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Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival Programme

Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 May

More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office **01892 554441**



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Foreword from the Producer of the Literary Festival

A very warm welcome to the third annual Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and thank you to all who have supported it, from sponsors, to partners, to authors and contributors, and mostly to you, our audience.

When we first started out on this journey back in 2022, we truly had no idea what to expect. The country was slowly opening up once more after a period of great fear, uncertainty and isolation, and it was impossible to know just how people would feel about gathering together in public once again, especially in the interest of celebrating the written word. Thankfully for us, it turns out Tunbridge Wells rather likes its literature, and now here we are two years later, bigger, better and thriving in the ever-effervescent literary scene. We are proud to be working once again with Trinity Theatre, The Forum and welcoming new partners the Paddock Wood Community Centre.

As always, we have sought to bring together a broad ranging line-up of incredible authors, poets and performers spanning all manner of genre and age range, working to ensure that whoever you are, whatever you're interested in, and however you like to read, there is something for you at the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival. We have kept our prices as low as possible in the hope we can encourage the curious mind to try something new and be inspired in a way you didn't expect. This year we have introduced the Calverley Grounds Weekend Pass, entitling the ticket holder to try out any of the talks and events in the park.

Calverley Grounds is a new venture for the festival, and food and sustainability will be taking centre stage. The climate crisis is, irrefutably, the most pressing problem facing us at this point in history; we firmly believe it is our duty to raise as much awareness as we possibly can of the many and varied ways we can all seek to combat this threat, particularly with regard to the food we eat. As such, this year's festival will play host to a specially selected and carefully curated programme of author talks, activities, cookery insights, all focused on aspects of sustainable living, environmentally conscious cookery, and the wonderful wellbeing benefits these endeavours provide. There will be many free events and the Sunday will have plenty of family interactive activities, all taking place in the stunning natural surroundings of Calverley Grounds, ensuring that, throughout the day, guests are given the opportunity to experience first-hand the many benefits of interacting with nature, wildlife, and green spaces, and further enforcing our desperate need to protect them.

We are very proud to offer this year's Literary Festival, its exceptionally talented line-up, and the crucial themes at its heart. It couldn't have been achieved without the generous support of our headline sponsors, Berry & Lamberts Solicitors and Maxipay Accounting Services; our funders Arts Council England and Royal Tunbridge Wells Together BID, and our Festival Friends - Thrive Living (Retirement Villages), Maddisons Residential and Good & Green. We truly hope you have as much fun attending as we've had creating it. We would like to thank the culture team who have worked tirelessly to curate the programme and most importantly you, for joining us on this ever-evolving journey into the wonderful world of reading and writing. Thank you!

Carole Winter

Producer, Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival Events at a Glance

Venue	Event	Author/Artist	Time	Page
Thursday 9 May				
Assembly Hall Theatre	Tom Gates Series	Liz Pichon	10:00	6
Trinity Theatre	Boy Like Me	Simon James Green & Charlie Kristensen	16.15	7
The Amelia Scott	Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I	Tracy Borman	18:00	8
Assembly Hall Theatre	Different Aspects	Michael Ball	19:30	9

Friday 10 May

Trinity Theatre	A Better Second Half	Liz Earle	17:00	10
The Amelia Scott	Medea	Rosie Hewlett	18:00	11
Calverley Grounds	Gin and Jazz	Sarah-Jane Hassell Trio	19:00	33
Trinity Theatre	The British Bloke Decoded	Geoff Norcott	19:30	12
Assembly Hall Theatre	Great Uncle Harry	Michael Palin	19:30	13

Saturday 11 May

The Amelia Scott	The Day I Fell Down the Toilet	Anita Mangan	10:00	14
The Amelia Scott	Why, Oh Why am I a Crocodile/ Insects, Bugs & Rock n Roll	Alex Brooks	10:30	14
Trinity Theatre	That's My Story	Adam Power	11:00	15
Calverley Grounds	The Sober Diaries/How to Age Disgracefully	Clare Pooley	11:00	34
Calverley Grounds	Local Writers' Showcase	Local Writers' Tent	11:00	38
Calverley Grounds	Too Many Cooks	Rosemary Shrager	12.15	35
Paddock Wood Community Centre	Time Travelling with a Tortoise	Ross Welford	12.30	16
The Forum	Me and Mr Jones: My Life with David Bowie and the Spiders from Mars	Suzi Ronson	13:00	19
Calverley Grounds	Farm to Fork	Will Devlin	13:15	36
The Amelia Scott	Insects, Bugs & Rock 'n Roll /Crocodile	Alex Brooks	14:00	14
Assembly Hall Theatre	Draw with Rob	Rob Biddulph	14:00	16
Trinity Theatre	The Ladder	Cathy Newman	14:00	17
Calverley Grounds	Curry Everyday	Atul Kochhar	14:30	37
The Forum	The Ghost Theatre	Mat Osman	15:00	19
Paddock Wood Community Centre	Stitch Head: The Graphic Novel	Pete Williamson	15:00	18
Calverley Grounds	Chefs' Panel followed by Q&A	Patrick Hill, Scott Goss, Robin Read	15:45	37

Venue	Event	Author/Artist	Time	Page
Saturday 11 May				
Trinity Theatre	They Thought I Was Dead	Peter James	16:00	21
Calverley Grounds	Comedy Uncorked	Wildwood Vineyard	19:00	38
Assembly Hall Theatre	Rising to the Surface	Lenny Henry with Clive Myrie	19:30	22

