We will look at life and death and the lines that separate them. We will marvel at how molecules are arranged into life and examine other beginnings and endings, of the universe and how all nature folds and unfolds in time. We’ll wonder about time. We will hear the sounds of loss and grief and recovery and how death is felt in war, in hospital, in our homes and fields. We’ll see medicine’s hand raised against death and suffering and explore its duties to the living and dying. We’ll ask what a life costs and what it is worth. We will look at social and cultural differences in the experience of death, how immortality is conceived in mythology and sought in technology, our pursuit of the afterlife, and how fact and imagination meet in our encounter with death.

Marion Coutts: Artist, writer
Rhidian Brook: Novelist, scriptwriter, broadcaster
Henry Marsh: Surgeon, writer
Ann Wroe: Writer, Obituaries Editor of The Economist
Michael Symmons Roberts: Poet
Dave Goulson: Biologist, conservationist
Julian Baggini: Philosopher
Salley Vickers: Novelist
Allan Kellehear: Medical & Public Health Sociologist
Peter Stanford: Wrier, editor, journalist and presenter
Sue Black: Forensic anthropologist
Jane Draycott: Poet
Iona Heath: Doctor
Richard Horton: Editor-in-chief of the Lancet
Jay Carver: Archeologist
Nick Lane: Reader in evolutionary biology
Katie Siddle: Consultant neurologist
Paul McMaster: President of MSF, UK
Tom de Freston: Artist
Bob Heath: Music Therapist
Rob George: Consultant in Palliative Medicine
Rebecca Goss: Poet
Lawrence Krauss: Theoretical physicist, cosmologist
Jo Shapcott: Poet
Ray Tallis: Philosopher