

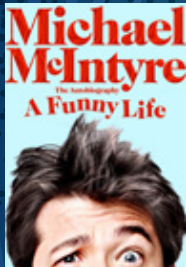
WINTER WEEKEND

9th to 14th November 2021



Stratford
Literary
Festival

stratlitfest.co.uk



Jack Dee
Michael McIntyre
Robert Harris

Susie Dent
Jane Garvey
Lucy Mangan

Ed Balls
Tom Heap
Greg Jenner

Alan Johnson
John Barnes
Robin Ince

Dame Eileen Atkins
Peter Stanford
AND MANY MORE...

Events for Families:

Greg James, Teddy Keen, David Melling, Jackie Morris, Mr Men and **lots more!**

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Actual Investors



Craig Brown, winner of the 2020
Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.
Issue 42



Actual Investors

AWARDED

Our free and award-winning investment trust magazine brings you writing on the ideas that shape our world. Read thought-provoking articles from our investment managers, academics and global thinkers, alongside exclusive interviews with distinguished authors.

For more information, you can access the current issue from the festival website.



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WIN

subscribe to *Trust* for your chance to win a copy of each book on the 2021 Baillie Gifford Prize longlist along with a case of award-winning wine.

bailliegifford.com/stratford

Welcome to the 2021 Winter Weekend

We are very excited to bring you our Winter Weekend which – fingers crossed – will be at last live and in person. We are working hard to make sure that we can bring you the same excitement that comes hand in hand with our events, but in an atmosphere that ensures the safety of our team and our audiences. We hope that this winter's short offering will be sweet, inspiring and entertaining and that you'll join us to celebrate being back together again.

As ever we would like to thank our Friends, sponsors and supporters for keeping the faith and being by our side as we've worked through the recent challenging times to bring you great writers and fascinating topics.

Annie Ashworth | Festival Director

How to Book:

By phone: 0333 666 3366

(Open Mon to Fri, 9am to 5.30pm. Sat, 9am to 5pm)




Online: ticketsource.co.uk/stratford-literary-festival

All ticket prices include VAT and incur a booking fee when booked by phone or online.

Student concessions are available on booking.

Stratford Literary Festival is a Registered Charity. No.: 1164662

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This programme is printed on Forest Stewardship Council accredited paper.



COVID-SAFE LIVE EVENTS

All live events will take place with strict adherence to the latest Government Covid-19 guidelines. Please see our website for further information.

Should restrictions dictate that we cannot hold events live, events may only be available digitally. Any tickets booked for live events that are cancelled will be refunded.



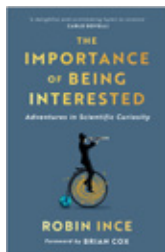
For the latest news and any programme changes, go to **stratlitfest.co.uk**

Headline Sponsor



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Box Office: **0333 666 3366** or online at ticketsource.co.uk/stratford-literary-festival | stratlitfest.co.uk



Robin Ince

**The Importance of Being Interested –
Adventures in Scientific Curiosity**
3.30-4.30pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

Comedian Robin Ince, co-presenter of Radio 4's *Infinite Monkey Cage* with Brian Cox, quickly abandoned science at school, bored by a fog of dull lessons and intimidated by the barrage of equations. But, twenty years later, he fell in love with the subject and he now presents one of the world's most popular science podcasts, meeting hundreds of the world's greatest thinkers every year. In his erudite and witty style, he'll reveal why scientific wonder isn't just for the professionals, and explore why many wrongly think of the discipline as distant and difficult. From the glorious appeal of the stars above to why scientific curiosity can encourage much needed humility, he'll leave you filled with a thirst for intellectual adventure.

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Alan Johnson

The Last Train to Gipsy Hill
7.30-8.30pm | £14 |
Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

We welcome back the former Labour Home Secretary and award-winning memoirist who has now turned his considerable writing skills to fiction. His debut novel is a gripping slice of contemporary espionage. A dull commuter called Gary Nelson sees a beautiful woman on a train who, whilst applying her makeup in the carriage, holds up her mirror and Gary reads the words 'Help me'. Life will never be dull again.