Sunday 12 May

Calverley Grounds	Homehealthyoga		10:15	46
Calverley Grounds	There Is No Wall	Allie Bailey	11:00	40
Calverley Grounds	Time for Tea	Celia Aceae	11:00	47
Calverley Grounds	The Woolly Wonder	Applause	11:00	45
Calverley Grounds	This Is Us Dance	Dance Troupe	11.15	45
The Amelia Scott	Murray and Viking	Adam Stower	12:00	24
Calverley Grounds	Consumer, Citizen and its context in Climate Action	Jon Alexander	12:00	41
Calverley Grounds	Poems as Friends	Fiona Bennett, Roxy Dunn, Sarah Salway	12:30	43
Calverley Grounds	Little Owl and Fox storytelling	Katie Haygarth & Ashleigh Cheadle	12:30	
Calverley Grounds	The Woolly Wonder	Applause	13:15	45
Calverley Grounds	Health Walk	TWBC Health Team	13:30	45
The Amelia Scott	Cosima Unfortunate Steals A Star	Laura Noakes	13.30	24
The Amelia Scott	Crime Fiction Panel	Holly Seddon, Lesley Kara, Laura Marshall, Nicole Kennedy	14.00	26
Calverley Grounds	Poets for the Planet	Jacqueline Saphra, Jessica Taggart Rose, Jess Mookherjee and Steve Walter	14.00	44
Calverley Grounds	Little Owl and Fox storytelling	Katie Haygarth & Ashleigh Cheadle	14.30	45
Calverley Grounds	Insects in the Ancient World	Dr Ian Beavis	14.30	42
Calverley Grounds	Mindfulness Taster		15:00	
Calverley Grounds	Word Up	Disruptive Creative	15:30	44
Calverley Grounds	Little Owl and Fox storytelling	Katie Haygarth & Ashleigh Cheadle	15:30	45
Calverley Grounds	Local Gardeners' Question Time	Local Gardeners	16.00	42
Calverley Grounds	The Woolly Wonder	Applause	16.00	45
The Amelia Scott	Being Inbetween	Carolyn Mendelsohn	16:00	28
The Amelia Scott	The Power in the People	Michael Mansfield	16:30	29



Liz Pichon

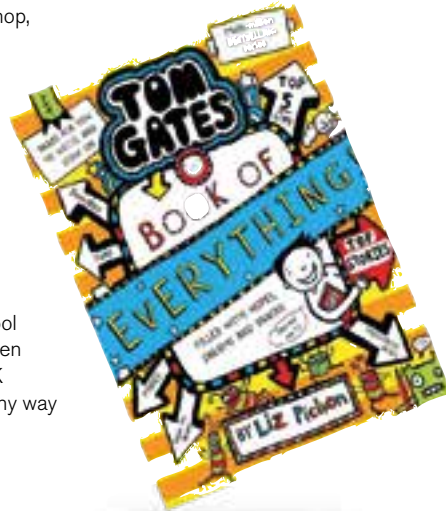
Tom Gates Book of Everything

About the Event:

In a fantastically fun workshop, Liz will be talking about her books and teaching those in attendance how to doodle and draw in her signature Tom Gates style!

About the Author:

Author and illustrator Liz Pichon's wonderful work, now spanning 21 books, and beloved by school children everywhere has been instrumental in inspiring UK children to get creative in any way they choose.



	Childrens Literature
	Assembly Hall Theatre
	9 May 2024
	10:00 – 11:00
	Book signing
	9+ Age Recommendation

Simon James Green & Charlie Kristensen

Boy Like Me

About the Event:

Using Boy Like Me as the springboard for discussion Simon and Charlie will take us on a rollercoaster tour of growing up, school days and working out what it means to be your authentic self. From the awkward humiliations that make us all human, to the devastating effects of bullying, this life-affirming event will celebrate the power of books and stories and encourage us all to help make the world a kinder, happier, more accepting place.

About the Book:

A stunning coming-of-age story that's as heart-warming as it is heart-wrenching, Boy Like Me takes place in 1994, when, under the dark shadow of Britain's Section 28 legislation, Jamie comes across a hidden book in the school library that makes sense of his feelings towards other boys, and finds a note in the margins from another student, someone who feels the same way. Sparks fly as a teenage romance begins, but in this time and place, sparks like these can only ignite trouble.

About the Authors:

Simon James Green is an author, screenwriter, and, undoubtedly, one of the UK's most important authors of children's and young adult's fiction. Simon has penned multiple celebrated LGBTQ+ books for young people, making great and necessary strides in improving representation in literature, and crafting wonderfully written, thoroughly realised characters that remind anyone struggling to relate to other media that they are seen, supported and very much not alone.

Charlie Kristensen is an exceptionally brave young man who suffered bullying and abuse at the hands of classmates after they found out he was a fan of musical theatre. Once his story came to light he received a flood of online support from a number of the musical theatre industry's most famous faces, all of whom let Charlie know that he should always stay true to himself, and that he didn't have to change for anyone. Since then Charlie has blossomed into an award-winning anti-bullying ambassador and activist, who uses the lessons from his own journey to inspire other children to accept themselves for who they are. He is the founder of the Charlie Kristensen Foundation, a charity that provides anti-bullying resources to young people and teachers, and empowers schools and other establishments to foster kindness, care, acceptance and inclusion within their communities.



Simon James Green

Charlie Kristensen

	Young Adults Literature
	Trinity Theatre
	9 May 2024
	16:15 – 17:15
	Book signing
	12+ Age Recommendation



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Tracy Borman

Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I: The Mother and Daughter Who Changed History

About the Event:

With thrilling presentational flair, Tracy will guide guests through the fascinating and thoroughly extensive research she undertook to write this groundbreaking work of historical non-fiction, and discuss, in detail, the importance of this long-untold story, and what inspired her to be the one to lift the veil.

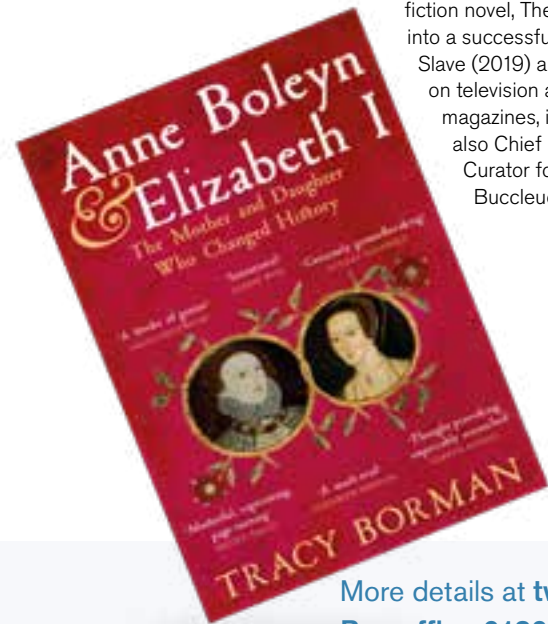
About the Book:

Elizabeth I had not yet turned three when her mother was executed. Piecing together evidence from original documents and artefacts, this brilliant book delves into Anne Boleyn's relationship with, and influence over Elizabeth, shedding light on one of the most extraordinary mother and daughter stories of all time.

