

Press release for immediate release
22 March 2016



The Worshipful Company of
Stationers and Newspaper Makers

The Stationers' Company's Annual Lecture delivered by Libby Purves OBE

On Monday, 21 March 2016 Stationers' Hall filled for the Company's Annual Lecture which was delivered by Times columnist, radio journalist and theatre critic Libby Purves OBE with the title *Content providers in the age of Discontent*. The evening's proceedings were moderated by Michael Binyon OBE.

Libby Purves made a series of telling points about the economics publishing, focusing on newspapers but also covering magazines and books. The migration from hard copy to online delivery, for which vast swathes of the population seem unwilling to pay, has proved financially difficult and, she suggested, was having a negative impact on the quality of the publications. She wondered whether good content was doomed if the reading public were not willing to pay for it. Could free content financed by advertising, ever be impartial? Can solid journalistic training for young people be provided if there is no income from which to finance it? Can news correspondents in difficult parts of the world such as Syria continue to be supported if their stories have to be provided free?

It was very thought-provoking and covered a subject which has been debated often in Stationers' Hall: the very survival on newspapers. Libby approached it from the point of view of the future of good quality journalism and those who delivered it. It was a serious look at an important issue delivered with a light touch and much humour.

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About The Stationers' Company

The Stationers' Company is the City of London Livery Company for the Communications and Content industries. The Company's mission is to be the most effective independent forum in the UK Communications and Content industries, actively contributing to the strategic development, success and education of these industries. The majority of our members work in or supply the paper, print, publishing, packaging, office products, newspaper, broadcasting and online media industries.