W

Waterstones

Signed copies
by authors
and illustrators
attending the
Festival will be
available to
buy at each event
and at the High
Street branch.



Zoë Playdon The Hidden Case of Ewan Forbes

5-6pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

The activist and academic Zoë Playdon shines a light on the landmark case of Ewan Forbes. Born to a wealthy landowning family in 1912 and assigned female, Forbes went on to live as a man and even to correct the gender on his birth certificate in order to marry. Zoë will share details of the extraordinary court case that took place when, in 1965, Forbes' older brother died and his cousin contested Ewan's inheritance on the grounds that it could only be inherited by a male heir. Join us to discover this fascinating hidden history that uncovers for the first time records that were considered so threatening that they were removed from view for decades.

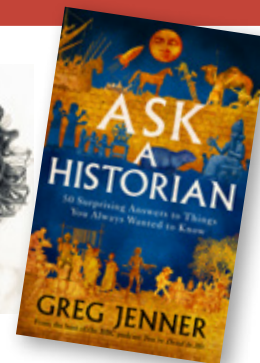


Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen The Library – A Fragile History

5-6pm | £12 | Bear Pit Theatre

Famed across the world, jealously guarded by private collectors, built up over centuries, destroyed in a single day, ornamented with gold leaf and frescoes, or filled with bean bags and children's drawings – the history of the library is rich, varied and stuffed full of incident. In this, the first major history of its kind, leading and award-winning experts Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen explore the contested and dramatic history of the library, from the famous collections of the ancient world to the embattled public resources we cherish today.

'A sweeping, absorbing history, of that extraordinary and enduring phenomenon: the library' Richard Ovenden, author of *Burning the Books*



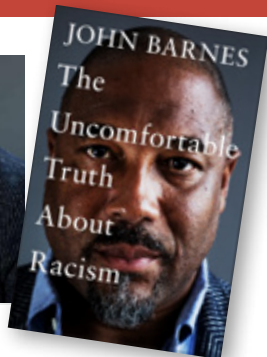
Greg Jenner Ask a Historian

7-8pm | £14 | United Reformed Church

Why is Italy called Italy? How old is curry? Who was the richest person of all time? Author, BBC podcaster, and public historian Greg will whisk you off on an entertaining tour through the ages, revealing the best and most surprising stories, facts, and historical characters from the past. He'll bounce through a wide range of subjects – from ancient joke books, African empires, and bizarre tales of medicinal cannibalism, to the invention of meringues, mirrors, and menstrual pads. Greg Jenner is best known for the hit BBC podcasts *You're Dead to Me* and *Homeschool History*, his work on BBC's multi-award winning TV series *Horrible Histories*, and for his books *Dead Famous* and *A Million Years In A Day*.

Thursday 11th November

Friday 12th November



John Barnes

The Uncomfortable Truth About Racism

8-9pm | £14 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

Born in Jamaica in 1963, John Barnes moved to the UK with his family in 1975. Six years later he was a professional footballer, distinguishing himself for Watford, Liverpool and England, and in the process becoming this country's most prominent black player. Now a pundit and social commentator, he tackles head-on the issues surrounding prejudice with his trademark intelligence and authority. By vividly evoking his personal experiences, and holding a mirror to this country's past, present and future, Barnes provides a powerful and moving testimony, and advances the global conversation around society's – and the beautiful game's – ongoing battle with the awful stain of prejudice.



Ursula Jeakins

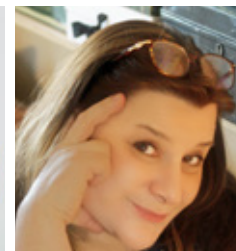
Workshop – Making Christmas Boxes

10am-12pm and 2-4pm | £20 | Bear Pit Theatre

We welcome back the very talented artist and book maker as she shows you how to create beautiful boxes for Christmas presents that are a gift in themselves.

No experience necessary – you'll create a box in the session and take away a skill for life.

