



WELLS Festival *of* Literature



16 – 24 October 2026

www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

Wells Festival of Literature works with more than 50 Somerset schools on education outreach projects

Thank you so much for another brilliant event! Year after year, we leave with a buzz for reading. Thanks for all the work that goes into making these experiences possible: it's so vital that children can see themselves in books and be able to imagine that they too could be the writer, it's powerful stuff.

Thank you also for all the time that went into preparing our books with bookplates. The children were extremely excited to get their hands on those.

Once again, it was superb to have Andy Seed in school on his third visit; not only were Year 6 inspired to produce some amazing writing, but there was a real buzz among other year groups to see Andy back at St Ben's.

Piers — St Benedict's

A huge thank you to you and your wonderful team for the fab sessions with Sam. He was awesome, and it was so lovely to get the buzz the next day... The power of an author visit cannot be underestimated. Please know how much we appreciate the reduced books. It was so lovely to see so many of our children holding one of Sam's books.

Liz, St Cuthbert's

WATERSTONES



Richard Manning

Chairman,
Wells Festival
of Literature

Welcome from our Chairman

Once again we are pleased to welcome so many brilliant authors and speakers to the Wells Festival of Literature.

Among those coming are novelists and poets, politicians and artists, scientists and historians, all guaranteed to entertain and enlighten us, as well as opening up discussion and understanding of the world we live in.

Just browse the following pages to see who all our acclaimed authors are, and discover the numerous other literary events that take place over the Festival's nine days.

Last year was the most successful in our 34 years in the city, thanks to our loyal audiences and to the growing numbers of Friends, Sponsors and Supporters of the Festival.

It is due to the enthusiasm of all these, and to our team of volunteers who run the event, that the Festival — a registered charity — is able to play an ever-greater role in our local community.

A growing number of schools appreciate the reading and literacy activities that we are able to fund, while over 1,000 Year 6 youngsters enjoy the annual author-led event that takes place during the Festival itself.

So thank you all, and we very much look forward to welcoming you at Cedars Hall in Wells where the Festival takes place from 16–24 October.





© Steve Tanner

FRIDAY
16 October
6.00–7.00 pm

In conversation
with
GEORGE MILLER

Chaired by
RICHARD MANNING

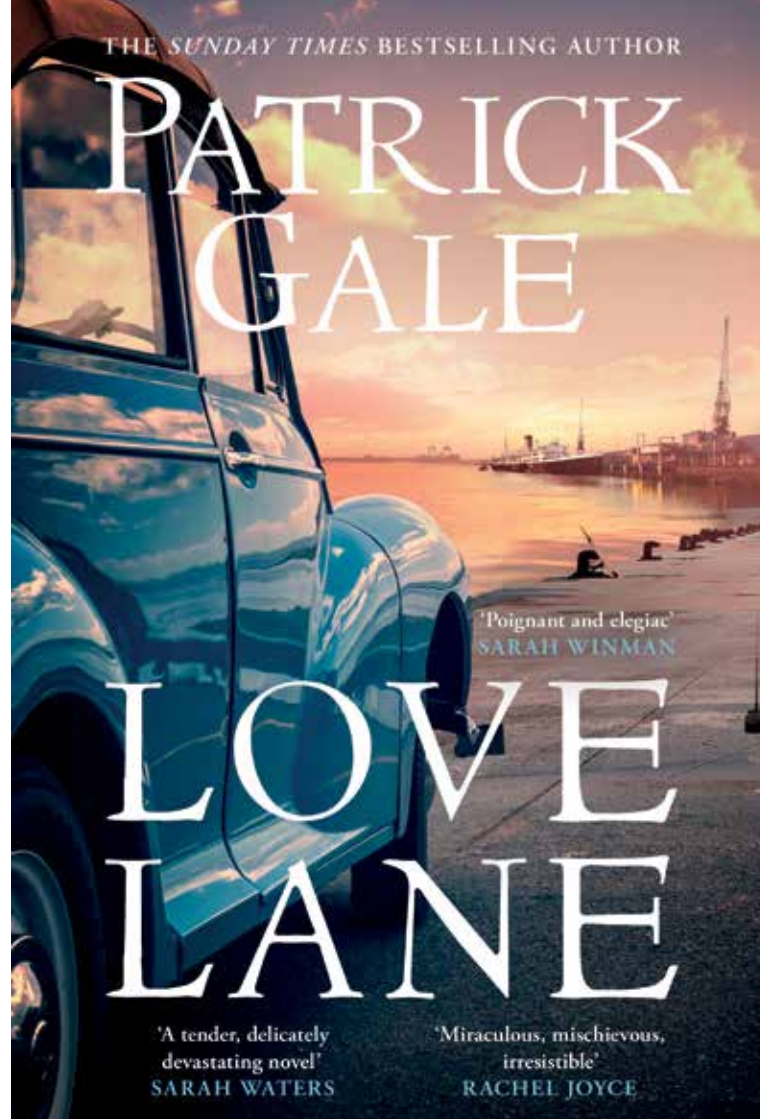
Patrick Gale

A searing portrayal of escape and the power of love, Patrick Gale's new work *Love Lane* features characters from his Costa-shortlisted novel *A Place Called Winter*.

When veteran Canadian wheat farmer Harry Cane is brutally obliged to sell up and sail home to an England transformed by two world wars, his arrival triggers unwelcome self-examination for the family he abandoned. For them, he has never been more than a distant myth.

Can he stay and make a new life before it's too late, or will he find himself cast out again, punished for having witnessed and understood too much?

Patrick's original TV drama, *Man In An Orange Shirt*, played to great acclaim in 2017 as part of the BBC's *Gay Britannia* series, leading viewers around the world to discover his novels. His recent works are *A Perfectly Good Man*, the Richard and Judy bestseller *Notes From An Exhibition*, and the Costa shortlisted *A Place Called Winter*.



Stephen Sackur

HARD

truth

**Investigations That Shook The World –
And Why They Matter Now**

Stephen Sackur

Eminent news reporter Stephen Sackur issues a rallying cry for the vital role of investigative journalism in holding the powerful to account.

In *Hard Truth* he highlights ten dramatic cases where journalists told truth to power, including Daniel Ellsberg's exposé of the US government's Pentagon papers, Alexei Navalny's anti-corruption fight in Russia, and Daphne Caruna who took on systemic corruption in Malta.

In a world of disinformation, where lies are weaponised and the truth is targeted, independent journalists are increasingly on the frontline in the fight to save democracy.

Sackur mounts a case for truth-telling in the face of authoritarian political power, organised crime and a tech elite monopoly, demonstrating that the fight can still be won.

He spent 15 years as a BBC foreign correspondent, later becoming inquisitor-in-chief for 20 years at the BBC's *HARDtalk*, before becoming a regular presenter on *The Times at One* (Times Radio) in March 2025.



FRIDAY
16 October
7.45–8.45 pm

In conversation
with
GEORGE MILLER

Sponsored by
**Chris and
Rosie Inge**



SATURDAY
17 October
10.30–11.30 am

Katja Hoyer

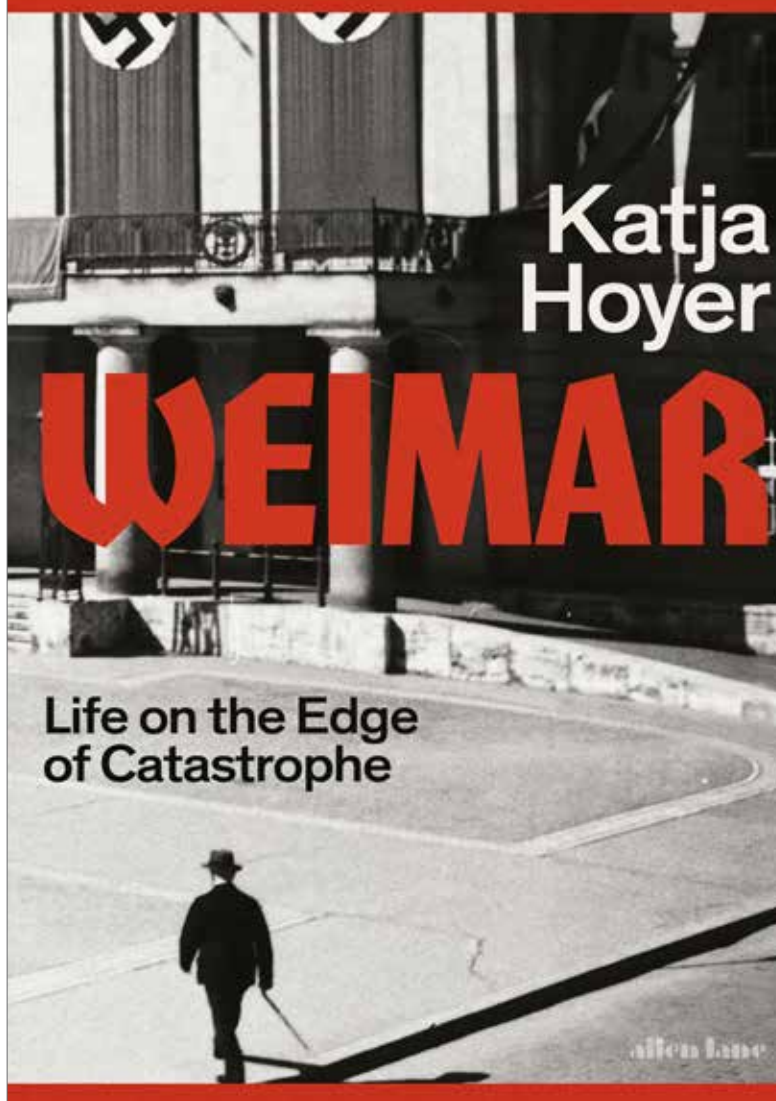
Historian Katja Hoyer delivers a gripping story of life during the rise and reign of Hitler through a vividly drawn cast of characters in *Weimar – Life on the Edge of Catastrophe*.

Drawing on new archival research, she takes us from 1919 to 1939 as she tells the stories of the men and women who lived through the new republic and Hitler's regime.

Weimar looms large in German history: a crucible of democracy and dictatorship, and home to some of Europe's greatest thinkers – Goethe and Schiller, Liszt and Nietzsche among them.

The German town gave its name to the Weimar Republic in the aftermath of WWI, but it was also where fascism took hold, and where Buchenwald was dug out of a beech forest.

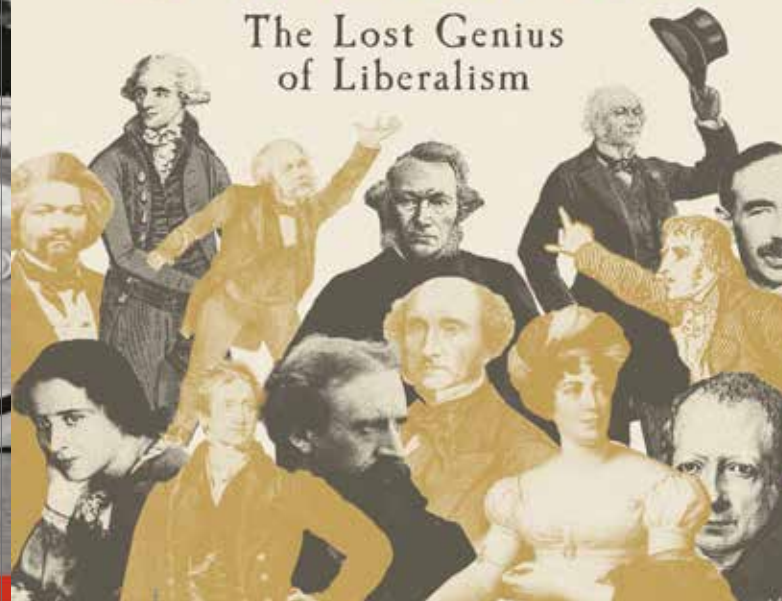
“Superb ... Hoyer finds the town of Weimar a perfect microcosm for a country teetering into darkness ... intelligent, original and well researched.” Daily Telegraph



Adrian Wooldridge

CENTRISTS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

The Lost Genius
of Liberalism



Adrian Wooldridge

A powerful call to action, *Centrists of the World Unite!* shows how liberals of all parties and none can come together in defending the values of liberal civilisation from enemies within and without.

