

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

8th, 25th - 27th October 2024



Stratford
**Literary
Festival**

stratlitfest.co.uk



Graeme Hall
Dame Harriet Walter
Dan Snow
Jodi Picoult
Vanessa Feltz
Richard Coles
Adrian Chiles
Anton Du Beke



Ben Macintyre
Carol Klein
Sir David Spiegelhalter
Baroness Sayeeda Warsi
Hugo Rifkind
Ashley John-Baptiste
Danny Wallace
Jess Phillips



Robert Popper
Donal Ryan
Sonia Purnell
Sudoku Workshop
BBC Loose Ends

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Stratford Literary Festival is a registered charity no.: 1164662

Welcome to our Autumn Festival

A packed line-up includes our characteristic feast of events from brilliant fiction to mind-expanding non-fiction, and some magical events for families (with some spooky Halloween fun thrown in!). We've also squeezed in an extra day with the brilliant Jodi Picoult and Dan Snow on 8th October. We're really looking forward to you joining us!

Annie Ashworth | Festival Director

How to Book

By phone: **0333 666 3366** (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm)

Online: stratlitfest.co.uk

In person: **Box Office and
Information Desk, Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6YR**
(25th-27th October only)

Scan me to book



All tickets
incur a booking fee.
There will be a £2.50
charge to post tickets.

Go to our website at stratlitfest.co.uk
for the latest news and any programme
changes or additions

Tues 8th October**5.30pm**

Stratford Playhouse

Tues 8th October**7.30pm**

Stratford Playhouse

Fri 25th October**10am-12pm**

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Fri 25th October**12pm**

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Dan Snow The Story of England

£14



You don't have to travel far for English history to spring into rich and vivid life. The bestselling historian takes us on a journey through the history of England, written with the *History Hit* team, with tales of invaders and immigrants; the polar bear and lions at the Tower of London; the importance of Liverpool Docks in global trade; the significance of the atomic weapons base at Orford Ness; the visitors and what they brought here. It's a tale of how our ancestors overcame, co-operated and shaped this country with each passing century to what we are today.

Talking to Will Hanrahan

Jodi Picoult By Any Other Name

£14

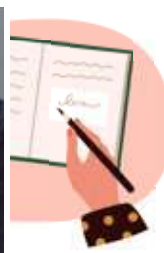


We welcome the bestselling author of *Mad Honey* with her latest novel about female identity and inequality set in both Elizabethan England and present-day Manhattan, as two women centuries apart struggle to assert their artistic expression in a sphere dominated by men. Meet Emilia Bassano who, in 1581, with no voice of her own finds a way to bring her work to the stage secretly, creating some of the world's greatest dramatic masterpieces. In modern day New York, playwright Melina Green is determined to see one of her shows make the stage. But what lengths will she be willing to go to in order to achieve her dreams?

Talking to Fiona Lindsay

WORKSHOP Starting to Write William Gallagher

£20



You've got the idea for a book but where do you start, let alone keep going and then finish it? This interactive workshop is about making the most of your idea - whether it be fiction, non-fiction or memoir - with advice on planning, creating a positive writing environment and learning the stamina to keep going through dips in ideas and energy. William Gallagher is deputy chair of the Writers' Guild, has written short stories, *Doctor Who* radio dramas, and been a columnist for the *Radio Times* and *BBC News Online*.

Loose Ends Recording BBC Radio 4

£12



Be part of a very special recording of BBC Radio 4's *Loose Ends* from the Festival which will be broadcast at 6.15pm on Saturday 26th October. Join host Stuart Maconie and guests as they talk about the latest cultural releases, plus there will be live music.

SPONSORED BY



Fri 25th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi Muslims Don't Matter

£13



Modern Britain has seen an insidious rise in Islamophobia on both the right and the left. From misleading media stories like the Trojan Horse Affair in Birmingham's schools, to the hatred directed at Muslim politicians and public figures during the Gaza conflict, this prejudice has gone unchecked. The Conservative peer, campaigner and podcaster (with David Baddiel) challenges the consensus, argues passionately that bigotry should never pass the dinner table test and suggests a way forward.

