today; liberty and rights, with A C Grayling, and the work of the Blair government, with Martin Bell, broadcaster, writer and independent MP. All based on great knowledge and experience and the latest research and thinking. All essential sessions for our times.

Booking details are noted next to each description.

I hope to see you at these events. Please do check for updates at our website: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

**Andrew Kelly**  
Festival Director



## STEVEN PINKER

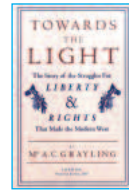
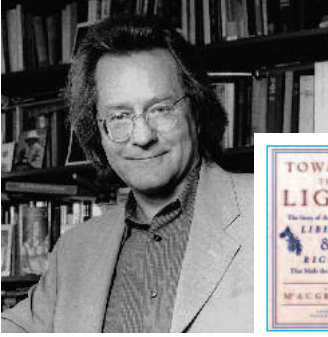
**12 October 2007 18.30-19.30**

£5.00 / £3.50

Rosalind Franklin Room,  
Explore-At-Bristol, Harbourside

Steven Pinker, the Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University, conducts research on language and cognition, writes for publications such as the *New York Times*, *Time* and *Slate*, and is the author of seven books, including *The Language Instinct*, *How the Mind Works* and *The Blank Slate*. He comes to Bristol to talk about his new book, *The Stuff of Thought*, based on new ideas from cognitive science, evolutionary biology and other sciences of human nature. Language, Pinker argues, is the main channel in which human beings share the contents of their consciousness. It offers a window into human nature, revealing the hidden workings of thoughts, emotions, and social relationships. His talk explores an example of each: everyday metaphor as a window into human cognition; swearing and taboo words as a window into human emotion; and indirect speech-veiled threats and bribes, polite requests, and sexual come-ons as a window into human relationships. Always humorous, with jokes, puns, anecdotes and cartoons, he explores fundamental lessons that our language can teach us about who we are and how we think.

**Booking office: At-Bristol box office, Explore-At-Bristol (10.00-17.00 weekdays; 10.00-18.00 weekends and bank holidays); booking line 0845 345 1235 (local rate calls), 09.00-17.00, Monday to Friday. Booking fee of 50p per telephone booking applies.**



## A C GRAYLING

**18 October 2007 18.00-19.00**

Free but booking essential

**University of Bristol  
Wills Memorial Building**

Leading philosopher A C Grayling, Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck College and author of many best-selling guides to philosophy, addresses the question of rights. Though one of the key issues of the modern age, the pursuit of liberty and rights has been an age-old issue. Grayling covers: the often-violent conflicts of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; the drive towards greater independence and individual liberty which led to bitter fighting in seventeenth-century Europe, including the Thirty Years' War and the English Civil War; and the eighteenth century revolutions in America and France that swept away monarchies in favour of more representative forms of government and made possible the abolition of slavery, and later, rights for working men and women, universal education, the enfranchisement of women, and the idea of universal human rights and freedoms. He tells the stories of celebrated and little-known heroes alike, including Martin Luther, John Locke, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Rosa Parks, arguing that such triumphs and sacrifices should make us value these precious rights even more highly, especially in an age when democratic governments under pressure sometimes find it necessary to restrict rights in the name of freedom.

**Booking office: free – but book in advance  
at [ideasfestival@btinternet.com](mailto:ideasfestival@btinternet.com)**



## MARTIN BELL

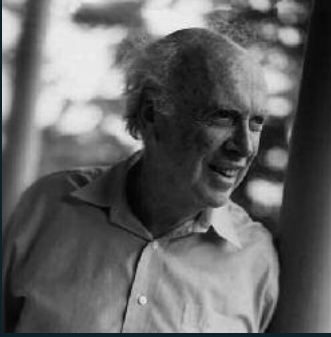
**23 October 2007 18.00-19.00**

£5.00 / £3.50

**Watershed Media Centre**

Martin Bell OBE is one of the best-known and most highly regarded names in British journalism, having covered assignments for the BBC in more than 80 countries and 11 wars including Bosnia, where millions watched as he was nearly killed by shrapnel. In 1997 Bell became the first independent MP to be elected to parliament since 1950. His books include *In Harm's Way*, *An Accidental MP*, and *Through the Gates of Fire*. His new book, *The Truth that Sticks: New Labour's Breach of Trust*, is an attack on the government of Tony Blair, covering scandals, cash-for-peerages, the Iraq war and the Afghanistan deployment (he visited both countries in the course of writing his book). He addresses directly the growth of faith based foreign policy and asks how an ethical foreign policy can be consistent with the continued use of cluster bombs. He condemns media management as the telling of bald untruths in the face of overwhelming evidence.

**Booking Office: Watershed Media Centre  
in person or by telephone 0117 927 5100**



## JAMES WATSON

**24 October 2007 12.45-14.15**

£15.00/ £12.50

(to include signed copy of his new book - RRP £14.99)

**St George's Bristol**

World renowned scientist James Watson – co-discoverer of DNA in 1953, which won him the Nobel Prize for Science – comes to Bristol to talk about his life and work. Watson revolutionised the study of biology and genetics, making possible the techniques used by today's biotechnology industry. He led the Human Genome project for five years and was director of the Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory on Long Island, making it the world centre for international genetic research. He has also published many best-selling books, including *The Double Helix*, which told the story of the discovery of DNA. His latest book, *Avoid Boring People: Lessons from a Life in Science*, looks back on this extraordinary life and career, and the lessons learned along the way, providing an engaging and witty memoir as well as a guide on how to be creative and how to prosper in life and work. This is a rare opportunity to meet one of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century.

**Booking office: Watershed Media Centre in person or by telephone 0117 927 5100**

Please note that the venue for this event has moved from Watershed Media Centre to St George's. All tickets purchased remain valid for St George's and will be needed for admission to the event. New ticket buyers need to purchase tickets at Watershed.

Forthcoming event:

## THE FUTURE OF GENOMICS

**29 November 2007 18.00 for 19.00**

£6.00 / £4.50

Rosalind Franklin Room, Explore-At-Bristol

Leading scientists from the fast-moving field of genomics, including Nobel Prize winner Sir John Sulston, will lead a lively audience discussion on the future of the genome. Includes a visit to Explore's new exhibition Inside DNA: A Genomic Revolution. See [www.at-bristol.org.uk](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk) for further details.

**Booking details: please see Steven Pinker.**

The Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership



Partners



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**BCDP culture | ideas | arts and sciences**

A partnership of Arts Council England, Bristol City Council, Business West

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