



# The Barbara Pym Society

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

30th August–1st September 2019

St Hilda's College, Oxford

## *Jane and Prudence*

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### FRIDAY 30th AUGUST

- 2.00 pm **An Afternoon with Jilly Cooper** in the Lady Brodie Room, Hall Building  
**Cutting of the first BPS 25th Anniversary Cake**
- 7.00 pm **Two-Course Evening Meal** in St Hilda's Dining Hall  
followed by the annual pre-conference quiz in the Senior Common Room

### SATURDAY 31st AUGUST

- 10.30 am **Coffee** in the foyer of the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building (JdP)
- 11.15 am **The Annual General Meeting** (for Barbara Pym Society members only)
- 12.30 pm **Lunch** in the Dining Hall
- 1.50 pm **Conference begins:** Opening comments & welcome by Deb Fisher, Chair (JdP)
- 2.00 pm **'Some strange comfort': Forms of Imagination in *Jane and Prudence*** – Emily Stockard
- 2.55 pm **The Lipstick Effect: The Changing Role of Cosmetics in Women's Self-Image Since the Second World War** – Alex Fisher
- 3.45 pm **Tea and cutting of the main BPS 25th Anniversary Cake** by Dan and Ann DiPietro
- 4.15 pm **A Look at Marriage in Pym's Early Novels** – Ann and Dan DiPietro
- 5.00 pm Free time
- 6.45 pm **Drinks reception**
- 7.15 pm **The Annual Dinner** (Dining Hall)  
**After-dinner speech by Jennifer Howarth** followed by the **BPS Charity Tombola**

### SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

- 10.00 am **Optional discussion of *Jane and Prudence*** led by Lucia Costanzo (location TBA)
- 11.00 am **Coffee** (JdP)
- 11.30 am **Literary Societies** – Maggie Parsons
- 12.00 pm **College Gaudies** – Janet Howarth,  
incorporating material supplied by the late Dr Margaret Rayner
- 12.30 pm **Discussion** and summing up of conference – Deb Fisher
- 1.00 pm **Sunday Lunch** (Dining Hall)
- 2.30 pm **Dramatised readings from *Jane and Prudence*** arranged by Yvonne Cocking
- 3.30 pm **Tea and biscuits;** conference adjourns

For those staying over Sunday evening:

- 6.05 pm **Choral evensong** at Christ Church Cathedral
- 7.30 pm Meet for **dinner at a local restaurant** (à la carte, location will be announced)

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

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**Jilly Cooper** is the author of many bestselling novels. She began her career as a journalist and wrote numerous works of non-fiction before her first romance novel appeared in 1975. She has also written a series of children's books. She lives in Gloucestershire with her rescue racing greyhound, Bluebell. She has been awarded honorary doctorates by the Universities of Gloucestershire and Anglia Ruskin and was appointed CBE in 2018 for services to literature and charity.



**Ann DiPietro** is Director of the Sea Cliff Children's Library and President of the Sea Cliff Civic Association. She received her B.A. from Molloy College and M.A. from St. John's University, NY, where she taught English Literature for fifteen years. Ann writes a weekly book review column for her local newspaper and a weekly blog, The Great Book Guru. She is a member of the Silly Shakespeare Company, James Joyce Jaunt, Scrooge Stroll, and organizer of Sunset Serenades, a weekly series of summer concerts. **Dan DiPietro** is Principal of Dan DiPietro Consulting and a Senior Advisor to McKinsey & Co., and is on the faculty of Harvard Law School's Leadership in Law Firms program. Dan holds a B.A. from St. John's University and an M.B.A. from

Columbia University. In his spare time, Dan is a member of the Silly Shakespeare Company and Co-Director of the Scrooge Stroll and James Joyce Jaunt.



Often quoted in the press as an industry authority, **Alex Fisher** is Associate Director of Beauty at market intelligence firm Mintel in the City of London. Alex's professional experience is rooted in consumer behaviour and experiences; looking to understand what women want, and how they use their beauty products. A graduate of Aston University, she loves to read, and enjoys any book with strong female characterisation.



**Janet Howarth** is Emeritus Fellow and Associate Professor of Modern History at St Hilda's College, Oxford. She has published on the late-Victorian liberal party and on university history and the history of women and gender in later-nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain. Her current research interests include university reform (circa 1870-1914), feminist biography, and the history of women's education and the women's movement.



**Maggie Parsons** has been a member of the Barbara Pym Society since 1994 and on the committee of The Alliance of Literary Societies since 2013. She works for Birmingham City Council as a Careers Adviser and lives in Bearwood in the West Midlands.



**Emily Stockard** earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and now lives in South Florida, where she is Associate Professor of English at Florida Atlantic University, specializing in Renaissance literature, with publications on both poetry and drama. She has written as well on Denton Welch, one of Pym's favorite authors, and most recently placed "The Austere Comforts of Barbara Pym" in *Essays in Criticism*. She has been privileged to speak at both Boston and Oxford meetings of the Barbara Pym Society.