Talking to Deirdre Shields

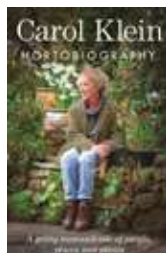
Fri 25th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Carol Klein Hortobiography

£14



We are delighted to welcome one of the best-known faces in gardening broadcasting, whether presenting on BBC *Gardeners' World* or sharing the joys of show gardens at Chelsea. Her memoir talks about her life as a plantswoman from her first experiments in plantswomanship in her Devon cottage garden, to an entirely unexpected career as one of Britain's most familiar television presenters. She explores why our relationship with the natural world is so important, and what it brings to our lives.

Talking to Tim Hubbard

Fri 25th October

3.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Ysenda Maxtone Graham Screams! Shrieks and Yelps from Modern Life

£12



How do you feel about knicker-envy and do you get vexed by email sign-offs? The author of *Terms and Conditions* takes an idiosyncratic and gently funny look at the modern world pin-pointing all those small things that irritate but which have a disproportionate effect on our wellbeing (including musak played on hold by HMRC; deep-seated recycling fears; friends that gaslight you with too many xxxs). She also takes pleasure in the small victories that bring surprising joy (lunch from leftovers and finding a miraculous parking space against all odds). You can't resist!

Talking to Clare Clark

Fri 25th October

4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Jess Phillips Let's Be Honest

£14



Four months after an election she called 'the worst in which she had stood' and only days before a fractious US election, we welcome back the Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley since 2015 and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Home Office. She makes a clarion call for the shaking up of political culture in order to safeguard democracy, citing culture wars and clickbait that demonstrates politics has lost its integrity. As people lose interest in voting, and MPs fear for their safety, she has much to say about how we move forward positively.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

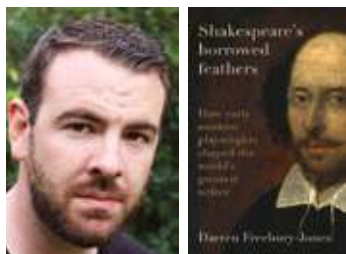
Fri 25th October

4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Darren Freebury-Jones Shakespeare's Borrowed Feathers

£11



Shakespeare's plays have influenced generations of writers, but who were the early modern playwrights who influenced him? Using the latest techniques in textual analysis, the Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies at the Birthplace Trust offers a fresh look at the influence of a community of playwrights that shaped the Bard's work, and exposes a need to see early modern drama as a communal enterprise, with playwrights borrowing from and adapting one another's work.

Fri 25th October

6pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Adrian Chiles The Curious Columns

£13



The TV and radio presenter's weekly column for the *Guardian* has gained a cult following for its unique insights into everything from the present tense in history podcasts to his favourite spoon, or his legendary at-home urinal. Muse with him on the sacred and the profane, the whimsical and the bizarre, as he offers his idiosyncratic take on self-checkouts, speeding tickets and the correct duration of a hug, and discovering he has a naked doppelgänger on OnlyFans.

Talking to Deirdre Shields

Fri 25th October

6pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Jessica Hepburn Save Me from the Waves

£12



Never naturally sporty, a succession of hard and sad life experiences led Jessica to become one of the world's most extraordinary endurance athletes. She is the first and only woman on the planet (currently) to have swum the English Channel, run the London Marathon and climbed Mount Everest. Her inspirational story explores the redemptive power of music and mountains, and encourages us all to live big and bravely.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Fri 25th October

7.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Anton Du Beke A Dance for The King

£14



We welcome the King of Ballroom with his latest novel set in London in 1942 as Raymond de Guise uncovers drama and mystery on the dance floor of the ballroom of the Buckingham Hotel. Anton is a ballroom and Latin dancer, bestselling novelist and television presenter, best known for being a dancer then judge on the BBC's celebrity dancing show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Talking to Tim Hubbard



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Sat 26th October9.30am-
11.30am

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sat 26th October

12pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sat 26th October12.30pm-
1.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

