

*Think*

*new things*

*Make*

*new connections*

## Programme

# The role of the Fourth Estate in democracies: how should the news and information ecosystem evolve to meet audience needs and strengthen democracy in a turbulent political, technological and commercial landscape?

A Ditchley conference in collaboration with The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**5-7 December 2024**

*Participants and observers are reminded of the private and confidential basis on which Ditchley Foundation conferences are held. All those participating do so in their personal capacities, not as spokespeople for any country or institution. All proceedings take place under the 'Ditchley Rule', whereby all contributions are unattributable and interventions are made in strict confidence; this also applies to exchanges that take place outside the formal sessions. Those present are free to draw afterwards on the substance of what has been said, but not under any circumstances to reveal to any person not participating in the conference who it was that said it. The Rule will be scrupulously observed in any Note later produced on the conference by Ditchley. The verbal discussions will **not** be recorded.*

**A note about the programme:**

An in-person/residential Ditchley conference.

**Legend:**

**GMT** Greenwich Mean Time

**DITCHLEY**

Day 1	Thursday 5 December
	<p><b>Arrivals:</b> Guests arriving by train will be collected from the <b>1053 GMT</b> service from <b>London Paddington</b>, arriving at <b>Charlbury Station</b> at <b>1205 GMT</b>.</p>
1245 GMT	Lunch
1355 GMT	Participants take their seats in the <b>Library</b> .
<b>PLENARY I</b>	<p><b>Election report card: how has journalism held up around the world in a bumper year of elections? What are the issues – both expected and unexpected – that have emerged? And what have we learned to help us move forward?</b></p>
1400 GMT	<p><b>Welcome</b> The Director, James Arroyo, opens the conference and explains how the conference will unfold.</p> <p><b>Introductions</b> Director introduces the Speakers.</p> <p><b>Sir Mark Thompson</b> <b>Mr Siddharth Varadarajan</b></p>
	<p>After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants.</p> <p>Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. <i>Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</i></p>
1520 GMT	Closing remarks
1530 GMT	Tea in the Saloon
1555 GMT	Participants take their seats in the <b>Library</b> .
<b>PLENARY II</b>	<p><b>The disinformation dilemma: have we been catastrophising? And is that distracting us from the more pressing threats at hand to a free media?</b></p>
1600 GMT	<p><b>Introductions</b> James Arroyo introduces the Speakers.</p> <p><b>Ms Nell McCarthy</b> <b>Ms Sharon Moshavi</b></p>
	<p>After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants.</p> <p>Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. <i>Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</i></p>
1720 GMT	Closing remarks

1730 GMT	Coffee in the Saloon
1755 GMT	Participants take their seats in their <b>breakout groups</b> .
<b>Working Group discussions – Session One</b>	
1800 GMT	Participants separate into three working groups. <b>Group A</b> <b>Sustainable and trusted business models</b> <b>Group B</b> <b>AI and media regulation</b> <b>Group C</b> <b>Threats to press freedom &amp; credibility</b>
1925 GMT	Working Groups End
1930 GMT	Close Drinks in the White Drawing Room
2000 GMT	Dinner <i>Seating plan displayed in the Hall</i>
2215 GMT	For those guests who will have been notified that they will be accommodated at The Bell hotel, transport leaves Ditchley for the hotel.
2245 GMT	Second and final vehicle leaves Ditchley for The Bell.

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Friday 6 December</b>
0815 GMT	Transport leaves The Bell for Ditchley.
0830-0910 GMT	Breakfast
0915 GMT	Participants take their seats in the <b>Library</b> .
<b>Plenary III</b>	<b>Meeting the audience where they are: if people are not consuming news in the way that they used to, how does the media landscape evolve in response to this? What should the media be doing to assess its own actions and approaches to its role in society?</b>
0920 GMT	<b>Introductions</b> James Arroyo introduces the Speakers. <b>Dr Alex Mahon</b> <b>Mr Oli Dugmore</b>
	After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants. Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. <i>Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</i>
1030 GMT	Closing remarks
1040 GMT	Group photo, followed by coffee

