



## Literary History break with Richard Moore

### Literature of the Seasons

**Tuesday the 4th of March until the morning  
of Saturday the 8th of March 2025**



*'Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' – Keats : Ode to Autumn*

*'Life is lovely all the year.'* Ruddigore : Madrigal of the Seasons

*'Through every nook and every cranny  
The wind blew in on poor old Granny .....  
It blew the wig off Auntie Fanny-  
But most of all, it blew on Granny!'  
- Spike Milligan on a Rainy Season*

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The seasons are one of the most prevalent means by which literary texts engage with and represent climate, the environment and traditional life-nature patterns. Particular seasons are associated with particular human activities, emotions, psychological states, and even literary genres. Nowadays, with the problems of global warming and climate change generally, seasonal patterns are being challenged and modified, but this only adds to the significance and interest. And of course there are many questions : has nature or culture or a mixture of both shaped our responses to the four main seasons? Why do so many myths have a seasonal element? What ancient customs accompanied the beginning of each season (for instance firing arrows at the sky at the approach of winter)? Who or what is the Winter King and what are the seasonal implications of the Fisher King story and the Persephone myth?

All these and other questions may come up in the course which will also have an emphasis on fun. The texts for the course are as follows :

***Spring* (Ali Smith)**

***Suddenly Last Summer* (Tennessee Williams)**

***Quartet in Autumn* (Barbara Pym)**

***The Winter Spirits* (Bridget Collins)**

***A Spell of Winter* (Helen Dunmore).**

We shall also look at a few seasonal poems (which I will run off for you) and will discuss some key seasonal myths. In between times there will be a showing of DVD versions of two films chosen from a list including:

- *The Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare)
- *Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter... and Spring* (a great Korean film with subtitles in English).
- *Cider with Rosie*
- *Another Year* (Mike Leigh)
- *Springtime for Hitler!*

We will also look at an excerpt from my play *A Staring Owl* drawing on *The Frozen Deep*. The latter is a play based on a real-life polar expedition set in an Arctic winter, written by Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens and performed before Queen Victoria).

For extra reading (*not* on the course but worthwhile if you have time) I recommend *Small Things Like These* (Claire Keegan), a brilliant short novel with a wintry setting; the exciting *Winter in Madrid* by C.J. Sansom; and *The Beginning of Spring* by Penelope Fitzgerald which was on the Booker Prize short-list.

It will help if you can bring copies of at least some of the five core texts. Naturally we shall end with quizzes and perhaps a rain dance if early March happens to be a season of drought. We look forward to seeing you.

*Richard Moore*

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## Literature of the Seasons

### Tuesday the 4th of March

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 - please just help yourself.

#### 6.00pm.

The first organised activity will be a sherry reception held in **room nine on the first floor of the main building**. This will give you the chance to meet your hosts from the Green Park, your tutor Richard Moore, 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.

### Wednesday the 5th of March

#### 8.00am - 9.45am.

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

#### From 10.00am - morning session

#### [Literary History session with Richard](#)

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

#### From 2.00pm - afternoon session

#### [Literary History session with Richard](#)

#### 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.



## Thursday the 6th of March

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

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

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

[Literary History session with Richard](#)

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

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

[Literary History session with Richard](#)

### **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.



## Friday the 7th of March

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

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

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

[Literary History session with Richard](#)

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

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

[Literary History session with Richard](#)

### **6.00pm.**

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

### **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.



# Literary History break with Richard Moore

## Literature of the Seasons

Saturday the 8th 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 Literary History  
break is £595.00 per person.



# **Personal History Richard Moore**

[r.moore313@btinternet.com](mailto:r.moore313@btinternet.com)

M.A. Degree in English Literature  
(Cambridge University)

Research Diploma in English  
Literature, History and Society  
(Cantab.) - Distinction.

P.G.C.E. (Distinction) - Southampton  
University.

Doctorate in Victorian Fiction and  
Theatre - University of Wales.  
(Special Award for work on W.S.  
Gilbert and The Theatre of the  
1890's.)



Richard is a lecturer and creative writer, the author of over eighty plays and a number of musical works. He gained his first degree at the University of Cambridge and taught in schools for many years. In 1989 he gained his Ph.D. taking as his subject Christianity and Paganism in Victorian Fiction. He then went on to work as a Deputy Head and Head of English at Queen Ethelburga's College, near York, before moving in 2000 into University teaching.

From January 2000 until 2017 Richard was been a part-time lecturer at Newcastle and Sunderland Universities. He has also run various courses for adults, particularly at Higham Hall in the Lake District. His particular academic interests are American Drama, the works of Shakespeare and Jane Austen, Irish Literature, Victorian Music Theatre and the 20th century Theatre of the Absurd. Currently he is writing a play about the North Berwick Witches!

He has had two book published and a third - one of a series about Late Victorian Playwrights - is currently with his publishers for proof-reading prior to printing.

In addition to literature and music, Richard is particularly keen on Nature Conservation and Ecology work. His relaxations are exploring the byways of history and the endless reading of Golden Age detective novels.

**Please tick which of the 2025 break/s  
you are interested in attending:**

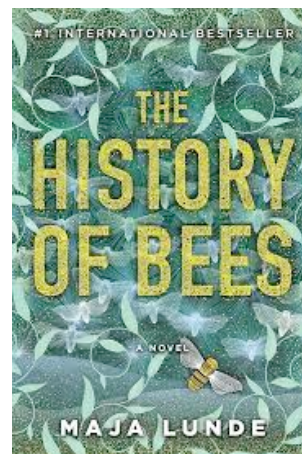


☐ **Time: 'We are Time's Subjects'**

**Sunday the 12th of January until the  
morning of Thursday the 16th of  
January 2025**

☐ **Literature of the Seasons**

**Tuesday the 4th of March until the  
morning of Saturday the 8th of March  
2025**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

TYPE OF ROOM / ROOMS REQUIRED

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

Please reserve the above accommodation in my name.

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

**The 2025 four night Literary History break costs £595.00**

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.**

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

