

Press release

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For immediate release

SPEND A RELAXED EVENING EXPLORING THE BIG IDEAS THAT SHAPE OUR WORLD

What is gravity and how has the relationship between humanity and technology changed over time?

These are just a couple of the questions being posed at the next Berwins Salon North event (**6 June**) as Professor Claudia de Rham, Dr Tom Chatfield and Dr Phoenix Andrews dive into the influential forces shaping our world.

The Salon series explores big ideas in an intimate setting, based around relaxed, cabaret-style evenings where you can catch up with friends and enjoy a drink at the bar.

The TED-style talks – voted number six in the ‘Top 100 Things to do in the World’ by GQ magazine – return in June with world-renowned physicist and theoretical physics professor Claudia de Rham, who has been playing with gravity her entire life: as a pilot, soaring over Canadian waterfalls; as an astronaut candidate, dreaming of the experience of flying free from Earth’s pull; and as a physicist, exploring the limits of Einstein’s general theory of relativity.

She is joined by Dr Tom Chatfield, author and tech philosopher, who will delve into the co-evolution of humanity and technology, and journalist, writer and broadcaster Dr Phoenix Andrews who will shed light on the fascinating world of fandoms and reveal how people power has become the hidden force behind the most surprising events in recent history.

Sharon Canavar, Harrogate International Festivals Chief Executive, said: “One of the many joys of Berwins Salon North is we learn about the world around us in a fun and entertaining way.

“Salon gets you thinking and it gets you talking and this month’s topics up for discussion range from the mysteries of gravity to the impact of people power.”

Associate Director of Berwins Solicitors, Martin Whincup, said: “Every Salon North event is a real treat. There’s nothing quite like it and this latest trio of special guests will no doubt once again leave the audience inspired.

“The Salon series is a hugely popular fixture on Harrogate’s cultural calendar and we are proud to support these brilliant, thought-provoking evenings.”

Berwins Salon North, The Crown Hotel, Harrogate. Thursday 6 June, 7.30pm. Tickets: £18 (please note that a £2.50 booking fee applies at the time of booking).

Tickets are available from the Harrogate International Festivals website [Home - Harrogate International Festivals](https://www.harrogateinternationalfestivals.co.uk) or by calling the Box Office on 01423 562 303.

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Notes to editors

About Harrogate International Festivals

Harrogate International Festivals is a charitable organisation with a mission to present a diverse year-long programme of live events that bring immersive and moving cultural experiences to as many people as possible. Delivering artistic work of national importance, the Festival curates and produces over 300 unique and surprising performances each year, celebrating world-renowned artists and championing new and up-coming talent across music, literature, science, philosophy and psychology. The HIF+ ongoing education outreach programme engages schools, young people and the local community with workshops, talks, projects and inspiring activities, ensuring everyone can experience the Festival's world class programme and the transformative power of the arts. Established in 1966, Harrogate International Festivals is an artistic force to be reckoned with and a key cultural provider for the North of England.

Find out more at:

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