Stratford Spring Festival

Wed 1st - Sun 5th May 2024

Mary Beard Val McDermid David Nicholls David Troughton Polly Toynbee John Boyne Alistair McGowan Daniel Finkelstein Michael Rosen Tamara Harvey Michael Wood Alex Wheatle Rachel de Thame Patrick Grant Derek Bardowell Jojo Moyes Clare Mackintosh Marcus du Sautoy Alan Johnson James O'Brien ...and lots more

Plus events and workshops for families and writers









Supported by



Baillie Gifford[®] Actual Investors

Conversations open minds

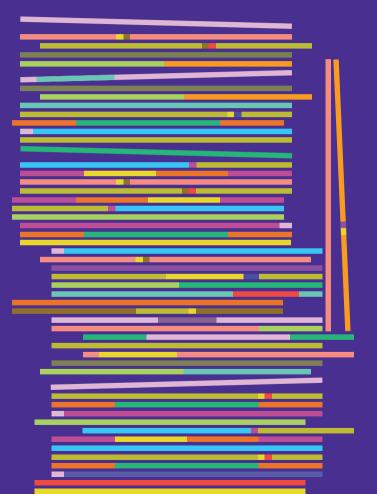
Baillie Gifford's free magazine *Trust* brings you stories on the companies and ideas that shape our world. The twice-yearly publication offers you thought-provoking articles from our investment managers and other writers, including interviews with global thinkers and distinguished authors.

To find out more, you can browse the current issue on the festival website.

Subscribe to *Trust* for your chance to win a break at a UK literary festival supported by Baillie Gifford. For full details visit **bailliegifford.com/literaryprize**

bailliegifford.com/trust





Welcome to our Spring 2024 Festival

This is the 17th year of the Festival and we're really proud to bring you this spring's line-up. We're taking you from Ancient Rome to China, from the corridors of power to the power of the imagination of some of the country's greatest writers. We'll be celebrating Noel Coward and women who smash glass ceilings, and looking at what Stratford must have been like in Shakespeare's time. Never afraid to explore challenging topics, we bring you plenty to inspire and inform whatever your interests.

The Festival couldn't happen without the support of our sponsors and our Festival Friends and Benefactors and to them we are enormously grateful. And thanks to you, our audience, whether you're joining us for the first time or have been with us along the journey. We look forward to having you with 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 (during the Festival only)

Scan me to book

All tickets include VAT and 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

Supported by



Follow us:
Follow

Stratford Literary Festival is a CIO no.: 1164662

VAUGHANREYNOLDS ESTATE AGENTS

proud to support Stratford Literary Festival

Looking for a new property? Start your search today.



vaughanreynolds.co.uk

10 Union Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6QT | 01789 292 659

Thursday 18th April

General Knowledge Quiz Night £15*pp max of 6 people 1 7pm

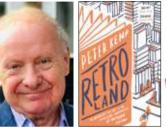


Roll up for our annual fundraising general knowledge quiz. Gather a team of six and pit your wits against other teams to be the general knowledge champions of Stratford. We promise no literary questions - well, the odd one might slip in! Tickets include snacks and a donation to the Festival's outreach work in schools, the community and prisons.

*inc snacks and a donation

Wednesday 1st May

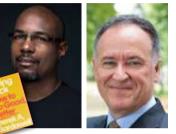
Peter Kemp Retroland - A Guide to our Literary Landscape £13 | 12pm-1pm



Fashions in books change, new genres appear and tastes change. The celebrated writer and veteran *Sunday Times* literary critic Peter Kemp gives a guide to the contemporary literary landscape. Are there themes? Is literature as good as it was in the past? Plus we're asking you the audience to vote for your favourite novel of the last 100 years. What would you pack into your little desert island suitcase?

Wednesday 1st May

Derek Bardowell and Andrew Day The Volunteer Economy £13 | 2pm-3pm



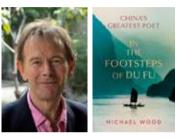
Volunteering in the UK contributes an estimated £4 billion to the country's GDP, and those who give their time and expertise free of charge might be doing anything from working at food banks to chairing the board of trustees of leading charities with multi-million pound turnovers. Why do we do it? Is this level of volunteering unique to the UK, and what are the risks you run and the responsibilities you take on when you give your time to a cause? Derek Bardowell is the author of *Giving Back: How To Do Good, Better.* Andrew Day is a fundraising advisor.

SPONSORED BY



Wednesday 1st May

Michael Wood In the Footsteps of Du Fu £15 | 3.30pm-4.30pm



Du Fu (712-770) is one of China's greatest poets. His career coincided with periods of famine, war and huge upheaval, yet his secular philosophical vision, combined with his empathy for the common folk of his nation, ensured that he soon became revered. Like Shakespeare or Dante, his poetry resonates in a timeless manner that ensures it is always relevant and offers something new to the modern generation. In a beautiful travelogue, the broadcaster and writer chronicles the life and work of one of the world's greatest poet's.



BEAUTIFUL FRAMES, EXQUISITELY MADE

Call: 01789 268 828 Visit: 57 Ely Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

www.cgoptical.co.uk

LEAD SPONSORS



Wednesday 1st May

Rosemary Salomone The Rise of English £13 I 3.30pm-4.30pm





The award-winning US academic offers a commanding view of the unprecedented spread of English and the far-reaching effects it has on global and local politics, economics, media, education, and business. From the inner workings of the European Union to China's use of language as 'soft power' in Africa, she draws on a wealth of research to tell the complex story of English - the world's lingua franca. Professor Salomone has lectured internationally and published extensively on education law and policy and children's rights.

Wednesday 1st May

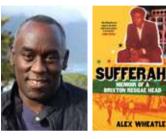
Susan Fletcher and Samuel Burr Secrets and Puzzles £13 | 5pm-6pm



We bring together a highly acclaimed author with a debut, both of whom explore the impact of secrets, puzzles and older female protagonists in their novels. Stratford resident Susan Eletcher is the author of several critically acclaimed novels including Eve Green which won the Whitbread first novel award and the Betty Trask Prize. Her latest, a gentle whodunnit, is called The Night in Question. Samuel Burr has developed and produced popular factual shows including the BAFTAnominated Secret Life of 4-Year-Olds. A documentary he shot inside a retirement village inspired his debut novel, The Fellowship of Puzzlemakers. Samuel's writing was shortlisted for Penguin's WriteNow scheme.

Wednesday 1st May

Alex Wheatle Sufferah: Memoir of a Brixton Reggae Head £13 | 5pm-6pm



Abandoned as a baby to the care system, in a searing memoir the award-winning writer shares the story of growing up with no knowledge of his Jamaican parentage or family history, the challenges of living as a young Black man in 1980s Britain, and a prison sentence which opened his eyes to books. He went on to become a leading novelist whose *Crongton Knights* series won the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize. Alex's youth was portrayed in Oscar Award-winning director Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* series.

Wednesday 1st May

David Troughton My Stratford £15 | 6.30pm-7.30pm



Our regular event featuring well-known people with a strong link to Stratford welcomes one of the country's most versatile actors. David's film, screen and stage credits include everything from *A Very Peculiar Practice* and *Holby City* to Gloucester in Greg Doran's *King Lear* at the RSC, the title role in *Titus Andronicus*, and Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2018. *Archers* fans will know him best as organic farming pioneer Tony Archer. He'll be sharing anecdotes about his extraordinarily varied career, the people he's worked alongside and his deep love of cricket!

www.davidhuntlighting.co.uk

DAVID

sales@davidhuntlighting.co.uk +44 (0)1295 672 628

Wednesday 1st May

Local Author Showcase Free I 7pm-8.30pm

Thursday 2nd May

Duncan Minshull WALK: Globetrotting: Writers Walk the World £13 I 10am-11am



Are you writing, or have you been published or self-published? You might just have the germ of an idea growing in your head with only a chapter or two committed to paper. Come along and share your work in a friendly and supportive environment and bring family and friends! Each author has just two minutes to speak about their work, making this a fast-paced, fun and fascinating evening. There is a bar open before this event, during the interval halfway through, and at the end while authors and audience mingle, buy books and get them signed. If you'd like to be considered for a two minute slot, please email info@stratfordliterarvfestival.co.uk.