About the Author:

A celebrated author, historian and stalwart of heritage in Britain, Tracy Borman has been writing historical non-fiction since 2007. Her debut fiction novel, *The King's Witch*, released in 2018 has since developed into a successful trilogy, having been followed by *The Devil's Slave* (2019) and *The Fallen Angel* (2020). Tracy often appears on television and radio, and is a regular contributor to history magazines, including BBC History. Alongside her writing, she is also Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust, Joint Chief Curator for Historic Royal Palaces, and a proud Trustee of The Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust.

	Factual History
	Upper Atrium, The Amelia Scott
	9 May 2024
	18:00 –19:00
	Book signing
All	Age Recommendation



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More

Michael Ball interviewed by Mel Giedroyc

About the Event:

With his trademark wit and infectious enthusiasm, Michael will discuss the events he has so earnestly detailed in *Different Aspects* – what it takes to make it in the world of musical theatre, and what led him to finally put pen to paper and write his life story for the world to read.

About the Book

In this warm and wonderful memoir, Michael takes us backstage and into the world of musical theatre, exploring the trials and tribulations of the industry and his illustrious career within it, as well as the life he has lived and the relationships he has forged throughout. At its heart, *Different Aspects* is a chronicle of the blood, sweat, tears and laughter that encompass a life lived on the stage.

*'Love, laughter and tears
abound in this warm,
entertaining read!'*
Woman and Home

About the Author:

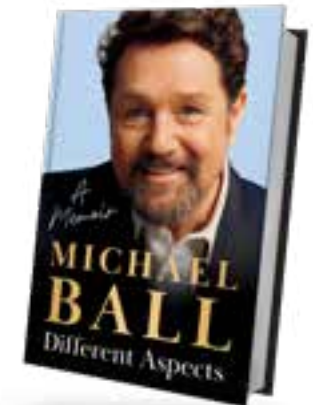
One of the best loved showmen in the UK, actor, singer and West-End star Michael Ball has been dazzling audiences since 1985. Now a lauded veteran of the stage, Michael has seen tremendous theatrical success in both the West-End and on Broadway, and has twice won the prestigious Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical. In 2015 he was awarded an OBE for his services to musical theatre.



Mel Giedroyc has been entertaining the nation for nearly thirty years. A comedian, writer, actor and presenter, Mel is best known for her work with Sue Perkins in the double act Mel & Sue. They have presented many TV shows such as multi Bafta-winning *The Great British Bake Off* (BBC) and *Light Lunch* (Channel 4). Mel has written two non-fiction books and has appeared in sitcoms and panel shows, as well as on radio and on stage, most notably in Stephen Sondheim's Olivier Award-winning *Company* in the West-End. Mel lives in London with her husband and two daughters.



	Memoir
	Assembly Hall Theatre
	9 May 2024
	19:30 –20:30
	Book signing
12+	Age Recommendation



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More





Liz Earle interviewed by Jess Gibson

A Better Second Half: Dial Back Your Age to Live a Longer, Healthier, Happier Life

About the Event:

In a warm, relaxed, yet highly informative presentational style, Liz will break down the science and innovation behind her health and wellbeing solutions, reinforce the importance of taking back control of your physical, mental and emotional health, and explain why she never shies away from using her own body as a testing lab for new discoveries.

About the Book:

An enlightening collection of Liz Earle's hard-won wisdom, specialist know-how and practical advice, A Better Second Half teaches us how to future-proof our health in midlife and beyond using evidence-based techniques, accumulated over years of experience, to sort the facts from the fads with regard to wellbeing. Part retrospective of Liz's fascinating life, and part superb distillation of self-help, this incredibly empowering treatise puts forward what we need to do to live and age well, sharing important information on the gut-brain axis, nutri-genomics, biohacking techniques and much, much more.

About the Author:

One of the most sage and celebrated voices in wellbeing today, Liz Earle is an acclaimed author, influencer and entrepreneur. A maven of beauty, nutrition and health (both physical and mental), Liz is the founder of Liz Earle Wellbeing, a bi-monthly magazine and wellness website, and Liz Earle Fair and Fine, an ethical jewellery line, as well as the co-founder of Liz Earle Beauty Co. She can be seen regularly on UK television, making frequent appearances on ITV's This Morning, as well as being featured on Countryfile and hosting BBC One's Beautywise. In 1997, Liz was awarded an MBE for her exemplary services to the beauty industry.

Jess Gibson is founder of the TN card, a social enterprise and loyalty reward scheme that encourages shoppers in West Kent to support local businesses. Four years since its launch, the TN card works with over 900 independent businesses and has raised £24,000 for its charity partner

West Kent Mind. Jess is a public speaker, podcast presenter and a features writer for several local publications, and is a passionate advocate for mental health. She has four sons aged 7 – 13 and lives in Leigh, Kent.



Rosie Hewlett interviewed by Victoria Sampson

Medea

About the Event:

From an unmissable new voice, comes the powerful and epic story of mythology's darkest heroine. In fascinating detail, Rosie will discuss what drew her to offer a new perspective on Medea's story and why it is of utmost importance that the female voices found in classical literature are not just heard but understood.

About the Book:

Medea longs for a different life. Since childhood, she has been separated from her sister, shunned by her mother, and persecuted and tormented by her brother and father all because of a dangerous and unique talent for witchcraft. Seeing an opportunity to escape, she offers to help the dashing and heroic Jason claim the famed Golden Fleece that her father so fiercely protects, setting in motion a journey that will see her battle monsters, dethrone kings, and fall in love, testing every ounce of her strength, magic and loyalty. When faced with the ultimate betrayal, Medea is driven to an act of desperation so brutal it rips apart the lives of everyone involved.

'Heart breaking and beautiful; absolutely spellbinding; utterly phenomenal.'

'A fiery and dramatic novel, starring one of mythology's most notorious women, this is a fascinating descent into darkness.' – Jennifer Saint

About the Author:

A proud recipient of a first-class honour's degree in Classical Literature and Civilisation, Rosie is exceptionally well-versed in Greek mythology, and is deeply passionate about unearthing the strong female voices present within the classical world. Her debut novel, Medusa is a wildly successful and groundbreakingly innovative exploration and humanisations of one of mythology's most maligned and misunderstood 'villains', and recipient of the Rubery Fiction Award 2021, the International Rubery Book of the Year award, and the Reader's Favourite Silver Medal 2021.

