Members' lecture
Cracking the Egyptian code: the revolutionary life of Jean-François Champollion - SOLD OUT

Author Andrew Robinson looks at Jean-François Champollion and his extraordinary life.

Jean-François Champollion's decoding of Egyptian hieroglyphs two centuries ago, using the Rosetta Stone, doubled the historical timespan of ancient Egypt, from 600 BC to 3000 BC. Champollion was an impoverished, arrogant and brilliant child of the French Revolution. By turns a teenage professor of ancient history, a supporter of Napoleon, an exile, a fanatical decipherer, a daring explorer of buried Egyptian tombs, the Egyptian curator at the Louvre Museum and the world's first professor of Egyptology, Champollion lived life to the full but drove himself into an early grave.

Andrew Robinson is author of Champollion's first English biography, plus a biography of his English rival, the polymath and physician Thomas Young.

Includes a complimentary drink.

Age: 16+