Following on from last year's sell-out walk with his book *Beneath My Feet*, Duncan invites you to join him again on a stroll around Stratford as he shares his latest collection that brings together over 50 walker-writers who have travelled the world's seven continents. With contributions from Thomas Jefferson, Charles Darwin, DH Lawrence, Katharine Mansfield, William Boyd and many more, *Globetrotting* will take you from Rome to the frozen wastes of Antarctica and the pilgrim paths of Japan.

Thursday 2nd May

Rachel de Thame A Flower Garden for Pollinators £13 | 12pm-1pm



With bees, butterflies and other pollinators threatened by climate change and habitat loss, it's more important than ever to support and nurture pollinators in our gardens. The expert horticulturalist and regular *Gardener's World* presenter shows you how to create a garden that provides an abundant resource of plants rich in nectar and pollen. She'll tell you how to support nature whether you have a courtyard or a large country garden, telling you what to plant and when in order to attract and sustain a host of pollinators all year round. Thursday 2nd May

Virginia Nicholson and Jill Burke The Agony of Being Beautiful £13 | 2pm-3pm



Two leading social historians marvel at what women have put themselves through to conform to what is perceived to be beautiful. They'll look at the bizarre to the downright dangerous, from Renaissance women who used cosmetics as power, to 19th and 20th century women lured by radioactive corsets and botched nose jobs - and ask, who decides what is beautiful anyway? Virginia Nicholson is the author of several highly acclaimed books including *How Was It For You?*. Jill Burke is a professor at the University of Edinburgh.

Pre-registration essential.



Thursday 2nd May

Alan Johnson and Simon Mason Turning to Crime £14 | 2pm-3pm



Crime fiction is the most popular genre in the country - and loved as much by women as men. But why? What is our fascination with gory storytelling? Two acclaimed writers, both of whom have come from careers in entirely different areas, talk about what turned them to a life of crime, how they research their stories and the techniques they use to keep readers on the edge of their seats. Alan Johnson is the author of several books about his life story. Simon is a novelist and creative writing tutor.

Thursday 2nd May

Caroline Wheeler and Sam Peters The Power of Investigative Journalism £13 | 3.30pm-4.30pm



In an age of soundbite journalism and 24-hour rolling news, never has it been more important to deep dive into stories and seek the truth - a fact made abundantly clear in the recent Post Office scandal. Caroline Wheeler was behind the *Newsnight* team that revealed the contaminated blood scandal - the worst in NHS history - and Sam Peters has investigated forensically for *The Mail on Sunday* the possible link between head injuries in sport and early onset dementia and brain damage.

Thursday 2nd May

Polly Toynbee An Uneasy Inheritance £15 I 5pm-6pm

> An Uneasy Inheritance

Thursday 2nd May

Alex Edmans May Contain Lies £13 I 6pm-7pm



Our lives are minefields of misinformation and stories; statistics and studies lie to us on a daily basis. But as Professor Alex Edmans reveals in his fascinating research into why our human biases affect the way we receive and interpret information, our brains lie to us too. He'll explain how we need to acknowledge and understand the role that our own human biases play in interpreting and digesting the information that we consume. Professor of Finance at London Business School, his TED talk *What to Trust in a Post-Truth World* has been viewed two million times. He has also spoken at Davos and Google.

In partnership with



rigidity of class in Britain.

The political commentator and Guardian

left-wing rabble-rousers who have railed

prosperous life of academia or journalism,

her family and her forebears were never

working class. She shares the story of

a fascinating family history set against

a backdrop that contains everyone from

the Glenconners to Jessica Mitford and

Bertrand Russell, and the ancestral home

Castle Howard, and talks about the myth

of mobility, the guilt of privilege, and the

iournalist comes from a long line of

against injustice. But coming from a

Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or online at stratlitfest.co.uk

Thursday 2nd May

The Booklovers' Wine Tasting The Wines to Drink with **Every Literary Genre** £30 | 7pm-8pm

Thursday 2nd May

Steve Richards **Bock 'n' Boll Politics** £14 | 7pm-8pm

Thursday 2nd May

Becky Holmes Online Romance Fraud £13 | 7.30pm-8.30pm

Friday 3rd May

Pen Voaler Stuffed: A History of Good Food and Hard Times in Britain £13 | 12pm-1pm



It is a truth universally acknowledged that a crisp white wine is absolutely the right thing to sip while reading a Jane Austen. But perhaps a dark pinot noir is perfectly matched to a scary domestic thriller, or a light rosé fizz for a rom com? But which one? James Richards of local wine merchants Vin Neuf selects the perfect wine to have in your glass with whatever genre of book takes your fancy. He'll guide you through six wines from across the world, with a short, sharp reading to accompany each tasting.

VIN NEUF



Based on his very successful podcast, the broadcaster. Radio 4 Week in Westminster presenter and author takes us on a behindthe-scenes tour of UK politics and the media machine that shapes the way we view epic political dramas. The future is ridiculously unpredictable and the past is so easy to misread. Thank goodness we've got an expert on hand.



Online romance fraud is a problem across the globe. It causes financial and emotional devastation, yet many people refuse to take it seriously. This is the story of one woman's determination to understand this growing phenomenon. Stratford's Becky Holmes is the creator of and voice behind the popular X (Twitter) account @deathtospinach. Having been on the receiving end of an annoying number of direct messages from online romance scammers, Becky started to enjoy wasting their time and then publicly 'outing' their accounts. No other woman has had so many online romances – from Keanu Reeves to Brad Pitt to Prince William.



From battles over farmland to whose responsibility it is to feed key workers. the author of the bestselling Scoff takes us on a hugely entertaining and enlightening iournev through the way we have viewed food over the centuries. She'll tell the stories of the food and drink at the centre of social upheavals from prehistory to the present, and the traditions, the ideas and the laws which have fed - or starved the nation, and why the British would give anything - even North America for a nice cup of tea.

Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or online at stratlitfest.co.uk 11

First Choice Nursing

An exceptional recruitment service tailored specifically for the healthcare sector.

2-4 Elm Court, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6PA 0330 133 0926

fcngroup.co.uk

PROUD TO SUPPORT



Friday 3rd May

Charles Spencer A Very Private School a Memoir £14 | 12pm-1pm



The public school system of the 60s and 70s has been much in the news of late. Based on his new book, *A Very Private School*, Lord Charles Spencer will offer a clear-eyed, firsthand account of a culture of cruelty at the school he attended in his youth. He'll be providing important insights into an antiquated boarding system, drawing on the memories of many of his schoolboy contemporaries, as well as his own letters and diaries from the time, reflecting candidly on the long-lasting impact of the experience on him and others.

Friday 3rd May

Tamara Harvey and Alice Farnham Smashing the Glass Ceiling £13 | 2pm-3pm



Whilst more and more women join the boards of FTSE companies, and have parity with men as actors and performers. they are still very much in the minority in senior positions in cultural life. We meet two women - a conductor and the new co-director at the RSC - as they talk about the challenges they have faced to get where they are, and the unique gualities they bring to their roles. Tamara became co-Artistic Director at the RSC with Daniel Evans in June last year. She was previously the Artistic Director of Theatr Clwyd. Alice is listed in Classic FM's Today's Ten Best Women Conductors and in the BBC Woman's Hour Music Power List.