Victoria Sampson is a Partner for the local law firm CooperBurnett and has previously been President of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and District Law Society. She co-founded enTWine, a business forum for Tunbridge Wells.



Mythology & Fiction

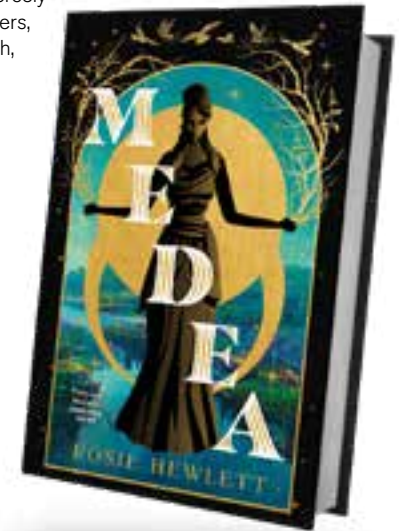
Upper Atrium, The Amelia Scott

10 May 2024

18:00 – 19:00

Book signing

14+ Age Recommendation





Geoff Norcott

The British Bloke, Decoded

About the Event:

With his signature whip-smart comedy stylings, Geoff will lay bare the inner machinations of the average British man, revelling in his ingenuity while also, quite rightly, poking a great deal of fun at his idiocy and eccentricity. It's sure to be a right laugh!

About the Book:

The British bloke appears entirely straightforward: He loves football, cricket, beer, sheds, and socks. Yet beneath this simple exterior lies a mysterious and complex being. In this riotous and relatable guide, Geoff Norcott, very much a regular bloke himself, peels back the many layers of blokedom to reveal the truth behind the frequently inexplicable behaviour of Britain's husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. Boasting 46 years of field research and insights that border on scientific, Geoff covers everything from the value of banter to the surprising roots of mansplaining, and even whether there could be a medal system for hoovering. With toxic men having had a hold on publicity for too long, perhaps it's time to celebrate the simple British bloke in all his odd glory.

'Geoff is one of the funniest intelligent thinkers in comedy and this book reflects that perfectly.'
– Romesh Ranganathan

About the Author:

Writer and comedian Geoff Norcott is a unique voice in British comedy. Having made regular appearances on Live at the Apollo, The Mash Report, Mock the Week and Question Time, along with a spectacular run of sold-out Edinburgh Fringe shows and a number of spectacularly successful live tours, Geoff has carved out a genuine niche in the UK's comic scene, building a dedicated following on the back of a reputation for spectacularly sharp, shrewd humour that operates outside of the more typical comedic commentaries on social and political issues.

More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More

Comedy & Humour

Trinity Theatre

10 May 2024

19:30 –20:30

Book signing

16+ Age Recommendation



Michael Palin interviewed by Gaby Huddart

Great Uncle Harry

About the Event:

As only he could, Michael will detail the trials and triumphs of the incredible research journey he undertook to get to know his Great-Uncle, and how the experience has informed his perspective and understanding of a war that made mysteries of so many young men just like Harry.

About the Book:

A blend of biography, history, travelogue and personal memoir, Great Uncle Harry is an utterly compelling account of an ordinary man who led an extraordinary life. Some years ago, amongst a stash of family records, Michael Palin came across photos of an enigmatic young man in a military uniform. This man, he learned, was his Great-Uncle Harry, whose life was cut short at the age of 32 when he was killed in the battle of the Somme. This discovery shocked and deeply intrigued him, setting in motion a quest involving hundreds of hours of painstaking detective work. This is Michael Palin at his very finest.

About the Author:

One of the UK's most exceptional and influential creative figures, Sir Michael Palin has been making Britain laugh, cry and cheer since 1965. A much-lauded actor, writer, comedian, presenter and travel guru, the Monty Python alumnus has written and starred in over 20 films and countless TV shows, picking up a myriad of accolades, including a CBE and four BAFTAs, along the way.

Gaby Huddart has been a journalist for more than 30 years, most recently working as Editor at Large of the country's biggest lifestyle magazine Good Housekeeping. She specialises in interviews with the country's most well-loved celebrities and authors, including Dame Joanna Lumley, Dame Judi Dench and Dame Mary Berry – and, of course, Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival guest Sir Michael Palin.

Please note Michael will not be doing a book signing.



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More



Memoir

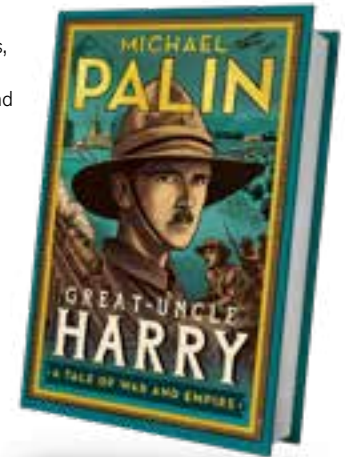
Assembly Hall Theatre

10 May 2024

19:30 –20:30

No book signing

16+ Age Recommendation





Anita Mangan

The Day I Fell Down the Toilet

About the Event:

In a wonderfully interactive workshop, Anita will explain how she approached designing the wacky world and crazy characters in *The Day I Fell Down the Toilet*, and guide guests through a hands-on opportunity to design their own characters in her spectacular signature style!

About the Book:

A high-energy, laugh-out-loud, fully illustrated adventure from best-selling author and much loved actor Stephen Mangan with a message that any kid can be a hero!

'A wildly imaginative, brilliantly silly adventure that's overflowing with toilet humour!'

About the Illustrator

A much sought after and celebrated graphic designer and illustrator, Anita Mangan has designed over 85 books, including the bestselling *Be a Unicorn* series. *The Day I Fell Down the Toilet* is the fourth collaboration with her brother Stephen, following the best-selling *Escape the Rooms*, *The Fart that Changed the World*, and *The Unlikely Rise of Harry Sponge*.

Alex Brooks

Why, Oh Why, am I a Crocodile? and Insects, Bugs & Rock n' Roll

About the Event:

Alex will perform exciting and interactive live readings of both *Why, Oh Why, Am I a Crocodile?* and *Insects, Bugs & Rock n' Roll*, that are sure to be fantastic fun for all the family!