Author Adrian Wooldridge lays out a skilful centrist agenda for today's problems in an age of extremes, in which populist leaders are setting the agenda, and autocracies are on the march.

As well as reviving social mobility, he proposes that liberals today need to be more critical of big business – particularly if it makes money by manipulating choices and spreading misinformation.

He is the global business columnist at Bloomberg Opinion, and previously worked for *The Economist* for 32 years.

“Enthralling ... Wooldridge writes fascinatingly about how liberalism’s founders fought to remove ‘barriers to dynamism’ ... The book’s focus is how to chart a course for renewal ... it is a bracing manifesto.” The Economist



© Jason Alden, Bloomberg

SATURDAY
17 October
12.15–1.15 pm

In conversation
with
**WILLIAM
WALDEGRAVE**



Louisa Young

The Golden Hours is a new instalment in the popular Cazalet Chronicles, first started by Elizabeth Jane Howard, and now continued by her niece Louisa Young.

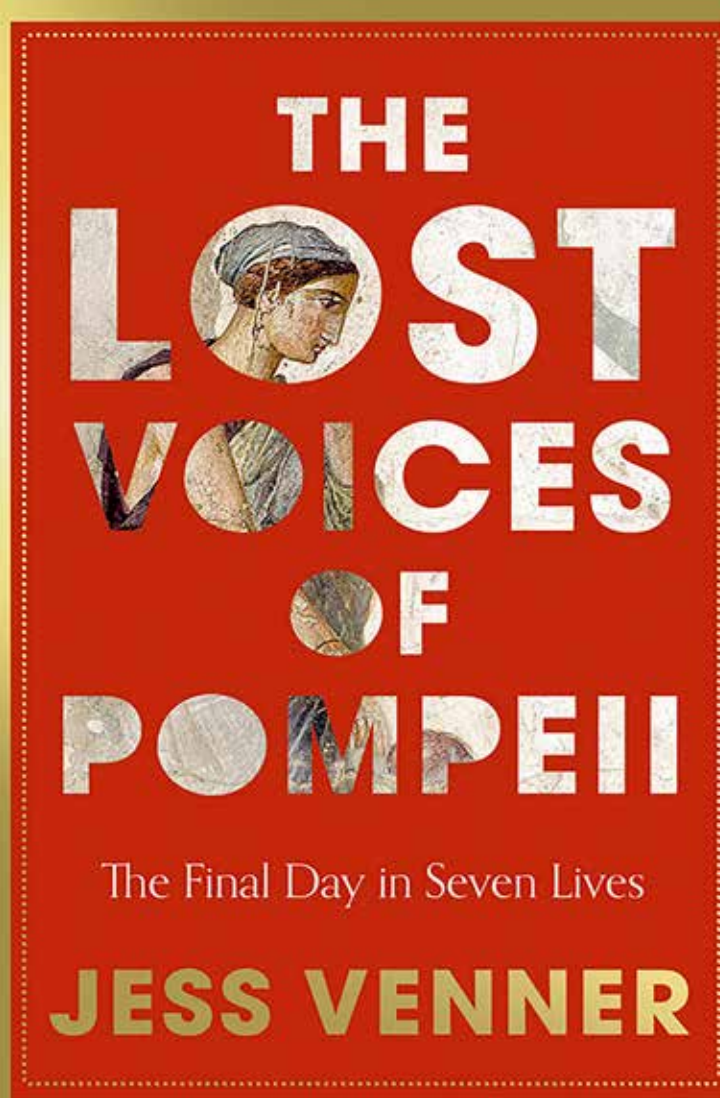
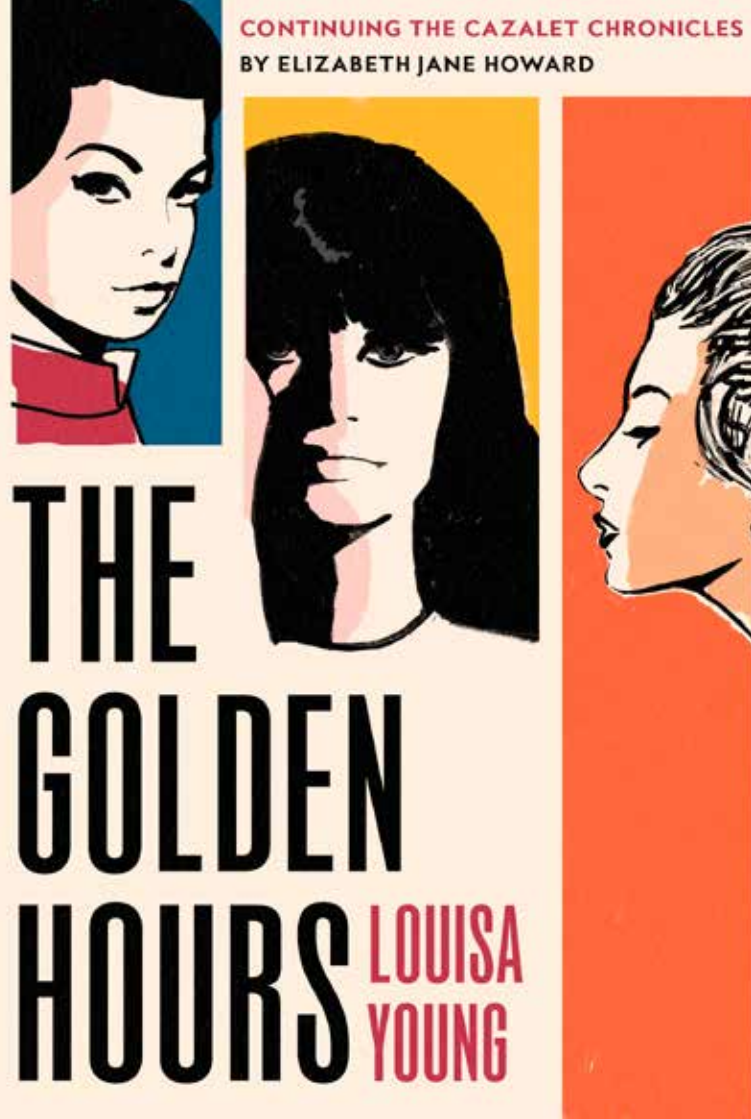
In this new story familiar faces will reappear, newcomers are introduced, and the legacy of the Cazalets will continue into the swinging sixties . . . as they prepare themselves for change, the England they knew and understood fades from view.

Louisa, a writer, songwriter and former journalist, is 'a masterly storyteller' according to *The Washington Post*.

Her new book is a 2026 Highlight Pick in BBC Culture and several leading UK newspapers and magazines.

She is also the author of 12 novels, including the award-winning *My Dear I Wanted To Tell You* trilogy, which her famous aunt called 'a triumph'.

"Young possesses in abundance emotional conviction, pace and imaginative energy."
The Guardian



Jess Venner

Relive the final days of Pompeii through the lives of seven of its citizens as told by archaeologist and ancient historian Jess Venner.

Her book *The Lost Voices of Pompeii* explores the final day in the prosperous Italian city of Pompeii, destroyed in 79 AD by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Drawing on the latest archaeological discoveries, Jess brings the ancient streets to life through the eyes of those who lived, worked, loved and met their fate in Pompeii.

Among the seven we meet are Julia Felix, a successful female entrepreneur, Petrinus, a slave grappling with his future after gaining his freedom, and politician Gaius Cuspius Pansa, who boosts his power and prestige by hosting the gladiatorial games at the amphitheatre.

Jess has received numerous awards, is passionate about making ancient history accessible to her more than 260k media followers, and was a consultant for the BBC documentary *Pompeii: The New Dig*.



© Sunny Dhalwal

SATURDAY
17 October
3.45–4.45 pm



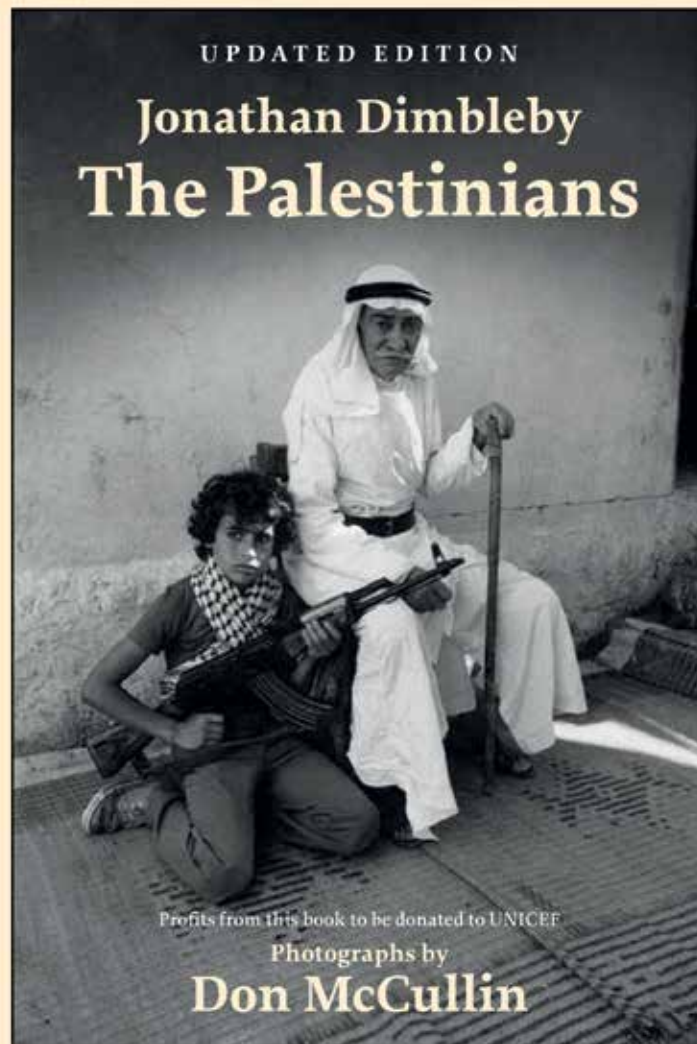
Jonathan Dimbleby

This new edition of *The Palestinians*, written by Jonathan Dimbleby and with photographs by Don McCullin, is an update on the book that was first published in 1980.

Featuring photographs of the current devastation, the author argues that the issue of the Palestinian people and their quest for a homeland has assumed an even greater importance following the conflict in Gaza.

The book is about individuals – from doctors and lawyers to fighters and peasants. Through them he explores the crisis of a people without a land, demonstrating that the ‘Palestinian problem’ is not an abstract issue but an urgent human tragedy. Until this is recognised, he argues, there can be no just or lasting peace in the Middle East.

Jonathan Dimbleby is a renowned journalist, writer and filmmaker who spent many decades with the BBC and ITV. Don McCullin is an internationally-acclaimed photojournalist. All profits from the book will go to UNICEF.



"Gripping, terrifying, urgent, necessary." – IAN RANKIN

MARTIN SIXSMITH
WITH DANIEL SIXSMITH

DESPOTS

HOW TRUMP IS TURNING AMERICA INTO PUTIN'S RUSSIA



Martin Sixsmith

A razor-sharp analysis of the increasing – and terrifying – parallels between Trump's America and Putin's Russia, *Despots* is Sixsmith's account of how two aspiring dictators came to power in nominally electoral democracies. They then dismantled the pillars of democracy from within, one following confidently in the footsteps of the other.

As in Putin's Russia, so in Trump's America: the US is fast-forwarding through what Russia endured in the first five years under Putin, and the parallels this time are much clearer, more overt and increasingly terrifying.

Martin is the BBC's former Moscow and Washington correspondent, and now a best-selling author, presenter and journalist. Daniel, his co-author, has degrees in history and Russian studies, and has worked as an archaeologist in Siberia and Kazakhstan.



SATURDAY
17 October
7.15–8.15 pm

In conversation
with
DANIEL
SIXSMITH



Sponsored by
Westholme Publishing
and *Journal of the*
American Revolution



Martin Gayford

A uniquely personal insight into Tracey Emin's extraordinary life and career is revealed in art critic, writer and curator Martin Gayford's portrait of her in *My Heart is This: Tracey Emin on Painting*.

In conversation with him, Emin reflects on painting – how she approaches it, why it matters to her, how it connects to her life, and how everything has changed since her cancer diagnosis.

Richly illustrated with photographs of the artist and her art, this is Tracey Emin on her own terms, relearning why painting matters to her above everything else.