Friday 3rd May

Michael Rosen Getting Better £14 | 2pm-3pm



MICHAEL ROSEN If Inners of 2 pring under and protect through II 32 GETTING BETTER

In our lives, terrible things may happen. Rosen, one of the UK's leading writers for children and presenter of *Word of Mouth* on BBC Radio 4, has grieved the loss of a child, lived with debilitating chronic illness, and faced death itself when seriously unwell in hospital from Covid. In spite of this he has survived, and has even learned to find joy in life in the aftermath of tragedy. He shares his story and the lessons he has learned along the way, asking how we can find it within ourselves to live well again after - or even during - the darkest times of our lives.

Friday 3rd May

Clare Mackintosh I Promise It Won't Always Hurt Like This £13 I 4pm-5pm



Clare Mackintosh I PROMISE IT WON'T ALWAYS HURT LIKE THIS

When the bestselling writer lost her fiveweek-old son, she searched for help in book, but discovered that there are no neat, labeled stages for grief, or crash grief-diets to relieve us of our pain. Grief is universal, but it's also as unique to each of us as the person we've lost. It can be overwhelming, exhausting, lonely, unreasonable, there when we least expect it and seemingly never-ending. She talks to writer Cathy Rentzenbrink, author of *A Manual for Heartach*e, about the 18 compassion assurances that helped her find the way forward.







HOW FITNESS SHOULD BE

JOIN US TODAY LETSDOFITNESS.COM

#jointhefamily #letsdofitness

Friday 3rd May

Marcus du Sautov Around the World in 80 Games £14 | 4pm-5pm

Where should you move first in Connect 4? What is the best property in Monopoly? How can pi help you win rock, paper scissors? For as long as there have been people, there have been games. and for nearly as long, we have been exploring and discovering mathematics. The highly engaging and award-winning mathematician explores the maths behind the games we love and why we love to play them, how games provided the first opportunities for deep mathematical insight into the world, how understanding maths can help us play games better, and how both maths and games are integral to human psychology and culture. A grand adventure!

Friday 3rd May

Ros Atkins The Art of Explanation £14 | 5.45pm-6.45pm

Friday 3rd May

John Bovne **Farth and Other Elements** £13 | 6pm-7pm

Friday 3rd May

Val McDermid Queen Macbeth-**Darkland Tales** £16 | 7.30pm-8.30pm



In the depths of 11th century Scotland, we meet Gruoch Ingen Boite, a granddaughter of the king, caught up in a web of vicious intrigue. Set against a dramatic highland backdrop, one of the country's most beloved and bestselling crime writers weaves a tale of marriage and multiple murders, showing how one strong, charismatic woman, shaped by hard times, was able to survive. Overturning Shakespeare's propaganda, she'll introduce a new Lady Macbeth, bringing a schemer in the shadows out into the light and exposing the patriarchal prejudices SPONSORED BY



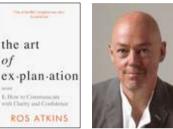
Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or online at stratlitfest.co.uk 15

of history.



Do you worry about holding people's attention during presentations? Are you unsure where to start when faced with writing an essay or report? Are you preparing for an interview or meeting and wondering how to get all your points across? The BBC presenter and journalist, creator of the viral Ros Atkins on ... explainer videos, is something of a master of communication. He'll share the secrets he has learned from years of working in high-pressure newsrooms, identifying the ten elements of a good explanation and the seven steps you need to take to express vourself with clarity and impact.

of



The author of the wildly successful The Bov in the Striped Pviamas brings us an inescapably gritty story about the tabloid sensation of the year: two well-known footballers standing in the dock, charged with sexual assault. Earth is one of four books in a series of short novels. John is the author of 15 novels for adults, six for younger readers, and a collection of short stories. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas has sold more than 11 million copies worldwide and has been adapted for cinema, theatre, ballet and opera. His many international bestsellers include The Heart's Invisible Furies and A Ladder to the Sky. and he's won a host of international literary prizes.

parth

JOHN BOYN

Saturday 4th May

Charlie Campbell, Susan Fletcher and Susanna Wadeson The Who's Who of Publishing £13 | 10.45am-11.45am

Saturday 4th May

Marianna Spring Among the Trolls: My Journey Through Conspiracyland £13 I 12pm-1pm

The world of publishing is a closed book to most readers and writers. So what magic goes on to bring a manuscript from the laptop to the bookshop shelves? Who does what, who talks to who and most importantly, what does it feel like for the writer? We welcome literary agent Charlie Campbell, the award-winning writer Susan Fletcher, and the highly experienced editor and Penguin Random House publishing director Susanna Wadeson to take you on the journey from writer to reader.



After becoming the BBC's first disinformation and social media correspondent in 2020, threats and abuse began to litter her social media feeds. Sometimes the people behind the messages even tried to find her in person - the price of venturing into the world of conspiracy theories. Marianna explores where the vitriol comes from, and what drives otherwise reasonable people to believe that almost everything, from the worst attacks and wars to global health crises and climate change, is a hoax designed to kill or control millions of us.

Saturday 4th May

David Nicholls

You

Here

David Nicholls You Are Here £15 I 12pm-1pm

Saturday 4th May

Patrick Grant Less - Redesigning the Fashion Industry £15 | 2pm-3pm



The 'Prince of Fashion', best known for his role as judge of the BBC's *The Great British Sewing Bee*, built his business from total obscurity to become a dresser of the stars, a friend of the King, and a leader in the fashion industry. He'll share his love for clothes but dislike of the way they're made, and everything wrong with the three trillion dollar fashion industry today that accounts for 10% of global carbon emissions, with UK consumers spending over £30 billion on clothing each year. And he'll share how

we can put it right.

SPONSORED BY



ragnell

The massively bestselling author of One

Dav brings us his latest novel - written

affecting love story finds two lost souls

thrown together on an epic walk back

home. When a persistent mutual friend

and some very English weather conspire to

bring them together, Marnie and Michael

suddenly find themselves alone on the

most epic of walks and on the precipice

of a new friendship. But can it survive

with his trademark wit and empathy. This

NATURE'S RARE JEWEI

the journey?

SPONSORED BY

Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or online at stratlitfest.co.uk

Saturday 4th May

Sarah Perry and Nicholas Hogg The Road to Enlightenment £13 | 2.15pm-3.15pm



Once a book is published, it can take on a life of its own which may be way beyond the expectations of its author. How does it travel from concept to what it finally becomes, and what did the author imagine at the start of the journey? Sarah Perry's debut *The Essex Serpent* was a massive bestseller adapted for screen. Her latest, *Enlightenment*, is tipped to be as successful. The award-winning writer and poet Nicholas Hogg's *Tokyo* is in production as a Ridley Scott directed film.

Saturday 4th May

Liam Byrne MP and Paul Lindley The Haves and Have Nots -The Inequality of Wealth £13 | 3pm-4pm



The gap between the rich and the rest of us has never been wider. The former Treasury Minister explains why wealth inequality has grown so fast in recent years, warns how it threatens our society, economy and politics and shows where economics has got it wrong. The founder of Ella's Kitchen offers the compelling case that we must nurture smart, strong and kind children to one day inherit the stewardship of society, and sets out big public policy ideas.

Saturday 4th May

Sam Carr and Bruce Hood Being Alone and Being Happy £13 | 4pm-5pm

The number of people living alone in the

Saturday 4th May

Mary Beard Emperor of Rome £16 I 4pm-5pm



In her international bestseller *SPQR*, the eminent historian and classicist told the thousand-year story of ancient Rome. Now she shines her spotlight on the emperors who ruled the Roman Empire, including the mad Caligula, the monster Nero, the philosopher Marcus Aurelius, and asks bigger questions: What power did emperors actually have? Was the Roman palace really so bloodstained? She'll go directly to the heart of Roman (and our own) fantasies about what it was to be Roman, offering a ground-breaking account of Roman history.

