



# The Barbara Pym Society

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

31<sup>st</sup> August–2nd September 2018

St Hilda's College, Oxford

## Food & Drink in the World of Barbara Pym

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Barbara Pym featured food and drink throughout her novels. So, did she give a realistic picture of what people in Britain were cooking and eating in the post-war years? Were there regional and class differences? How about eating out and eating in? How much has cooking and eating changed? What about shopping for food? Could you recognise today's food and drink from Barbara's novels?

### FRIDAY 31st AUGUST

- 2.00 pm** **Tour of TOAD, The Oxford Artisan Distillery** for a unique behind the scenes experience where you will discover the principles of their distilling and how their vodka, gin, absinthe, and rye whiskey are made.
- 7.00 pm** **Two-Course Evening Meal in St Hilda's Dining Hall** followed by the annual trivia quiz in the SCR

### SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

- 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 (JdP Music Building)
- 2.00 pm** *The Things They Ate...* – panel chaired by Laura Shapiro
- 4.00 pm** **Tea & biscuits**
- 4.30 pm** *...and the Drinks They Enjoyed* – panel chaired by Dr. Perri Klass
- 5.30 pm** Free time
- 6.45 pm** **Drinks reception**
- 7:15 pm** **The Annual Dinner and BPS Charity Tombola**

### SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

- 10.00 am** Free time, Holy Communion service in St Hilda's chapel, or viewing the video *Tea with Miss Pym*
- 11.00 am** **Coffee** (JdP foyer)
- 11.30 am** *Cooking in Barbara Pym's novels* – Lucia Costanza
- 12.20 pm** **Discussion** and summing up of conference
- 1.00 pm** **Sunday Lunch** (Dining Hall)
- 2.30 pm** **Dramatised Readings** arranged by Yvonne Cocking (JdP)
- 3.30 pm** **Tea & biscuits;** conference adjourns
- 7.30 pm** Meet for dinner at a local restaurant (a la carte, location will be announced)

## Saturday Panel Members



Barbara Pym Society member [Laura Shapiro](#) will open the first session with her views on food in Pym's life and work. Her new book *What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food That Tells Their Stories* examines six famous women (including Barbara Pym) through the lens of food and cooking—what they ate and how their attitudes toward food offer surprising new insights into their lives. She was an award-winning writer at *Newsweek* for more than fifteen years and her articles have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Granta* and *Gourmet*. Laura is the author of three classic books of culinary history. She lives in New York City.



**Dr. Perri Klass**, another American member of the Barbara Pym Society, is Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics at New York University and Medical Director of 'Reach Out and Read', a national childhood literacy program. She has a [weekly column in the New York Times](#). Passionate about Pym, she gave a memorable talk on drinks and drinking in Pym's work at the 2013 North American conference. She has also done a great deal of writing about food and travel (and knitting!) and won a James Beard journalism award for food writing.



[Jill Norman](#) is an award-winning editor, publisher and author of books on food. She published authors such as Elizabeth David for Penguin Books and then started writing about food herself. In 2001 she published the 564-page *New Penguin Cookery Book*, and in 2014 she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Guild of Food Writers. She writes frequently on food and wine and is a regular speaker on gastronomy at literary and food festivals.



[Paul Levy](#) is a US-born food writer who lives and works here in the UK. With others he coined the word 'Foodie' and co-wrote *The Official Foodie Handbook* (1984). He has won many British and American food writing and journalism prizes, including commendations in the national British Press Awards in 1985 and 1987. He was formerly the *Observer's* food and restaurant correspondent.



**Kate Young** is an Australian-born, London-based food writer and cook. After moving to the UK in 2009, she started her blog, [thelittlelibrarycafe.com](http://thelittlelibrarycafe.com), which now has readers all over the world and is regularly featured in the *Guardian*. She's the author of *The Little Library Cookbook*



**Tom Nicolson** is one of the three founders of [TOAD](#), The Oxford Artisan Distillery, the very first distillery creating spirits in this ancient city's long and illustrious history. They produce a range of hand-made spirits including gin, absinthe, vodka, and rye whiskey.