Numbers strictly limited.
Price includes materials.



Lucy Mangan and Georgie Hall

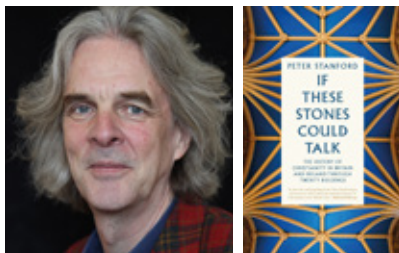
Family Life, Hey?

4-5pm | £14 | Bear Pit Theatre

The Guardian's TV critic, Lucy Mangan, and best-selling local author Georgie Hall (AKA Fiona Walker) tell it like it is as they share the inspiration – well, family life really – behind their respective novels *Are We Having Fun Yet?* and *Woman of a Certain Rage*. Laugh with wry recognition as they share the horror stories around children, pets, husbands – oh, and the menopause. Any of that sound familiar? Caitlin Moran on Lucy's debut: 'Utterly, utterly perfect and brilliant – I think it is, simply, a new classic, and the book every woman will be able to trust to make her happy when she picks it up.'

Talking to
Jane Garvey





Peter Stanford

If These Stones Could Talk

4-5pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

The author of *Angels: A History* journeys through England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland to churches, abbeys, chapels and cathedrals, grand and humble, ruined and thriving, ancient and modern, to chronicle how Christianity went from its beginnings in the Middle East to its defining role in our past and present. In exploring the stories of these buildings that are still so much a part of the landscape, the details of their design, the treasured objects that are housed within them, the people who once stood in their pulpits and those who sat in their pews, he builds century by century the narrative of what Christianity has meant to the nations of the British Isles, how it is reflected in the relationship between rulers and ruled, and the sense it gives about who we are and how we live with each other.



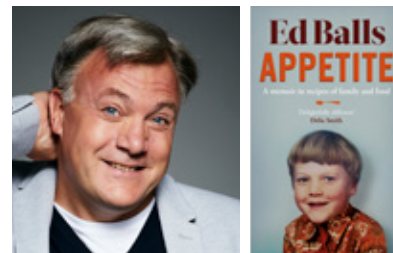
Michael McIntyre

A Funny Life

6-7pm | £30 inc book |
Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

Michael is probably the best known comic in the UK, and his stand-up events have broken sales records. In an exclusive event, he'll be lifting the lid on the next installment of his memoirs that begin the night after his big break at the 2006 Royal Variety Performance. He'll honestly and hilariously share the highs and the lows of his rise to the top and desperate attempts to stay there - from his disastrous panel show appearances to his hit TV shows, from mistakenly thinking he'd be a good chat show host and talent judge, to finding fame and fortune beyond his wildest dreams and becoming one of the biggest-selling comedians in the world.

Talking to Jane Garvey



Ed Balls

Appetite

8-9pm | £15 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

The former Shadow Chancellor, political pundit, *Best Celebrity Home Cook* and *Strictly* legend serves up a deliciously enjoyable and heart-warming blend of memoir and recipe guide, perfect for evoking the comfort food of days gone by. From his first meal – puréed roast beef and Yorkshire pudding – Ed Balls has loved food, and he shares this life-long passion in his book, *Appetite* – part autobiography, part cookbook – and let us all join him at the table as he discovers that the world around us may change, but great recipes last a lifetime.

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Victoria Finlay

Fabric

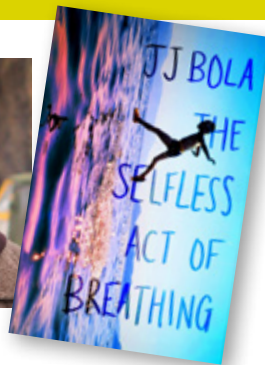
12-1pm | £12 | Town Hall

From our earliest ancestors to babies born today, fabric is a necessary part of our everyday lives, but it's also an opportunity for creativity, symbolism, culture and connection. Travelling across the world and bringing history to life, bestselling author Victoria Finlay investigates how and why people have made and used cloth. From Welsh women who would sew their own funeral clothes over tea with friends, to bark beaten to cloth in Papua New Guinea, she combines science, history, tradition and art in a captivating exploration of how we live, work, craft and care. Victoria is the critically acclaimed author of *Colour – Travels Through the Paintbox* and the former arts editor of the *South China Morning Post*.