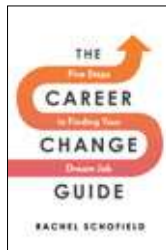
Sat 26th October

12.45pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

WORKSHOP: Rachel Schofield
How to Figure Out Your
Next Career Chapter

£30



Whether you're a parent returning to work after raising a family, a professional stuck partway up a career ladder you no longer want to be on, a restless midlifer or a soon-to-be-retiree, this workshop will give you the clarity and confidence you need to move forward. A qualified personal development coach, Rachel is author of *The Career Change Guide*, will help you to: understand the common mistakes stopping you making a change; dig into your past and present to build a clear profile of what you want and need and identify concrete steps to move you forward.

Sonia Purnell
Kingmaker - Pamela Harriman's
Astonishing Life

£13



Pamela Churchill Harriman was written off as a social climber, but her glamorous social life and infamous erotic adventures overshadowed her true legacy. The award-winning biographer exposes the truth of the woman who, behind the scenes, did much to shape the 20th century, on both sides of the Atlantic, influencing figures including the Kennedys, Nelson Mandela, Truman Capote, and Frank Sinatra. Sonia's biography of Virginia Hall, WWII's Most Dangerous Spy, won the Plutarch Award for Best Biography and was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

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**DAVID
HUNT**
*lighting***Paul Kidby and Rob Wilkins**
Designing Terry Pratchett's
Discworld

£12



Whilst Sir Terry Pratchett was the undisputed creative fountainhead, for three decades artist Paul Kidby has been the artistic force taking the people, places and pieces of man-eating luggage from Terry's imagination into our world. Go behind the scenes of this amazing partnership with Rob Wilkins - Pratchett's former assistant, friend and head of the Pratchett literary estate - and discover how the Discworld was brought to visual life - from the earliest sketches to the final magnificent masterpieces including hitherto unseen art - and how Terry and Paul absorbed influences from art and pop culture, fusing them into the Discworld landscape.

Robert Popper
The Elsie Drake Letters
(aged 104)

£12



The *Friday Night Dinner* and *Timewaster Letters* creator shares the imagined letters of Britain's oldest letter writer. At 104 years, Elsie Drake is ready for new adventures. And so, armed with a computer she can barely operate, she fires off dozens of letters to everyone from the Prime Minister to Greggs bakeries, offers her services as the new Arsenal football mascot dressed as a giant hare, or simply sends Sainsbury's a load of meat. No one can escape her clutches. But just wait till you read the replies...

Talking to Clare Clark

Sat 26th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Ben Macintyre The Siege

£14



On 30th April 1980, six armed gunmen burst into the Iranian embassy in London taking 26 hostages, including embassy staff and visitors. A tense six-day siege ensued as millions gathered around screens across the country to witness the longest newflash in British television history. The bestselling author of *Operation Mincemeat* and *Colditz* tells the compelling story drawing on unpublished source material, exclusive interviews with the SAS, and testimony from witnesses including hostages, negotiators, intelligence officers and even the on-site psychiatrist.

Talking to Will Hanrahan



Sat 26th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Hattie Crisell and Anna Metcalfe How to be a Writer

£12



The journalist and *In Writing* podcast host shares the secrets that some of our most-read authors, poets, journalists and screenwriters revealed when she asked them: where do ideas come from? What happens when confidence falters or the work fails? And what does writing success look like? Anna Metcalfe is a short story writer and novelist. Her story *Number Three* was shortlisted for the *Sunday Times* Short Story Award. Her debut novel, *Chrysalis*, was published last year.

Talking to Julia Wheeler



Sat 26th October

2.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Roxanne de Bastion and Julian Borger Extraordinary Stories

£12



When Roxanne de Bastion inherited her grandfather Stephen's piano, she discovered a cassette recording of him, and the astonishing history of the Holocaust, the piano, the man and her family began to unravel. In 1938, Jewish families were scrambling to flee Vienna and took out adverts offering their children into the safe keeping of readers of a British newspaper. 83 years later *Guardian* journalist Julian Borger came across the advert that saved his father from the Nazis. They share their extraordinary revelations.

