

4 March

Daily Poem

**BATH LITERATURE
FESTIVAL 2010**

**Sat 27 February
– Sun 7 March**

Two Sisters Remember their Father

Once their Father was dead, the sisters sat
with the objects he had left behind;
some photographs, medals, a mirror in a frame,
but nothing was father. The first sister stood
to the left of the mirror and said: 'He was
a wonderful father, my teacher, my best friend,
my rich soil.' The second sister stood
to the right of the mirror and said: 'He was
a violent bully, commander, my dark cloud,
my prison.'

The first sister took up a palette and paintbrush
and coloured the mirror with her Father's true face:
his wide smile, collared shirt, the hair he'd given her.
The second sister took up the turpentine
and washed away the portrait. She replaced it with lines
to show a large square, with a small square trapped inside.

Once their pictures were gone, the turpentine wasted
(the room awash with its smell from the fight)
the sisters stood parallel, and looked into the mirror.
The first sister saw a well rounded woman
who surely, when young, was loved and adored
to have grown up to become a mother herself.
But beside her, her sister saw different:
she knew who to thank
for sleepless nights
for bad relationships with men
for no appetite,
for ending up lonely with nothing but mirrors to fight.

***Sam Drew, Creative Writing Student at Bath Spa University.
Inspired by Walt Whitman's 'Song of Myself'***

 Bath festivals

Tickets: 01225 463362
www.bathlitfest.org.uk

Bath Festivals Box Office
2 Church Street, Abbey
Green, Bath BA1 1NL

4 March What's on

Come along to today's events! You can buy tickets at Bath Festivals Box Office or get them on the door an hour before the event starts.

THURSDAY 4 MARCH Minds

Oliver James: Damaged Selves

11.15am-12.15pm, Guildhall,
£6.50 (£5.50) F1

Despite being richer and healthier than we were in the 1950's, British people are, apparently, less happy. Psychologist and author of *The Selfish Capitalist* **Oliver James** puts Britain on the couch.

Prospect Magazine Debate: Should politicians "do God"?

1-2pm, Guildhall, £7 (£6) F3

Christianity in Britain may be "in decline" but other religions are not and they are having a radical effect on global politics. Join our panel of experts as they talk about the issues.

Remembered: Anthony Julius's History of Anti-Semitism

4.30-5.30pm, Guildhall, £8 (£7) F5

Trials of the Diaspora is a ground-breaking book that offers the first ever comprehensive history of anti-Semitism in England and comes as a timely reminder that English culture itself has not been immune to anti-Semitism.

Biography: Lyndall Gordon on Emily Dickinson

6.15-7.15pm, Guildhall, £8 (£7) F8

Emily Dickinson is regarded as one of the greatest poets of all time. Lyndall Gordon talks about her life, with illustrated with

readings from one of Britain's leading actors, **Emily Woof**.

QI: Book of the Dead

8-9pm, Guildhall, £9 (£8) F11

The brains behind QI **John Lloyd** and **John Mitchinson** as they discuss *QI: Book of the Dead*. Join us for this funny and clever event.

My Life: Marjorie Wallace

8-9pm, Central United Reformed Church,
£7 (£6) F12

Marjorie Wallace, co-founder and Chief Executive of SANE, talks about her work as a social campaigner and what the future of our mental health services needs to be.

Later this week - don't miss our Festival daily picks:

Friday 5 March

Natasha Walter & Kat Banyard: The Female Body

11.15am-12.15pm, Guildhall

Saturday 6 March

Performance: Ben Moor: Coelacanth
2.45-3.45pm, Guildhall

Sunday 7 March

My Life: Raymond Blanc
8-9pm, Guildhall