SPONSORED BY

DAVID HUNT lighting

ne former Treasury
ealth inequality has
ears, warns how it
onomy and politicsUK is 8.3 million, and the majority of these
households are women. Living alone,
or feeling lonely even when not alone,
is known to have a negative impact on
health and wellbeing. So how can we make
being alone a positive experience and
make sure it's good for us? Psychologist
Dr Sam Carr is the author of All the Lonely
People: Conversations on Loneliness and
world-leading psychologist and happiness
expert Professor Bruce Hood is the author
of The Science of Happiness:

TONIC

Seven Lessons for

Livina Well.

SPONSORED BY



Saturday 4th May

Richard Fisher The Long View £13 I 4.30pm-5.30pm

Relard Fisher The Long View White Veedoor Transform Bio the Ward Street Transform

The senior journalist for BBC Future brings us a fascinating exploration of the importance of long-term thinking. Modernday technology and capitalism, he argues. have supercharged our short-termist tendencies putting us at the mercy of reactive politics and 24-hour news cycles; when in the past projects took people a lifetime and writers dreamed of worlds thousands of years hence. He examines the psychological biases that discourage the long view, and talks about meeting the growing number of people from the worlds of philosophy, technology, science and the arts who are exploring smart ways to overcome them and widen our perception of time.

Saturday 4th May

James O'Brien How They Broke Britain £14 | 5.45pm-6.45pm



Are Britain's tough few years a result of Brexit and the impact of wars abroad or is there something more sinister at play? The award-winning broadcaster reveals the shady network of influence that has created a Britain of strikes, shortages and scandals, and maps the web connecting dark think tanks to No.10, the journalists involved in selling it to the public and the media bosses pushing their own agendas. O'Brien's has written for everyone from the *TLS* to the *Daily Mirror*, and his daily current affairs programme on LBC is the most popular talk show on commercial radio.

Saturday 4th May

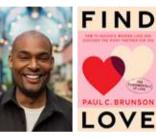
David Nicholls and James Hogg Adaptation and Ghost Writing £13 | 6pm-7pm



How does a writer take their work from a novel to the screen, or step into someone else's shoes to write their story in their own words? The novelist David Nicholls is a scriptwriter and screenwriter, and has adapted Shakespeare for screen and his own novels, including *Us* and *One Day*, for film. James Hogg is a ghost writer and biographer who has ghostwritten or collaborated on autobiographies for leading actors, including Timothy West, Richard Briers and Brian Blessed, and racing driver Damon Hill.

Saturday 4th May

Paul C Brunson Finding Love the Expert's Guide £14 | 7.30pm-8.30pm



Join world-renowned relationship expert and head of Global Insight at Tinder for a very special event as he introduces us to his brilliant guide to navigating modern love. Whatever your age, the dating landscape gives us lots of options but no clear pathway through to meaningful attachments. Relationships can often feel like a minefield and the path to love filled with challenges. Paul - the man behind Married at First Sight UK and Celebs Go Dating - will guide, advise and inspire so. whether you're single and looking for love or in a relationship and curious to see if your partner might be 'the one', join us for a candid evening packed with tips and insights.

SPONSORED BY



18

Sunday 5th May

Authors XI Cricket Match Authors v Stratford CC At Stratford Cricket Club £5 I 10am-1pm



One of the world's oldest wandering cricket teams, the Authors were an Edwardian cricket team and an offshoot of the Authors Club, founded in 1891, for writers to meet and talk. PG Wodehouse, Arthur Conan Doyle and JM Barrie were regulars in the side. Since being revived in 2012 they have played at various festivals as well as the Vatican and against the national teams of Iceland and Japan. Join the likes of Charlie Campbell, Nicholas Hogg, Tom Holland, Adam Rutherford and William Fiennes as they take on Stratford CC. (Their writing may be better than their batting...)

Sunday 5th May

Richard Rogan Coffee and the Crossword Free I 10am-11am



Whether you can rattle off the cryptic crossword in ten minutes flat or you're a crossword virgin and don't know an anagram from a chestnut, come and meet *The Times* Crossword editor who's been challenging crossworders for nearly ten years. Richard will show you how he devises a crossword, and how to read a clue. As well as editing the cryptic crosswords and vetting clues from other compilers, he contributes several of his own puzzles each month. It is generally agreed that these tend to be among the harder ones!

Sunday 5th May

Daisy Goodwin Diva - the Imagined Life of Maria Callas £13 | 11am-12pm



The bestselling author brings to life the extraordinary story of Maria Callas in an evocative slice of historical fiction, reimagining the tumultuous and extraordinary experiences of the divine Greek soprano. A screenwriter, TV producer and novelist, Daisy is the creator of the ITV/ PBS show *Victoria*, has written four novels including *My Last Duchess*, all of which have been *New York Times* bestsellers. She has created and produced shows like *Grand Designs* and *Escape to the Country*.

Sunday 5th May

Daniel Finkelstein Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad £15 | 12pm-1pm



The journalist and commentator shares his deeply moving and at times horrifying memoir of his parents' experiences at the hands of the two genocidal dictators of the 20th century - a story of persecution and survival, and the consequences of totalitarianism told with the unimaginable bravery of two ordinary families shining through. Lord Finkelstein is a former executive editor of *The Times* and remains a weekly political columnist. He is a former chairman of Policy Exchange and is chair of the think tank Onward.



words and Ideas



BOOK ONLINE warwickartscentre.co.uk BOOK BY PHONE 024 7649 6000

f warwick arts centre X @warwickarts ⊠ warwickarts Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL



Sunday 5th May

Richard Schoch and Tiffany Stern Shakespeare - A Window onto his Life and Legacy £13 | 1pm - 2pm



Shakespeare's Birthplace remains one of the most visited sites in the UK despite not writing any of his plays there, and there being nothing inside that once belonged to the man himself. So why, for centuries, have people kept turning up on the doorstep? Richard Schoch examines how its changing fortunes over four centuries perfectly mirror the changing attitudes toward Shakespeare himself. Tiffany Stern, Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama at the Shakespeare Institute, will share her thoughts on how what we now know about Shakespeare's life will change how his work is edited and taught.

SPONSORED BY



Sunday 5th May

Oliver Soden Masquerade: The Lives of Noel Coward £13 | 1.15pm-2.15pm



Noel Coward wrote some 50 plays and nine musicals, as well as revues, screenplays, short stories, poetry and a novel. He was both composer and lyricist for approximately 675 songs and at one point was the most highly paid author in the world. There is rarely a week when one of *Private Lives, Hay Fever* and *Blithe Spirit* is not in production somewhere in the world. His biographer talks about this extraordinarily talented man on the 125th anniversary of his birth. 'There are things you can learn from Noel Coward that you won't learn from

Shakespeare.' T.S. Eliot

DAVID HUNT lighting

Sunday 5th May

Will Hutton This Time No Mistakes: How To Remake Britain £14 I 1.45pm-2.45pm



The Observer columnist and president of the Academy of Social Sciences sets out a clear analysis of where both the left and right have made mistakes over the course of the last century, and how we can rebuild a better Britain. He'll explain why both Thatcher and Blair got it wrong, how the parallel growth of New Liberalism and ethical socialism in the late 19th century - killed off in WWI - was the great opportunity of modern British history, and how we can make it work in the 21st century.

Sunday 5th May

Jennie Godfrey and Flora Carr Ones to Watch -Debut Authors' Event £5 1 2.30pm-3.30pm



Publisher Hutchinson Heinemann brings us two of their leading debuts for 2024. Jennie Godfrey is the author of *The List of Suspicious Things* set in 1979 Yorkshire and described by Elizabeth Day as 'A heartwarming tale about the power of human connection, written with empathy, warmth and care'. Flora Carr's debut *The Tower* is a reimagining of Mary Queen of Scots' darkest hour, when she was held hostage in a remote Scottish castle with a handful of loyal women while plotting a daring escape to reclaim her country and her freedom. She is a previous winner of the British *Vogue* Talent Contest.





luxury in the heart of England

With vast landscaped grounds, adorned with 85 bedrooms including 7 apartments, sweeping staircases and inviting log fires, The Welcombe Hotel truly has the wow factor with its abundance of history and character, located just one mile from Stratford-upon-Avon town centre.