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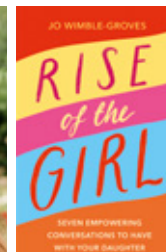


JJ Bola

The Selfless Act of Breathing

2-3pm | £12 | Bear Pit Theatre

The highly-acclaimed writer talks about his latest heart-wrenching novel that tackles important issues such as mental health, police brutality and the power of love. A story of millennial existential angst, it is told through the eyes of a young Londoner who seems to have it all but battles with the unbearable weight of a world that is complicated and unwelcoming. JJ Bola is a writer, poet and UNHCR Ambassador. His poetry was read out in the House of Commons during Refugee week in 2018, and as a former refugee, he was invited to the Davos Economic Forum 2018. His debut novel, *No Place to Call Home*, was published in 2017, while *Mask Off: Masculinity Redefined* was published in 2019 and translated into five more languages worldwide. Bola's 'vulnerable delicate writing conveys so much truth and heart about how we are now, how closed we are, how much goes unsaid and the quiet pain in our hearts' – Nikeshe Shukla.



Jo Wimble-Groves

Raising Girls

2-3pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

Modern life for girls is a challenge – they face a world that judges by social media and gives confusing signals about empowerment, that leaves them little time to grow up at their own pace. The successful entrepreneur, blogger and mum identifies the seven most common issues holding girls back from reaching their full potential – including poor self-esteem, peer pressure and fear of failure, and will help you to help the girls in your life to become confident, resilient young women who are not afraid to aim high, work hard and bounce back. Jo's *Guilty Mother* blog focusses on parenting, work-life balance, and how we instil resilience into our kids – and has over 50 thousand followers on social media. Jo has been named as one of Management Today's 35 under 35 in The *Sunday Times*.

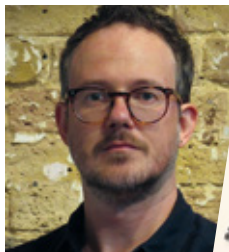
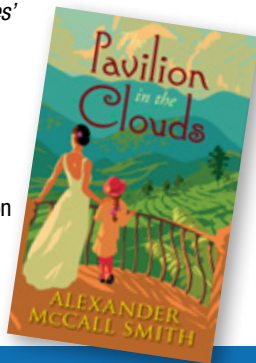


Alexander McCall Smith The Joy and Light Bus Company

2.30-3.30pm | £14 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium,
Play House

Mma Ramotswe knows she is very lucky indeed. She has a loving family, good friends and a thriving business doing what she enjoys most: helping people. But the latest mystery she is called upon to solve is distinctly trickier than it initially appears, and, of course, there's plenty to handle in her personal life... We welcome the prolific and multi-million best-selling author of the much loved *No. 1 Ladies'*

Detective Agency as he unveils the latest adventures of the indomitable Botswanan detective, and shares with us his new stand alone novel set in Ceylon in the final days of the Empire.



David Rooney About Time

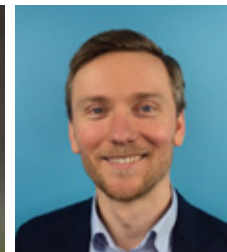
4.30-5.30pm | £12 | Town Hall

Since the dawn of civilisation, we have kept time and our lives are ruled by it. From the city sundials of ancient Rome to the era of the smartwatch, clocks have been used throughout history to wield power, make money, govern citizens and keep control. The historian and former curator of timekeeping at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich tells the story of timekeeping, and how it continues to shape our modern world. From medieval water clocks to monumental sundials, and from coastal time signals to satellites in earth's orbit, he'll explain the fascinating story of how clocks have helped us navigate the world, build empires and even taken us to the brink of destruction. 'An utterly dazzling book, the best piece of history I have read for a long time' – Jerry Brotton, author of *A History of the World in Twelve Maps*.

