



**BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
LITERARY FESTIVAL**

CELEBRATING BOOKS BY THE SEA

**Wednesday 17th
- Sunday 21st
September 2025**



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Welcome From the Festival Team

We're delighted to be back for five fabulous festival days bringing you the *very* best acclaimed authors, expert thinkers, fresh new voices, familiar faces and local talent.

Inspirational speakers and writers include **Alan Davies, Tracy Borman, Larry Lamb, Mark Kermode, Tiggy Walker, Arifa Akbar, Al Murray, Gabriel Gatehouse, Helen Lederer** and **Robin Ince**.

A key theme for this year is Hidden Stories - intriguing conversations shining a light on subjects and people as diverse as The Beatles, the night-time, Gauguin, the future for our oceans, the women behind well-known myths and the small boats crisis.

We're celebrating a wide range of anniversaries from Adele Parks' 25 Books in 25 Years, 200 years of modern train travel, Jane Austen at 250 and Powderham Castle, 700 years young! Can we find a big enough birthday cake?

There's plenty of FREE and low-cost Family Fun with our Mini Marquee Myths and Legends themed activities (page 26). You can also be part of the Fairy Tales Musical Mash-Up with author **Gareth P Jones** and try your hand at writing, illustrating and singing with our workshops.

We have some exciting new additions for 2025:

- **The Writer's Hub**, a dedicated space for South West and local writers, hosted by **Word Kitchen** (pg 11 for full details).
- *A List of Suspicious Things* is our Festival Read for 2025. Author **Jennie Godfrey** has also guest curated a strand within our fiction offering - inviting some of her favourite debut and established writers including **Nussaibah Younis, Chris Chibnall, Jessica Stanley, Nikki May** and **Joanna Miller**.
- **Writing Workshops with Arvon**. Arvon is the UK's leading creative writing charity, offering a diverse range of courses and events taught by acclaimed authors. Its 16th-century writing house, Totleigh Barton, is in Devon.
- Delicious festival platters, festival supper, Sunday lunch and other tempting options with new partners, **Pickleshack**.

Come and enjoy entertaining or thought-provoking sessions in beautiful venues, enjoy catching up with friends over coffee and book-browsing in our Festival Marquee, or simply take a moment to write, read and reflect by the sea.

Cover Artist: Brenda Mary Thomas

✗ @budleighlitfest 📷 @budlitfest 📺 Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival





FRANCESCA BEAMAN

Persephone Books

where: **Temple Church**

time: **10am**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Mary Morris

Why are the covers grey? Why the goddess Persephone? How do they choose which books to bring back to life?

Persephone Books published its first title in the spring of 1999 and has been shining a light on 'lost' or out-of-print books every year since, most of them interwar novels by women. We're thrilled to be joined by **Francesca Beaman**, Persephone MD, to talk about the themes that unite these books, our enduring fascination with Dorothy Whipple and the recent publication of a 'forgotten literary masterpiece', *Crooked Cross* by Sally Carson.

'The nearest thing British publishing has to a cult' **Observer**



Workshop



WRITING WITH ARVON

MAZ EVANS

How to Plot the Perfect Murder

where: **Masonic Hall**

time: **10am-12pm**

ticket: **£30**

Join bestselling author **Maz Evans** (*That'll Teach Her*) as she guides you through the twisted art of plotting the perfect murder—from motive and means to red herrings and shocking twists.

Best known for her sharp wit and masterful storytelling, Maz has recently turned her talents to the world of crime writing with critical acclaim and she'll share what she wishes she'd been told when plotting her first novel.

You'll gain practical tools to build tension, develop unforgettable characters, and keep readers on the edge of their seats. Come ready to brainstorm, laugh, and maybe get away with literary murder... all in the name of fiction.

No experience necessary—just curiosity and imagination!

This event is kindly sponsored by Michael & Valerie Jackaman



700 YEARS BESIDE THE SEASIDE

The Courtenay family at Powderham

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **12pm**

ticket: **£12**

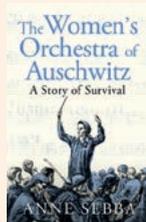
Talking to Tim Hubbard

We're delighted to welcome **Charlie Courtenay**, Earl of Devon to the opening day of the festival as 2025 sees Powderham Castle mark its 700th anniversary.

He'll share personal reflections and historical insights into the castle's extraordinary journey - from its medieval foundations to its role in the modern world.

Discover the people, events and stories that have shaped Powderham across the centuries, and gain a rare glimpse into life behind the scenes of one of Devon's most iconic landmarks. A unique chance to learn more about the legacy and future of a living piece of local history.

This event has kindly been sponsored by Bernard Hadley in memory of Lady Paulina Hadley



ANNE SEBBA

The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz

where: **Temple Church**

time: **12pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Jo Durrant

Anne Sebba returns to Budleigh to present an extraordinary and never before told account of the only entire female orchestra in any Nazi prison camp. Anne has drawn on meticulous research and first-hand accounts from women including the orchestra's main conductor, niece of Gustav Mahler, Alma Rosé, and Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, its teenage cellist and last surviving member.

Her talk will also consider the tangled moral questions the orchestra raises. What role could music play in a death camp? And what was the effect on those women?

'Superb and timely' Kate Mosse



TRACY BORMAN

The Stolen Crown

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **2pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Julia Wheeler

March 1603. Queen Elizabeth I lies dying at Richmond Palace. Almost with her last breath she whispers that James VI of Scotland should succeed her, setting in play a smooth transition from Tudor to Stuart rule.

But what if she didn't say anything at all?

Join renowned author and Chief Historic Royal Palaces Historian **Tracy Borman** as she questions the truth of this story. Through a combination of rigorous research and captivating story-telling, *The Stolen Crown* tells the untold story of the lie that ended the Tudor era and changed the course of British history.

'A powerful tale... compelling and brilliant'

Alison Weir



PAULA BYRNE

The Summer Jane Austen Fell in Love

where: **Public Hall**

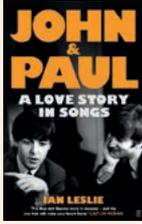
time: **4pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Jane Austen wrote some of the greatest love stories in existence, but did she ever fall in love herself?

Paula Byrne's vivid historical novel gives voice to the most romantic summer of the author's life. *Six Weeks by the Sea* is set over the summer of 1801 in Sidmouth, Devon, where the Austen family are holidaying in the fashionable Georgian seaside resort. Over the course of the summer, Jane meets two men, interactions that bring about unexpected results, and set her on a brand new path.



IAN LESLIE

A New Beatles Story

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **4pm**

ticket: **£12**

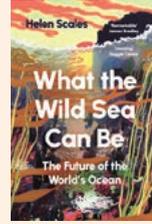
Talking to Tim Hubbard

Is there anything else to uncover about one of the most famous bands in the world?

In this startlingly fresh take on a Beatles biography, bestselling author **Ian Leslie** delves into one of the greatest songwriting partnerships of all time: John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs reframes the pair's relationship through the music they made, and shows how their turbulent journey shaped the sound of a generation.

'The first new Beatles story in decades - and the one that will make your heart burst'
Caitlin Moran



HELEN SCALES

What the Wild Sea Can Be

where: **Temple Church**

time: **4pm**

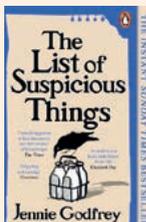
ticket: **£12**

Talking to Jo Durrant

Dive into the world's oceans with marine biologist, author, broadcaster and aptly named **Dr Helen Scales** as she shares innovative ideas to protect our coastlines and their inhabitants.

Shortlisted for the 2025 *Women's Prize for Non-Fiction*, *What the Wild Sea Can Be* draws on over twenty years of exploring and studying the ocean. It is a book as optimistic as it is pressing; a love song to the ocean, and an urgent call to fight for a better future before it's too late.

'Paints a dazzling picture of our seas... rich and fascinating' **Keggie Carew**



FESTIVAL READ: JENNIE GODFREY The List of Suspicious Things

where: **Public Hall**
time: **6pm**
ticket: **£10 inc drink in the Public Hall**
Talking to Julia Wheeler

This year's extraordinary read is a *Sunday Times Number 1 Bestseller*. **Jennie Godfrey** joins us to talk about her whirlwind year, the inspiration behind this book and what lies ahead.

This event is kindly supported by



Festival platters are available in the Marquee after this event, please see the Pickleshack booking details on page 40



AL MURRAY Victory '45

where: **St Peters Church**
time: **7.30pm**
ticket: **£15**
Talking to Andrew Chatterton

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the multi-talented comedian and historian **Al Murray** tells the dramatic story of the eight surrenders that brought victory to the Allies and ended the Second World War. What took place during these negotiations, what terms were agreed, and how have those agreements shaped today's world?