About the Books:

A fabulously fun, rhyming bedtime story, *Why, Oh Why, am I a Crocodile?* follows the titular Crocodile as she strolls along wistfully, wishing she looked like one of the many beautiful creatures she comes across. *Insects, Bugs & Rock n' Roll* tells the tale of an unlikely duo, Spider and Fly, as they journey into the world of rock music! Enchanting, imaginative and incredibly funny, this adorable anti-bullying book will have children mesmerised and adults laughing out loud.

About the Author:

Hometown hero Alex Brooks is an author, business woman, former firefighter and proud mum of three.

Childrens' Illustration

Upper Atrium, The Amelia Scott

11 May 2024

10:00 – 11:00

Book signing

7+ Age Recommendation Bring all the family!



Children's Storytime

Activity Space, The Amelia Scott

11 May 2024

10:30 - 10:50 & 14:00 - 14:20

Book signing

3+ Age Recommendation

Adam Power

That's My Story!

About the Event:

Adam Power-Annand will be reading extracts from his new book *That's My Story!* Drama for Communication, Confidence and Creativity in KS1 and beyond. The book captures the theories and practice behind the Speech Bubbles school projects, and includes many wonderful children's stories and games and activities that can be used to bring them to life.

Adam will be joined in conversation by:

Dr Jonathan Barnes, creative education specialist who has produced several research papers examining the benefits for children and school staff in being involved in the Speech Bubbles drama practice.

Cherry Tewfik, Kent based ceramicist who has contributed a case study to the book about how working with clay can support children's communication development.

Jason Lower, Trinity Theatre's Director of Creative Engagement, who has been championing the Speech Bubbles project in Kent since 2017.



Drama and Education

Trinity Theatre

11 May 2024

11:00 – 12:00

Book signing

All Age Recommendation

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Ross Welford

'A touching tale of family, grief, and love.' - Daily Express

Time Travelling with a Tortoise

About the Event:

Ross will be hosting a marvellous masterclass for all ages, explaining where to find inspiration for characters and settings, as well as how to put your own magical spin on storytelling! Magic tricks included!

About the Book:

Al Chaudhury travelled through time to save his father's life, and it worked! His dad is alive again and everything is as it should be, as far as Al's concerned, anyway. But when an accident robs his beloved grandpa of his memory, Al is forced back in time once more, this time leaving someone behind, trapped in a prehistoric dimension. As he's forced to mount a rescue mission, Al realises there's more to time travel than he thought!

About the Author:

Ross Welford is the highly acclaimed author of 9 page-turning books. He lives in London with his wife, children, a border collie and several tropical fish, and has been shortlisted for a litany of awards, including The Costa Book Award, The Waterstones Children's Books Prize, The Blue Peter Book Award and The Branford Boase Book Award.

Rob Biddulph

'As close to perfection as you can get.' - The Times

#Draw with Rob

About the Event:

Rob will bring his award-winning books to life, including his loveable character Gigantic, a small whale with a big heart and his brand new Draw with Rob: Unicorns activity book!

About the Book:

Join Rob and learn to draw your favourite characters – from Penguin Blue to a very Hot Dog. With super fun and easy to follow step-by-step instructions, this brilliant book is a reminder that, as long as they're having fun, anyone can learn to #DrawWithRob!

About the Author:

Rob Biddulph is the wacky and wonderful brain behind smash-hit viral sensation #DrawWithRob, a series of fantastic, family friendly drawing tutorials that took the internet by storm back in 2021, and remain enormously popular with children and parents to this day. His debut picture book, 2014's Blown Away, was awarded the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the second ever illustrated book to do so. In May 2020 he broke the Guinness World Record for the largest ever online art class when more than 45,000 households tuned in to his live #DrawWithRob YouTube class, and in July of the same year he was awarded a Point of Light by the Prime Minister.

Cathy Newman interviewed by Chrissie Reidy

The Ladder: Life Lessons from Women Who Scaled the Heights (& Dodged the Snakes)

About the Event:

With her unmistakable grace and gravitas, Cathy invites guests to partake in an earnest, open discussion about any and all facets of female life, pointing to examples and anecdotes shared by the many indomitable women found amidst the pages of The Ladder to remind them that they aren't alone, are more than worthy of their successes, and can overcome anything this far-too-often lopsided world throws at them.

About the Book:

Offering insight and wise council from some of the world's most acclaimed and influential women, The Ladder brings together discussions between women about work, love, growth, challenge, the big decisions and the stories of their lives.

'Witty and insightful, challenging and unexpected – This book is a joy.'
- Ruth Davidson

A treasure trove of immaculate insights, this captivating collection of thoughts turns over ideas of change, anger, illness, imposter syndrome, self-knowledge, purpose, how not to panic in a crisis and how to avoid worrying you're boring if there's no crisis to be found, shared firsthand by women who have achieved truly extraordinary things in their fields and pursuits.

About the Author:

The incomparable presenter of Channel 4 News, Cathy Newman is a best-selling author and one of Britain's foremost journalists and broadcasters. Twice longlisted for the Orwell Prize, Cathy has been at the forefront of the UK's political journalism scene since 2006, and has been the voice behind many of the country's most captivating breaking news stories. Her first book, Bloody Brilliant Women: Pioneers, Revolutionaries and Geniuses was released in 2018 to widespread critical acclaim, and was followed soon after by 2020's equally successful It Takes Two: A History of the Couples Who Dared to be Different. She lives in London with her husband and two daughters.

Chrissie Reidy is a BBC news presenter, reporter and editor reporting on a wide range of news stories across Kent and Sussex. She lives in Tunbridge Wells and is a regular contributor to the TW Lit Fest.



Women, Empowerment



Trinity Theatre



11 May 2024



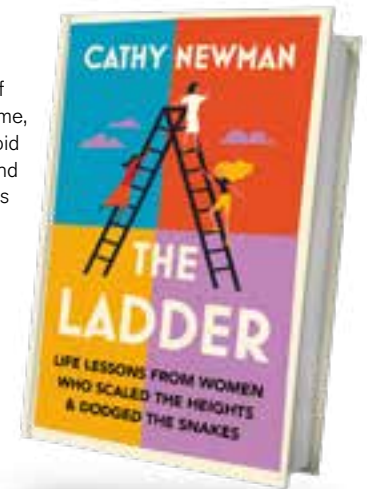
14:00



Book signing

14+

Age Recommendation



Children's Literature



Paddock Wood Community Centre



11 May 2024



12:30 – 13:30



Book signing

8+

Age Recommendation
Bring all the family!