"Gayford is an established confidant of painters, the artist-whisperer of Lucien Freud and David Hockney. He elicits a remarkable trove of information and opinion from Emin. *My Heart is This* is the story of how a dark stretch in her life led Emin to a new love and appreciation of paint and the greater facility at the canvas." Stephen Smith, Financial Times



MY HEART IS THIS TRACEY EMIN ON PAINTING

Thames
& Hudson

Martin Gayford

once the deed is done

'A brilliant piece
of story-telling –
stubbornly hopeful'
Andrew Miller



Rachel
Seiffert

BOOKER-SHORTLISTED AUTHOR

'A crime novel in the sense
that *To Kill a Mockingbird*
is a crime novel. One in
which a whole community
is culpable'
Financial Times



Rachel Seiffert



It is 1945. In the dead of a winter's night in northern Germany a boy called Benno hears soldiers and sees strangers – forced labourers – fleeing across the heathland by his small town. He is witness to something he barely understands.

Rachel Seiffert invokes the perplexities of a wartime childhood in her novel *Once the Deed is Done*, which was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction 2026.

More soldiers arrive once the war has ended, this time English, along with Ruth, a Red Cross officer who is given charge of the nearby refugee camp.

Rumours of dark secrets swirl, but the townspeople have closed their minds to the winter's events, and only the town children are curious about the refugees. Benno can't carry his secret alone.

"A complex, intelligent, deeply compassionate novel about the unglamorous aftermath of war ... A brilliant piece of storytelling – stubbornly hopeful." Andrew Miller



© Charlie Hopkinson

SUNDAY
18 October
2.30–3.30 pm



SUNDAY
18 October
4.15–5.15 pm



Sponsored by
Basil Powell Shoes

Richard Elwes

Huge Numbers: A Story of Counting Ambitiously is the strange story of maths as told by mathematical logician Richard Elwes.

What if, every time you wanted to write down 1,000,000 you had had to draw a picture of a god? And what if that number was the biggest you had a symbol for?

He shows how, by hunting down and studying ever-bigger numbers, arithmetic has reshaped human thought and made our modern era of science and computation possible.

Huge Numbers reveals a world where most numbers remain out of reach until we discover how to chase them down and tame them, and so continually remake our world.

“Elwes provides a phenomenal scenic tour of googology (the study of huge numbers), covering everything from ancient Mayan and Babylonian numeral systems to the scale of the universe to the dizzyingly fast-growing functions of mathematical logic. I wish I had written this book.” Scott Aaronson, computer scientist

‘Fascinating and immensely readable’
IAN STEWART

RICHARD ELWES

HUGE NUMBERS

A Story of
Counting Ambitiously

RORY CORMAC

FAKERS

“A world where Monty Python meets Le Carré”
PETER POMERANTSEV

A TOP-SECRET TALE OF PHANTOMS AND FORGERIES
ON THE DISINFORMATION FRONT LINE

Rory Cormac

Fakers is a thrilling journey into a secret world that reveals the rise and fall of the mavericks running Britain’s Cold War forgery empire.

Subtitled *A Top-Secret Tale of Phantoms and Forgeries on the Disinformation Front Line*, the book is written by Rory Cormac, professor of International Relations at the University of Nottingham. It delves into an audacious secret mission to disrupt adversaries across the world by using phantom groups, fake sources and counterfeit documents.

Newly declassified files expose a tale of intrigue, espionage and deception involving an odd-ball team of characters led by Hans Welser, an Austrian refugee and one-time MI5 suspect, and John Rayner, a hard-drinking journalist.

It all took place against a high-stakes backdrop, both overseas and in the Foreign Office’s secret propaganda department, as states competed beneath the looming threat of nuclear war.

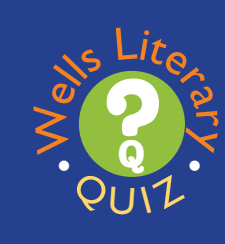
“A world where Monty Python meets Le Carré with a revelation on every page that will transform how you see history.” Peter Pomerantsev, author of *This is Not Propaganda*



© Double Image Photography

SUNDAY
18 October
6.00–7.00 pm

In conversation
with
TIM
WILLASEY-WILSEY



Cedars Hall
Foyer

SUNDAY
18 October
Doors open
7.15 pm
Quiz
7.45–9.45 pm

Pay bar available

Wells Literary Quiz

Brainstorming bookworms

Quirky quizmaster Gary Wigglesworth returns to Wells to host another round of bookish brain teasers at this year's Festival quiz night.

It promises to be a fun evening of quips, quizzing and a quest for glory as teams pit their wits and literary know-how against each other. There are prizes for the winning team.

As well as appearing at literature festivals, Gary hosts a monthly quiz night in London, and is the author of *The Book Lover's Quiz Book: Novel Conundrums*, plus a second edition, and *The Movie Lover's Quiz Book*.

His return to the Wells Literary Quiz night will be a lively literary event for all book lovers.

Literary Quiz at Cedars Hall

Teams of six preferred

Tickets: £8 per head

Prizes for the winning team



Young Poets

Judged by Julia Webb

Open to poets aged 16–22

Open Poetry

Judged by Clare Shaw

Including the Hilly Cansdale prize
for best local poet

Short Story

Judged by Carole Burns

Including the Wyvern Prize
for best local writer

A Book for Children

Judged by Catherine Bruton

With a special prize for
best local writer

Poetry Readings and Prize Giving

All the shortlisted poems will be read out by the poet or by a member of the panel. Admission to the event is free and open to all, not just those who have submitted work.

A programme containing all the shortlisted poems can be bought at the door: price £3.00. Purchase of the programme entitles the buyer to vote for the Festival's Favourite Poet, who will receive a £50.00 prize.

We are very grateful to Mary Nielsen for her continued support of the Competitions.

2.00 pm ● Young Poets Reading and
Prize Giving

3.00 pm ● Open Poetry Reading

4.15 pm ● Prize Givings for:
● Open Poetry
● Short Story
● A Book for Children



**Prize
Giving**

MONDAY
19 October
2.00–5.00 pm



MONDAY
18 October
6.00–7.00 pm

GOLDEN BOTTLE
TRUST

Sponsored by
Golden Bottle Trust

Damien Lewis

Behind Enemy Lines by Damien Lewis is the thrilling story of World War II veteran Archie Gibson, Special Forces hero and member of the Long Range Desert Group patrol, forerunners of the SAS.

Gibson spearheaded a string of daring missions, despite his initiation into desert warfare almost being his last. Spotting a feared German 88mm gun firing right at him, he leapt from his speeding truck just before it turned into a flaming inferno.

Lewis reveals the full story, which is based on gripping accounts written by Gibson's own hand, and draws on previously unseen archive material from the hero's own detailed diaries, sketchbooks, wartime reports and letters.

Damien Lewis is the best-selling author of numerous books, several of which have been made into films, TV drama series and adapted as plays. He worked for decades as a war and conflict reporter for major broadcasters. His writing has raised thousands of pounds for charity.

AUTHOR OF THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING SAS SERIES

Damien Lewis BEHIND ENEMY LINES

'Damien Lewis is a born storyteller'
LEE CHILD



**THE SPECIAL FORCES HEROES
WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF WWII**

DAVID BOWIE AND THE SEARCH FOR LIFE, DEATH AND GOD

PETER ORMEROD

Peter Ormerod

In *David Bowie and the Search for Life, Death and God*, journalist and superfan Peter Ormerod explores the quest for spirituality that powered the musician's creativity from his earliest recordings to his final album.

From Bowie's first musical encounters as a choirboy, this book traces his spiritual obsessions over the years.

From Tibetan Buddhism to the Kabbalah-influenced tracks of *Station to Station*, and from Ziggy Stardust's messiah complex to the life-affirming, death-defying love of *Heroes*, Ormerod sheds new light on the spiritual traditions behind Bowie's genius.

He shows how Bowie's quest for meaning propelled him through his darkest moments and biggest successes, giving his music a timelessness and depth that has spoken to so many people across the world.

"Who knew we needed another Bowie book? This thoughtful deep dive into the artist's spiritual curiosity traces how faith, mysticism and doubt shaped his music."

The Independent



MONDAY
19 October
7.45–8.45 pm

In conversation
with
CHRIS SALMON

FM Sampson
Commercial Property

Sponsored by
FM Sampson
Commercial Property



**TUESDAY
20 October**

**Lunch 12.30 pm
2.00–3.00 pm**



LITERARY LUNCH

- Thai coconut chicken noodle soup
- Glazed Sicilian lemon tart and clotted cream

Elizabeth Goldring

A beautifully illustrated biography of Hans Holbein, the German-born court painter to Henry VIII, marks the 500th anniversary this year of the painter's arrival in England.

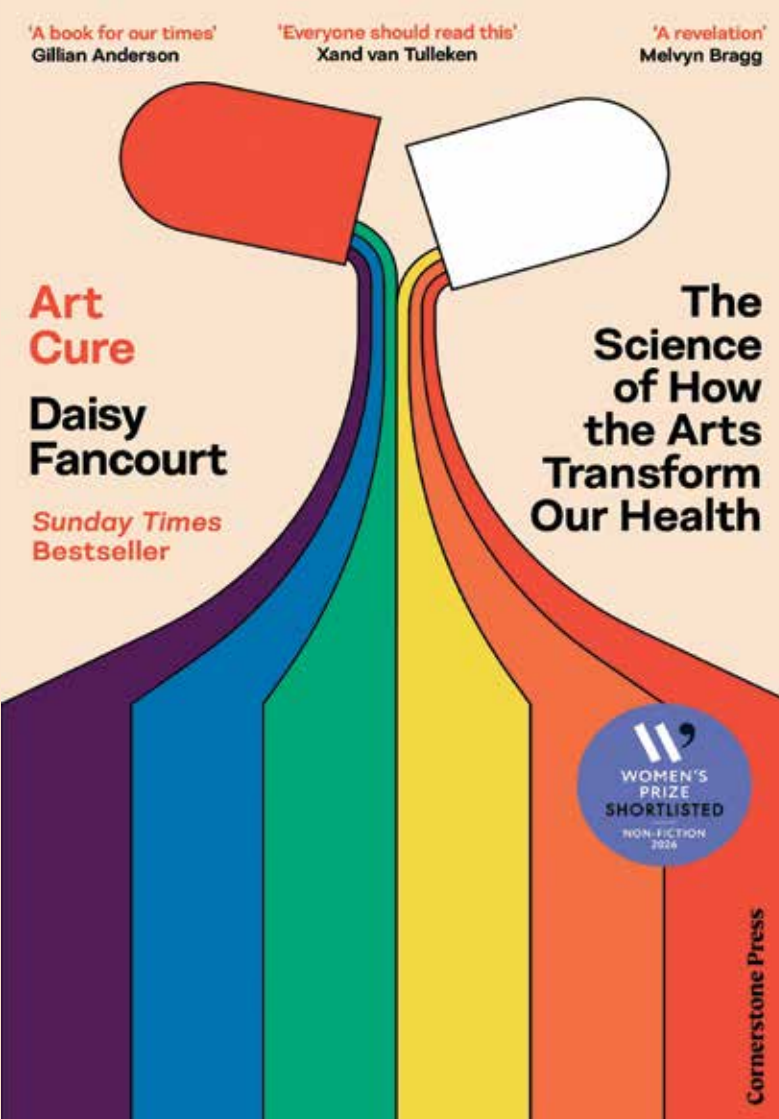
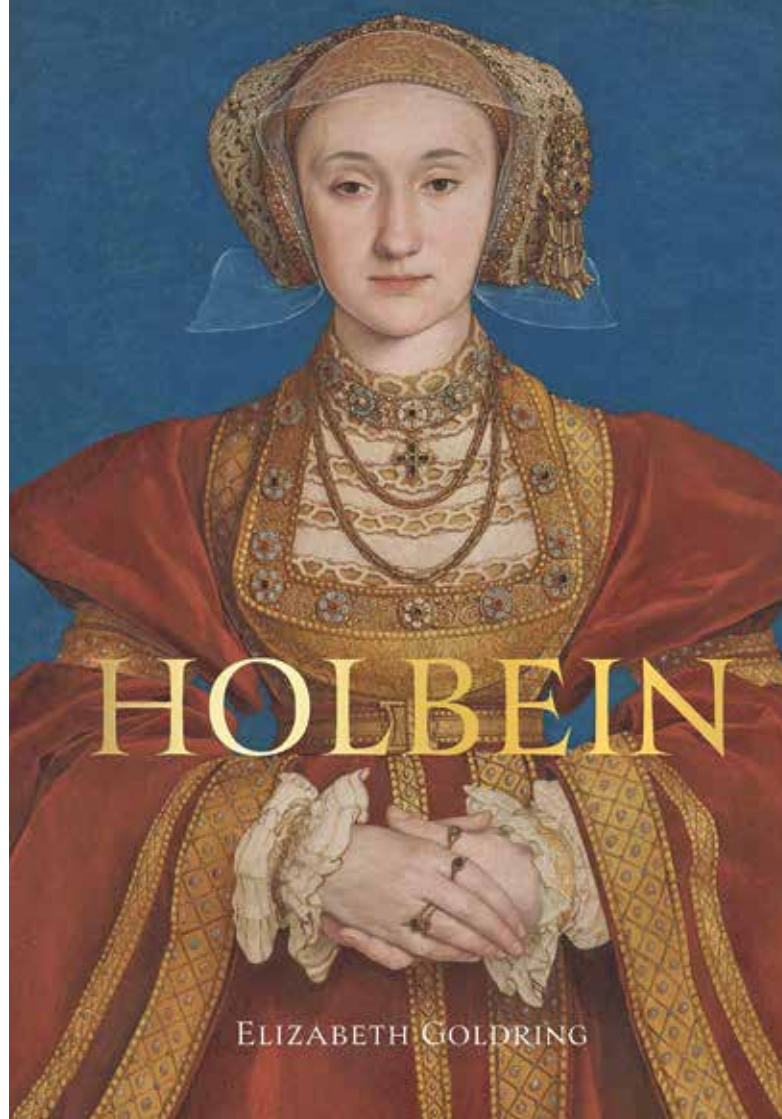
Written by Elizabeth Goldring, *Holbein* features celebrated works alongside rarely seen paintings from private collections, and showcases new discoveries on the artist's materials and techniques.