Come with us on a global adventure, travelling from the Italian Alps all the way to Tokyo.

'An original and insightful account'
The Telegraph



HELEN LEDERER Not That I'm Bitter

where: **Temple Church**

time: **7.30pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Tim Hubbard

Does success bring happiness?

With unflinching honesty and her trademark off-kilter humour, **Helen Lederer** reveals the highs and lows of being a woman at the heart of the 1980s comedy scene.

Come and discover the stories behind Helen's career that has seen her sharing stage and screen with comedy pioneers Ben Elton, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders and Harry Enfield, and taking pivotal roles in cult shows *Absolutely Fabulous*, *Bottom* and *Girls on Top*.

'...funny, adorable, and thought-provoking in equal measure, rather like the dazzling author herself' **Joanna Lumley**



HELEN MCGINN AND VERONICA HENRY The Perfect Pairing

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **8pm-9.30pm**

ticket: **£30**

Join **Helen McGinn** and **Veronica Henry** for an exclusive talk and wine tasting event. The two friends will discuss their latest sparkling books, *Under a Riviera Moon* and *One Night at the Château*, both set in the South of France.

During the talk, enjoy a tutored tasting of wines specially chosen to match the books, from a delicious Cremant de Bourgogne to a Cotes du Provence rosé.

In addition to her novel writing, Helen regularly appears on BBC1's *Saturday Kitchen* as their resident wine expert and is the author behind the brilliant *The Knackered Mother's Wine Guide*. Veronica is the internationally acclaimed author of twenty-four novels published by Orion.

*A big thank you to
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The Writers' Hub

Word Kitchen

A dedicated space for South West and local writers

September 17th and 18th in the Festival Mini Marquee, hosted by Word Kitchen.

Word Kitchen has spent two years developing a network of writers through events in Budleigh Salterton and Exeter and is delighted to partner with the festival to offer this special area exclusively for local writers, wherever you are on your writing journey.

What is The Hub?

A warm and welcoming space, open daily from 10am where writers can write, network and gather information and inspiration.

- Two daily panel discussions featuring industry professionals and experienced authors
- A writers' lounge, where pass holders can join the lunch circle
- A library of local writers' work
- A daily Happy Hour at 5pm with special festival guests and a celebratory Open Mic across the street at Brook Kitchen

Southwest literary organisations including *Arvon*, *Literature Works*, *Exeter City of Literature*, *Raw Writing* and the *Exeter University Archive* are on hand with support, inspiration and opportunities.

Panel discussions run morning and afternoon:

Wednesday 17th September

Finding time and space to write: with *Arvon*, *Raw Writing*, *Exeter University*, and *Word Kitchen*.

The Point of Prizes: where to submit, and why prizes matter: with Faber debut author **Fiona Williams** and *The Exeter Novel Prize*.

Thursday 18th September

Getting Published (1) – an industry perspective, chaired by author **Elizabeth Delo** with guest agents and publicists.

Getting Published (2) – The authors' perspective, with **Tom Cox** and fellow writers discussing lessons learned, alternative routes and the future for authors.

More details about the final line up for The Hub will be online at <https://budlitfest.org.uk> and limited one and two-day passes can be booked here: <https://wegottickets.com/WordKitchen>





SUE PRIDEAUX A Life of Paul Gauguin

where: **Public Hall**
time: **10am**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Jo Durrant

A vital re-examination of the trailblazing Post-Impressionist Paul Gauguin.

Sue Prideaux sets out to re-examine the artist's legacy and confront his controversies with her *Baillie Gifford Prize* shortlisted book.

Drawing from a wealth of new material and insights arising from access to the artist's family, this event will invite you to see the visionary artist through a new lens.

Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin is a *Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Spectator*, *Economist* and *TLS Book of the Year*.

'Immaculate' New Statesman



LOCAL FOCUS: JANE CORRY The Stranger in Room Six

where: **Church on the Green**
time: **10am**
ticket: **£10**
Talking to Orlando Murrin

Sidmouth-based **Jane Corry** is a staggeringly successful *Sunday Times* bestselling author who has sold more than 1.5 million novels worldwide. Her books are compelling, unputdownable and filled with dark secrets.

Her latest pageturner, *The Stranger in Room Six*, is set in a fictional residential home in Devon, where the residents all have skeletons in the closet.

Jane joins us to tell us how it all started, how her experience as writer-in-residence in a high security prison for men inspired her stories, and what lies ahead in her writing journey.

'Jane Corry writes consistently enthralling stories about the dark side of family life'

Peter James



Workshop



WRITING WITH ARVON KATE MURRAY-BROWNE

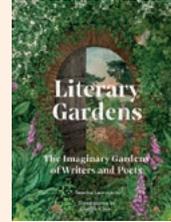
Finding the Heart of Your Story

where: **Masonic Hall**
time: **10am-12pm**
ticket: **£30**

Novelist and editor **Kate Murray-Browne** leads an inspiring fiction workshop with hands-on writing exercises to help you find the heart of your story. Kate will share insights on developing your voice, shaping your narrative, approaches to dialogue and creating convincing characters, as well as the next steps - refining and polishing your prose. There will be time during the session to ask about the publishing process, including approaching agents and finding an audience for your work.

All welcome, no previous experience necessary. Please bring your own notebook and pen.

*This event is kindly sponsored
by Michael & Valerie Jackaman*



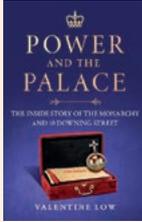
SANDRA LAWRENCE Literary Gardens

where: **Temple Church**
time: **12pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Tim Hubbard

From antiquity to today, gardens have long captured the writer's imagination.

They are the settings of romance, magic, mystery and sensory delight; places to get lost in or to discover parts of yourself you didn't know you had.

Join us as we wander through some of the most captivating gardens in literature with author **Sandra Lawrence**, from *The Secret Garden* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, to *Rebecca* and *The Great Gatsby*.



VALENTINE LOW Power and the Palace

where: **St Peters Church**

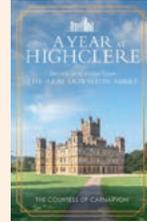
time: **12pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Valentine Low, former royal correspondent at *The Times*, draws on nearly 100 interviews with senior politicians (including one former prime minister), top civil servants, royal aides and constitutional experts in his provocative new book *The Power and the Palace*.

Come and discover who truly bears influence in the corridors of power and how the monarchy has remained not only solvent, but above criticism, for so many years.



COUNTESS CARNARVON Secrets and Stories from the Real Downton Abbey

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **2pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Tim Hubbard

Highclere Castle is now instantly recognisable to us all thanks to the extraordinary popularity of *Downton Abbey*, but what does it truly mean to live and work in this remarkable home?

History breathes through its walls and gardens and we're thrilled to welcome **Lady Fiona, 8th Countess of Carnarvon** to the festival to share some captivating family stories, from Lady Almina's legendary 1920s parties to the 5th Earl of Carnarvon's role in the excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb.



From Page to Stage - Spoken Word!

where: **Public Hall** | time: **4pm** | ticket: **Free**

A celebration of words written to be performed. Year 9 students from local secondary schools join us for a day long poetry writing workshop which culminates in a performance of the freshest work you will hear this week! Led by **Chris White** and **Rebecca Tanton** of Exeter based **SPORK!** this is an event which always lifts audiences and performers.



FELICITY CLOAKE Peach Street to Lobster Lane

where: **Temple Church**

time: **4pm**

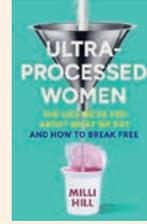
ticket: **£12**

Talking to Orlando Murrin

Prepare for a mouth-watering hour with award-winning food and travel writer **Felicity Cloake** as she shares tales of her culinary cycling adventures across the USA with friend and fellow food writer, **Orlando Murrin**.

From Memphis barbecue to Mission Burrito, crawfish boil to Tex-Mex-Chinese breakfast dumplings, *Peach Street to Lobster Lane* dives headfirst into American dishes from the iconic to the downright bizarre, and uncovers the fascinating stories behind them.

'... an unmissable treat!' **Tim Spector**



MILLI HILL Ultra-Processed Women

where: **Public Hall**

time: **6pm**

ticket: **£12**

We're all familiar with the expression we are what we eat. But what are we if we're eating ultra-processed food?

Join acclaimed journalist and women's health advocate **Milli Hill** in unpacking the truth about ultra-processed food, and its effects on women's health and lives.