Children's Literature and Illustration



Assembly Hall Theatre



11 May 2024



14:00 – 15:00



Book signing

All

Age Recommendation
Bring all the family!



Pete Williamson

Stitch Head

About the Event:

In a truly terrific workshop, Pete will explain how he brought the weird and wonderful characters of Stitch Head to life, and teach kids and adults alike how to draw their own creepy character in his amazing signature style!

About the Book:

Deep in the dungeons of the maze-like Castle Grotteskew, the eccentric Professor Erasmus created a small, almost-human creature: Stitch Head. As the Professor's experiments continued, he soon filled the castle with new creations so marvellously monstrous that poor Stitch Head was quickly forgotten. That is, until a travelling circus ringmaster knocks on the castle door and promises to make Stitch Head a star. Is this his long-awaited chance to venture beyond the castle walls?

'Deliciously dark, witty and clever. Everyone needs a friend!!' - The Kids Books Curator

About the Illustrator:

Local award-winning children's book illustrator with over 80 books to his name, Pete Williamson is a master of all things spooky and strange. Instantly recognisable from his unique artistic flair, Pete is best known for his work on the award-winning The Raven Mysteries, and the much-loved graphic novel Stitch Head and Skeleton Keys series, written by Guy Bass. He has also illustrated books by acclaimed authors such as Francesca Simon, Steve Cole, Matt Haig and Charles Dickens.

Stitch Head is also soon to be a major motion picture.



Find out More

More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441



Children's Illustration



Paddock Wood
Community Centre



11 May 2024



15:00



Book signing



7+ Age Recommendation

Suzi Ronson interviewed by Sarah Gosling

Me and Mr Jones: My Life with Davie Bowie and the Spiders from Mars

Suzi Ronson was working in a Beckenham hair salon in the early seventies when Mrs Jones came in for her weekly shampoo and set. After being introduced to her son David Bowie and his wife Angie, Suzi finds herself at the Bowies' bohemian apartment and is soon embroiled in their raucous world.

Having crafted his iconic Ziggy Stardust hairstyle, Suzi becomes the only working woman in David's touring party and joins the Spiders from Mars as they perform around the globe. She traversed the absurdities of life in show business, falling in with the likes of Iggy Pop, Bob Dylan and Lou Reed along the way.



Biography and Memoir



The Forum



11 May 2024



13:00 – 14:00



Book signing



16+ Age Recommendation

Mat Osman interviewed by Sarah Gosling

The Ghost Theatre

About the Event:

Lifting the veil on The Ghost Theatre's many mysteries, Mat will discuss what first planted the idea of this spectacular tale in his head, the inspirations behind Shay and Nonesuch's strange story, and the tragic magic of Elizabethan London.

About the Book:

On a rooftop in London two worlds collide, and love sparks and burns against a backdrop of a plague-ridden city in flames. Shay is a messenger-girl and hawk trainer and Nonesuch is the enigmatic star of the city's illustrious child-theatre scene. Together they create The Ghost Theatre: A mysterious troupe that stages magical plays in the city's hidden corners. As their hallucinatory performances incite rebellion, the young lovers soon discover that if they fly too high, a fall is sure to come...

'An imaginative tour-de-force of theatre, magic, love and betrayal.' - Editor's Pick
- The Bookseller



Fiction and Music



The Forum



11 May 2024



15:00 – 16:00



Book signing



16+ Age Recommendation

Deep into the woods she followed the light. Stopped in her tracks she saw it, the place that would help her reach her destiny...



We have been a guiding light to thousands of businesses and individuals throughout the UK by providing outsourced **payroll, HR consultancy and employment status advice.**

www.maxipay.co.uk



Proudly sponsoring
Tunbridge Wells
Literary Festival

Peter James

They Thought I Was Dead

About the Event:

With his mesmeric storytelling talents on full display, Peter will reveal why he has finally decided to tell Sandy's truth after all these years, as well as explore what might be coming next in the world of Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, and share his invaluable insight into what it takes to write a truly killer crime thriller.

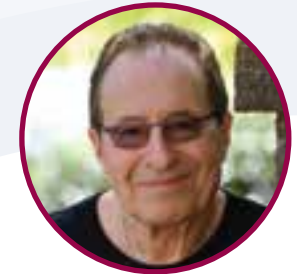
About the Book:

Sandy Grace, loving wife of Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, was a woman with a dubious past, complicated present, and uncertain future; and then she was gone. Her disappearance caused a nationwide search, but when the force's finest minds failed to find her, the conclusion seemed clear: they thought she was dead. In this utterly enthralling thriller, the truth behind Sandy Grace's dramatic disappearance is brought to light for the first time ever. What causes a woman to vanish, leaving her whole life behind? Why did she run? Where did she go

'One of the best crime writers in the business.'
- Karin Slaughter

About the Author:

Best known for the sensational Detective Superintendent Roy Grace series, now a hit ITV drama starring John Simms, Peter James is a UK No.1 bestselling author much loved by fans of thrillers and crime. Celebrated for his fast-paced, page-turning tales full of brilliant and unexpected plot twists, his seriously sinister characters, and his uncharacteristically accurate portrayals of modern-day policing, Peter has won over 40 awards for his work, including the coveted Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger, and WHSmith's Best Crime Author of All Time Award. He has topped the Sunday Times Bestsellers List no less than 19 times, having sold more than 21,000,000 copies of his books worldwide.



Crime Fiction



Trinity Theatre



11 May 2024

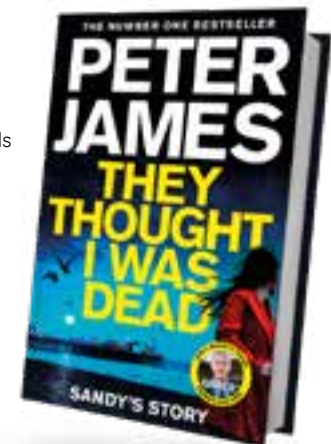


16:00 – 17:00



Book signing

16+ Age Recommendation



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More



Lenny Henry interviewed by Clive Myrie

Rising to the Surface

About the Event:

With all the humour, warmth and wit he is so well known for, Lenny will discuss with Clive the events and emotions detailed in *Rising to the Surface*, contemplating his triumphs, assessing his struggles, and revealing the often harsh realities of a trailblazing career hard-won and maintained through grit and graft.

