

Launch of the Centenary programme

The Institute was founded in 1917 to promote cultural exchange between Italy and the English-speaking world and granted a Royal Charter in 1923. Read our [history](#). Today we offer our 2000 students and members a comprehensive programme of courses in the Italian language, the English language and History of Art, as well as open shelf access to the historic 53 000 volume Harold Acton Library and a rich cultural programme. We operate without public funding.

The centenary of the Institute is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the long-standing cultural ties between the UK and Italy. In June 2017 we shall be awarded the Fiorino d'Oro by the Mayor of Florence. We also envisage participation by the President of the Republic, the British Ambassador in Italy and the Italian Ambassador in London.

L'Istituto è stato fondato nel 1917 per promuovere lo scambio culturale tra il mondo inglese e quello italiano e insignito della Royal Charter nel 1923. Leggete la nostra [storia](#). Oggi offriamo ai nostri studenti e soci dei programmi specifici per apprendere l'italiano, l'inglese e la Storia dell'Arte oltre a rendere a disposizione i locali della storica Biblioteca Harold Acton, con i suoi 53 000 volumi e il suo ricco programma culturale. Operiamo senza alcun sostegno pubblico.

Il centenario dell'Istituto è una grandissima opportunità per celebrare i legami culturali di lunga data che esistono tra l'Italia e il Regno Unito. A Giugno 2017 riceveremo il Fiorino d'Oro dal Sindaco di Firenze. Prevediamo inoltre la partecipazione del Presidente della Repubblica, l'Ambasciatore Britannico in Italia e l'Ambasciatore Italiano a Londra.

Centenary Programme 2017

Note: Embargo 1 January 2017

Provisional programme, subject to change

In September 2016

100 days from the Centenary. We began the countdown at the Società dei Canottieri. Jill Morris CMG, British Ambassador to Italy announced the donation of € 150 000 by Ferragamo SpA to restore and renovate the Harold Acton Library. The Mayor of Florence Dario Nardella communicated his decision to confer at the British Institute of Florence the highest honour of the city: the Fiorino d'Oro.

2017 – all year

Centenary Lecture Series. Talks by leading personalities from the field of art, culture, business and politics on Wednesdays at 18.00 in the Harold Acton Library. The spring season will include the US Consul General Abigail Rupp on the Rolling Stones, the Director of the Uffizi Gallery Eike Schmidt on the English in Florence and former Prime Minister of Italy Giuliano Amato on Books vs Facebook. We shall also host the chairman of the Heritage Alliance, Loyd Grossman and the Director of the Galleria dell'Accademia, Cecilie Hollberg. The full programme is available [here](#).

2017 – January-February

BRITISH 100 Film Festival: Films highlighting emerging and prize-winning British directors. Hosted by the historic Odeon cinema in Florence.

7 February 2017

The Harold Acton lecture in London. This event hosted by the Italian Ambassador in London will include a lecture by Jeremy Boudreau, Head of History of Art at the British Institute of Florence entitled: "The Harold Acton lecture: Renaissance Tapestries and Textile Diplomacy." By invitation. Please apply to director@britishinstitute.it

5-10 June 2017

"100 Treasures of Florence". A special ten-session History of Art course to celebrate one hundred Florentine masterpieces with visits to museums and monuments throughout the city. For further information click [here](#).

8 June 2017

Gala dinner, Salone dei Cinquecento, Palazzo Vecchio. Event to recognise and thank our benefactors and donors. If you wish to donate to the Library, or sponsor a Centenary event, please contact the Director, Julia Race, email director@britishinstitute.it.

24 June 2017

Award of “Fiorino d’Oro della Città di Firenze” by the Mayor of Florence to the British Institute of Florence. The “Fiorino d’Oro” (Gold Florin) is awarded to Italian and foreign citizens who have honoured the city and served the national and international community.

September 2017

Public event in Florence for students, alumni and teachers. "From a Royal Reader to the interactive whiteboard: 100 years of learning English."

4 October 2017

Tea with a View. Tea in the Harold Acton Library to celebrate the visit to Florence of James Ivory, Director of “Room with a View” (1987)

Contact: Julia Race, Director director@britishinstitute.it tel 055 26778280