Ultra-Processed Women reveals cutting-edge research into the hidden dangers that lurk in our daily food choices, uncovering the shocking links between ultra-processed food and physical and mental health - from period pain and hormone imbalances, to autoimmune conditions, Alzheimer's and depression. But how do we solve this problem without sending women back to the kitchen?

'...a guide, a wake-up call, and a call to action' **Sarah Parish** MBE



ALAN DAVIES White Male Stand-Up

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **6pm**

ticket: **£15**

Talking to Tim Hubbard

White Male Stand-Up follows much-loved comedian, actor and presenter **Alan Davies** as he moves from stand-up comedy into life-changing fame as the lead character in BBC mystery drama *Jonathan Creek*.

This is a tale of uplifting highs and painful lows, the dangers of success and excess set alongside a cast of some of the most iconic British comedians, actors and agents. But can Alan escape the past, or will it catch up with him?

'Davies has done it again, damn him. Irritatingly good. Maddeningly funny. Annoyingly fine' **Stephen Fry**



WORD KITCHEN OPEN MIC

where: **Brook Kitchen**

time: **6.30pm-8pm**

ticket: **£3**

A delicious menu of prose and poetry - stories, flash fiction, memoir, novel extracts, humour and pathos - all in the lovely surroundings of the Brook Kitchen cafe.

Word Kitchen events are always convivial and supportive - *'a delight to listen to and also to read at'*, so do come along to this feast for hearts and minds.

Any enquiries, email

lloydavidjohn@gmail.com



EMILY HAUSER

Mythica

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **7.30pm**

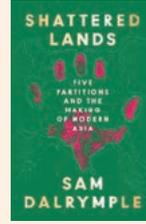
ticket: **£10**

Talking to Mary Morris

Helen of Troy. Aphrodite. Circe. Penelope.

Contrary to popular perception, ancient history is not all about men. Classicist **Emily Hauser** wants to shine a light on the extraordinary stories of the women behind some of the western world's greatest epics. Piecing together evidence from the original texts with archaeological finds and scientific studies, *Mythica* is a ground-breaking reassessment of ancient history.

'A book the world has been waiting for... I loved it' **Bettany Hughes**



SAM DALRYMPLE

A History of modern South Asia told through five partitions that reshaped it

where: **Temple Church**

time: **7.30pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Julia Wheeler

Until 1928, a vast swathe of Asia was bound together under a single imperial banner, the Indian Empire. But in the space of just fifty years, five partitions tore the Empire apart, carving out new nations, and leaving behind a legacy of war, exile and division.

Historian and debut author **Sam Dalrymple** joins us to map out the whole story of how the Indian Empire was unmade. From portraits of key political players to accounts of those swept up in the resulting wars and mass migrations, his book *Shattered Lands* reveals the dramatic and untold story how a single, sprawling dominion became twelve modern nations.

'This book is a revelation... both original and important' **Mishal Husain**

This event is kindly sponsored by Val Cornes in memory of David Cornes and wonderful trips in India



The Festival programme's cover image is by textile artist Brenda Thomas. To see more of her work visit her Coastal Threads exhibition at Fairlynch Museum & Art Centre.

Cards and prints of Brenda's work are available at the Fairlynch Museum, Pebble of Budleigh and the Seaglass Gallery in Lympstone.

You can contact her directly at:
brendamarythomas@gmail.com



David & Rhys Co.

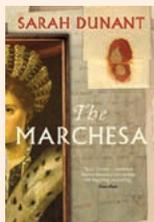
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SARAH DUNANT

The Marchesa

where: **Temple Church**

time: **10am**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Clare Clark

Step into the high luxury of the Italian Renaissance with the latest historical novel from critically praised author **Sarah Dunant**.

Join us for a vivid exploration into the captivating life of Isabella d'Este, from her early years as the precocious daughter of a Duke, to becoming the young wife of the Marquis of Mantua, and a formidable court consort, collector and shrewd political operator. This is her story.

'Dunant makes the art and philosophy of the period look new and dangerous again'

The Times



Workshop

KATE BEALES

Theatre Skills for Writers

where: **Masonic Hall**

time: **10am-12pm**

ticket: **£30**

Calling all budding writers! Would you like to explore creative practices from the world of theatre, unlock new areas of spontaneous creativity and knock your inner critic on the head?

This gentle workshop is designed for all writers wishing to explore new creative approaches to their work, using practical tools from the world of improv and rehearsal.

Kate Beales is a writer and theatremaker. She's been a Senior Artist and Freelance Associate with National Theatre Learning for thirty years, working with writers and artists across all disciplines. Her debut novel, *Broken Horses*, is published in September.



MICHAEL SHERIDAN The Red Emperor

where: **St Peters Church**
time: **12pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Julia Wheeler

Veteran foreign correspondent **Michael Sheridan** is here to shed new light on the history and politics of China.

The Red Emperor is an eye-opening portrait of President Xi Jinping and his leadership of a country that has become a military and economic superpower. Drawing on two decades of first-hand reporting and intimate stories from the closed world of China's leading families, *The Red Emperor* tracks Xi Jinping's journey from a political exile of the Cultural Revolution, to becoming the most consequential leader of our time.

'Michael Sheridan is one of the best informed and wisest writers on China'
Chris Patten, last governor of Hong Kong



NIKKI MAY This Motherless Land

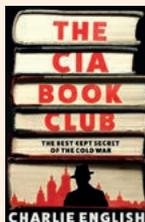
where: **Church on the Green**
time: **12pm**
ticket: **£10**
Talking to Jennie Godfrey

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, and we're delighted to welcome award-winning author **Nikki May** with her fabulous new book *This Motherless Land* - a fresh and evocative retelling of *Mansfield Park*.

When Funke's mother dies in an accident in Lagos, she's sent to live with her maternal family in England where she meets her free-spirited cousin Liv. Against a backdrop of snobbery and neglect, Funke strives to fit in.

Nikki is joined by fellow writer **Jennie Godfrey** for a conversation delving into race, culture and belonging.

'A spirited exploration of culture and kinship'
Bonnie Garmus



CHARLIE ENGLISH The CIA Bookclub

where: **Public Hall**

time: **2pm**

ticket: **£12**

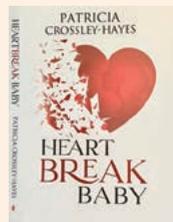
Talking to Julia Wheeler

The astonishing account of the clandestine operation which saw close to ten million books smuggled across the Iron Curtain.

Critically-acclaimed writer **Charlie English** shines a light on this gripping Cold War story, highlighting the extraordinary bravery of those who risked their lives to stand up to Soviet intellectual censorship.

Packed full of smuggling, spycraft and secret printing presses, this story shows how books have the power to set us all free.

'Entertaining and vivid...' **Observer**



LOCAL FOCUS: PATRICIA CROSSLEY-HAYES Heartbreak Baby

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **2pm**

ticket: **£10**

Talking to Richard Cotton

Patricia Crossley-Hayes draws on her mother's experience in this debut novel, an unmarried teenager giving birth on the eve of the Second World War, who saw no other option but to give her baby up. *Heartbreak Baby* weaves fact together with three touching stories of love, longing and war.

Patricia will be in conversation with her son, the actor, writer and filmmaker **Richard Cotton**.

'...a wonderful, powerful and deeply moving story' **Michael Hartland**



Workshop



WRITING WITH ARVON SOPHIE PAVELLE

Writing about nature, for nature, in the climate crisis

where: **Masonic Hall**

time: **2pm-4pm** | ticket: **£30**

Are you driven to respond to the climate crisis with the power of words? Join local author and science communicator **Sophie Pavelle** for an inspiring, hands-on workshop that dives into the art of storytelling at the crossroads of nature, science and adventure.

Through a dynamic mix of writing exercises and thought-provoking discussion, you will experiment with finding your unique voice and harness storytelling techniques that bring facts, journeys, and wild landscapes vividly to life.

All levels of writing experience welcome.

This event is kindly sponsored by Michael & Valerie Jackaman

Bounce and Rhyme

where: **Mini Marquee**

time: **2pm** | ticket: **Free**



Every year we host Budleigh Library's weekly event for toddlers and preschoolers. Come along and join in the story fun.



JOANNA MILLER AND JESSICA STANLEY

Hilary Mantel Emerging Writers' Event

where: **Temple Church**

time: **4pm**

ticket: **£5**

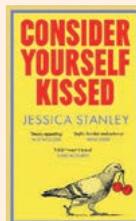
Talking to Jennie Godfrey

Introducing two brilliant emerging writers, **Joanna Miller** and **Jessica Stanley**, selected by and in conversation with Jennie Godfrey.

Though set over a century apart, both debut novels share the evergreen themes of love, friendship, and survival in trying times.

The Eights follows four young women as they make their way in 1920 as some of the first female students admitted to Oxford University.