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Rachel Clarke and Torsten Bell Brave New (Post Covid) World?

4.45-5.45pm | £12 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium,
Play House

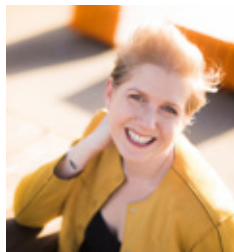
The world has shared the experience of a global pandemic and barely anyone's life has remained untouched. As we adjust to what may be a new normal for the foreseeable future and recalibrate how we perceive our lives, we ask what impact Covid has on our psyche, the world economy and our future. Rachel Clarke, a former journalist, is a palliative care doctor and the author of *Dear Life* and *Breathtaking: the UK's Human Story of Covid*. Torsten Bell is Chief Executive of the Resolution Foundation with a background in

economic policy. He was Director of Policy for the Labour Party and worked as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers during the financial crisis.



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Clare Mackintosh and Mark Billingham Writing the Edge of Your Seat

4-5pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

We welcome two internationally best-selling thriller writers as they compare notes on their latest books, how they create high pressure scenarios for their characters, and how they react under them. Clare Mackintosh is a *Sunday Times* best-selling writer who has sold over two million copies; her latest, *Hostage*, is described as 'hypnotically good' by Lee Child. Mark Billingham's hugely successful novels include the Tom Thorne series, adapted for TV with David Morrissey in the lead role, as well as several best-selling stand-alone books. His latest thriller, *Rabbit Hole*, is set in a psychiatric hospital.



Jack Dee What is Your Problem?

7.30-8.30pm | £15 / £30 inc Book |
Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

Jack Dee, comedy's little ray of sleet, grapples with life's major dilemmas and is here to help you. Too often today the emphasis in psychotherapy is on providing clients with a metaphorical hug when what they so clearly need is a good slap, so he's taken the matter into his own hands and whilst everyone else was baking bread and clearing out their cupboards during lockdown, he retrained in a gruelling four hour online course and is now a psychotherapist. He'll share his new found expertise on issues as varied as relationships, finances, nosey neighbours, and coping with Christmas. Jack has won three British Comedy Awards and is, of course, the chair of Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

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Susie Dent Word Perfect: Etymological Entertainment for Every Day of the Year

2-3pm | £12 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

Welcome to a year of wonder with Susie Dent, lexicographer, logophile, and longtime queen of Countdown's Dictionary Corner. From the real Jack the Lad to the theatrically literal story behind stealing someone's thunder, from tattle (forgetting someone's name at the very moment you need it) to snaccident (the unintentional eating of an entire packet of biscuits), she'll bring us a linguistic almanac full of unforgettable stories, fascinating facts, and surprising etymologies tied to every day of the year. 'Susie Dent is a one-off. She breathes life and fun into words and language' – Pam Ayres. 'Susie Dent is a national treasure' – Richard Osman



Annabel Abbs
Windswept: Walking in the
Footsteps of Remarkable Women
 2-3pm | £12 | Town Hall

We welcome the award-winning journalist, novelist and non-fiction writer whose debut, *The Joyce Girl*, won the 2015 Impress Prize for New Writing and the 2015 Spotlight First Novel Award. She'll be telling the extraordinary stories of eight women who walked long distances in wild and often remote places as they sought their own voices, and exploring what they discovered along the way; women including Simone de Beauvoir, Nan Shepherd, Georgia O'Keeffe, Gwen John and Daphne du Maurier. Annabel's other books include *Frieda: The Original Lady Chatterley*, and *The Age-Well Project*, co-written with TV producer, Susan Saunders,

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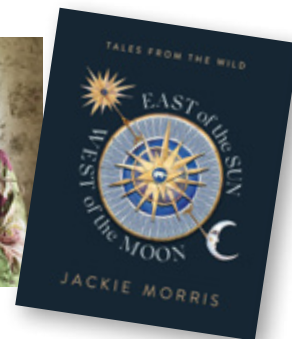


and based on their acclaimed blog agewellproject.com, longlisted for the 2018 UK Blog Awards.