Talking to Tim Hubbard

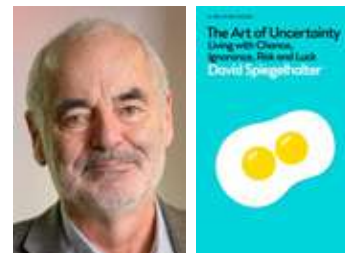
Sat 26th October

4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sir David Spiegelhalter The Art of Uncertainty

£12



Subtitled *Living with Chance, Ignorance, Risk and Luck*, the UK's 'statistical national treasure' assesses the chances of what might happen in the future, showing how it can help us think more analytically about everything from medical advice to pandemics and climate change forecasts, and explores how we can update our beliefs about the future. Along the way, he'll explain some fascinating stats from football results to why two properly shuffled packs of cards will never be the exact same order. He is currently Chair of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication and on the board of the UK Statistics Authority.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Sat 26th October

4.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Donal Ryan and Ruth Gilligan The Irish Novel

£12



The Irish novel is enjoying something of a purple patch and two hugely successful Irish writers talk about their art and why we're so fascinated with the Irish culture. Donal Ryan's work has been published in over 20 languages to major critical acclaim. His novels, including *The Spinning Heart* and *The Queen of Dirt Island*, have been multi award-winners. Ruth Gilligan's *The Butchers* won the 2021 Ondaatje Prize for the book that best evokes the spirit of a place. She is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham.

Talking to Clare Clark

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Sat 26th October

5.45pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Graeme Hall Does My Dog Love Me?

£14



Dog problems? If only they could talk. Leading Dogfather and presenter of Channel 5's *Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly* reveals the secrets to understanding what your furry companion is trying to say and how they see the world. Drawing on 15 years' experience training over 5,000 dogs, and backed up with scientific evidence, he tackles all the tricky questions you've ever wanted to ask, such as 'How do I tell my dog he's been naughty?' and 'How long does a dog remember?'.

Talking to Annie Ashworth

Sat 26th October

6pm-7.15pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Booklovers' Wine Tasting Novels about Wine

£30



Following the success of our May event, The Booklovers' Wine Club is back! Setting is the foundation of every great novel, and whether it's a luxury hotel in 1920s Moscow, an Italian crime scene or a summer evening on a vineyard in the Dordogne, wine makes the perfect backdrop to any story. Sample the wines from some great wine-related novels under the tutelage of **Vin Neuf's** James Richards, as Lynn Taylor transports you with readings from the books. Over 18s only.

Sat 26th October

7.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Dame Harriet Walter She Speaks! What Shakespeare's Women Might Say

£14



Harriet Walter, renowned for her screen roles including *Succession* and *Sense and Sensibility*, is one of Britain's most esteemed Shakespearean actors (and a Festival Ambassador). Having played most of Shakespeare's female characters, she audaciously lets them speak their minds. With new parts for 30 Shakespearean women, written in 'Shakespearean' verse and prose, she goes between the lines of the plays to let us hear what she imagines - sometimes playfully and sometimes searchingly - these women were really thinking.

Talking to Fiona Lindsay

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12pm

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WORKSHOP SudokuSimon Anthony
and Mark Goodliffe

£12



Foxed by sudoku or going great guns and want to go up a level? The puzzlers behind *Cracking The Cryptic* (the most popular YouTube sudoku channel) will attempt to solve one of the fiendishly difficult sudokus they tackle in their videos in a 'live' edition of *Cracking The Cryptic* giving hints and tips along the way. There will also be an opportunity to ask the pair questions at the end.

Sarah Rainsford

Goodbye to Russia

£13



BBC Moscow correspondent Sarah Rainsford was expelled in 2021 as a 'national security threat', given only three weeks to leave. Her very personal account looks at Russia's slide from democracy and provides a warning of where the crushing of liberties could lead. She will describe the extraordinary people she's encountered from the Russians such as Alexei Navalny, to the Ukrainians she found burying their dead in Bucha. It's also her own, personal reckoning with Russia: a country she saw emerge from decades of authoritarian rule in the 1990s to now being quashed.