Consider Yourself Kissed is a captivating love story set against the political and personal upheaval of Brexit, Covid and a chaotic decade of five prime ministers.





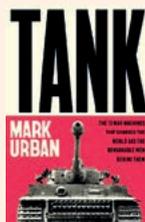
PAULA HAWKINS AND CHRIS CHIBNALL Twists and Turns

where: **Public Hall**
time: **6pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Clare Clark

Bestselling author of the global phenomenon *Girl on a Train* **Paula Hawkins** presents her masterful novel *The Blue Hour* alongside BAFTA nominated screenwriter and author of one of the year's most exciting debut novels **Chris Chibnall** (*Death at the White Hart*).

They'll talk about the art of writing a nail-biting plot, the importance of place in their new books, the differences between writing for page and for screen and the enduring appetite for thrillers the twistier, it seems, the better.

"Haunting" **Lee Child** (*The Blue Hour*)
"..SO pacy and delicious.." **Marian Keyes** (*Death at the White Hart*)



MARK URBAN Tank

where: **Temple Church**
time: **6pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Andrew Chatterton

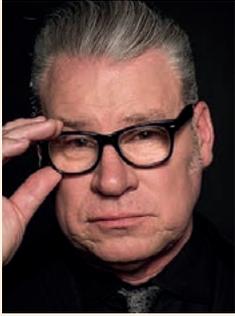
How have these machines changed the world and who are the remarkable men behind them?

Sunday Times columnist and ex *Newsnight* Diplomatic Editor **Mark Urban** formerly served in the British Army and his new book, *Tank*, takes us on an illuminating and exciting drive through the mud and blood of twentieth-century warfare.

Urban utilises wide-ranging accounts from designers, front-line soldiers and politicians including Winston Churchill and Volodymyr Zelensky, to tell the remarkable story of this war machine.

"Punchy. Trenchant. Heavyweight.
Mark Urban's Tank blows the doors off
Damien Lewis

Friday 19th September



MARK KERMODE AND JENNY NELSON

The Story of Movie Music

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **7.30pm**

ticket: **£15**

Talking to

Tim Hubbard



How can a film score make you cheer, shiver, cry or punch the air?

Join the UK's favourite film critic, **Mark Kermode** and radio producer **Jenny Nelson** as they explore the emotional connection between great musical scores and the silver screen audience. Their brilliant new book, *Surround Sound*, is a fascinating trip down the glorious rabbit hole of film composition.

Telling the stories behind iconic soundtracks and sharing some of their personal favourites, Mark and Jenny will reveal how what we hear has an impact on what we see, and will celebrate the magic that happens when a soundtrack takes on a life of its own.



FINDLAYS

← WINE & SPIRITS →

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12pm until 9pm

Sunday:
12pm until 4pm



ON DIGITAL RADIO OR ASK YOUR SMART SPEAKER TO
'PLAY RADIO EXE DEVON'

Computer help

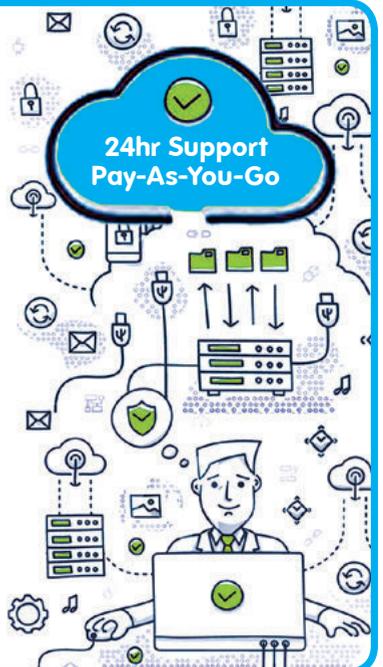
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Come and join the festival fun with a packed weekend full of **FREE** family activities inspired by legendary heroes, monsters, and gods. Perfect for all ages and no toga required!

FREE Family Fun: Myths and Legends at the Mini Marquee

If you know Percy Jackson, you might have some idea of the mysteries that await.

- Visit the Forge of Hephaestus and create your own lightning bolt wand or shield.
- Choose a Greek God and use their symbols and colours to decorate it.
- Celebrate love and friendship with Aphrodite and make your own bead bracelet.
- Demeter is green-fingered. What will you plant and take away?
- Make a real or mythical sea creature with shells to impress Poseidon.



Sunday 21st 10am, 11.30am and 1pm

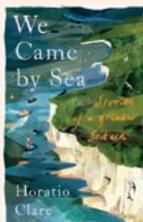
FREE Storytelling with Clive PiG

The Green by the Mini Marquee (*inside if wet!*)

Clive PiG is an international storyteller, poet and potato juggler. He's spun tales in New York and a refugee camp in Jordan. He's appeared at Glastonbury and 10 Downing Street and now he's coming to Budleigh Salterton Green! Myths and Legends will come alive in these theatrical and interactive sessions. Each session will run for 30 minutes. All ages welcome! www.clivepig.co.uk

FREE Treasure Hunt: Percy Jackson and the Secrets of Budleigh Bay

This can be fun for one or for the whole family! Search all around Budleigh Salterton for the hidden secrets that will lead you to the fantastic treasure chest of prizes! (Warning: Any gold coins won might contain chocolate...) Final entries to be handed in at the Mini Marquee by 2pm on Sunday September 21 2025.



HORATIO CLARE We Came By Sea

where: **Temple Church**

time: **10am**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Clare Clark

The small boats crisis is never out of the news. But *what* and more importantly *who* lies behind the lurid headlines?

We Came By Sea documents the tireless volunteers who help thousands of refugees in Calais, the lifeboat crews whose search and rescue operations continue to save countless lives, and the individuals who have welcomed those seeking refuge in Britain without question.

Renowned author **Horatio Clare** will introduce us to a Britain unrecognisable from mainstream media.

'Light fills his writing' **The Economist**



Workshop



BECCA ROGERS Under the Water: A Writing Workshop 8-12 years

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **11am - 12pm**

ticket: **£5 (adults free)**

Have you ever looked at the sea, a lake, or a river and wondered what lurks beneath?

In this creative writing session, you'll create your own character with gills, an imaginative setting and a fantastical aquatic creature.

Join local author **Becca Rogers** for a fun, interactive workshop inspired by her brilliant new novel, *The Girl with Gills* which takes place in a watery world full of heroines, villains and colossal challenges.

Bring your imagination and dive in!

Adults must accompany children



TOM McLAUGHLIN

Comic Book
Workshop
5-8yr olds

Workshop

where: **Masonic Hall**
time: **11am - 12.30pm**
ticket: **£8 (adults free)**



Are you crazy about comics?

Then don't miss this chance to make your very own with amazing author and illustrator **Tom McLaughlin**.

As well as creating your own short story you'll also get some brilliant illustration tips and get to listen to stories as well as learning about his journey from dyslexic kid to best-selling author.

All materials needed will be provided.

Adults must accompany children



GABRIEL GATEHOUSE

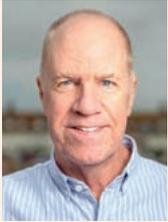
The Coming Storm

where: **St Peters Church**
time: **12pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Julia Wheeler

2025 feels a pivotal year for American democracy. There appears to be a radical new kind of politics, a movement driven by a wild rise in conspiracy culture that has coalesced around a loose alliance of tech bros, internet trolls and white supremacists.

Gabriel Gatehouse, award winning journalist and broadcaster is on hand to help us unpack and unpick what may lie ahead. His brilliant book *The Coming Storm* is a compelling mix of research and reportage that starts in the earliest years of the Clinton administration moving through to the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021.

'Gabriel Gatehouse is a brilliant spelunker of the rabbit holes of American political culture' **Louis Theroux**



JANICE HALLETT AND ORLANDO MURRIN Cosy Crime

where: **Public Hall**

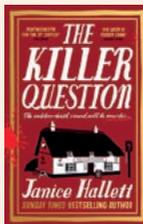
time: **12pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Jennie Godfrey

It's time to get your thinking caps on as two masters of the cosy crime genre share just how they manage to create such compelling whodunnits.

MasterChef semi-finalist and now crime writer **Orlando Murrin** returns with chef Paul Delamare, who has been roped into accompanying an old friend on a luxury cruise in *Murder Below Deck*. And bestselling author **Janice Hallett** shares her newest book *The Killer Question*, a fiendishly clever story of missing persons, murder and battling pub quiz teams.



GARETH P JONES Fairy Tales Musical Mash Up

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **2pm**

ticket: **£2**



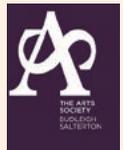
A fresh take on fairytales perfect for an interactive afternoon of family fun!