Holbein (c.1497–1543) brought Continental techniques and genres to Henry VIII's England where he transformed the Tudors' relationship to painting and opened their eyes to the political power of portraiture.

The book explores his life in various cities becoming a master of multiple disciplines, before he settled into parallel lives in both London and Basel, with a family in each.



Sponsored by
**John Jackson and
Westholme Publishing
and Journal of the
American Revolution**



Daisy Fancourt

The life-changing power of the arts is revealed by Daisy Fancourt in *Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Transform Our Health*. Informed by the results of decades of scientific studies, her book demonstrates how songs support the development of children's brains, creative hobbies help our minds to stay resilient against dementia, and visual art and music help reduce depression, stress and pain.

Professor of Psychobiology and Epidemiology at University College London, and an award-winning communicator, Daisy explains why the arts are the forgotten fifth pillar of health, alongside diet, sleep, exercise and nature.

In her view, art helps us not only to survive, but to thrive and flourish.

"Every day we are overwhelmed by advice on how to live better. *Art Cure* is an amazing antidote to the deluge of nonsense ... Everyone should read this book." Xand Van Tulleken, Doctor and TV presenter



© EXPeditions

**TUESDAY
20 October
4.15–5.15 pm**

In conversation
with
**LUCINDA
HAWKSLEY**



Sponsored by
Arts Society Mendip



Arthur Snell

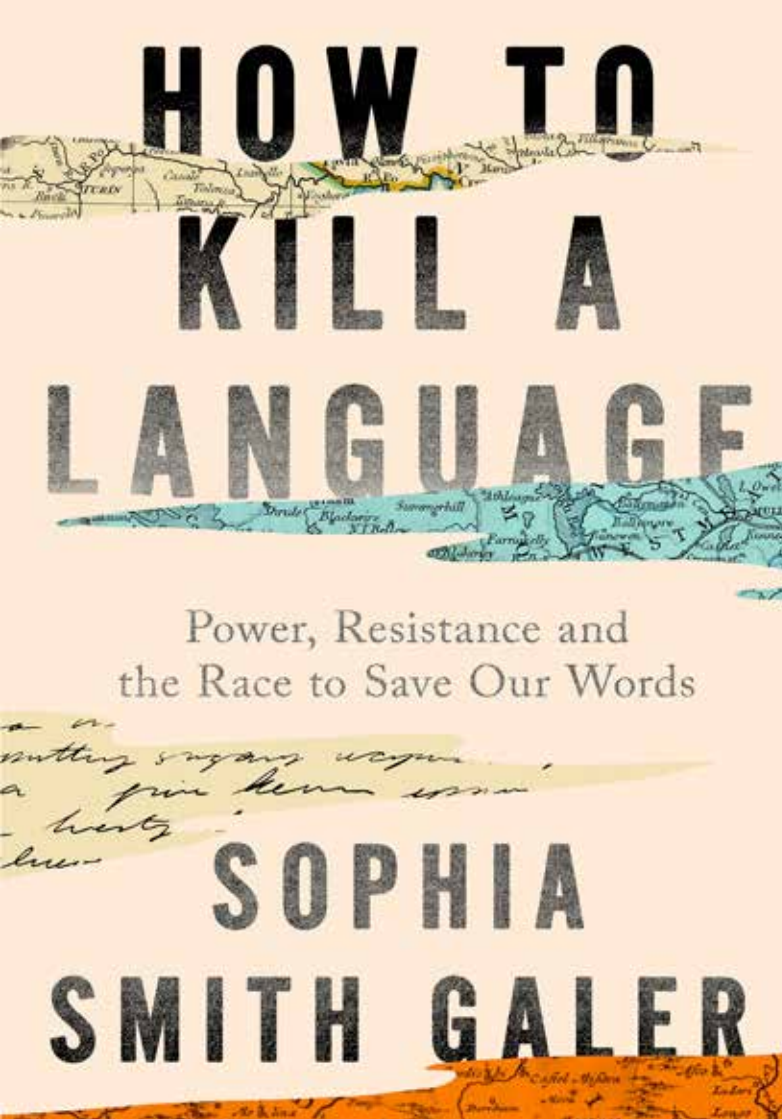
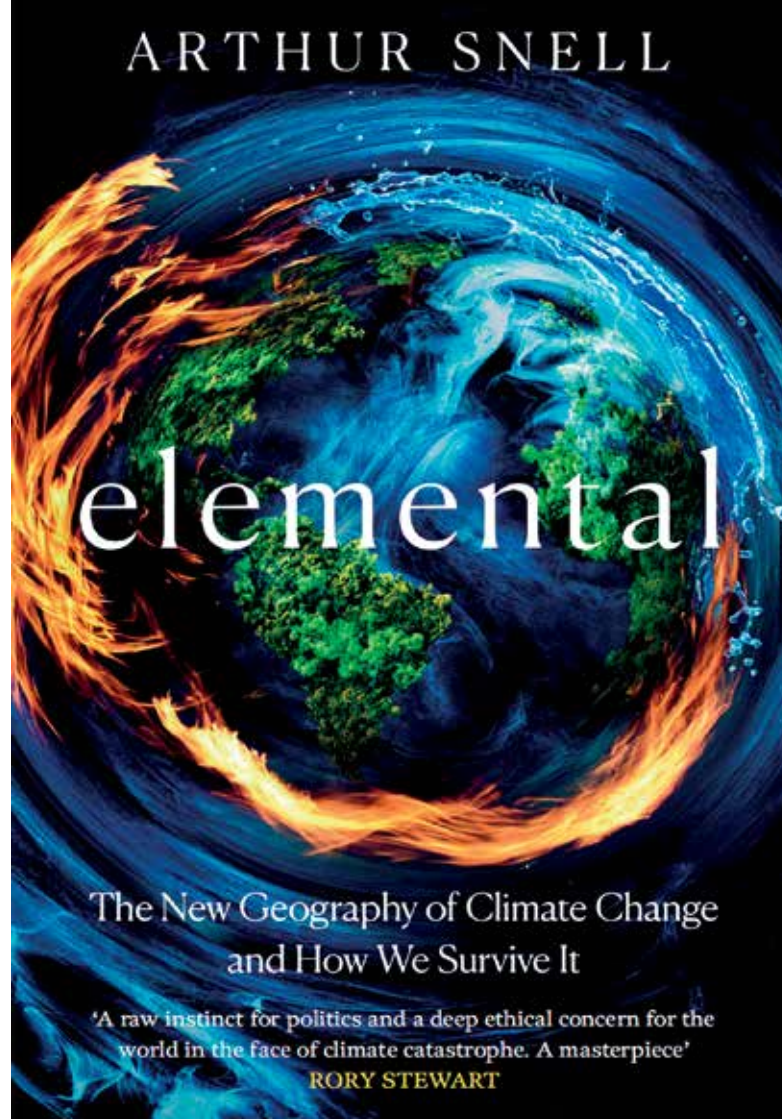
A rapidly warming earth is affecting the lives of millions, from the water-stressed mountains of the Arabian Peninsula to the wildfires raging through America's most populated regions.

Now Arthur Snell, an expert on geopolitics and climate change, reveals how an alternative future is still possible. He has more than 30 years experience in conflict zones and fragile states throughout the Middle East and Africa.

His new book *elemental* is divided into four sections – Earth, Air, Fire and Water – in which he blends reportage with analysis and interviews with key experts, policymakers and politicians.

While the challenges of a warming planet drive conflict among nations, he says they will also encourage innovation, upending global power structures and pioneering ways of living.

"A powerful, passionate and utterly convincing book." Lord Peter Ricketts



Sophia Smith Galer

As Sophia Smith Galer's Nonna lay dying, Sophia realised it wasn't just a grandmother she was losing, but a language. Nonna spoke a dialect of northern Italy that Sophia, like many children and grandchildren of migrants, understood but could not speak.

Now the award-winning journalist and author has written *How to Kill a Language* as a result of her investigation into a hidden global crisis.

By the end of this century half of the world's 7,000 languages will have been killed by war, climate breakdown, migration, nationalism or neglect, and with them will go the knowledge they have sustained for centuries.

Sophia has travelled across continents and generations, her travels leading her back to where she began in Italy, to report from this disappearing world, and to send out a call to save the languages of our world before it is too late.

"An extremely moving, passionate plea." Cal Flynn



© Jordan Rose

TUESDAY
20 October
7.45–8.45 pm



© Jürgen Kehn

WEDNESDAY
21 October
 Lunch 12.30 pm
 2.00–3.00 pm



LITERARY LUNCH

- Red pepper, tomato and smoked paprika soup
- White chocolate and raspberry panna cotta, berry compote

Sara Wheeler

Author Sara Wheeler uncovers the complexity of a 20th-century icon in her biography of *Jan Morris* – *A Life*, published to coincide with the centenary of Morris' birth.

When Jan Morris joined the 1953 Everest expedition and was the first to get news of the ascent back to London, she became the most famous journalist in the world.

So began a glittering career covering the Eichmann trial, interviewing Che Guevara and scooping the story of Suez collusion. She transitioned in the early 70s and documented the experience in her memoir *Conundrum*.

Wheeler delivers a portrait of an astonishing life, revealing a mosaic of contradictions in a pioneering woman whose books inspired readers across the globe.

An award-winning travel writer and biographer, Wheeler is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio and, like Jan Morris, has spent half her working life on the road.

"A breathtakingly good read. Coherent, comprehensive and compulsive." Michael Palin



SARA WHEELER JAN MORRIS



A LIFE

'A breathtakingly good read.' MICHAEL PALIN



FESTIVAL SITE LOCATIONS

Once again we are delighted to be holding our Festival in Cedars Hall, a beautiful state-of-the-art theatre complex situated in Wells Cathedral School, 15 The Liberty, Wells, BA5 2ST.

Cedars Hall can be accessed on foot either from The Liberty or from the main gate in College Road. Please note that there is no public access via the service gate at the Bristol Hill junction of New Street and Mountery Road.

- 1 Mundy's Meadow free car park
- 2 No Public Access
- 3 Dining Hall
- 4 Cedars Hall
- 5 Waterstones Festival Bookshop
- 6 Cedars House
- 7 Pedestrian Access Only
- 8 Pedestrian Access Only
- 9 Parking for Festival speakers
- 10 Parking for those with mobility needs





FRIDAY
16 October

JUST FOR YEAR 6

Children's author Helen Rutter will entertain around 1,000 youngsters at this year's Year 6 event at the Festival.