Talking to John Jefferies

Will ToshStraight Acting - The Many
Queer Lives of Shakespeare

£11



Shakespeare's work was profoundly influenced by the queer culture of his time – much of it totally integrated into mainstream society. From a relentless schooling in Latin and Greek homoeroticism, to a less formal education on the streets and in smoky taverns, from the gender-bending of the early comedies to the astonishingly queer literary scene that nurtured Shakespeare's sonnets, the Head of Research at Shakespeare's Globe tells a story of artistic development and of personal crisis, and how queerness powerfully shaped the life and career of the world's most famous playwright.

Talking to Professor Emma Smith

Danny WallaceSomebody Told Me...
Lies, Trolls and Conspiracies

£12



The comedian, presenter and million-copy bestselling author of *Yes Man* and *Join Me* has fallen down the modern rabbit hole of lies, conspiracies and disinformation. He'll take us through families torn apart by accusations and fake news, journalists putting themselves on the frontline of the disinformation war, reformed conspiracy theorists, influencers who see profit in stoking paranoia, and the faceless trolls on the other side of our screens, sharing how disinformation and lies can ruin lives and livelihoods, and asking if we can do anything to stop it?

Talking to Hugo Riffkind

Sun 27th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Jonathan Dimbleby Endgame 1944

£14



The historian, presenter and author of *Barbarossa* recounts the twists and turns of Operation Bagration in June 1944 – the Soviet offensive of more than two million Red Army soldiers facing 500,000 German soldiers; an offensive that won the Second World War for the Allies and cemented Stalin's post-war power. Drawing on previously untranslated German, Russian and Polish sources, he'll explain how Soviet triumphs effectively gave Stalin authority to occupy Eastern Europe and enabled him to dictate the terms of the post-war settlement, laying the foundations for the Cold War.

Talking to John Jefferies

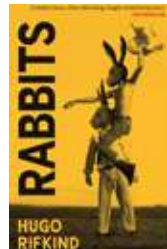
Sun 27th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Hugo Rifkind Rabbits

£12



The witty *Times* columnist and TV reviewer has turned to fiction with a sinister and hilarious tale that Val McDermid calls as 'darkly funny as *Saltburn*, but with kilts'. Set in the early 90s, meet Tommo, out of his depth socially but seduced by the hedonism of a fading elite, who discovers there are secrets that everyone knows, but no one speaks about or even acknowledges. And those secrets can no longer be hidden.

Talking to Clare Clark

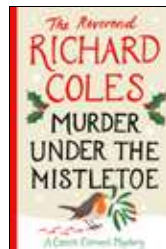
Sun 27th October

3.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Rev Richard Coles Murder Under the Mistletoe

£14



The broadcaster, former vicar and *Strictly* contestant brings you the latest in his bestselling crime series. It's Christmas Day and, at Champton Rectory, Canon Daniel Clement and his mother Audrey are joined by the residents and guests of the big house to drink, eat and be merry until two meet under the mistletoe. One of them falls down dead and Daniel suspects murder has returned to Champton. Can he and Detective Sergeant Neil Vanloo solve the crime and catch the Christmas killer?

Talking to Tim Hubbard

Sun 27th October

4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Simon Parkin The Forbidden Garden of Leningrad

£12



The winner of the 2023 Wingate Literary Prize brings a fascinating and moving untold story of the Leningrad scientists who, whilst the city was under siege in 1941, risked everything for the future of humanity and faced the choice between distributing the contents of the world's first seed bank to the starving population, or preserving them in the hope that they held the key to ending global famine. Parkin is a writer and journalist for magazines, newspapers and websites. He is contributor to *The New Yorker*, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Sun 27th October

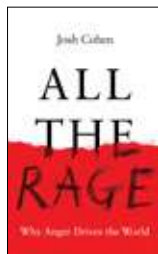
4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Josh Cohen

All the Rage: Why Anger Drives the World

£12



Anger is all around us, from divisive social media arguments and heightened political divides to road rage and personal spats. It affects our bodies and can transition into violence. It can be inherited through the generations; it can manifest in criminal acts. What should we do with it, and can it ever be put to good use? The acclaimed author and psychoanalyst identifies the different forms of anger, and offers a new and original understanding, so we may better handle the rage within us.