About the Book:

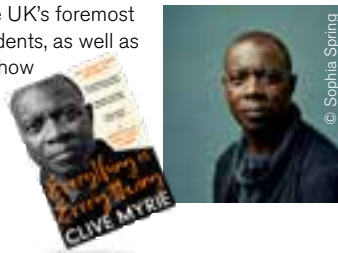
From winning a talent competition at 16 years old, to graciously accepting the illustrious Rose D'or for his work in television, *Rising to the Surface* chronicles the rapturous highs and crushing lows of Lenny Henry's groundbreaking career through the 80's to the early 2000's. A period of immense creativity, these frantic years play host to triumphs aplenty: a number of prize-winning tv programmes, summer seasons across Britain, starring roles in Hollywood films and stand-up shows in New York. But with each of these rises comes a corresponding fall, the most traumatic being the tragic loss of Lenny's mother. The troubled sea of professional comedy remains turbulent, but Lenny found his way up from the depths, breaking the surface a much-changed man. This wonderfully immersive memoir is his story, unburdened and raw.

'Honest and self-castigating... Success is no laughing matter.'
- The Guardian

About the Author:

A household name from the age of 16, Sir Lenny Henry is one of Britain's best-known and best-loved creative and comedic minds. A writer, actor, comedian and philanthropist, Lenny is a leading advocate for diversity in the arts, having established a centre for media diversity at Birmingham City University. He is also the co-founder and public face of Comic Relief, playing a central role in helping the charity raise more than a staggering £1 billion since its inception. His recent screen credits include *Broadchurch* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*.

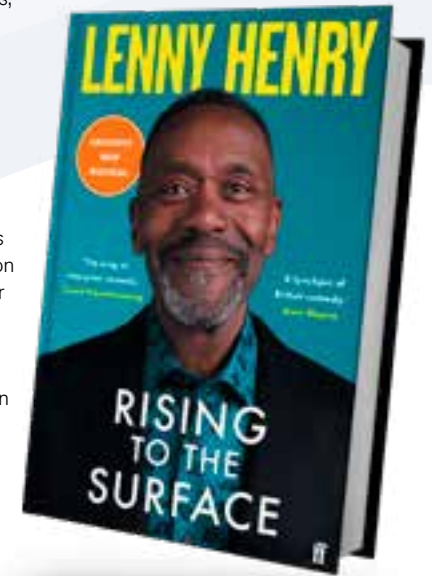
Clive Myrie. Lenny will be in conversation with Clive, a thoroughly respected journalistic presence since starting out as a radio presenter in 1987, Clive Myrie is one of the UK's foremost news presenters and correspondents, as well as the active host of beloved quiz show *Mastermind*. His tremendous work has made him the recipient of multiple awards, including a BAFTA nomination,



the Bayeux-Calvados Award for War Correspondents, and the RTS Television Journalism Awards for both Television Journalist of the Year and Network Presenter of the Year.

Clive will also be signing his book *Everything is Everything: A Memoir of Love, Hate and Hope*.

Charting the highly respected newsreader's path from paper rounds in Bolton to the pinnacle of news broadcasting, Clive Myrie's masterful memoir reflects upon how being black has affected his perspective on the many and varied issues he has encountered over thirty years of reporting some of the biggest stories of our time, explaining how these experiences gave him a better idea of what it means to be an outsider. He tells of his pride in his roots, but his determination not to be defined by his background in dealing with the challenges of race and class to succeed at the highest level. Moving, engaging, and revealing, *Everything is Everything* is a story of love and hate, but also, crucially; hope.



Memoir



Assembly Hall Theatre



11 May 2024



19:30 – 20:30



Book signing

14+

Age Recommendation

Coming soon



Choice. Independence. Purpose.

For those who want to continue to live life on their terms - independent, connected and in control. Welcome to Thrive Living in Tunbridge Wells.

Thrive Living
by Retirement Villages

We see retirement differently.
thrive-living.co.uk/tunbridgewells



Adam Stower

Murray and Bun: Murray the Viking

About the Event:

With a masterfully creative touch, Adam will be leading an incredible illustration workshop for children and families, teaching participants how to come up with their own strange, silly characters and bring them to life with his signature Murray and Bun drawing style!

About the Book:

Meet your favourite new duo: Murray and Bun! Murray is a cat who loves fluffy blankets, peace and quiet, and snoozing. Bun is, well, a bun, and he loves everything! Together, they're unstoppable! Adventure lies just beyond the cat flap!

About the Author:

Adam Stower was born in England, but raised in Switzerland and Germany. He moved to Brighton for his university studies and lives there to this day with his wife, daughter and cat called Murray. His illustration work, particularly his collaborations with David Walliams, has been celebrated for over 25 years and in 2004 when he began writing his own books, he amassed a number of national and international literary awards.

Laura Noakes

Cosima Unfortunate Steals A Star

About the Event:

In a magically motivating presentation, Laura will discuss what it takes to start writing creatively, explain how she came up with Cosima and her friends, and explore what the future might hold for our heist-happy heroine in the soon to be released Cosima Unfortunate Foils A Fraud.

About the Book:

'Gorgeous and powerfully inclusive, with a supremely loveable cast of characters... Expect to have your heart stolen!' - Aisling Fowler

Cosima Unfortunate has spent her entire life at the Home for Unfortunate Girls, a school that disabled children or children deemed different are forced to attend, whether their families want it or not. At school she meets three friends and together they plan a series of mischievous heists. Funny, moving and featuring joyous authentic disabled representations, Cosima Unfortunate is the perfect middle grade debut.

About the Author:

Laura lives in Bedfordshire with her husband and two mischievous cats. Laura has Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder, a disability that she shares with her main character Cosima. Cosima's next adventure, Cosima Unfortunate Foils A Fraud, is due to be released later this year.