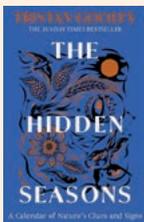
Come and get down with the disco-dancing gorilla, **CinderGorilla**, strut your stuff with **Snowy White** and find out whether rabbit **Rabunzel** gets to live happily ever after...

Expect jokes, sing along songs, super fast rapping, funky ukulele and story-telling from the brilliant author and performer **Gareth P Jones**.

Please note that adults are expected to buy a ticket

This event is kindly sponsored by
The Arts Society
Budleigh Salterton





TRISTAN GOOLEY The Hidden Seasons

where: **Public Hall**
time: **2pm**
ticket: **£12**

Natural navigator and respected writer **Tristan Gooley** is on a mission to get us all outside to better understand and learn from our land, sky and weather systems and how they change across the year.

The sun, moon, stars, plants, fungi, animals, water and weather all reflect seasonal changes back to us. We all notice the flowers of spring, the longer days of summer and the colours of autumn. But there's so much more...

Seasons will never look, smell or sound the same again.

'An important book and a pleasure to read'
Raynor Winn



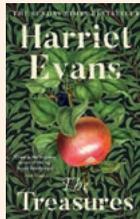
RACHEL JOYCE AND HARRIET EVANS We Are Family

where: **Temple Church**
time: **2pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Clare Clark

Every family has a story to tell, with ties that bind us together even when the cracks are beginning to show.

It's a treat to bring together two superb writers for a lively and warm conversation about their brand new books and insights into their writing journeys.

Rachel Joyce (*The Homemade God*) takes us to Piedmont, Italy, where Goose and his three sisters are searching for answers about the death of their famous artist father. **Harriet Evans** (*The Treasures*) introduces us to a new trilogy, telling the captivating story of a turbulent family and house over fifty years and three generations.





TOM McLAUGHLIN

Comic Book
Workshop
9-11yr olds

Workshop

where: **Masonic Hall**
time: **2pm - 3.30pm**
ticket: **£8 (adults free)**



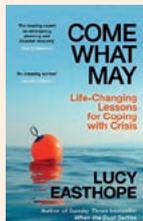
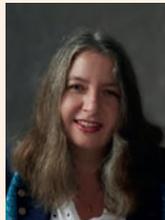
Are you crazy about comics?

Then don't miss this chance to make your very own with amazing author and illustrator **Tom McLaughlin**.

As well as creating your own short story you'll also get some brilliant illustration tips and get to listen to stories as well as learning about his journey from dyslexic kid to best-selling author.

All materials needed will be provided.

Adults must accompany children



LUCY EASTHOPE

Life-Changing Lessons
for Coping with Crisis

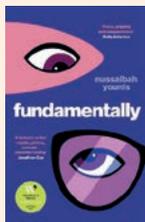
where: **St Peters Church**
time: **4pm**
ticket: **£12**
Talking to Julia Wheeler

How can we weather the current complicated news storms that batter us on a near daily basis?

No one can answer this better than UK's top emergency planner, **Lucy Easthope** who has learnt through advising on myriad major disasters, including 9/11, Grenfell, Covid-19 and most recently the war in Ukraine. Time and time again she has watched how people rebuild: the work, the pitfalls and the fragile joy. In *Come What May*, she distills for us what she has learned about how to carry on during and after whatever life throws at us.

Join us for an uplifting event in navigating hard times.

'Lucy Easthope is a shining beacon of sense and wisdom' **Dr Rachel Clarke**



NUSSAIBAH YOUNIS Fundamentally

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **4pm**

ticket: **£5**

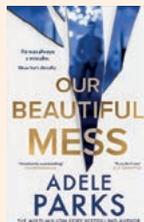
Talking to Jennie Godfrey

Nussaibah Younis is one of the most talented new voices in contemporary fiction. Her debut novel, *Fundamentally*, has been shortlisted for the *2025 Women's Prize for Fiction*.

When UN worker Nadia takes a job rehabilitating radicalised women, she meets Sara, a feisty East Londoner who joined ISIS at fifteen. Unexpectedly, the pair form a powerful friendship, until a confession from Sara threatens everything Nadia has been working for.

Fundamentally is a razor-sharp and original comedy about a very serious subject, exploring love, family, religion and the decisions we make in our attempts to belong.

'Electric' The Guardian



ADELE PARKS Celebrating 25 Books in 25 Years

where: **Public Hall**

time: **6pm**

ticket: **£12**

Talking to Veronica Henry

Incredibly, *Our Beautiful Mess* is **Adele Parks'** 25th book in 25 years. She talks to friend and fellow novelist, **Veronica Henry**, about this phenomenal achievement.

What does it take to write this prolifically? Has her audience changed, or her writing process and routine? What does it mean to her to be an ambassador of both the National Literacy Trust and the Reading Agency?

A special opportunity to delve into the mind of an extraordinary storyteller.

'25 years of this and Adele is still as brilliant, skilled and warm as ever'

Giovanna Fletcher



GILES MILTON The Stalin Affair

where: **Temple Church**

time: **6pm**

ticket: **£12**

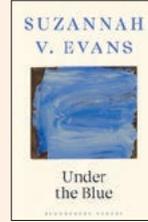
Talking to Andrew Chatterton

Join author and ever-entertaining raconteur **Giles Milton** as he tells a remarkable wartime story, one of the last secrets of the Second World War.

Based on astonishing unpublished diaries, letters and secret reports, this is the story of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin's collaboration to defeat Hitler. Together, this improbable group set aside their differences and worked together to change the course of history.

The Stalin Affair reveals troves of new and previously unpublished material about this most unlikely coalition.

'Another rollercoaster ride from Giles Milton. Endlessly surprising' **Anthony Horowitz**



SUZANNAH V EVANS Under the Blue

where: **Church on the Green**

time: **7.30pm**

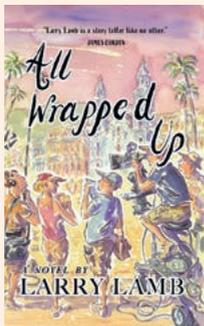
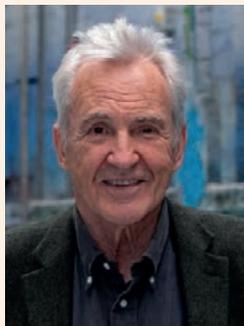
ticket: **£10**

Poet **Suzannah V Evans** treats us to an evening of luminous and lyrical poetry. Her new collection, *Under the Blue*, explores the realities of care and the love that buoys us up even in moments of darkness.

Poetry that *'brims with sheer gladness for the gift of being alive'* **Phoebe Power**

'... she paces from beauty to agony and back without missing a step' **Noreen Masud**

Saturday 20th September



LARRY LAMB All Wrapped Up

where: **St Peters Church**

time: **7.30pm**

ticket: **£15**

Talking to **Julia Wheeler**

Gavin and Stacey's **Larry Lamb** is coming to Budleigh Salterton to share stories about his life, career and fabulous debut novel.

All Wrapped Up has been inspired by Larry's many years in film and television and is centred around an indie film that has started shooting on a Caribbean island. Throw in an impossible lead actor, power struggles on and off set and a crew member vanishing under mysterious circumstances and you may find yourself in a perfect storm...

'Larry Lamb is a storyteller like no other'
James Corden



Curiosity for the Arts?

The Arts Society Budleigh Salterton is delighted to be working with the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival this year and sponsoring the Festival's creative work with young people.

The Arts Society Budleigh Salterton is a registered charity which aims to make access to the arts available for everyone. We have a monthly programme of talks here in the town covering a wide variety of topics including painting, architecture, design, pottery, music and many others.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Discover more at: www.budfas.org

CONTACT US ABOUT MEMBERSHIP:

email: budleighsalterton@theartssociety.org

THE ARTS SOCIETY BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

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CLARE CLARK Cryptic Crossword

where: **Church on the Green**
time: **10am - 11am**
ticket: **£10**

Back by popular demand. Festival interviewer Clare Clark has a secret - she's been identified as being in the top 5% of *The Times* crossword solvers in the country. She'll gently guide you through how to read a clue, get inside the head of the setter and find the answer. Open to all!

FAMILY SINGING WORKSHOP (3-9 years) with Sarah Owen

where: **Church on the Green**
time: **11.30am - 12.30pm**
ticket: **£5**



Delve into the incredible range of sounds your voice can make with this joyful singing adventure.

You'll discover a variety of songs from the South West and around the world, and work together to create a brand new version of an ancient song!

Parents/carers are expected to buy a ticket and join in!