© Kate Chappell



Helen started out as an actor and stand-up comedian before she was inspired to write. She likes to create stories packed with humour and big-hearted characters, and her award-winning first book *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh* has been enjoyed by young readers all around the world.

Since then she has written several more in the series, and now has written an exciting interactive book called *The Game Changers*.

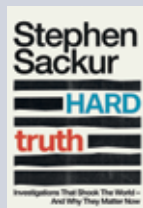
Set in a Game Camp, it involves a child called Tig (the reader) in team challenges and mystery solving. There are multiple pathways to follow that will lead the team to victory or to chaos.

The Festival provides buses to bring in youngsters from more than 30 schools to the event, and also funds the sale of the author's books at a discount.

Please note that if you attend the Festival you are implicitly giving your permission to be photographed.

SATURDAY
17 October

- 4 Patrick Gale**
In conversation with George Miller
Love Lane
6.00–7.00 pm
- 5 Stephen Sackur**
In conversation with George Miller
Hard Truth: Investigations That Shook The World – and Why They Matter Now
7.45–8.45 pm



SUNDAY
18 October

- 12 Martin Gayford**
My Heart is This: Tracey Emin on Painting
12.00 noon–1.00 pm
- 13 Rachel Seiffert**
Once the Deed is Done
2.30–3.30 pm
- 14 Richard Elwes**
Huge Numbers: A Story of Counting
4.15–5.15 pm
- 15 Rory Cormac**
In conversation with Tim Willasey-Wilsey
Fakers: A Top-Secret Tale of Phantoms and Forgeries
6.00–7.00 pm

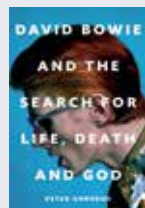


- 16 Literary Quiz**
7.15 for 7.45–9.45 pm



MONDAY
19 October

- 17 Poetry Readings and Prize Giving**
Free event
2.00–5.00 pm
- 18 Damien Lewis**
Behind Enemy Lines: The Special Forces Heroes who Changed the Course of WWII
6.00–7.00 pm
- 19 Peter Ormerod**
In conversation with Chris Salmon
David Bowie and the Search for Life, Death and God
7.45–8.45 pm



TUESDAY
20 October

- 20 Elizabeth Goldring**
Holbein
Lunch 12.30 pm
2.00–3.00 pm
- 21 Daisy Fancourt**
In conversation with Lucinda Hawksley
Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Transform Our Health
4.15–5.15 pm
- 22 Arthur Snell**
In conversation with Charlie Taylor
Elemental: The New Geography of Climate Change and How We Survive It
6.00–7.00 pm
- 23 Sophia Smith Galer**
How to Kill a Language: Power, Resistance and the Race to Save Our Words
7.45–8.45 pm



12.30

WEDNESDAY
21 October

- 24 Sara Wheeler**
Jan Morris: A Life
Lunch 12.30 pm
2.00–3.00 pm
- 29 Florence Hazrat**
On the Mark: A History of Punctuation from Ancient Egypt to the Emoticon
4.15–5.15 pm
- 30 Oz Clarke**
In conversation with Neil Tully
A Vine is a Wild Thing: The Iconic Guide to Grapes, Growers and Gloriously Good Bottles
6.00–7.00 pm
- 31 Henry Normal**
Collected Poems
Volume Four
7.45–8.45 pm

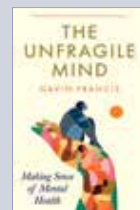


12.30



THURSDAY
22 October

- 32 Amy Jeffs**
Arthur: A New Life
4.15–5.15 pm
- 33 Gavin Francis**
In conversation with Charlie Taylor
The Unfragile Mind: Making Sense of Mental Health
6.00–7.00 pm
- 34 Oliver Bullough**
Everybody Loves Our Dollars: How Money Laundering Won
7.45–8.45 pm



FRIDAY
23 October

- 35 Kate Williams**
Regina: A New History of Women and Power
Lunch 12.30 pm
2.00–3.00 pm
- 36 Rebecca Seal**
In conversation with Jo Durrant
Irritated: The Allergy Epidemic and What We Can Do About It
4.15–5.15 pm
- 37 Dan Cruickshank**
In conversation with David Lister
The English House: A History in Eight Buildings
6.00–7.00 pm
- 38 Andrea Wulf**
The Traveller: The Revolutionary Life of George Forster and His Search for Humanity
7.45–8.45 pm



12.30



SATURDAY
24 October

- 39 Ping Coombes**
In conversation with Caroline Waldegrave
Rice
10.30–11.30 am
- 40 Nicholas Crane**
The Path More Travelled
12.15–1.15 pm
- 41 Lady Hale**
In conversation with David Lister
With the Law On Our Side
2.00–3.00 pm
- 42 Cathy Rentzenbrink**
In conversation with Jo Durrant
The Agatha Christie Cure
3.45–4.45 pm
- 43 Blake Morrison**
In conversation with George Miller
On Memoir: An A-Z of Life Writing
5.30–6.30 pm
- 44 Maggie Aderin**
In conversation with Charlie Taylor
Starchild
7.15–8.15 pm

Tickets

In common with most booking platforms, the ticketing site for Cedars Hall, Tixly, adds a booking/administration charge to the price of a ticket. Tickets prices are:

Standard	Student	Friends
£12.50	£6.00	£10.00

There will be an additional £1 booking charge for each ticket.

The cost of Lunch for our Literary Lunch talks is £12.50.

No booking fee is charged for Lunch.

Tickets:

Can **only** be booked through Tixly, the ticketing site for Cedars Hall, either via:

- Our website: www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk
- The box office telephone line: 01749 834483 (weekdays 9.30 am to 12.30 pm)
- Any unsold tickets will be available 'on the door' at Cedars Hall prior to each event. Payment by cash or by card.

If an event is sold out and you have bought tickets but find you can't attend, you can now resell your tickets in the Manage Order section of the bookings website which can be found via What's On.

Priority booking (for Friends and sponsors) opens on Monday 17 August at 9.30 am.
Main booking starts on Monday 24 August at 9.30 am

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

There is wheelchair access to Cedars Hall.

HEARING LOOP

Cedars Hall has a hearing support system that is fully compatible with modern hearing aids. Details are available on the WFL website and in the Festival foyer. Please ask a steward on the door for a receiver that will enable you to access the hearing system.

PARKING

DISABLED PARKING

Disabled parking is available (see map) and is provided exclusively for people with mobility needs and for speakers appearing at the Festival.

FREE FESTIVAL PARKING

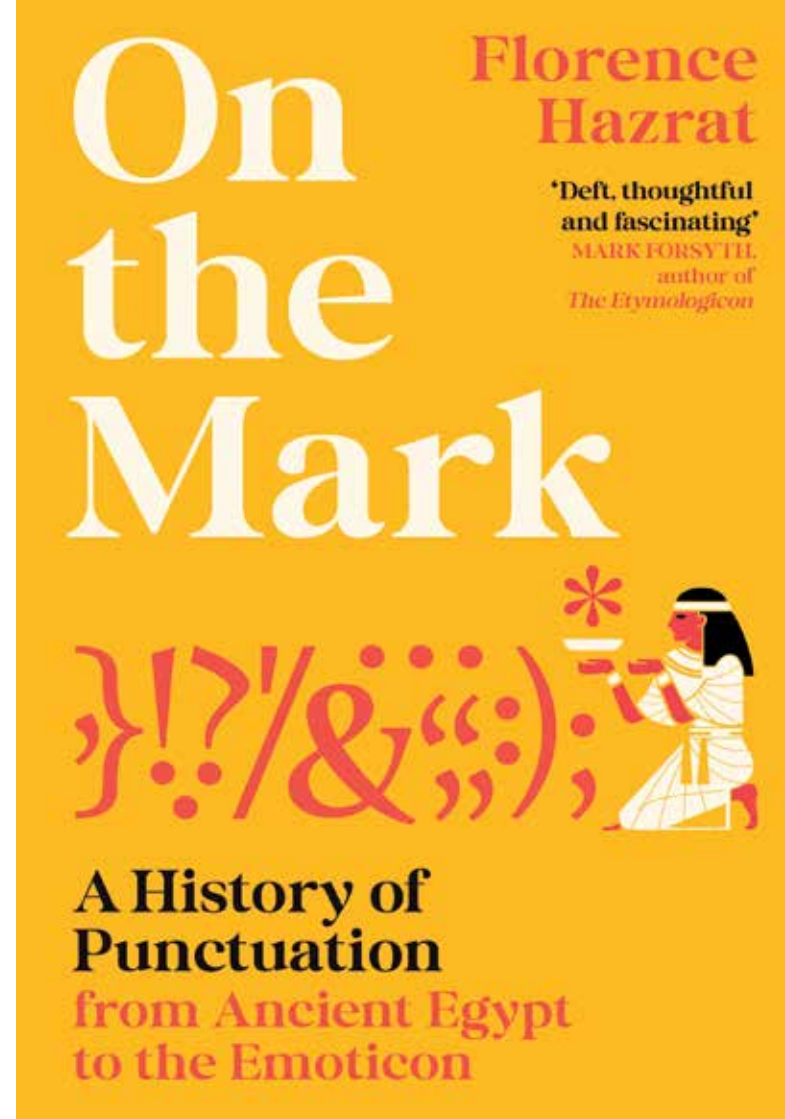
This is available in Mundy's Meadow car park (BA5 2QL) on a first-come-first-served basis; from here it is a short walk via Lovers Walk to The Liberty. Mundy's Meadow is a private car park accessible from Mountery Road (see map) and will be open for Festival-goers throughout the Festival only.

PUBLIC CAR PARKS

Additional parking spaces are available in the city's public car parks. Charges vary and some car parks are free after 6.00 pm. All these car parks are within a 15-minute walk of the Festival.

Union Street (off Chamberlain Street, BA5 2PU)
South Street (BA5 1SL)
Princes Road (BA5 1TE)
Tucker Street (off West Street, BA5 1TF)

For more parking information, please visit:
en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/wells



Florence Hazrat

On the Mark is a ground-breaking history of punctuation stretching from the ancient past to the rise of the emoji, the birth of the printing press and the death of the Oxford comma.

This is the first global history of punctuation to tell the story of the marks that give voice to the written word, turning words into meaningful language and inflecting them with nuance and tone.

Subtitled *A History of Punctuation from Ancient Egypt to the Emoticon*, the book is a fascinating odyssey through time and place for language lovers.

Florence Hazrat is a researcher and writer, and a world expert on the history and culture of punctuation. A BBC New Generation Thinker, she has appeared on Radio 4's *Word of Mouth*, and writes the Substack *Mind the Gap*.

Her first book, *An Admiral Point*, a cultural history of the exclamation mark, was published in 2022.



WEDNESDAY
21 October
4.15–5.15 pm

Sponsored by
Mary Ellis



© Keith Barnes Photography

WEDNESDAY
21 October
6.00–7.00 pm

In conversation
with
**NEIL
TULLY**



Sponsored by
Amba Wells

Oz Clarke

In this iconic and passionately opinionated guide to the world of wine, legendary writer Oz Clarke pops the cork on his lifelong love affair with grape and glass.

A Vine is a Wild Thing reveals Oz drawing on a lifetime of tasting, travelling and storytelling. He reinvents wine writing to reveal a fundamental truth: the more you learn and understand your glass, the better it tastes.

He is the ideal drinking companion on your journey to better your knowledge and improve your enjoyment of wine, whether you are yearning to drink your way across the classic regions, taste the greatest Bordeaux or find the simplest local wine bar.

Oz shares detailed tasting notes on the wines he drinks and where to find them, unearthing hidden gems and maverick makers along the way.

“Oz is brilliant. His knowledge of wines and sense of humour always cut to the chase.”
Jamie Oliver



HENRY NORMAL COLLECTED POEMS



Volume Four

“Warm, accessible and never wantonly oblique, but deep beyond measure.” *Northern Soul*

“He loves the little things in life because he knows that really they are the big things.” *The i*

Henry Normal

Writer Henry Normal is known for his poetry and stories about his family on BBC Radio 4, and for his success as a TV and film producer.

His latest collection, *Collected Poems Volume Four*, is due out this autumn, when he will also be recording his 11th Radio 4 show *A Normal Journey*.