Irving Finkel
Ghosts: Most Ancient of Legacies
 3-4pm | £12 | United Reform Church

There are few things more in common across cultures than the belief in ghosts. They inhabit something of the very essence of what it is to be human. Whether we personally 'believe' or not, we are all aware of ghosts and the rich mythologies and rituals surrounding them. They have inspired, fascinated and frightened us for centuries – and their origins are much, much older... The world-renowned authority on cuneiform, the form of writing on clay tablets which dates back to 3400BC, Irving Finkel has embarked upon an ancient ghost hunt, scouring these tablets to unlock the secrets of the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians to breathe new life into the first ghost stories ever written. A fascinating speaker, he'll ask what are ghosts, why does the idea of them remain so powerful despite the lack of concrete evidence, and what do they tell us about being human?



Jackie Morris
East of the Sun, West of the Moon
 4-5pm | £8 | Town Hall

The writer and artist, best known as the illustrator of the phenomenal *The Lost Words*, brings us a beautiful, mysterious story of love, loyalty and above all, freedom, magically retold and illustrated in a captivating picture book. The story tells of an extraordinary journey between a girl and a bear to the homes of the four winds and beyond, to the castle east of the sun, west of the moon. Jackie Morris' books include *The Ice Bear*, *The Snow Leopard*, *Tell Me a Dragon*, and she illustrated *How the Whale Became* by Ted Hughes. She will be talking to John Mitchinson from Unbound who helped to found the television panel game show, *QI*, and has co-written all their books. He was Waterstones' first marketing director and has held many senior publishing roles.



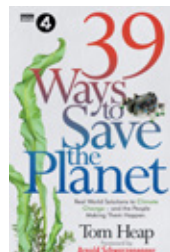
Dame Eileen Atkins

Will She Do? Act One of a Life on Stage

4-5pm | £14 | Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

We welcome the leading screen and stage actress, who cut her teeth at the RSC, as she recounts her story as the girl from a council estate in Tottenham who went on to receive an Emmy, a BAFTA and three Olivier Awards. In her characteristically candid and witty style, she'll be talking with *Guardian* theatre critic Michael Billington about her awkward performances in working-men's clubs at six years of age to the first of four Tony Award nominations, her co-creation of *Upstairs, Downstairs*, and her screenplay for *Mrs Dalloway* (for which she won an Evening Standard Award). Her theatre performances include *The Height of the Storm*, *Ellen Terry*, and *All That Fall* and she has appeared in television and films ranging from *Doc Martin* to *Cranford* to *The Crown*.

Talking to Michael Billington

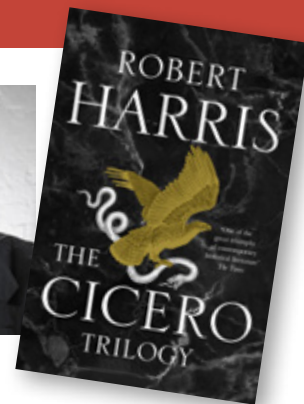


Tom Heap

39 Ways to Save the Planet: Real World Solutions to Climate Change

5-6pm | £12 | United Reformed Church

The presenter and creator of the BBC Radio 4 podcast *39 Ways to Save the Planet* reveals some of the real-world solutions to climate change that are happening around the world, right now. From tiny rice seeds and fossil-fuel-free steel to grazing elk and carbon-capturing seagrass meadows, he'll share the energy and optimism in those tackling the fundamental problem of our age. It's a fascinating exploration of our attempt to build a better future, one solution at a time. With his roadmap to global action on climate change, he will encourage you to add your own solutions to the list. Tom also hosts BBC Radio 4's regular environment series *Costing the Earth*.