MONISHA RAJESH AND NIGE TASSELL All Aboard!

where: **Public Hall**
time: **11am**
ticket: **£12**

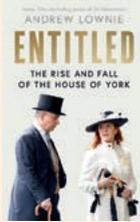
Talking to Tim Hubbard

2025 is the 200th anniversary of the modern railway. Join writers **Monisha Rajesh** and **Nige Tassell** as they reflect on and celebrate the enduring appeal of train travel.

Moonlight Express highlights the peculiar magic and mayhem of the night train from India's Shalimar Express to Finland's Santa Claus Express - journeys around the world filled with moonlight landscapes, cosy compartments and quirky companions.

Final Destination explores the length and breadth of one very small island with Tassell riding Britain's railway network all the way to its lesser-travelled-to corners; from Wick to Penzance.





ANDREW LOWNIE The Rise and Fall of the House of York

where: **St Peters Church**
time: **1pm** | ticket: **£12**
Talking to Julia Wheeler

Acclaimed royal biographer **Andrew Lownie** reveals all in *Entitled*, the first ever joint biography of Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson.

Drawing on four years of research, numerous Freedom of Information requests and over a hundred exclusive interviews, this book delves deeply into the pair's childhoods, courtship, marriage, divorce and careers. This event will also not shy away from more controversial topics including Andrew's Falklands' record, business dealing and links with Jeffrey Epstein.

Guaranteed to be an hour packed full of extraordinary revelations.



ARIFA AKBAR AND DAN RICHARDS Exploring the Night

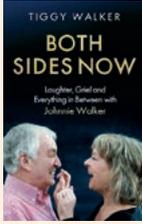
where: **Public Hall**
time: **1pm** | ticket: **£12**
Talking to Clare Clark

There is something special about the night. For some of us it conjures thoughts of romance, starlit skies or being tucked up in bed. For others it means fear, danger and sleeplessness. But how does the night shape our bodies, minds and cultures?

Two award-winning authors, **Arifa Akbar** (*Wolf Moon*) and **Dan Richards** (*Overnight*) want to take us on an exploration into the dark, as they shine a light on the often hidden night workers, religious pre-dawn traditions, nocturnal landscapes and creatures, rough sleepers, new mothers, party people and insomniacs.

Come and change the way you think about the hours after dark.





TIGGY WALKER Both Sides Now

where: **Public Hall**
time: **4pm** | ticket: **£12**
Talking to Rachel Joyce

Care, love, grief and loss impacts us all.

Tiggy Walker married legendary Radio 2 DJ Johnnie Walker in 2002 and her beautiful new book, *Both Sides Now* is an honest, deeply personal portrait of their life together as they navigate career highs and the impossible task of letting go of someone you love, while still holding on.

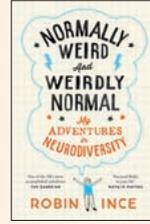
In a special festival event, she's joined by her good friend, author **Rachel Joyce**, to talk about Johnnie, the emotional toll that being a carer can bring and the strange intimacy of anticipatory grief.

ADULT SINGING WORKSHOP with Sarah Owen

where: **Church on the Green** **Workshop**
time: **1.30pm - 3.00pm** | ticket: **£10**

Have you always wanted to sing? This warm and uplifting session is designed to help you discover the freedom of unleashing your voice. You'll explore beautiful songs inspired by the natural world.

No experience necessary. Just leave your inhibitions at the door!



SUSAN WARD MEMORIAL TALK ROBIN INCE

Neurodiversity: Aren't we all a little different?

where: **St Peters Church**
time: **4pm** | ticket: **£12**

What if being a bit weird is actually entirely normal?

Much loved broadcaster and comedian **Robin Ince** has entertained thousands for over 30 years. But underneath the surface, a whirlwind was at play – a struggle with sadness, concentration, self-doubt and anxiety. But then he discovered he had all the hallmarks of ADHD and his stumbling blocks became stepping stones.

His brilliant new book is packed with insights, anecdotes and interviews with psychologists, neuroscientists and the many neurodivergent people he has met along the way.

Join him for a quirky and witty dive into the world of human behaviour.

'Tingles with the joy of being different.'

'This book made me so happy' Chris Packham

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26 JUNE - 4 JULY 2026

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 [BUDLEIGHMUSICFESTIVAL](https://www.instagram.com/budleighmusicfestival)  [/BUDLEIGHMUSICFESTIVAL](https://www.facebook.com/budleighmusicfestival)



Festival Marquee

A warm welcome awaits you in the marquee - the hub of the festival.

OPEN: Wednesday to Saturday: 9.30am until 9.30pm

Sunday: 9.30am until 4pm

for great food, refreshments, books, information and tickets.

Festival Information & ticket desk:

Our volunteers will be happy to help you with information, updates on events, ticket availability and lost property.

OPEN:
Wednesday to Saturday:
10am until 5.30pm

Sunday:
10am until 1pm



Sustainability: The festival is committed to sustainable waste management. We have engaged Devon Contract Waste to ensure that all waste from the Marquee is recycled effectively and we ask that visitors support us in our commitment to sustainability.



Waterstones Pop up Bookshop:

We are delighted to continue our partnership with Waterstones. Browse and buy from a great selection of books. Signed copies of books by authors appearing at the festival will be available.

Look out for the book signings happening at Waterstones in the marquee.

FINDLAYS

WINE & SPIRITS

BAR OPEN:

Wednesday to Saturday:
12pm until 9pm

Sunday:
12pm until 4pm

wine, spirits, soft drinks,
Brewdog cocktails and beers.

Pickle SHACK

CAFÉ

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY*, 10.00AM - 5.30PM

*SUNDAY 4.00PM CLOSE

PLUS LATE OPENING ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY!

HOT FOOD AVAILABLE 5.30PM - 8.30PM

**PROUD CATERING PARTNERS OF THE
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LITERARY FESTIVAL**



EVENTS

FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK TICKETS, USE THE QR CODE

FESTIVAL PLATTERS

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

FESTIVAL SUPPER

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

POP-UP SUNDAY LUNCH

SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

**FIND US AT THE
FESTIVAL MARQUEE,
THROUGHOUT THE
FESTIVAL!**

STATION ROAD
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Come and listen to amazing local musicians - all events are free, no ticket required!



Thursday 18th 5.30pm - 6.30pm

We are delighted to welcome **Mark Waistell** - a local singer songwriter whose music is folk-acoustic based but draws widely from different influences including classical, ragtime and rock.



Saturday 20th 12.30pm - 2pm

A local band and a festival favourite **Take 3** will entertain you with some gentle jazz while you sit back and enjoy a relaxing lunchtime.



Friday 19th 5.30pm - 6.30pm

The Wildstrings bring you foot-tapping grooves, sensitive slide and deft guitar, performing songs from classic rhythm and blues artists such as Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Muddy Waters.

Friday 19th
7.15pm - 8.30pm

Back by popular demand. **Cheryl Enever Kaushic**, an operatic soprano, will be performing some of the most loved arias from well known operas.



Saturday 20th 2 sets 5 - 5.45pm & 6.15 - 7pm

Another festival favourite - the **Woodbury Whalers** with their brilliant harmonies and good humour will be singing sea shanties.



Sunday 21st 1pm - 2pm

New to the festival this year we are pleased to welcome **The Clarion Quartet**. They will perform a mixture of light, classical and relaxing music for you to enjoy.

PPL PRS Ltd is a joint venture between the UK's two music licensing organisations - PPL and PRS for Music. They have come together to form PPL PRS and launched TheMusicLicence to provide a streamlined music licensing service, with a single point of contact, to make it easier to legally play and perform music in public.

The Budlifest Charity and Community Projects

You might know us from our wide-ranging March and September literary festival line-ups, but do you know what else the festival does with the financial support provided by sponsors, festival friends and generous benefactors?

Introducing authors into local primary and secondary schools – reaching 1787 young people in 2024...

Onjali Q Rauf: the multiple award-winning children's author visited Yr7 groups at Exmouth Community College and King's School Ottery and also entranced over 400 primary school children from 9 local schools.

Andy Seed: Blue Peter award-winning author, visited St Joseph's, Marpool, Otterton and Withcombe Raleigh schools in May this year, working with more than 300 young people.

Tom McLaughlin: inspirational author and illustrator visited Basset's Farm, St Peter's Budleigh, Littleham and The Beacon schools - working with nearly 500 children.



CELEBRATING BOOKS BY THE SEA

STAY IN TOUCH!

If you'd like to hear news from the Festival by email, you can join our mailing list from our website budlitfest.org.uk



Books to schools – 840 in 2024...

For each author visit, we provide copies of their books to the school's library to ensure all pupils have access to the titles.