For those who enjoy keeping active, there's an 18-hole par 70 championship golf course, acres of picture-perfect landscaped gardens, as well as a gym and an indoor swimming pool. Or if you are looking for relaxation, enjoy the state-of-the-art spa which includes a sauna, steam room and six blissful treatment rooms.

We've proudly partnered with Stratford Literary Festival to offer a **15% discount** on your stay when you book directly with us.



Scan the QR code, call 01789 295252 or email reservations@thewelcombehotel.co.uk to book your stay today.

www.thewelcombehotel.co.uk

Sunday 5th May

Anna Murphy Destination Fabulous £13 I 3pm-4pm

Sunday 5th May

AL Kennedy and Anthony McGowan Authors and Sex £13 | 4pm-5pm

Sunday 5th May

Jojo Moyes Someone Else's Shoes £13 | 4.15pm-5.15pm

Sunday 5th May

Alistair McGowan and Charlotte Page Sincerely Noel -A Celebration of Noel Coward £18 | 7pm-8.15pm



The Fashion Director of The Times brings a wise, inspiring and invigorating guide to making the most of life as a grownup woman, from the practical (how to dress your best) to the existential (how to feel your best). She'll inspire you to say goodbye to what doesn't serve you and welcome what does, and will talk about forging relationships that work for you as well as others and about finding your purpose, whether in your personal or professional life. 'An encouraging and exhilarating celebration of ageing. Full of life-wisdom for mind, body and spirit.' Victoria Hislop SPONSORED BY





If you didn't know the writer, would you be able to tell their gender from the way a book is written? Can a man write as woman convincingly and why do authors still go by their initials? Come and join our (very unscientific) experiment to see if you can guess an author's gender from their writing, and meet two authors who'll talk about how they write, why women for centuries have had to change their names, and why Harry Potter could only ever be a boy. AL Kennedy is the Costa Prize winning author. Anthony McGowan writes for adults and children (as a man and a woman) and won the CILIP Carnegie Medal.



We welcome the hugely successful and popular author whose latest book. Someone Else's Shoes, was a No.1 Sunday Times bestseller. She'll be sharing its story about Sam and Nisha: two women living very different lives. But when their paths cross, causing each a world of trouble. Jojo Moyes' books include the huge bestseller Me Before You which sold over 14 million copies worldwide and was adapted into a major film starring Sam Claflin and Emilia Clarke, Others include After You and Still Me. The Girl You Left Behind. The Giver of Stars and her short story collection Paris for One and Other Stories. Her novels have been translated into 46 languages, have hit the No.1 spot in 12 countries and have sold over 38 million copies worldwide.



We round off the Festival with a celebration in words and music of the brilliant Noel Coward on the 125th anniversary of his birth, with a delightful feast of his plays and writing, and the content of letters to him from some of the most famous actors of the last 100 years. Join Alistair McGowan - the BAFTA-winning comedy actor, writer, singer and impressionist; his wife Charlotte Page, a singer and actress; and **Lana Bode**, whose recital career has taken her to several major festivals such

as Aldeburgh and Kings Place.

in partnership with





THE ARDEN HOTEL BAR · BRASSERIE · TERRACE

20% OFF LUNCH & DINNER

(excluding pre-theatre and other combined offers) Valid until 30th November 2024

BOOK ONLINE OR CALL US ON 01789 298682

JOIN OUR LOYALTY SCHEME

Chapel Ln, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BA | THEARDENHOTELSTRATFORD.COM

Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th May 2024

Marie Corelli Centenary Celebrations

The University of Birmingham and the Stratford Society are marking 100 years since the death of author Marie Corelli. The bestselling Victorian novelist outsold Charles Dickens, HG Wells and Wilkie Collins combined. She also took a close interest in the town's architectural heritage and was responsible for saving and restoring a number of Stratford's historic buildings including Harvard House.

Saturday 4th May

Join us in Corelli's former home for an evening of lively discussion and insight, with Professor Kirsten MacLeod, Reader in Modernist Print Culture at

Newcastle University, who will speak about Corelli's early 20th century magazine publications, after which there will be a discussion.

Sunday 5th May

Events include a further talk, a staged reading, and an exhibition.

For details including related events in April and May, visit: **stratfordsociety.co.uk**/

N.B. Tickets for this cannot be booked via the Festival.

Generously funded by



Image courtesy of Shakespeare Birthplace Trust



Wednesday 1st May

WRITING WORKSHOP Cat Weatherill Is This a Dagger? £26 | 11am-1pm



Storyteller and workshop leader Cat Weatherill leads this exclusive workshop to produce a piece of creative writing or poem inspired by the Royal Shakespeare Company's props collection. Choose from one of the props Cat has selected and see what creative thinking it inspires.

In association with



Thursday 2nd May

WRITING WORKSHOP Simon Mason Plotting a Story £45 I 10am-12pm



Perfect for writers beginning to give shape to their stories or needing support with structure. led by the novelist and nonfiction author with a broad background in the publishing industry and now fellow of creative writing at Oxford Brookes University. Simon will help you create a structure to your writing, guiding you through the story arc and how to keep readers engaged. He is the author of three novels of black comedy for adults, The Great English Nude, which won a Betty Trask Award and Moon Pie, which was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, Simon's recent crime novels include A Killing in November and Loast and Not Found.

Friday 3rd May

WRITING WORKSHOP: Cathy Rentzenbrink Why Do I Want To Write and How Do I Start? £45 | 10am-12pm



Join the leading writer in an interactive workshop/event talking about where to start with your writing - whatever your genre. Author of both fiction (Evervone is Still Alive) and non-fiction (A Manual for Heartache. The Last Act of Love). she tutors creative writing all over the country and has written Dear Reader, about the comfort and joy of books, and Write it All Down, a beautiful, inspiring meditation on working with words and why we do it, filled with encouragement and practical tips for anyone who wants to write. Come along if you are writing and need encouragement, or want to write and don't know where to start.

Friday 3rd May

WORKSHOP: Paper Art Jennifer Collier 10am-12.30pm: Plant Pots 2pm-4.30pm Watering Cans £25



After last year's sell out workshops, the hugely talented artist (featured in January's *Country Living* magazine) returns to show you how to create everlasting paper art that you can enjoy all year round, from found and recycled papers and botanical illustrations. Jennifer will demonstrate every step of the process, from constructing your piece to selecting which illustration to use and how to embellish it with hand stitch. All materials and equipment are provided but you may wish to bring your own special papers, books, maps, botanical illustrations and ephemera to personalise your work.

Saturday 4th May

WORKSHOP Christina Strang Hidden Faces in Handwriting: Discover What It Reveals £25 1 9.30am-11.30am



Delve into the intriguing world of graphology with the renowned graphologist. Her extraordinary expertise lies in the decoding of human behaviour and personality through the lens of handwriting - an art and a science, that fascinates and enlightens. Christina will show you how the psychological analysis of handwriting can give insights into attitude, motivations and relationships of people.

Saturday 4th May

Charlie Campbell, Susan Fletcher and Susanna Wadeson The Who's Who of Publishing £13 | 10.45am-11.45am



The world of publishing is a closed book to most readers and writers. So what magic goes on to bring a manuscript from the laptop to the bookshop shelves? Who does what, who talks to who and most importantly, what does it feel like for the writer? We welcome literary agent Charlie Campbell, the award-winning writer Susan Fletcher, and the highly experienced editor and Penguin Random House publishing director Susanna Wadeson to take you on the journey from writer to reader.