Talking to Hugo Rifkind

Sun 27th October

5.30pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Vanessa Feltz

Vanessa Bares All

£13



Shockingly candid and outrageously entertaining, the broadcaster chronicles 35 years in the public eye through a host of jaw-dropping anecdotes. Brace yourself for a funny and deeply moving story: how she became the nation's second-most-famous fat person, life as the British Oprah, feuding with Madonna and Miss Piggy aboard the Big Breakfast bed, a public divorce, gastric band surgery, a 16-year skirmish with an ageing boybander and finding herself single at 61. She sets the record straight, and spares no one's blushes including her own.

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Sun 27th October

6pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Ashley John-Baptiste

Looked After: A Childhood in Care

£12



The BBC's *One Show* presenter discusses growing up in the care system, living with five different families, without ever being truly part of a family, and the impact it had on his education, his sense of identity, friendships and hobbies. Through his resilience, and supportive foster parents, he achieved a top education and a successful career, but how do young people navigate a fractured and sometimes broken system to achieve content and settled lives?

Talking to Tim Hubbard

Sun 27th October

7.30pm-8.45pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Under Milk Wood

A Radio Play

£16



To mark 70 years since it was first performed, join us in our reconstructed 1950s radio theatre for a performance of this Dylan Thomas classic. Listen to the dreams and innermost thoughts of the inhabitants of the fictional small Welsh fishing town, Llareggub, including Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard, Captain Cat, the two Mrs Dai Breads and Organ Morgan. As the town awakens and, aware now of how their feelings affect whatever they do, watch them go about their daily business. Staged and performed by RSC and Shakespeare's Globe director Brendan O'Hea, with Stefan Cennydd and Lynn Hunter.

FUN FOR FAMILIES



Sat 26th October

10am-
11.15am

Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Enchanted Cinema

£10 (adults £5) | Age 4+



Imagine going to the cinema and becoming part of a pop-up orchestra that creates every single sound effect and the musical score! Using your voice, hands and playing a range of unusual, delightful and ingenious instruments, you'll join in to create sound effects to excerpts from the enchanting animation, *My Neighbour Totoro*. A magical experience for children and parents alike.

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Sat 26th October

2pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Brothers McLeod

Knight Sir Louis and the Cauldron of Chaos

£8 (adults £5) | Age 8+

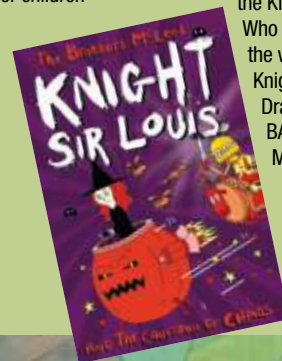


Get ready to laugh your socks off at the fifth Knight Sir Louis adventure! A powerful magical object has been rediscovered: the Cauldron of Chaos. A scheming witch finds the cursed pot and plans to make her fortune with it, even if it means the end of the Kingdom of Squirrel Helm.

Who will rescue the land from the witch's dodgy deals?

Knight Sir Louis, of course!

Draw along with the BAFTA-winning Brothers McLeod, Greg and Myles.



Sun 27th October

9.30am

Crowne Plaza Hotel

**Julie Tatchell
and Amanda Middleditch**
Bartie Bristle and Other Stories

£8 (adults £5) | Age 3+



Step into the magical world of Bartie Bristle and friends in this stunning treasury written by the Teddy Bear Ladies, Julie Tatchell and Amanda Middleditch, best known as stars of the BBC's *The Repair Shop*. Set in a village in the heart of the Old Woods, enter the magical world of the teddy bear shop and the heart-warming stories of Bartie and his teddy bear friends. Bring a teddy from home for a fun, interactive event.