Exmouth Community College has introduced a whole school reading scheme, and we have contributed **560 copies** of their chosen reads: *Wonder* by R J Palacio and *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.

Exeter Road School also received books for a specially designed literacy scheme for their SEND pupils.

That's not all ...

We have been working with Libraries Unlimited to support a literacy scheme in Littleham School which is showing encouraging changes in school readiness for reading and more use of Exmouth library.

Free and low-cost festival tickets for family fun!

The Mini marquee will have FREE book related activities over the weekend – this year the theme is Myths and Legends... (page 26 for more details). You can also get involved in a Scavenger hunt on Budleigh High Street!

Join in with family talks and workshops with tickets starting at just £2pp.

Spork! are running a day long spoken word performance workshop, free for our partner secondary schools.

All our local partner primary schools are invited to join our on-line Children's Literary Quiz competing for the Dartington Bowl trophy.



Books for the community

This year, instead of our beach hut book swap, we are supporting the Friends of Budleigh Library who will be holding book sales* during each day of the festival to raise funds. Free books will also be available in the phone box opposite the Spar.

*The Friends of Budleigh Library was formed in 2015 to help keep our local library and to generate funds to provide additional library activities. In 2025 the library lost funding for the provision of newspapers. The Friends hope to raise £1,000 each year to continue to provide this valuable service. Your support will help achieve this.



Help us do more

All of these activities are intended to inspire a love of reading and an enjoyment of writing across all our communities.

If you would like to become a Festival Friend to help us send more authors and more books into more local schools please contact Hilary Shiels, our Friends' co-ordinator at hilary.shiels@budlitfest.org.uk.

'I wouldn't be a songwriter if it wasn't for books that I loved as a kid' **Taylor Swift**

Thank you to all the volunteer members of the education team and the literacy links in local schools whose dedication and energy enables these events to go ahead.

David Marston	Lou Burrows
John Rust-Andrews	Caroline Walshaw
Shannon Baddick	Emma Richardson
Anne Duff	

Festival Team

Hon. President: Cathy Rentzenbrink

Chair: Sue Briggs

Artistic Director: Kate Abbey

Festival Committee:

Deputy Chair: *Carol Ackroyd*

Author Hospitality: *Jane Burton*

Venues: *Jane Stark*

Treasurer: *Ruth Jones*

Chair of Education Team: *David Marston*

Volunteer Stewards Co-ordinator: *Mags Milne*

Book Sales Co-ordination: *Gill Harris*

Grants Applications: *John Rust- Andrews*

Festival Friends Co-ordinator: *Hilary Shiels*

Production Co-ordinator: *Jennie Stogdon*

Ticket Sales: *Gareth Thomas*

Sponsorship: *Linden Harris*

Finance & Strategy: *Max Goodison*

Festival & Programming Assistant: *Tessa Williams*

Associates and Advisors:

Martin Briggs

Hilary Drew

Andrew Grant

Steve Hagger

David Hood

Roger Hennah

Lisa Borman

George Norman

Lorraine Pethick

Joanathan Shipton

Ulrike Hardinge

Caroline Walshaw

Peter Rowntree

Lou Burrows

Emma Richardson

Shannon Langan

Ann Duff

Mandy Beck

We would like to thank the following for their support with this year's Festival:

All our sponsors and supporters; our authors and the publishers who have sent their authors to us; all the staff at Waterstones Exeter; the venues who have made themselves available for the Festival, including the Public Hall, St Peter's Church, Temple Church, The Masonic Hall, The Church on the Green; McQueenie Mulholland PR; Splitpixel; the staff at Budleigh Library; Hatch Marquees; Loft at the Community Hub; Al Findlay; Pickleshack Catering; Mandy Butcher; Jed Falby, Festival Artist; all our volunteer drivers and stewards and our Festival interviewers; all our programme distributors.

Production:

Chris Welch & his team at Prosound

Marketing & Publicity:

Sue McQueenie at McQueenie Mulholland

Festival Photographer:

Steven O'Gorman

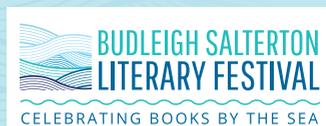
Programme Design:

Mike Nicholas, Shock The Senses

Venue First Aid Support:

Stuart Brown at Action for Life

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FESTIVAL DATES FOR 2026
Wednesday 23rd to Sunday 27th September

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Brian & Rowan Turnbull

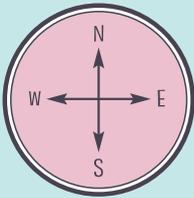
Michael & Valerie Jackaman

The generosity of our Friends and Benefactors enables us to deliver author visits free of charge to schools.



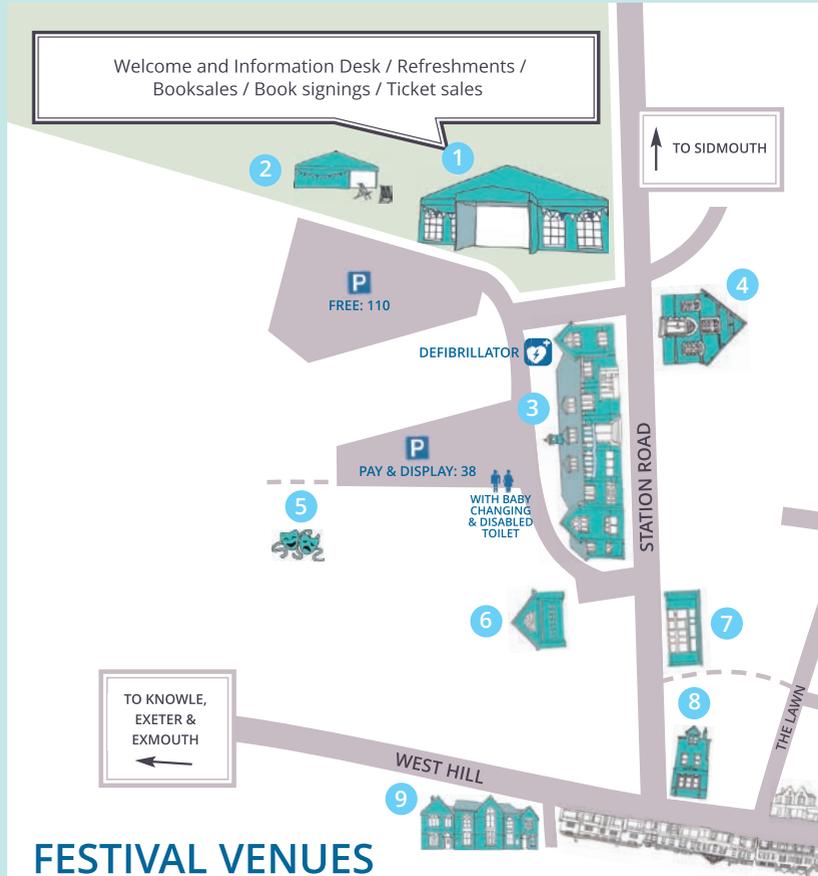
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING
BOOKS BY THE SEA