Normal co-wrote and script-edited the *Mrs Merton* show and the spin-off series *Mrs Merton and Malcolm*, as well as the first series of *The Royle Family*.

With Steve Coogan he co-wrote the BAFTA winning *Paul and Pauline Calf Video Diaries*, and in 1990 he set up Baby Cow Productions Ltd. Highlights have included the Oscar-nominated film *Philomena*, *Gavin and Stacey*, *The Mighty Boosh*, and *Red Dwarf*. He was awarded a BAFTA for services to television in 2017.

“A mixture of the absurd and downright wacky ... a gentle giant of stand-up poetry.” *The List*



WEDNESDAY
21 October
7.45–8.45 pm



© Rachael Humphrey

THURSDAY
22 October
4.15–5.15 pm



Sponsored by
Westholme Publishing
and *Journal of the*
American Revolution

Amy Jeffs

Author, artist and medievalist Amy Jeffs breathes wild new life into the legends of King Arthur in her latest book *Arthur – A New Life*, illustrated by 30 of her own dramatic linocuts.

She says: “The Arthur I know is all story. But if this legend and its history teach us anything true, it is that the seam between myth and reality is full of moth holes ...”

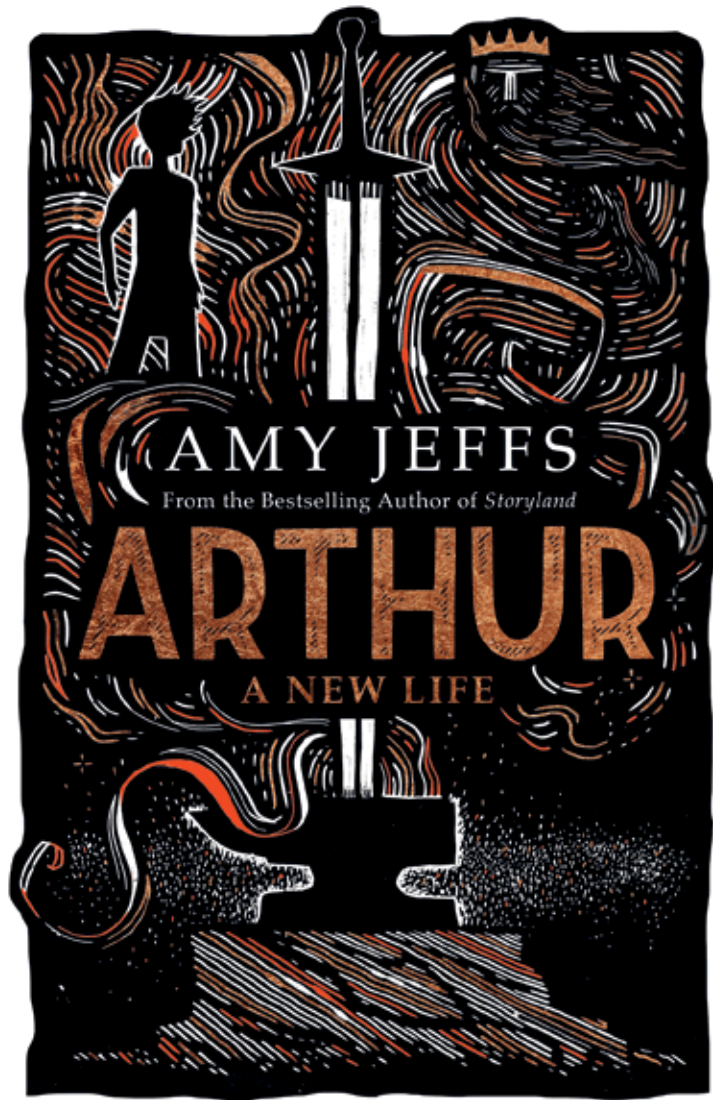
While the familiar Arthurian canon of courtly knights and chivalric romance derives mostly from Thomas Malory’s 15th century *Le Morte D’Arthur*, Amy revives older, wilder stories.

A new Arthur appears in various guises, including as a warlord and a leader of the wild hunt, and she traces Arthurian connections to Glastonbury Abbey among other places.

Her previous book *Storyland* was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and book of the year at Waterstones.

“These are magical tales steeped in timeless concerns of identity, love and loss.”

The Guardian

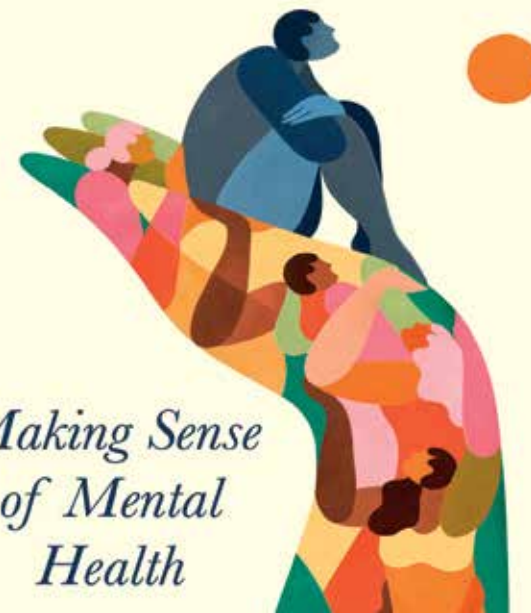


Bestselling author of *Recovery: The Lost Art of Convalescence*

THE UNFRAGILE MIND

GAVIN FRANCIS

*Making Sense
of Mental
Health*



Gavin Francis

In *The Unfragile Mind*, Gavin Francis draws on conversations with patients, colleagues and his 30 years of practice to explore the chequered history of psychiatry.

A GP and urgent care physician with a special interest in mental health, his explorations include the nature of mental health and ill health, and the problems that he addresses daily, including mood disorders, trauma, anxiety and addiction.

Up to a quarter of young people in the UK now suffer from a mental disorder, while one in four adults is prescribed psychiatric medication. These numbers represent a huge recent expansion in mental health labelling, but reveal nothing of the experience of those seeking help.

The mind, he argues, is dynamic and adaptive, and better addressed – not with rigid labels and protocols – but with curiosity, kindness, humility and hope.

Gavin Francis is the best-selling author of *Adventures in Human Being*, *Shapeshifters* and *Intensive Care*.



© James Glossop

THURSDAY
22 October
6.00–7.00 pm

In conversation
with
**CHARLIE
TAYLOR**



THURSDAY
22 October
7.45–8.45 pm

Oliver Bullough

Investigative journalist Oliver Bullough takes the reader on an adventure through the flip side of the global economy in his latest book *Everybody Loves Our Dollars: How Money Laundering Won*, an entertaining exposé of the dark financial secrets at the heart of the world economy.

Without the existence of money laundering, few crimes of acquisition would be worth the trouble, he explains. These include South America's drug cartels, Nigerian kleptocrats, Afghan terrorists, and human and animal traffickers the world over.

All efforts at legislation, diplomacy, prosecution and compliance have been a complete flop. It's not a lack of will to stamp it out. It's a lack of insight, and the system is working better than ever.

Oliver Bullough is the author of the *Sunday Times* bestsellers *Butler to the World* and *Moneyland*.

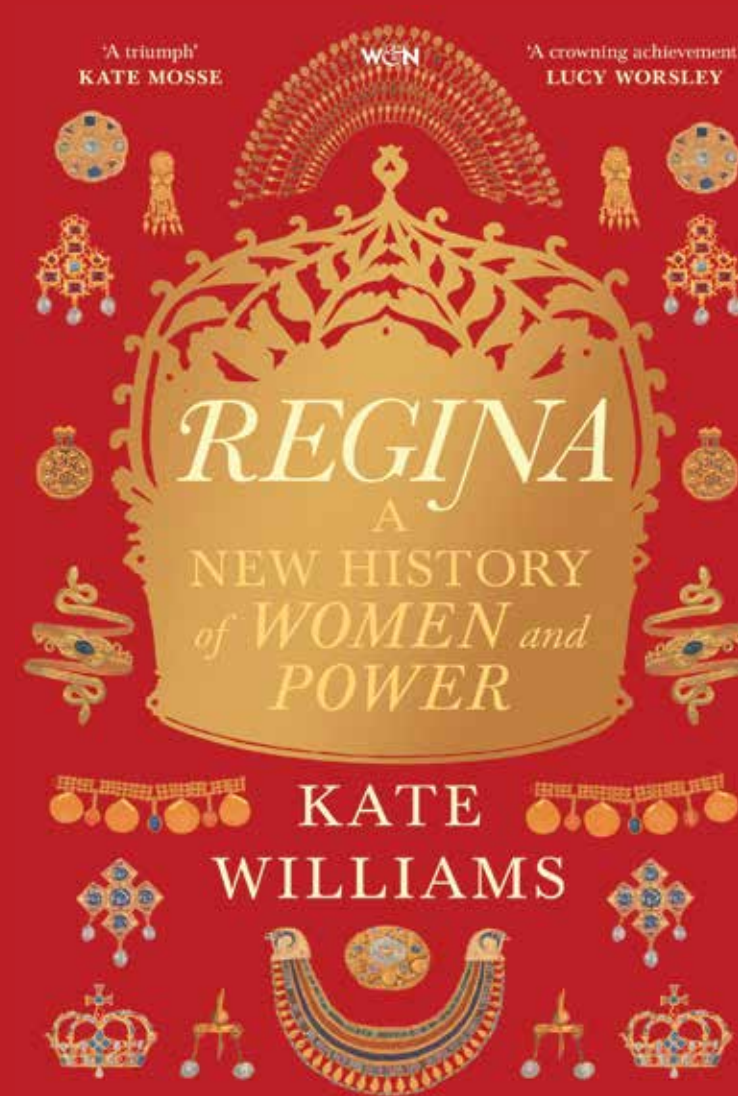
"Bullough has a remarkable gift of making you laugh – and then making you shout with outrage." Peter Pomerantsev, author of *How to Win* and *Information War*

EVERYBODY LOVES OUR DOLLARS



OLIVER BULLOUGH

From the author of **MONEYLAND**



Kate Williams



A new book from celebrated historian Kate Williams shatters the myths that have been built around women from Cleopatra to Grace Kelly.

In *Regina* she delves deep into the worlds of queens, empresses, princesses, mistresses and ladies-in-waiting, uncovering how their ambitions were shaped, celebrated and often thwarted. Most of their legacies have been almost entirely constructed by the words and images of men.

This is an unmissable history that reveals the women's trials and triumphs as they navigate political intrigue, rivalries and personal sacrifices, and unlocks why we think about women, politics and power the way we do.

Kate is an award-winning author, historian and broadcaster who has won *Celebrity Pointless*, and has also appeared on *The Great British Bake Off*.

"Terrific . . . absolutely compelling." Antonia Fraser
"A tour de force book which will make you rethink everything you know about gender and power."
Helen Carr



FRIDAY
23 October
Lunch 12.30 pm
2.00–3.00 pm

LITERARY LUNCH
• Stilton and broccoli soup
• Mixed Eton Mess, raspberry coulis



© Steven Joyce-P

FRIDAY
23 October
4.15–5.15 pm

In conversation
with
JO
DURRANT

Sponsored by
Kirsteen and Kelly
Sumner

Rebecca Seal

Allergies have been on the rise for decades, affecting millions of people worldwide, with one in three UK adults currently experiencing allergic reactions at some point in their lives.

Rebecca Seal's book *Irritated* explores what lies behind this epidemic – one reason being that there is a tiny field of allergy specialists – and provides practical strategies for managing symptoms and finding relief.

Nut allergies have jumped to one in 70 children now, as opposed to one in 250 in 1997, food allergy anaphylaxis increased by 5.7% between 1998 and 2018.

She has interviewed a range of clinical experts about recent developments in understanding and treatments, as well as talking to parents, young people and children about their experience living with allergies.