Numbers are limited so book early!

All events take place at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bridge Foot, Stratford CV37 6YR

Waterstones

Signed copies by authors and illustrators attending the Festival will be available to buy at our Pop-Up Shop at The Crowne Plaza Hotel.







Saturday 4th May

Michael Rosen The Big Dreaming and Other Stories £9 | 10am-11am | 5-7yrs

Join us for an event with the beloved British children's author, poet, presenter, broadcaster and activist, as he delights you with the magic and humour of

some of his most popular picture books including *The Big Dreaming*, *I Am Wriggly*, *Not-so-Little Red Riding Hood*.

SPONSORED BY

SHAKESPEARE

Events for Families

Saturday 4th May

Bear Hunt Workshop Help Create a Sculpture and Your Own Puppets to Take Home

£8 | 11.30am-2.30pm | 5-7yrs

Drop in and get messy with Creative Workshops for Children UK. Decorate a bear(hunt)-tastic sculpture with artist Felicity Shillingford or take away your very own creation with a Make and Take inspired by Michael Rosen's classic story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt!*

Sessions are bookable in 30-minute slots.



Sunday 5th May

Neill Cameron Mega Robo Bros £8 | 10am-11am | 7-11yrs



A brilliant interactive workshop with Neill, Phoenix comic supremo and creator of the graphic novel series *Mega Robo Bros*. In this fun-filled hour, Neill will introduce you to his latest epic robot book *Mega Robo Bros: Nemesis* and show you how to generate awesome ideas for your own comics, how to turn those ideas into a fully fledged story and how to make your stories come alive with incredible artwork.

Sunday 5th May

The Brothers McLeod Comic Creation Workshop £8 | 11.30am-12.30pm | 7-10yrs

Meet the BAFTA award-winning brothers, Myles and Greg, as they introduce you to the wonderful world of Knight Sir Louis, the bravest knight there ever was. This fun, interactive event is the perfect opportunity for any comic book fans to come and learn how to create their own characters and embark on an adventure of their very own.







Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada 100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café £8 | 11.30am-12.30pm | 11-14yrs

Julian and Chie invite you to step into the Tokyo Ghost Café, weaving prose and manga together to re-tell classic

ghost stories from Japan. Along the way, they'll share their personal encounters with the other world, and the story of their collaboration and research on the tsunami recovery coastline to create their Carnegie

short-listed book *Tsunami Girl*. From spirit cats to celebrity ghosts, from Tokyo to Mount Fear in the Far North of Japan, the event concludes with a live drawing and reading, as Julian and Chie conjure their own take on a classic yōkai monster.



Please note: Adults are also expected to buy a ticket to events.

24/25 SEASON INCLUDES

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH WISE CHILDREN THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA RASED ON THE NOVEL BY HANIE KUREISHI

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY EMMA RICE, WITH HANIF KUREISHI

ENGLISH BY SANAZ TOOSSI TRANSFERS TO KILN THEATRE, LONDON

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH GOOD CHANCE **KYOTO** BY JOE MURPHY AND JOE ROBERTSON

BOOK NOW rsc.org.uk

2024/25

New Work at the RSC is generously supported by Hawthornden Foundation and The Drue and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust The Holloway Garden Theatre is generously supported by Charles Holloway

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL BY RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

PERICLES BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE SPONSORED BY DARWIN ESCAPES

AS YOU LIKE IT BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

UZHHOROD THEATRE COMPANY KING LEAR BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

NORTHERN BALLET ROMEO & JULIET MUSIC BY SERGEI PROKOFIEV





Festival Extras Things to enjoy between events!



Local Authors' Table

Browse and buy the work of brilliant local authors Open every day of the Festival from 10am-7pm (10am-4pm Sun)



Blind Date with a Book

Take pot luck with a plain wrapped book and an intriguing blurb to entice you! **£5** a book and all proceeds to the Festival's outreach work.



Get it out of your system and decorate our graffiti wall with a witty first line or famous author quote.



Handwriting Analysis

Sat 4th May

Festival Reception £10

Drop in on graphology expert Christina Strang who'll be holding a ten-minute one-to-one handwriting clinic

Warwickshire's only official Silentnight Sleep Centre



3 Maybrook Road, Stratford On Avon, CV37 0BT Tel: 01789 297111



"For over 120 years, the *TLS* has been the pre-eminent literary and cultural weekly, offering authoritative criticism and debate – funny, challenging, stimulating and provocative!"

- MARY BEARD, TLS CLASSICS EDITOR



The Limes

BOUTIQUE HOTEL IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



The Stratford Limes Hotel 41 Main Street Tiddington CV37 7AS

01789 267693 Email: sales@stratfordlimeshotel.com www.stratfordlimeshotel.com

TIM COX Associates

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Specialists in all aspects of commercial property sales, lettings, acquisitions & general development & investment

As Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, I am delighted to support an event about the voluntary sector on Wed 1st May at 2pm.

www.lordlieutenantofwarwickshire.co.uk

www.timcox.co.uk

37A Guild Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6QY 01789 269444

Events for Schools

We have some brilliant events for schools during the Literary Festival in May.

Authors either come into your school or you can bring your classes to the exciting environment of the Festival's stage at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Festival is subsiding these events and offering them as part of its charitable outreach commitment to support a love of reading in young people.

Our work in Schools is supported by SHAKESPEARE MARTINEAU

Wednesday 1st May

Joseph Coelho Ten Word Tiny Tales Crowne Plaza I 1.45pm-2.45pm I KS2

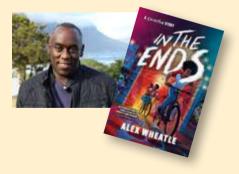
Join Waterstones' Children's Laureate for an event sparkling with imagination inspired by his creative writing book *Ten Word Tiny Tales.* Discover how fantastical adventures can start with just the smallest of starts - ten words - and, with the help of this master storyteller, children will have the confidence to take on their very own creative challenges and perhaps, even become masterful storytellers themselves!



Wednesday 1st May

Alex Wheatle The Crongton Series In School | Afternoon event | KS3

The award-winning writer brings you the latest in his Crongton series. Things have been quiet in South Crongton. It's been an age since anyone last spotted Manjaro, South Crong's most notorious warlord. But there have been murmurs that something is coming. Alex is the author of several acclaimed novels, many of them inspired by experiences from his childhood. He has been shortlisted for numerous awards and won the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Award and was awarded an MBE for services to literature in 2008.



All events: flat fee of 200 + VAT per school

To book your school, email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Friday 3rd May

Sarah Coyle Pick a Story Crowne Plaza I 10am-11am I KS1

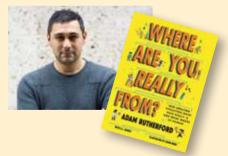
What makes a good story? You decide! Zara is enjoying a day at the beach when she realises to her horror that beloved Old Ted has disappeared. Zara needs him back, and she needs your help to find him. Has he been taken by Monster? Or pinched by a princess? Or snapped up by a shark? In this highly interactive event with *Pick a Story* author Sarah Coyle, you'll choose the direction the story takes every step of the way, journeying between three different worlds – and who knows where you'll end up!



Friday 3rd May

Adam Rutherford Where Are You Really From? In School I Afternoon event I KS2

The geneticist and author of *A Brief History* of *Everyone Who Ever Lived* dives down into millions of years of human history with a hugely entertaining and informative guide to race, humanity and how we are all ultimately related to each other. He'll dismantle common myths of who we really are - what race is, where we come from, and what it means to be human. Mind-boggling and illuminating, this is the epic story of you and everyone who has ever lived!