DISTANCE IN METRES

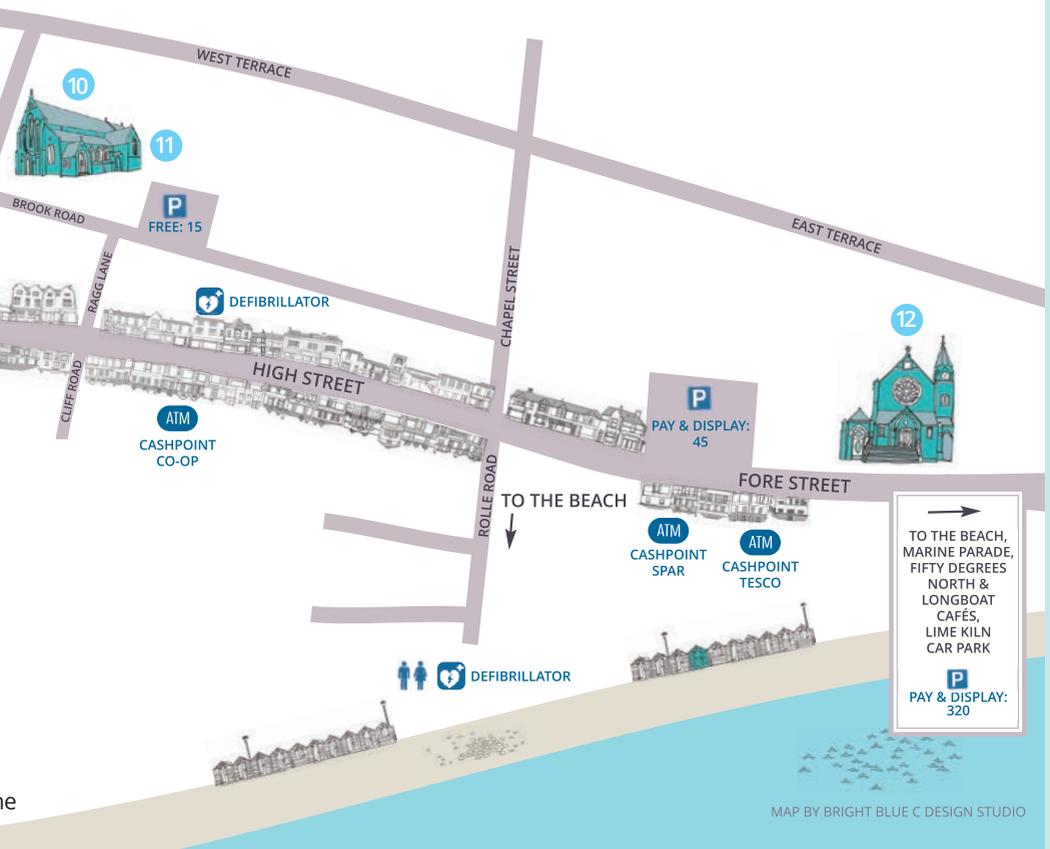
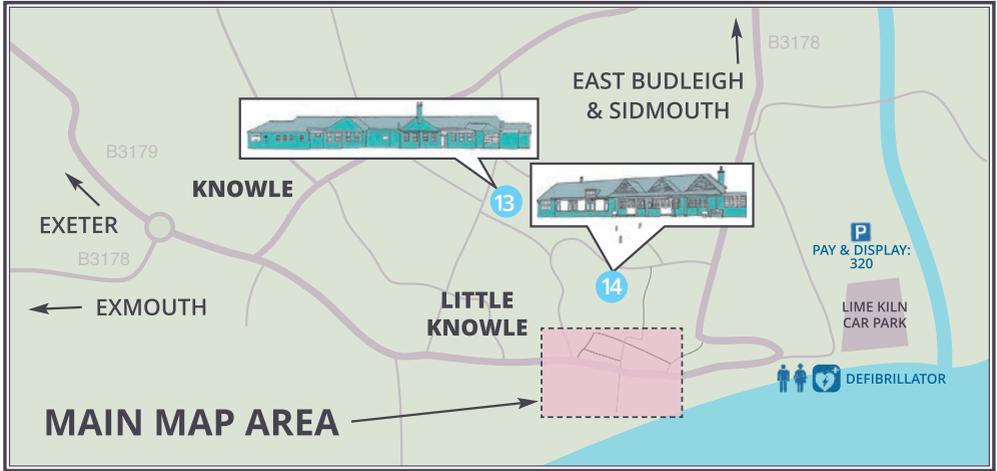
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FESTIVAL VENUES

1. FESTIVAL MARQUEE On The Green
2. MINI MARQUEE On The Green
3. PUBLIC HALL
4. THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN
5. THE SALTERTON PLAYHOUSE Footpath at end of carpark
6. THE LOFT Budleigh Community Workshop
7. BUDLEIGH LIBRARY
8. BROOK KITCHEN
9. THE MASONIC HALL
10. ST PETER'S CHURCH
11. THE PETER HALL Behind St Peter's Church
12. TEMPLE METHODIST CHURCH
13. ST PETER'S SCHOOL Moor Lane
14. BUDLEIGH SALTERTON CROQUET CLUB Off Upper Stoneborough Lane

Festival Map



MAP BY BRIGHT BLUE C DESIGN STUDIO

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Ticket Booking Information

Tickets are available to Festival Friends from Monday 14th July at 9.00am and then to the Public from Monday 21st July at 9.00am.

You can buy tickets:

Online at budlitfest.org.uk

In person at the Budleigh Information Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10.30 to 12.30

By phone: **0333 666 3366**

At The Box Office In the Marquee during Festival Week from 10.00 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday and from 10.00 to 12.30 on Sunday

There is a 6.9% booking fee. There is no charge to have your tickets emailed. Postal ticket delivery is an additional £2.50. Tickets cannot be ordered by email. You can save your tickets in your wallet on your phone (preferred) or print them.

Seating is unreserved. Tickets are not refundable unless we cancel an event, in which case we will refund the customer the ticket price and the booking fee. Postal charges cannot be refunded.

Events are an hour long unless stated otherwise. Doors open half an hour before the start of the event. The venue must be vacated between events.

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are unable to attend without the help of a personal assistant please buy a **Person with Additional Needs Ticket**. Your personal assistant will be admitted free of charge.

All main venues are fully accessible. If you need to be seated in particular area of a venue because you have a visual or hearing impairment or are in a wheelchair please let us know at festival@budlitfest.org.uk well in advance.

All information is correct at the time of going to press. Sometimes circumstances beyond our control mean we have make changes. Please visit budlitfest.org.uk and check your emails for updates.

For full terms and conditions and answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** visit our website at budlitfest.org.uk

Wednesday 17th September

Time	Where	Author/Event	Booked
10am	Temple Church	Francesca Beauman	<input type="checkbox"/>
10am - 12pm	Masonic Hall	Writing with Arvon: Maz Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	St Peters Church	700 years beside the seaside	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	Temple Church	Anne Sebba	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	St Peters Church	Tracy Borman	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Public Hall	Paula Byrne	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	St Peters Church	Ian Leslie	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Temple Church	Helen Scales	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Public Hall	Festival Read: Jennie Godfrey	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	St Peters Church	Al Murray	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	Temple Church	Helen Lederer	<input type="checkbox"/>
8pm - 9.30pm	Church on the Green	Helen McGinn and Veronica Henry	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thursday 18th September

Time	Where	Author/Event	Booked
10am	Public Hall	Sue Prideaux	<input type="checkbox"/>
10am	Church on the Green	Local Focus: Jane Corry	<input type="checkbox"/>
10am - 12pm	Masonic Hall	Writing with Arvon: Kate Murray-Browne	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	Temple Church	Sandra Lawrence	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	St Peters Church	Valentine Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	St Peters Church	Countess Carnarvon	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Public Hall	Peach Street to Lobster Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Temple Church	Felicity Cloake	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Public Hall	Milli Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	St Peters Church	Alan Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.30pm - 8pm	Brook Kitchen	Word Kitchen Open Mic	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	Church on the Green	Emily Hauser	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	Temple Church	Sam Dalrymple	<input type="checkbox"/>

Friday 19th September

Time	Where	Author/Event	Booked
10am	Temple Church	Sarah Dunant	<input type="checkbox"/>
10am - 12pm	Masonic Hall	Kate Beales	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	St Peters Church	Michael Sheridan	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	Church on the Green	Nikki May	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	Public Hall	Charlie English	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	Church on the Green	Local Focus: Patricia Crossley-Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	Mini Marquee	Bounce and Rhyme	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm - 4pm	Masonic Hall	Writing with Arvon: Sophie Pavelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Temple Church	Joanna Miller and Jessica Stanley	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Public Hall	Paula Hawkins and Chris Chibnall	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Temple Church	Mark Urban	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	St Peters Church	Mark Kermode and Jenny Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saturday 20th September

Time	Where	Author/Event	Booked
10am	Temple Church	Horatio Clare	<input type="checkbox"/>
11am	Church on the Green	Becca Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>
11am - 12.30pm	Masonic Hall	Comic Book Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	St Peters Church	Gabriel Gatehouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm	Public Hall	Janice Hallett and Orlando Murrin	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	St Peters Church	Gareth P Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	Public Hall	Tristan Gooley	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm	Temple Church	Rachel Joyce and Harriet Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
2pm - 3.30pm	Masonic Hall	Comic Book Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	St Peters Church	Lucy Easthope	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Church on the Green	Nussaibah Younis	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Public Hall	Adele Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm	Temple Church	Giles Milton	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	Church on the Green	Suzannah V Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.30pm	St Peters Church	Larry Lamb	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sunday 21st September

Time	Where	Author/Event	Booked
10am	Church on the Green	Clare Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
11am	Public Hall	Monisha Rajesh and Nige Tassell	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.30am	Church on the Green	Family Singing Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
1pm	St Peters Church	Andrew Lownie	<input type="checkbox"/>
1pm	Public Hall	Arifa Akbar and Dan Richards	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.30pm - 3pm	Church on the Green	Adult Singing Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	Public Hall	Tiggy Walker	<input type="checkbox"/>
4pm	St Peters Church	Susan Ward Memorial Talk: Robin Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please note all timings and venues may be subject to change.
Check our website for up-to-date information.

Because we too understand that words change lives

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