Sun 27th October

10.15am-11.15am

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Christopher Edge
Black Hole Cinema Club

£8 (adults £5) | Age 8+



We welcome the award-winning author of *Escape Room* with another edge-of-your-seat adventure. When Lucas meets his friends at the local cinema - nicknamed 'The Black Hole' - they're excited about the movie marathon ahead. But as the lights go down, Lucas, Ash, Maya, Caitlin and Finn watch in disbelief as a jet-black tidal wave comes crashing out of the cinema screen and the five friends find themselves swept into an epic and perilous adventure. Can they save the day before the end credits roll? The fate of the world might just depend on it...



Sun 27th October

2pm - 4pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Halloween Craft
with Becci Books

£8 (adults Free) | Age 4-7



It's time for spooktacular Halloween craft, with pumpkins and ghosties galore! Make flying bats and witches' hats, with pom poms, pipe cleaners and more... All materials and instructions provided. Book your slot between 2pm and 3pm, or 3pm and 4pm.



Terms and Conditions

Most events take place at Stratford Playhouse or Crowne Plaza Hotel but please check your ticket and website before you travel.

- » All events take place at the venue printed on your ticket. You will be contacted by email in advance of an event if the venue changes.
- » Tickets are sold through an external box office. Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged. All tickets booked by phone or online incur a booking fee. This booking fee is charged by our external box office. Postal ticket delivery is an additional £2.50. Should a ticket be refunded because of an unavoidable cancellation or circumstances beyond the Festival's control, the booking fee will not be returned.
- » Tickets will be on sale at the Festival information desk, unless an event is sold out. The booking number and online booking link can be found on each page of our programme and on our website.
- » All seats are unreserved.
- » No animals are permitted into venues except assistance dogs.
- » Accessibility: all venues can accommodate wheelchairs and those with mobility issues, and there is an accessible toilet at all venues. All venues have step-free access. Please contact us on info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk if you have particular needs or require a seat close to the stage due to hearing or sight challenges. All speakers use a microphone.
- » Children under 14 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult (over 18 years of age). We cannot accept responsibility for unaccompanied children. Children over 14 may attend alone but must be delivered and collected by a responsible adult, and are not the responsibility of the Festival. Adults attending children's events are expected to buy a ticket unless otherwise stated. Children under 2 and babes in arms who do not require a seat do not need a ticket.
- » We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers if circumstances dictate and we will do our very best to replace like with like. Please check our website or follow us on X @stratlitfest for programme change alerts. Ticket-bookers will also be emailed about any programme changes.
- » All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated. Books are available to buy at each event and authors will sign copies of their books after each event. Books featured at the Festival and those signed at earlier events will be on sale at Waterstones, 8 High Street. We request that you do not bring copies of books not purchased at the event for signature.
- » Some events may be filmed or recorded. By buying a ticket you are giving your consent to be filmed or recorded as a member of the audience. Please let one of the Festival team know if you do not wish to be in a photograph.
- » All details and prices are correct at time of going to press.

Please check our website before you travel for any last-minute changes.

Making the Festival Happen

We would like to thank the following for their help and support:

All the wonderful authors, illustrators and artists who come to the Festival; the publishers who have worked with us; all who steward and volunteer for the Festival; all the staff at Waterstones Stratford, the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Stratford Playhouse; our interviewers; and of course our Friends and Benefactors, audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

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Festival Trustees: David Fletcher, Philip Heath (Chair), Dr Diana Owen OBE, Madeleine Parker and Julia Wheeler

Festival Team: **Annie Ashworth** (Programme Director), **Charlotte Brennan** (Festival Administrator and Fundraiser), **Jo James** (Operations Director and Programming), **Becci Smith** (Schools and Children's Events Programming), **Judy Reaves** (Set Design), **Suzanne Worthington** (Stewards and Volunteers Coordinator), **Alison Morris** (Author Care), **Liz Wise** (Books with Friends Coordinator), **Tamsin Williams** (Wigwam PR), **Ellie Waters** (Box Office Manager)

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