

Dame Katherine Grainger DBE PhD, Olympian Extraordinaire

Presenter's Biography :

Dame Katherine is an iconic figure in the world of rowing, and is the current chair of UK Sport. She has also been Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University since 2015. Awarded MBE in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours, she was then awarded CBE in New Year's Honours in 2013 for services to rowing, before being honoured as a Dame Commander in 2017 for services to sport and charity.



With five Olympic medals, she became Britain's most decorated female Olympian athlete, and the first British woman to win medals at five successive Olympic Games. In 2017, she was awarded the prestigious international Thomas Keller Medal for an outstanding career in rowing.

Katherine attained a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Edinburgh, a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Medical Law & Medical Ethics from the University of Glasgow before completing a PhD from Kings College, London in 2013. She later was awarded Honorary Doctorates from a wide range of Universities.

Following her "In Conversation" session at the inaugural Maidenhead's Big Read festival in March 2019, talking about her passion about books from an early childhood, and how reading can inspire, Dame Katherine kindly agreed to become Patron for the Maidenhead's Big Read.

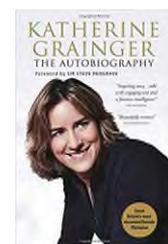
Books Published:



The original book documents Katherine's life from early childhood in Glasgow to Olympic success in London 2012. Along the way the many challenges and frustrations of a high performance world are shared, as well as the enormous rewards and satisfaction. It is an honest, humorous and passionate story of the winding path to success and the many wonderful characters who populate the journey.

Katherine's story is a remarkable one - proof that nice people can be winners and dedication and hard work pay off. She combined her athletic career with her higher education, completing three degrees alongside Olympic success.

The second printing of the paperback version of the autobiography continued her inspirational story taking in her post-London activities, the return to training, finding a new double sculls partner, the highs and lows of their attempt to qualify for Rio 2016 and eventually their astonishing row to another silver medal.



Title of the Story Telling

The Wind in the Willows

Brief Summary of the Presentation

A rowing Olympian extraordinaire, Dame Katherine is Britain's most decorated female Olympic athlete. She kindly agreed in 2019 to become Patron for Maidenhead's Big Read, inspired by her own passion for books from early childhood. Katherine will read from *Wind in the Willows* which reminds her of rowing on the Thames.

Website

<https://katherinegrainger.com/>

Presented at the 2019 Maidenhead's Big Read festival

2021 Maidenhead's Big Read