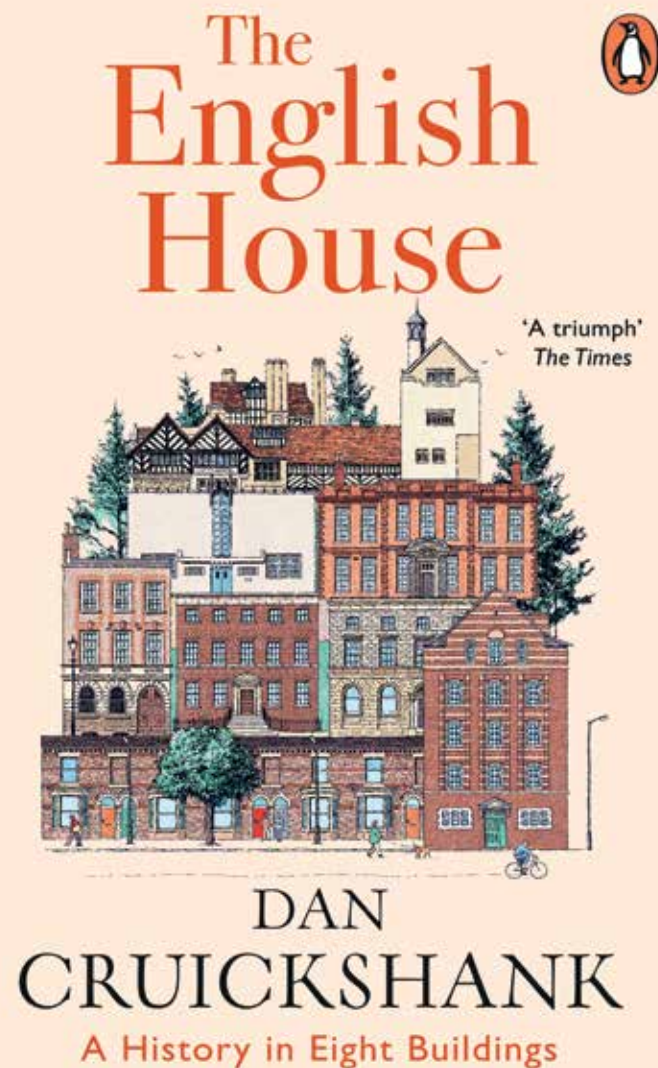
An author, journalist and broadcaster, Rebecca also explains the difference between allergies and intolerances, the role of gut health, and the different types of allergy such as food, skin, environmental and chemical.

Irritated

The Allergy Epidemic and What We Can Do About It Rebecca Seal

- ✓ **Pollution**
- ✓ **Deprivation**
- ✓ **Toxic homes**
- ✓ **Food triggers**
- ✓ **Pollen season**
- ✓ **Swelling and hives**
- ✓ **Breathing difficulties**

 **x 30 tablets**



Dan Cruickshank

The English House is a history of English architecture and social history told through the stories of eight buildings, and the people who designed, built and lived in them.

Written by architectural historian and TV presenter Dan Cruickshank, the book reveals the ways in which English homes have developed and changed over the past few centuries.

They range from the elegant early 18th-century Pallant House in Chichester, to the story of 19 Princelet Street in Spitalfields, built for a Huguenot silk-weaver, and on to a row of two-up, two-downs in Toxteth, Liverpool, and the birth of a council estate in Shoreditch, London.

Each house, as Cruickshank shows, has much to tell us about the lives of their first occupants, their aspirations, their struggles and their place within society and their local community.

"Cruickshank's enthusiasm for England's vernacular architecture shines through every infectious sentence of this glorious book. A triumph." The Times



FRIDAY
23 October
6.00–7.00 pm

In conversation
with
DAVID
LISTER



Sponsored by
Westholme Publishing
and **Journal of the**
American Revolution



FRIDAY
23 October
7.45–8.45 pm

Andrea Wulf

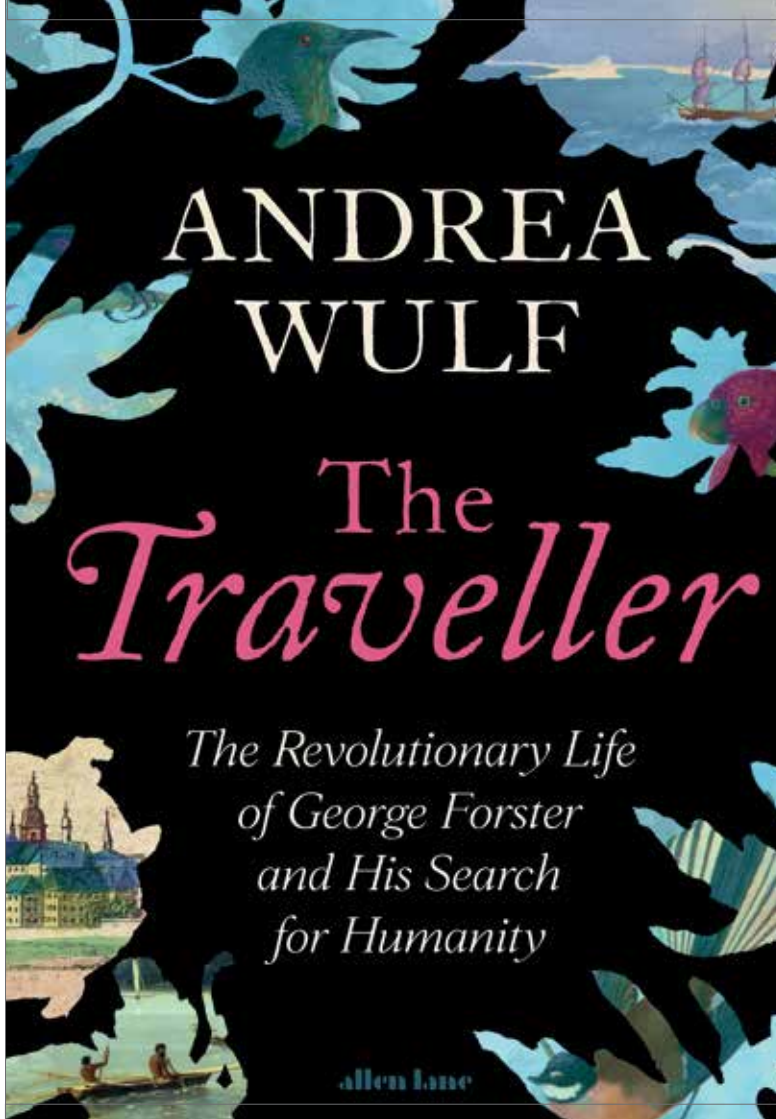
The adventures of a young 18th-century naturalist, philosopher and revolutionary are brought to life in *The Traveller*, a richly illustrated biography by award-winning author Andrea Wulf.

George Forster was an adventurer who journeyed to the far reaches of the known world, straddling the Enlightenment and Romanticism, and whose radical ideas about humanity, equality and freedom challenged the worldviews of his age.

His life burned short and bright. At 10, travelling with his father into Russia, he became a botanist. At 17, he joined Cook's second voyage in 1772, and it was his published account of this expedition that made him famous. By 39 he was dead, an exile in Paris during the Reign of Terror.

He travelled throughout his life, exploring the diversity of nature, peoples and cultures, becoming feted across Europe.

"The dauntless Andrea Wulf has gone adventuring, and returned with this enthralling account of young, nomadic George Forster."
Richard Holmes



Rice



Make rice the heart of
your table with
recipes from Malaysia
and beyond

PING COOMBES

Ping Coombes

Malaysian-born cook Ping Coombes offers a beautiful homage to rice in her book, simply named *Rice*, in which she offers recipes and ideas on how to use the grain, along with tips on the different ways to cook it perfectly.

Inspired by her mother's cooking at her home in Ipoh, Malaysia, she draws inspiration from her heritage and delivers food with modern twists and local ingredients.

She won MasterChef in 2014 and again in 2022 when she won MasterChef Champion of Champions, becoming the first double MasterChef Champion. Now living in the UK, she regularly hosts supper clubs in Bath and across the country, as well as masterclasses at her Ping at Home Kitchen.

"For any lover of rice, this book must be in your repertoire. Why? Because not only is it everything you need to know about rice but it's also packed with ideas of how to use it"
Ken Hom, CBE



SATURDAY
24 October
10.30–11.30 am

In conversation
with
**CAROLINE
WALDEGRAVE**

Charlie Bigham's

Sponsored by
Charlie Bigham's



SATURDAY
24 October
12.15–1.15 pm

Nicholas Crane

Walking is a cornerstone of British identity and the most popular form of exercise in the UK. But how much do we know about the paths that we walk?

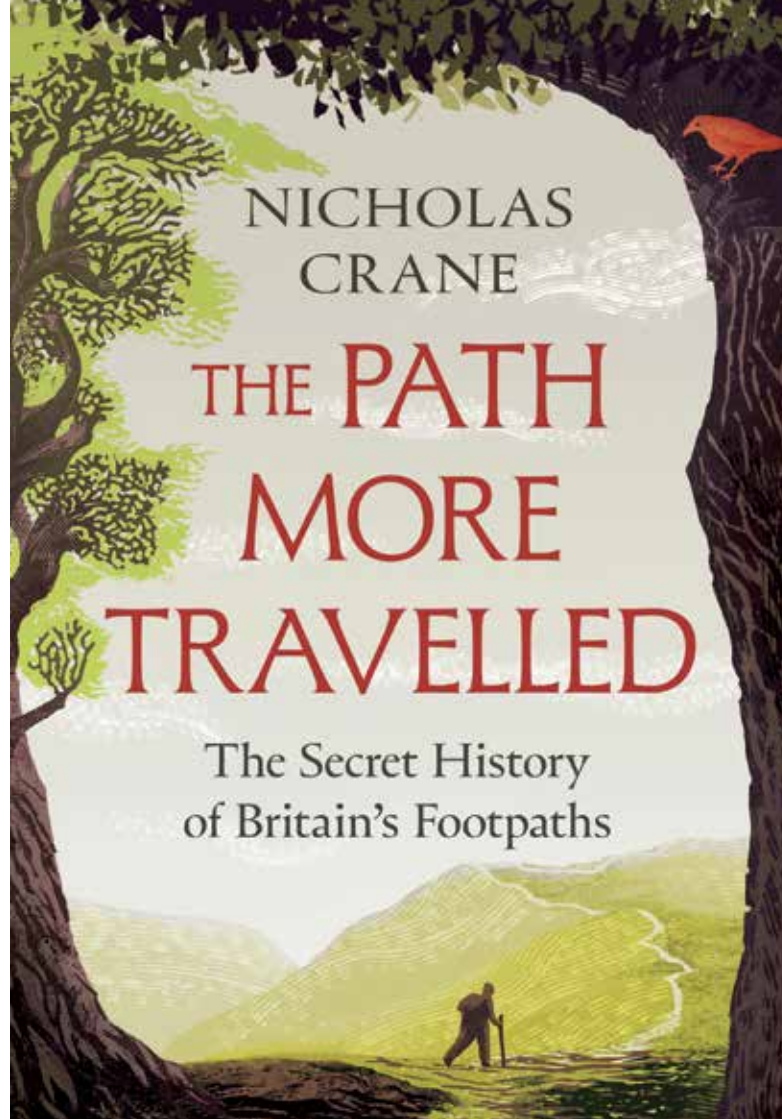
The Path More Travelled, by Nicholas Crane, is a coast-to-coast history of footpaths, from the Stone Age paths walked by migrants 12,000 years ago to the Industrial Revolution, and the birth of map and walk apps.

Along the way he takes the reader on some of his own most memorable walks, including Hadrian's Wall, the outer reaches of the Cairngorms, and the banks of the Severn.

A former president of the Royal Geographical Society, and known for his TV work on the BAFTA-winning series *Coast*, Crane has received numerous awards.

"In-depth research, rich detail, fresh revelations and great storytelling . . . All the characteristics of Nicholas Crane's work are combined in this absorbing and exhilarating look at the wonderful world of Britain's pathways." Michael Palin

Sponsored by
Kirsteen and Kelly
Sumner



'Principled, timely and vital'
Philippe Sands

'Powerful and urgent'
Financial Times

WITH THE LAW ON OUR SIDE

How the Law Works for
Everyone and How We
Can Make it Work Better



**'If this country
made any sense,
we'd make this book
part of the syllabus'**
Ian Dunt

**'Everyone who
cares about a
fair and just society
should read this book'**
Sarah Langford

LADY HALE



Lady Hale

With the Law on our Side is an entertaining tour of our legal system written by Lady Hale and told through the stories of real people.

The former President of the Supreme Court and author of the memoir *Spider Woman*, Lady Hale takes the reader inside our courts to reveal how the law works in real time.