Friday 3rd May

Anthony McGowan Dogs of the Deadlands In School | Afternoon event | KS2

Anthony won the 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medal for his beautiful novel *Lark* - the fourth installment in his quartet of novellas and a spellbinding tale of two brothers caught in a blizzard on the North Yorkshire Moors. He has written books for all ages and will be talking about how he sources and tells stories, and how you can create stories too.



Julia Donaldson, Festival Outreach Patron

We are delighted that the UK's bestselling author has become Patron of our work in schools, the community and prisons.

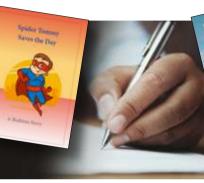
Festival in the Community



Books with Friends

We run three free sessions on the last Thursday of the month in the centre of Stratford at which members share their thoughts on a book they've all read over a cup of coffee. We especially welcome people who find themselves a bit isolated for whatever reason. If you would like to join the group, please email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk





Prison Workshops

Since 2017, we've been running workshops in prisons across the country with the children's authors Hollie Hughes and Smriti Prasadam-Halls, teaching prisoners to write a bedtime story for their children, which we then professionally produce for them. The aim of the workshops is to reduce the trauma for the child of having a parent in prison, and to discourage reoffending. Find out more here: stratlitfest.co.uk/prisons

Our outreach programme is supported by:

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust The Seccombe Trust Stratford Town Trust The Allen Lane Trust Friends of the Festival and private benefactors



Become a Friend

lichae

Cintyr

We rely on your support for our extensive education and outreach programme and, by becoming a Festival Friend or Benefactor, you will be supporting our literature and reading projects.

Membership Benefits:

Priority booking
News and offers from the Festival
Invitations to events

Friends Membership:

£35 - priority booking of two tickets per event

Benefactor Membership:

£100 per person - including two complimentary tickets and priority booking

Please email info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk for more information.

YOUR TICKETS

When you book by phone, tickets will be posted or emailed to you as eTickets. When you book online you will be emailed eTickets. These will come from Ticketsource, not from the Festival, so please check your spam.

You can either print out your tickets to show our Stewards or show us on your phone.

Can't find your ticket? eTickets (print at home) can be re-sent to you by our ticketing agent, TicketSource, by going to **ticketsource.co.uk/** help#contact-eo and completing the form under the heading Lost your eTicket?

For lost mobile or postal tickets, please email **support@ticketsource.co.uk** with your details. TicketSource will re-send the tickets.

During the Festival week in May, please go to the Ticket Desk in the Foyer of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and we will be pleased to assist.

Tickets for events that still have availability can be bought from our Box Office desk in the Foyer of the Crowne Plaza Hotel up to ten minutes prior to an event starting. We can accept card or cash.



STAYING OVER

We are in partnership with the following hotels:

Arden Hotel, Waterside CV37 6HN Crowne Plaza, Bridge Foot CV37 6YR The Limes Tiddington CV37 7AS Welcombe Hotel, Warwick Road CV37 0NR

PARKING

There is free parking at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, but you must register your car at Reception or you will incur a fine. The Festival cannot be responsible for any fines incurred.

N.B. There are scheduled road closures on the Warwick Road this spring. Please allow enough time for your journey.



ACCESSIBILITY

All venues have step-free access, and toilets that are accessible to wheelchair users and those with mobility challenges.

Tickets are available for those attendees who are disabled or use a wheelchair and include a companion ticket.

If you have sight or hearing impairment, please email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk and we will endeavour to seat you close to the stage.

We use microphone at all events except workshops.

Your Visit



We want to make it as enjoyable as possible

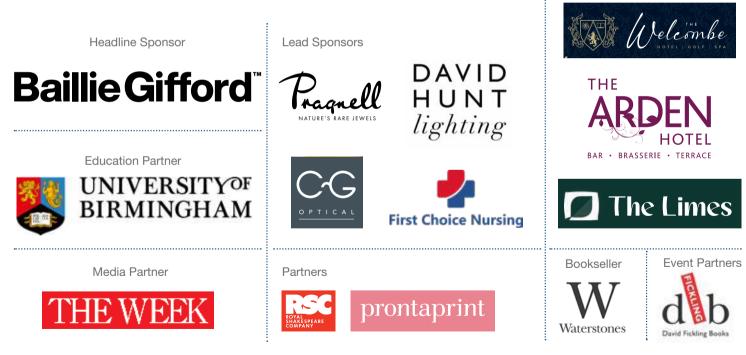
FESTIVALGOERS' SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Show your ticket for an event that day and you'll receive 10% off food and drinks at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



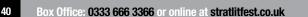
Our Sponsors and Supporters

The Festival would like to thank the following for their sponsorship and support.



Hotel Partners







Festival Benefactors

Jay Bhayani Christopher Bolt Pippa and Robert Brook Tim and Veronica Davies Peter Deeley Jenny Farrell Nigel and Anne de Gay Sandie Guine Kathy and Tim Hampden Will and Gillian Hanrahan Sue James Sarah Jones Archie and Diana Kane Elizabeth Keighley Sally Lovecy Maria Manly Sue Murphy Joanna Painter

Janet Palmer Madeleine Parker Carol Pratt Jeremy Rodway-Smith Mark Rowland Robert Salt Lorraine and Stuart Scrivens Janet Smith Tina Stokes

Richard Suthons Claire Taylor

If you would like to become a Festival Friend or Benefactor and support our outreach work, please go to stratlitfest.co.uk or email fo@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Terms and Conditions

Most events take place at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bridge Foot CV37 6YR, but please check your ticket and website before you travel.

- All events take place in the venue printed on your ticket. You will be contacted by email in advance of an event if the venue changes.
- >> Unless an event is cancelled e.g. because the speaker is ill or becomes unavailable, tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged. All tickets include VAT. All details and prices are as advertised, but may be liable to change.
- Tickets are sold though an external box office. Ticket sales online finish shortly before an event starts. To book tickets by phone please call 0333 666 3366. Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am-7pm (excluding bank holidays). All tickets booked by phone or online incur a booking fee. This fee is for the costs of running the external box office and is not revenue for the Festival. Tickets can be purchased on the door during the Festival, subject to availability. Tickets sent out in the post will cost an additional £2.50. Customers can add their tickets to their Apple or Google wallet.
- Books are available to purchase after each event at the pop-up Waterstones bookshop and, if relevant, authors will sign copies of their book after each event. We request that you do not bring copies of books not purchased at the event for signing.
- Some events may be filmed and we have a photographer at the Festival taking pictures for marketing purposes. By buying a ticket you are giving your consent to being filmed or photographed. Please let a senior member of the Festival team know if you do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Parents/guardians will be consulted before any images of children are taken.
- The Crowne Plaza Hotel has step-free access and accessible toilets. If you require assistance with access or seating at a venue or have other special requirements, please notify us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk in advance so that we can assist you.
- >> We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers or workshop tutors if circumstances dictate. Please check the website or follow us on X @Stratlitfest for programme change alerts.

- If a headline speaker has to withdraw, and no suitable alternative speaker is available pursuant to previous clause, then tickets will be refunded by our external Box Office Ticketsource. This may take a few days to show on your statement. Booking fees and other charges will not be included in the refund.
- >> All seats are unreserved. All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated and doors open half an hour before the start time.
- Adults are expected to buy a ticket for Family Events unless the programme states otherwise. All children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The Festival takes no responsibility for unaccompanied children. Children under 2 and babes in arms do not need a ticket.
- >>> We give guidance on the suitable age range for a Family Event but this is guidance only and parents or guardians should make their own judgement. All opinions expressed by speakers attending the Festival are theirs.
- » No animals of any kind except assistance dogs are allowed into any Festival venues or events.
- The Festival will not tolerate any abuse of our staff or volunteers. Any issues should be addressed to the Festival Director at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk.
- >> 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; the sponsorship team at Baillie Gifford and Co; Mike Nicholas at Shock the Senses; all the staff at Waterstones Stratford and the Crowne Plaza Hotel; our chairpersons; and of course our Friends and Benefactors, audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

Festival Patron: Maggie O'Farrell

Festival Outreach Patron: Julia Donaldson

Festival Trustees: Annie Ashworth, 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), Kate Abbey (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 (PR), Truly Content (Regional PR) Ellie Waters (Box Office Manager)

Festival Photographer: Rupert Barnes

Festival Faces Photographer: Lorentz Gullachsen

Production: ProSound & Light

Stratford Literary Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1164662

Derek Bardowell Clare Clark Tim Hubbard John Jefferies Fiona Lindsay Cathy Rentzenbrink Adam Rutherford Meg Sanders Deirdre Shields Emma Smith Julia Wheeler

Our Interviewers:

prontaprint

BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS Print services and solutions.

