



## Film and History Break with Ian Garden 'How to Win a War'

Determination - Deception - Decryption

From Friday the 28th of February until the morning of Tuesday the 4th of March 2025



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# 'How to Win a War'

## Determination - Deception - Decryption

War is not just won through actions on the battle-field. A whole number of other factors and strategies come into play. The Film and History Break in 2025 returns to World War Two and explores three of the key means by which that war was fought and won.

First, there needed to be a resolute determination from everyone - be it a civilian or a member of the Armed Forces - to play one's part, whatever the sacrifice and cost to the individual.

Second, it was essential to be expert in the art of deception – misleading the enemy through a combination of false reports often submitted by double agents and supportive visual disinformation.

Third, no-one should underestimate the role of decryption with both sides employing vast resources and ingenious methods to decode enemy messages as quickly as possible.

As usual, a major feature film will be screened during each of the afternoon sessions of the break. The films to be shown are **36 Hours** – an exciting thriller in which the Germans go to great lengths to dupe an American Officer into revealing the location of the D-Day landings; **Enigma** – another thriller which seeks to uncover both the identity of a spy working at Bletchley Park and solve the mystery as to why key information uncovered by the British code-breakers is being concealed from their own people. The third film, **Malta Story**, illustrates the remarkable personal commitment and ingenuity required to see the conflict through, in the most hopeless of circumstances. Much of the plot of this film is based on the lives of real individuals and Ian will explain this further in his accompanying presentations.

As usual, the morning sessions will consist of a mixture of lectures and the screening of shorter documentary films all designed to complement the feature films to be shown each afternoon. So, the morning sessions will include items on life on the home front; the battle for Malta; the imaginative methods employed to deceive the enemy as to the strength of defensive and offensive positions and likely future battle-grounds; the Katyn Massacres and each side's code-breaking activities.

This will be the seventh Film and History Break which Ian will have run at Green Park. Much of the content reflects feedback from previous courses and draws on his detailed research into various war topics. Ian is confident that you will find this new programme informative and thought-provoking.



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### Friday the 28th of February

So as to make the most of your day, feel free to arrive any time from mid-morning onwards. Complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits will be available in the main lounges.

#### **6.00pm**

The first organised activity will be a sherry reception. This will give you the chance to meet your hosts from the Green Park, your tutor Ian Garden, as well as your fellow guests.

#### **6.30pm - 8.00pm**

A four course dinner will be served in the dining-room, followed by coffee, tea, and shortbread in the lounges.

### Saturday the 1st of March

#### **8.00am - 9.45am.**

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining room.

#### **From 10.00am - morning session**

**A Film and History Session with Ian. An illustrated talk which will include an examination of aspects of life on the home front and the role and fate of Malta during WW2.**

#### **Break for a buffet lunch in the dining room 12.30 - 1.30pm.**

#### **From 2.00pm - afternoon session**

**A Film and History Session with Ian. *Malta Story* - Screening of this story of Malta's battle for survival during WW2 and the award of the George Cross for its bravery. Starring Alec Guinness and Muriel Pavlow the accompanying talk will look at the truth behind the film's plot.**

#### **From 6.00pm.**

A pre-dinner Sherry reception in the main lounge.

#### **From 6.00pm - 8.00pm.**

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.





## Sunday the 2nd of March

### 8.00am - 9.45am.

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining-room.

### From 10.00am - morning session

**A Film and History Session with Ian.** An illustrated talk about the creative methods employed by both sides to mislead the enemy as to the strength of their positions and likely offensive strategy, including an analysis of why Hitler was so convinced the D-Day landings would be at Pas-de-Calais.

### Break for a buffet lunch in the dining room 12.30 - 1.30pm.

### From 2.00pm - afternoon session

**A Film and History Session with Ian.** Talk and screening of the exciting war-time thriller *36 Hours*. Starring James Garner and Rod Taylor the question is whether the former will be tricked into revealing the Allies' plans for their landings in Europe.

### From 6.00pm.

A pre-dinner sherry reception will be held in the main lounge.

### From 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.

## Monday the 3rd of March

### 8.00am - 9.45am.

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining-room.

### From 10.00am - morning session

**A Film and History Session with Ian.** An illustrated talk about the Katyn Massacres and both the Allies and Nazis code-breaking activities including a film about a little known hero at Bletchley Park.

### Break for a buffet lunch in the dining room 12.30 - 1.30pm.

### From 2.00pm - afternoon session

**A Film and History Session with Ian.** Talk and Screening of *Enigma* – a 2001 thriller starring Dougray Scott and Kate Winslett whose plot centres on the code-breaking activities at Bletchley Park and the search to uncover a traitor.



## Monday the 3rd of March ( continued )

### **6.00pm**

An informal bucks-fizz reception will be hosted by Ian. Everyone will have downed tools by now, and this is an excellent opportunity to unwind and enjoy the company of Ian and your compatriots.

### **From 6.30pm - 8.00pm.**

A four course dinner will be served in the dining room, followed by coffee and shortbread in the main lounge.

## Tuesday the 4th of March

### **8.00am - 10.00am.**

A full Scottish breakfast will be served in the dining room.

**The McMenemie Family and everyone at the Green Park hope that you will have enjoyed your stay with us, and that you have a safe journey home.**



The cost of the 2025 four night Film and History break is £595.00 per person.

## Film and History Break with Ian Garden

### Ian Garden – Background note

Born in Muir of Ord and brought up in Linlithgow and Edinburgh, Ian has been running Film and History Breaks at Green Park for a number of years.

Ian is a French and German Honours graduate from the University of St Andrews who spent much of his life working in International and Corporate Banking, firstly for the Bank of Scotland and then HBOS.



He opened the Bank's first office in Germany in 1993 and it was during his three year posting to Frankfurt that he really had an opportunity to indulge his interest in WW2 film propaganda.

On retiring from the Bank in 2008, Ian researched and wrote a book called ***The Third Reich's Celluloid War*** which was published by the History Press in 2012, and raised considerable interest from the press and the radio both in this country and abroad. In 2016, Ian launched his second book - ***Battling with the Truth***- which explores which side was more truthful in their newsreel and press coverage of key events in WW2 and it reveals a number of surprising findings.

Ian is now a recognised authority on war film propaganda and gives regular talks to universities, Rotary, Probus and other private clubs around the UK, and he has also given a number of lectures in the United States. His sessions at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2012 and 2016 were sold out on the first day that tickets went on sale. He also writes magazine articles and is currently working on a number of projects involving adding English sub-titles to foreign films.

As a result of the success of his books, since 2013 Ian has been running film courses in Edinburgh over 6 weeks each spring – currently held at the Dominion Cinema.

More information about Ian and his interests can be found on his web-site [iangarden.co.uk](http://iangarden.co.uk).



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This amount includes the entire package as described in this programme, and there is no supplementary charge for single accommodation.

**If you wish to travel to Pitlochry by coach or rail, we will arrange for complimentary transport between Pitlochry Station and the Green Park, for both your day of arrival and your day of departure.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ROOM / ROOMS REQUIRED

TWIN \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the above accommodation in my name.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_.

The cost of the 2025 Four Night Film and History Break is £595.00 per person.

**Guests wanting to stay any extra nights before or after the Film and History Break would be charged at our low season rate of £139.00, per person per night for dinner bed and breakfast.**