Robert Harris

History, Politics and Other Fictions

6.30-7.30pm | £14 |

Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House

Robert Harris one of the UK's best known and most celebrated writers. His prolific backlist includes *The Cicero Trilogy* (available for the first time in one volume), *Fatherland*, *Enigma*, *Pompeii*, *The Ghost*, *The Fear Index*, *An Officer and a Spy*, *Munich*, *The Second Sleep* and *V2*. Several of his books have been filmed and *Munich* is soon to be released starring Jeremy Irons with a theatrical release scheduled for 2022 and then on Netflix. *The Fear Index* will be on Sky starring Josh Hartnett. His work has been translated into forty languages. He'll be talking about how and why he writes, and the research behind the books that have brought him such phenomenal worldwide success.

'[*The Cicero Trilogy* is one] of the great triumphs of contemporary historical literature.' - *The Times*

The Small Print

- » All events will comply with prevailing Covid-19 guidelines. Please go to our website at stratlitfest.co.uk for the most up to date information.
- » Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged. All tickets include VAT. All tickets booked by phone or online incur a booking fee. Should a ticket be refunded because of an unavoidable cancellation, the booking fee cannot be returned. Tickets are sold though an external box office and tickets will not be available on the door. All seating is unreserved.
- » Accessibility: All venues can accommodate wheelchairs and those with mobility issues though the Town Hall is accessible via a lift. Venues have accessible toilets and the Play House has step free access and a hearing loop. Please contact us if you have particular needs or require a seat close to the stage due to hearing or sight impairment.
- » 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. 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. **Please check our website at stratlitfest.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @Stratlitfest for programme change alerts.**
- » All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated. Books are available to buy at each event but, for Covid-19 reasons, in some cases authors may not be signing copies. Pre-signed book plates may be available. Books featured at the festival and those signed at earlier events will be on sale at Waterstones, 8 High Street.
- » Some events may be filmed or recorded for viewing online. 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 featured.
- » All details and prices are correct at time of going to press.
- » Please check our website before you travel for any last-minute changes.

Thank yous

We would like to thank the following for their help and support: all the wonderful authors and illustrators who come to the Festival; the publishers who have worked with us; all who steward and volunteer for the Festival; Michelle McLeod and Juliet Moffat at Baillie Gifford and Co; Mike Nicholas at Shock the Senses; all at The Week; all the Staff at Waterstones Stratford; all the staff at our venues; our chairpersons; and of course our Friends and Benefactors, audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

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Stratford Literary Festival is a registered charity No. 1164662

Festival Trustees: Annie Ashworth, David Fletcher, Suzanne James, Archie Kane, and Hannah Warner

Venue Addresses: Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LU
 Bear Pit Theatre, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LU
 United Reformed Church, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LU
 Town Hall, 1 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF

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Saturday 13th November

EVENTS FOR FAMILIES



Alice in Wonderland Drop in Workshop 4-10yrs

Drop in between 10-11am
| FREE | Play House

Join us for some fun craft to celebrate this much loved children's story. Meet the March Hare, the White Rabbit and the horrible Queen of Hearts!



Kristina Stephenson The Museum of Marvellous Things 4-7 yrs

12-1pm | £6 | Bear Pit Theatre

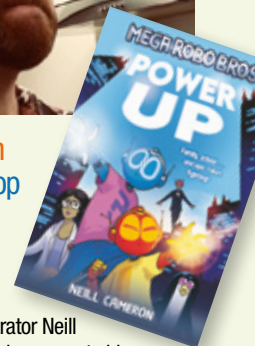
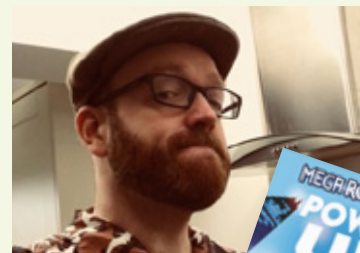
Welcome to the Museum of Marvellous Things where the impossible can happen. Make stars in jars, catch moons like balloons, dance with Doo-Dahs in cages and sing with Noo-Nahs on stage. Because this is a museum like no other – it's made from the magic of imagination – your imagination and you get to bring it alive. With puppets, songs, movement and craft, this is an interactive, fun-filled family event with bestselling author and illustrator Kristina Stephenson to launch her new picture book. Meet the main characters Norbert Norris and Tilly T. Pott as they show you round this extraordinary museum.