From everyday tribunals to the lofty heights of the Royal Courts of Justice, we share in the complexity of deciding what is right, feel the drama of our legal system and learn what the law truly is. Ultimately, we see how the law serves everyone – and why we must care about it.

"The Spiderwoman rides again; this time in plain clothes to report on how our legal system protects everyone. With the law under threat from decades of cuts, complacency and political hostility, this accessible, forensic and breathtakingly human exploration may be her most important mission yet."
Shami Chakrabarti



SATURDAY
24 October
2.00–3.00 pm

In conversation
with
DAVID
LISTER

Sponsored by
Chris and Rosie
Inge



© Geoff Caddick

SATURDAY
24 October
3.45–4.45 pm

In conversation
with
JO
DURRANT



Sponsored by
Westholme Publishing
and **Journal of the**
American Revolution

Cathy Rentzenbrink

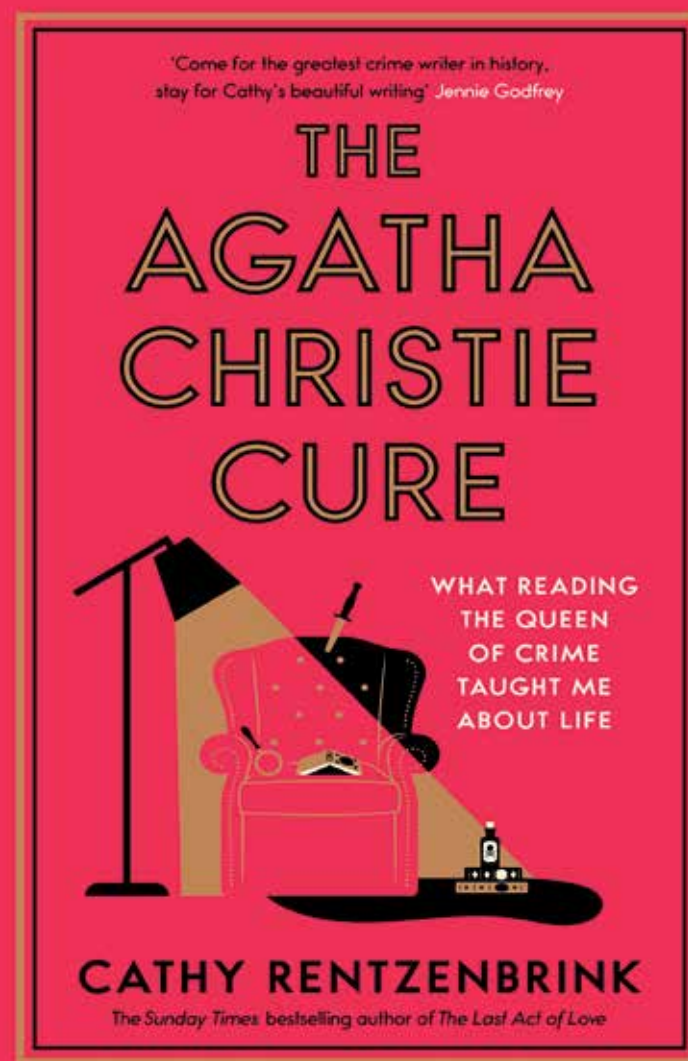
A moving memoir and a thrilling journey combine in this latest work by bestselling author Cathy Rentzenbrink.

The Agatha Christie Cure is both a detective story about the mystery at the heart of Agatha's life, and a personal account of Cathy's own dark times.

One Christmas, finding herself drained by life's upheavals, Cathy turned to re-reading Agatha Christie, her first literary love. Delving into the crime writer's mysterious disappearance in 1926, she unearthed an adventurer who hid the secrets of resilience within the pages of her books.

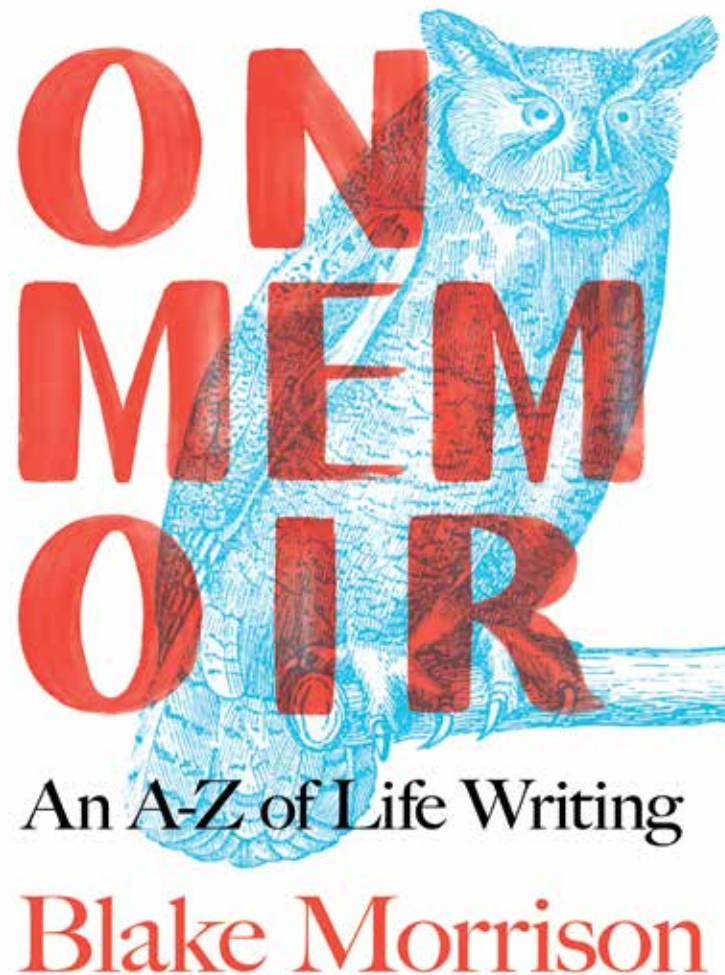
As Cathy looked beyond the tales of detectives and thrilling escapes on trains and automobiles, she soon discovered what reading the Queen of Crime taught her about life, surviving a personal crisis and starting again.

"A wonderfully warm, generous, wise and comforting book about getting through dark times and the mystery of life with a bit of help from Agatha Christie." Samantha Ellis



'Few writers can claim to have affected the literary landscape like Blake Morrison'
MAIL ON SUNDAY

'Morrison writes with a reckless respect for the truth'
GUARDIAN



Blake Morrison

On Memoir, by Blake Morrison, is a compendium of musings and exploration of narrative non-fiction in which he explores its challenges, ethics and charms, and its power to move and change us all.

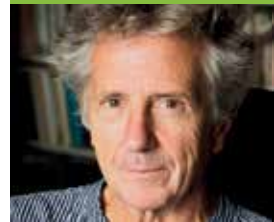
Gleaned from a lifetime as a passionate reader of others' lives, his A-Z is a trove of thoughtful literary exploration, amusing observations and fascinating finds.

A poet, novelist and journalist, his award-winning non-fiction books include *And When Did You Last See Your Father* (1993), and *As If* (1997), about the murder of toddler James Bulger in Liverpool in 1993.

His poetry includes the collections *Dark Glasses* (1984), winner of a Somerset Maugham Award, and *Shingle Street* (2015). He is a regular literary critic for *The Guardian* and the *London Review of Books*.

"Hallelujah! – now is the perfect time for Morrison's book *On Memoir*" *The Times*

"Lessons in life writing from a master"
The Guardian



SATURDAY
24 October
5.30–6.30 pm

In conversation
with
GEORGE
MILLER



Maggie Aderin

From the age of three, Dame Dr Maggie Aderin was inspired by *The Clangers*, and her dream was to go into space. She became a space scientist, presenter of *The Sky at Night*, and a bestselling author.

Now she has written *Starchild*, an emotionally honest and revealing memoir, telling a story of education and prejudice, adversity and ambition, motherhood and the moon – all recounted in her characteristically warm and relatable style.

Determined to become a scientist, she studied physics at Imperial College London, contributed to the work on the James Webb and Gemini telescopes, and founded a company dedicated to inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

In 2024 she was knighted in the New Year's Honours list for her services to science education and diversity.

"I'd toast the moon and look at the sky... I think it draws us to it; we wonder what lies beyond."

STARCHILD

My Life Under the Night Sky



MAGGIE ADERIN

'The nation's go-to woman for all things space' *Guardian*

Discounted Dining

10% off restaurant bill for Festivalgoers

Please remember:

- Book in advance
- Bring your Festival tickets with you

The following restaurants are taking part:



Goodfellows @7b
01749 676774



Rugantinos
01749 672029



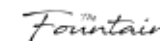
The Olive Tree
01749 673866



Root
01749 672887



The Pressoir
01749 672234



The Fountain Inn
01749 672317



The White Hart
01749 678642



Literary Lunches

Meet three of our authors informally over lunch in the Cedars Dining Hall (see map on page 25) before their presentations. The first of these is with Elizabeth Goldring (page 20), followed by Sara Wheeler (page 24) and then Kate Williams (page 35).

Dining Hall doors open at 12 noon; lunches served at 12.30 pm prompt. Talks take place in Cedars Hall at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 20 October Elizabeth Goldring

HOLBEIN: Renaissance Master
Lunch 12.30 pm, talk 2.00 pm

- Thai coconut chicken noodle soup
- Glazed Sicilian lemon tart and clotted cream

Friday 23 October Kate Williams

REGINA: A New History of Women in Power
Lunch 12.30 pm, talk 2.00 pm

- Stilton and broccoli soup
- Mixed Eton Mess, raspberry coulis

Wednesday 21 October Sara Wheeler

JAN MORRIS: A life
Lunch 12.30 pm, talk 2.00 pm

- Red pepper, tomato and smoked paprika soup
- White chocolate and raspberry panna cotta, berry compote



All soups are accompanied by artisan breads.
Please indicate at the time of booking if you have any special dietary requirements.

Please note: Lunch tickets must be booked by Friday 9 October

Tribute to Festival photographer Jo Shepherd

It is with both sadness and gratitude that Wells Festival of Literature says farewell to Jo Shepherd MA who has been our official photographer since 2020.

She will have been a familiar face to our many Festivalgoers at every event for the past five years, her camera held in place as she waited patiently for the right moment to take a snap.

Her gallery of past speakers has hung in the foyer in Cedars Hall each year, among the first sights to greet our audiences.

Jo has captured the spirit of the Festival in all things from photos of authors to literary lunches, competition prize-givings and book signings in the Waterstones pop-up shop.

Her patience and stamina at covering long hours across the course of each nine-day Festival has been much appreciated.

And now, in tribute to Jo, we wish her well in her continuing career and sign off with a selection of her marvellous photographs.



Jo Shepherd



2020 Michael Eavis



2021 Gyles Brandreth



2022 Paterson Joseph



2023 Anthony Joseph



2023 Wes Streeting



2024 A.C. Grayling



2024 Judge Clare Shaw with winners of the Young Poets competition



2024 Pam Ayres



2025 Carol Klein



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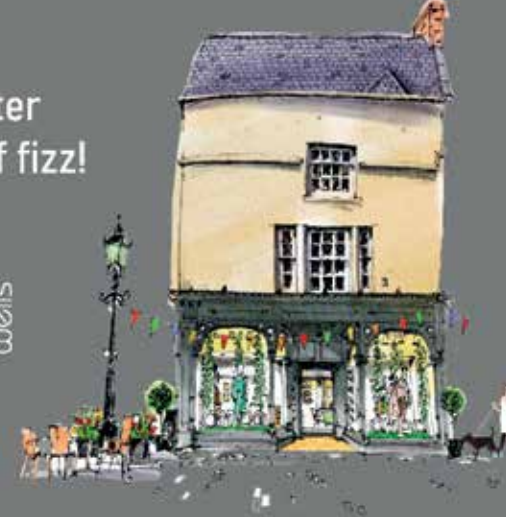


WESTHOLME PUBLISHING and
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
are delighted to support the Festival



Fashion.
Always better
with a bit of fizz!

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Wells, BA5 2RF



01749 673278



**Basil Powell
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Lucinda Hawksley

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Sarah LeFanu*

Author, editor and academic

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TICKETS: wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk
OR 01749 834483 9.30 am to 12.30 pm (weekdays)
Priority booking from 17 August at 9.30 am.
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**See Festival website or social media for
any changes to the programme.**



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