1100 GMT	Participants take their seats in their <b>breakout groups</b> .
<b>Working Group discussions – Session Two</b>	
1105 GMT	Participants separate into three working groups. <b>Group A</b> Sustainable and trusted business models <b>Group B</b> AI and media regulation <b>Group C</b> Threats to press freedom & credibility
1235 GMT	Working Group discussion closes.
1245 GMT	Buffet lunch
1405 GMT	Participants take their seats in the <b>Library</b> .
<b>PLENARY IV</b>	<b>Reports from the Working Groups</b>
1410 GMT	<b>Welcome</b> James Arroyo welcomes everyone back.  <i>The Rapporteur and Chair of each working group will provide the main points, as they see them, to have emerged from their discussion, before the remaining members of that group are invited to add their comments.</i>  <i>Each session will last approximately 30 minutes.</i>
1415 GMT	<b>Presentation of Group A's discussions</b> Chair: Mr John Palfrey Rapporteur: Mr Joshi Herrmann
1445 GMT	<b>Presentation of Group B's discussions</b> Chair: Ms Jennifer Ditchburn Rapporteur: Mr Madhav Chinnappa
1515 GMT	<b>Presentation of Group C's discussions</b> Chair: Mr Kevin Corcoran Rapporteur: Ms Karolina Zbytniewska
1545 GMT	Afternoon tea
1615 GMT	Participants take their seats in the <b>Library</b> .
<b>PLENARY V</b>	<b>Conference Rapporteur presentation</b>
1620 GMT	The Conference Rapporteur, <b>Ms Vivian Schiller</b> , will provide their reflections on the discussions over the course of the conference, identify unresolved questions or areas where agreement was not reached, and highlight any conclusions or concrete recommendations that may have emerged.  Brief final interventions from the participants

1655 GMT	Director's closing remarks	
1700 GMT	<b>Conference closes</b>	
1715 GMT	Transport leaves Ditchley for The Bell for those who wish to change for dinner	
<b>Conference Briefing</b>		
	The following session will bring an invited audience from the wider Ditchley community, via Zoom, to hear a presentation of the main findings, lines of discussion and conclusions (if any) from the conference, and to participate in a Q&A, all subject to the Ditchley Rule.	
	<b>In-person participants</b>	<b>Remote participants</b>
1715 GMT	Panellists, and those wishing to participate, take their seats in the <b>Library</b> for a post-conference presentation to a wider Ditchley audience.	A Zoom Waiting Room will be in operation until the formal start time of 1730 GMT. <i>You will be sent a separate Zoom link for this briefing.</i>
0930 PST 1230 EST 1730 GMT 1830 CET	Briefing for an invited Ditchley audience, followed by a Q&A: <b><i>The role of the Fourth Estate in democracies: how should the news and information ecosystem evolve to meet audience needs and strengthen democracy in a turbulent political, technological and commercial landscape?</i></b>  <b>Panellists:</b>  <b>Sir Mark Thompson</b> <b>Ms Nell McCarthy</b> <b>Mr Richard Gingras</b> <b>Mrs Claudia Báez</b>	
1030 PST 1330 EST 1830 GMT 1930 CET	Briefing closes	
1900 GMT	Transport leaves The Bell for Ditchley	
1905 GMT	Optional House tour will leave from the White Drawing Room	
1915 GMT	Drinks in the White Drawing Room	
2000 GMT	Black-tie Dinner and overnight  <i>Seating plan displayed in the Hall</i> <i>(kindly provide ample notice if you decide to withdraw from dinner)</i>	
2230 GMT	Transport leaves Ditchley for The Bell.	
2300 GMT	Second and final vehicle leaves Ditchley for The Bell.	

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Saturday 7 December</b>
	<b>Guests accommodated at The Bell:</b>
0800 GMT	Breakfast at The Bell

<b>0950 GMT prompt</b>	Transport leaves The Bell for Charlbury station for the <b>1011 GMT</b> service to London Paddington, arriving at <b>1123 GMT</b> .
	Shared transfers to Heathrow Airport arranged as necessary.
	<b>Guests accommodated at Ditchley:</b>
<b>0800 GMT</b>	Breakfast ( <i>please place your luggage outside your door <b>before</b> you go to breakfast</i> )
<b>0940 GMT prompt</b>	Transport leaves Ditchley for Charlbury station for the <b>1011 GMT</b> service to London Paddington, arriving at <b>1123 GMT</b>
	The House will remain open <b>until 11.30 GMT</b> for those who would like to take a walk in the grounds or continue their conversation.
	Transfers to Heathrow Airport are arranged according to need, with final departures by 11.30.

### Luggage

It is helpful if your luggage is labelled with your name, so that your luggage may more easily be directed on arrival and departure.

#### **If you are staying at The Bell:**

On Thursday afternoon, your luggage will be transferred to the hotel, and our Staff will arrange your check in. You will receive your room key on Thursday afternoon and will have immediate access to your room on arrival after dinner on Thursday evening.

#### **If you are staying at Ditchley:**

Please place your baggage (other than hats, coats and hand luggage) outside your bedroom **by 8am** on Saturday, so that it may be collected and brought to the Hall ready for departure. Individual arrangements will be made should anyone need to leave earlier.

**Please note:** Luggage will be arranged in the Hall according to whether you are travelling by train, to the airport or by car. Please check that your luggage is in the correct place prior to your departure and avoid placing belongings in the vicinity of luggage destined for the station or airport if that is not where you are travelling.