Greg James and Chris Smith The Great Dream Robbery 8-12yrs

2.30-3.30pm | £6 | Town Hall

Come and meet the hilarious authors of the *Kid Normal* series to hear about their brand new children's book! Featuring a hospital heist, some banana-loving llamas and a talking cat called Bin Bag, *The Great Dream Robbery* is one mind-bending adventure you won't want to wake up from. Join Greg and Chris for an event packed full of laughter and imagination!



Neill Cameron Comic Workshop 8-14yrs

4-5pm | £10 |
Bear Pit Theatre

Join writer and illustrator Neill Cameron as he introduces you to his character Freddy, the star of *Freddy VS School*, *Freddy and the New Kid* and the graphic novel series *Mega Robo Bros*. Learn all about Freddy's awesome adventures in the future, and then help Neill as he creates a brand-new Freddy comic on the spot, with your ideas! Witness Freddy VS... giant monsters? Zombie chickens? A BIG PIE? Only you can decide!





David Melling
Ruffles 3-6yrs

10-10.45am | £6 | Bear Pit Theatre

Join author and illustrator David Melling for a fantastic draw-along event! Learn how to draw the brilliant Ruffles and learn all about this brand-new series and all the things that Ruffles likes... and the things he doesn't!

Mr Men/Little Miss
Drop In Workshop 3-10yrs

Drop in between 11am-12.30pm
FREE | Play House

We're celebrating 50 years of Roger Hargreaves' wonderful little characters who have been enjoyed by so many children over the years. There's a Mr Man or Little Miss for everyone! Come and colour and create your own Mr Men and Little Miss world.



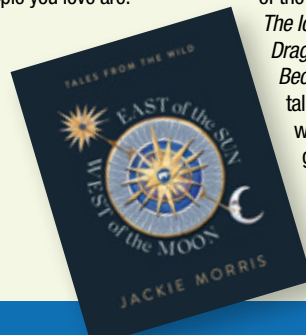
Teddy Keen
Journey to the Lost River 7-12yrs
12-1pm | £6 | Bear Pit Theatre

For fans of *The Lost Book of Adventure*, prepare yourselves as Teddy takes you on a thrilling journey deep into the Amazon rainforest in the footsteps of the Unknown Adventurer. Hear the incredible story behind the new book, learn practical survival skills, and experience the wonders and perils of the mighty Amazon rainforest from Teddy's own expeditions there.



Petr Horáček
Mister Boo and the Best Place in the World 4-7yrs
2-2.45pm | £6 | Bear Pit Theatre

Join the award-winning illustrator and author for a storytelling and live drawing event for little ones, bringing to life some of his best-loved characters from *Elephant*, *Silly Suzy Goose*, *Puffin Peter*, *Blue Penguin* and his latest book, *The Best Place in the World*, a delightful picture book for these times that follows Hare as he discovers that the best place in the world is always where the people you love are.



Jackie Morris
East of the Sun, West of the Moon 7 to adult
4-5pm | £8 | Town Hall

The writer and artist, best known as the illustrator of the phenomenal *The Lost Words*, brings us a beautiful, mysterious story of love, loyalty and above all, freedom, magically retold and illustrated in a captivating picture book. The story tells of an extraordinary journey between a girl and a bear to the homes of the four Winds and beyond, to the castle east of the sun, west of the moon. Jackie Morris' books include *The Ice Bear*, *The Snow Leopard*, *Tell Me a Dragon*, and she illustrated *How the Whale Became* by Ted Hughes. She will be talking to John Mitchinson from Unbound who helped to found the television panel game show, *QI*, and has co-written all their books. He was Waterstones' first marketing director and has held many senior publishing roles.



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