From short run digital printing to large format and lithographic print.

However, we are not just about printing these days - you might be surprised about what we can offer you - have a look at our website to find out more.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

 ⑦ 01789 204272
 ⊠ sales@prontaprintsua.com
 printers.prontaprint.com





🕜 @ThisisProntaprint 💼 linkedin.com/company/thisisprontaprint

Design | Print | Finish | Display | Promotional items | Direct Mail



Providing all the accountancy support and advice you need. Choose from our wide range of services including personal tax, accounts preparation, corporation tax, audit, payroll, VAT and book-keeping



cooper adams chartered accountants

We are delighted to support the Festival Cooper Adams Ltd, 12 Payton Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6UA Tel 01789 205916 Fax 01789 295615

www.cooperadams.co.uk



At a Glance

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Thur 18th April	7pm	General Knowledge Quiz Night	
Wed 1 st May	12pm-1pm	Peter Kemp	0
Wed 1 st May	2pm-3pm	Derek Bardowell and Andrew Day	0
Wed 1 st May	3.30pm-4.30pm	Michael Wood	
Wed 1 st May	3.30pm-4.30pm	Rosemary Salomone	
Wed 1 st May	5pm-6pm	Susan Fletcher and Samuel Burr	
Wed 1 st May	5pm-6pm	Alex Wheatle MBE	
Wed 1 st May	6.30pm-7.30pm	David Troughton	
Wed 1 st May	7pm-8.30pm	Local Author Showcase	
Thur 2 nd May	10am-11am	Duncan Minshull	
Thur 2 nd May	12pm-1pm	Rachel de Thame	
Thur 2 nd May	2pm-3pm	Virginia Nicholson and Jill Burke	
Thur 2 nd May	2pm-3pm	Alan Johnson and Simon Mason	
Thur 2 nd May	3.30pm-4.30pm	Caroline Wheeler and Sam Peters	
Thur 2 nd May	5pm-6pm	Polly Toynbee	
Thur 2 nd May	6pm-7pm	Alex Edmans	
Thur 2 nd May	7pm-8pm	The Booklovers' Wine Tasting	
Thur 2 nd May	7pm-8pm	Steve Richards	
Thur 2 nd May	7.30pm-8.30pm	Becky Holmes	Ο
Fri 3 rd May	12pm-1pm	Pen Vogler	
Fri 3 rd May	12pm-1pm	Lord Charles Spencer	
Fri 3 rd May	2pm-3pm	Tamara Harvey and Alice Farnham	
Fri 3 rd May	2pm-3pm	Michael Rosen	
Fri 3 rd May	4pm-5pm	Clare Mackintosh	
Fri 3rd May	4pm-5pm	Marcus du Sautoy	
Fri 3 rd May	5.45pm-6.45pm	Ros Atkins	

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Fri 3rd May	6pm-7pm	John Boyne	
Fri 3 rd May	7.30pm-8.30pm	Val McDermid	
Sat 4 th May	10.45am-11.45am	Charlie Campbell, Susan Fletcher and Susanna Wadeson	0
Sat 4™ May	12pm-1pm	Marianna Spring	
Sat 4™ May	12pm-1pm	David Nicholls	
Sat 4 th May	2pm-3pm	Patrick Grant	
Sat 4 th May	2.15pm-3.15pm	Sarah Perry and Nicholas Hogg	
Sat 4 th May	3pm-4pm	Liam Byrne MP and Paul Lindley	
Sat 4 th May	4pm-5pm	Sam Carr and Bruce Hood	
Sat 4 [™] May	4pm-5pm	Mary Beard	
Sat 4 th May	4.30pm-5.30pm	Richard Fisher	
Sat 4 th May	5.45pm-6.45pm	James O'Brien	
Sat 4 [™] May	6pm-7pm	David Nicholls and James Hogg	
Sat 4 [™] May	7.30pm-8.30pm	Paul C Brunson	
Sun 5 th May	10am-1pm	Authors XI Cricket Match	
Sun 5 th May	10am-11am	Richard Rogan	
Sun 5 th May	11am-12pm	Daisy Goodwin	
Sun 5 th May	12pm-1pm	Daniel Finkelstein	
Sun 5 th May	1pm-2pm	Richard Schoch and Tiffany Stern	
Sun 5 th May	1.15pm-2.15pm	Oliver Soden	
Sun 5 th May	1.45pm-2.45pm	Will Hutton	
Sun 5 th May	2.30pm-3.30pm	Jennie Godfrey and Flora Carr	
Sun 5 th May	3pm-4pm	Anna Murphy	
Sun 5 th May	4pm-5pm	AL Kennedy and Anthony McGowar	
Sun 5 th May	4.15pm-5.15pm	Jojo Moyes	
Sun 5 th May	7pm-8.15pm	Alistair McGowan and Charlotte Pag	e 🗆

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Workshops			
Wed 1 st May	11am-1pm	WRITING WORKSHOP: Cat Weather	ill 🖸
Thur 2 nd May	10am-12pm	WRITING WORKSHOP: Simon Maso	n 🗆
Fri 3 rd May	10am-12pm	WRITING WORKSHOP: Cathy Rentzenbrink	0
Fri 3 rd May	10am-12.30pm	WORKSHOP: Jennifer Collier	
Fri 3 rd May	2pm-4.30pm	WORKSHOP: Jennifer Collier	
Sat 4 th May	9.30am-11.30am	WORKSHOP: Christina Strang	
Sat 4 th May	10.45am-11.45am	Charlie Campbell, Susan Fletcher and Susanna Wadeson	

Events for Families					
Sat 4 th May	10am-11am	Michael Rosen			
Sat 4 th May	11.30am-2.30pm	Bear Hunt Workshop			
Sun 5 th May	10am-11am	Neill Cameron			
Sun 5 th May	11.30am-12.30pm	The Brothers McLeod			
Sun 5 th May	11.30am-12.30pm	Julian Sedgwick and Chie Ku	tsuwada 🗆		

SPECIAL OFFER FOR STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

Try 6 free issues & get a welcome gift



When it comes to the news, do you ever feel like you're only seeing one side of the story?

The Week magazine does the hard work for you, stitching together fact and opinion from **over 200 trusted sources** including The Guardian, The New York Times and The Economist.

All it takes is an hour to enjoy **a balanced view of the past seven days**, along with the best entertainment, art, books and more.

Visit: theweek.co.uk/offer or call: 0330 333 9494

T&Cs: UK only, Direct Debit offer. Calls charged at your standard network rate. 6 issues free then £45.99 every 13 issues for a print subscription, 29% off the shop price. Your subscription is protected by our Money-Back Guarantee. Cancel anytime and we will refund on any unmailed issues. Allow 28 days for gift delivery. Gift not available with digital-only subscriptions.





RARE JEWELS AND STORIES



The Art Deco period is reknown for statement pieces that showcase bold geometric designs. Bracelets were particularly important during this era as new fashions exposed the wrists and arms at increasingly popular glamorous evening events.