Children's Literature and Illustration



Upper Atrium, The Amelia Scott



12 May 2024



12:00 – 13:00



Book signing



6+ Age Recommendation



Children's Literature



Activity Space, The Amelia Scott



12 May 2024



13:30 – 14:30



Book signing



7+ Age Recommendation

PERFORMED IN THE OPEN AIR WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

HENRY V



THE ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE PRESENTS THE CHANGELING THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF HENRY V

Sun 30 Jun | 5pm

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells

assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk



Crime Fiction Panel

About the Event:

In an incredibly entertaining and insightful panel session chaired by Nicole – Laura, Lesley and Holly will discuss what drew them all to write such heart-pounding thrillers, explore the various inspirations, personal and otherwise, behind their incredible work, and even share some of their secret techniques for crafting truly compelling literary murders.

Nicole Kennedy After Paris

'Nicole Kennedy writes beautifully about female friendship, family dramas, relationships, parenting, and the city of Paris. Moving, funny, and hugely relatable.'
- Andres Mara.

About the book: Three women take the same Eurostar to Paris for a girls' trip, but take separate trains back. What happened that weekend? A thought-provoking and gripping novel about trying to hold on to friendships when you start to grow apart.

About the Author: Nicole Kennedy is a lauded author of fiction who lives in Sevenoaks with her husband and three sons. She has always loved writing, but found her efforts waylaid for a long time by her work as an international corporate lawyer. She completed her first novel during her third maternity leave (during which she found writing easier than leaving the house), and her second during Lockdown (when she wasn't allowed to leave the house). Her third book, and her first foray into suspense, is due to release in both the UK and US in 2025.

Laura Marshall My Husband's Killer

'I couldn't put it down So cleverly written that the pages are turning themselves.'
- Fiona Cummins

About the Book: We arrived at a villa on the Amalfi Coast ready to enjoy a sun-soaked weekend with some of our oldest friends, and one new face. By the end of the weekend, my husband was dead. But how can I mourn him when, on the day of his funeral, I discovered he was having an affair, and the only suspects are the women we went on holiday with, my oldest, dearest friends? Do I really want to dig into his secrets? Do I really want to know who betrayed me? And as I dig deeper, do I really believe my husband's death was an accident? Three couples, one murder, a holiday to die for.

About the Author: A Sunday Times top 10 and Kindle No. 1 bestselling author, Tunbridge Wells' own Laura Marshall has penned four exceptionally gripping psychological thrillers: Friend Request, Three Little Lies, The Anniversary and My Husband's Killer. Her work has sold more than half a million copies in the UK alone, and has been translated into more than 25 languages. Her fifth book, the eagerly awaited A Good Place to Hide a Body, is due to be released in July of this year.

Lesley Kara The Other Tenant

'Totally gripping from start to finish. I simply HAD to find out the truth.' - S.E. Lynes

About the Book: Marlow has always lived in unusual places, but when she accepts a position as a live-in property guardian, she finds herself moving somewhere she swore she'd never return to: an elegant and sinister Victorian school, the eerie, empty corridors of which house many of Marlow's worst memories. When one of the other tenants vanishes without warning, Marlow grows determined to find out what happened to her, and suspects that the nine other guardians know far more than they're letting on, but which of these strangers can she trust? Can she uncover the truth before her own past catches up with her? 'Don't get too comfortable...'

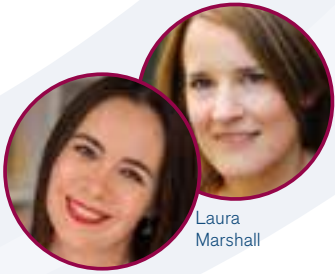
About the Author: Kentish writer Lesley Kara is a celebrated author of psychological thrillers. A Sunday Times top 10 and Amazon No. 1 seller, her debut novel, The Rumour, was the highest selling print crime novel of 2019, and has been optioned for adaptation into a tv show by Cuba Pictures, and has been sold in more than 18 territories worldwide. Her latest book, The Other Tenant, is due for release in April this year.

Holly Seddon The Short Straw

'tense, shocking and moving... An atmosphere you could cut with a knife.' - Alex Michaelides

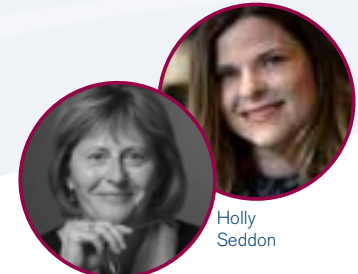
About the Book: Returning from a tense visit with their father, three sisters find themselves trapped by a volatile storm. Together, they seek safety in a now-abandoned manor house, where they once spent their troubled childhood clinging to each other for support, before one day fleeing with their parents in the dead of night. As the storm outside intensifies, the sisters draw straws to decide who should go outside to search for help. Slowly separating, they realise they might not be alone. Who else is hiding in the house? Why did the family leave so suddenly all those years ago? And will the sisters survive this strangest of nights?

About the Author: International bestselling author Holly Seddon grew up in the English countryside obsessed with music and books. After school she worked in London as an editor and journalist, and now lives in Kent with her family, where she spends most of her days writing and co-hosting the popular Honest Author's Podcast with friend and fellow author Gillian McAllister. Her debut novel, the critically acclaimed Try Not to Breathe, was released in 2016, and her latest work, The Short Straw, hit shelves in September of 2023.



Nicole Kennedy

Laura Marshall



Lesley Kara

Holly Seddon



Crime Fiction



Upper Atrium,
The Amelia Scott



12 May 2024



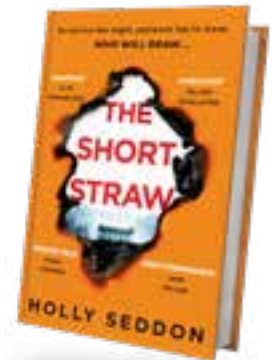
14:00 – 15:30



Book signing

6+

Age Recommendation





Carolyn Mendelsohn interviewed by Ed Liddle

Being Inbetween

About the event:

An open discussion, led by Ed Liddle, about how Carolyn created In Between, a series of powerful photographic portraits of girls aged between 10 and 12, exploring the complex transition between childhood and adulthood.

About the book:

Driven by personal experience, Carolyn worked collaboratively with 90 girls in the midst of navigating this complex, and potentially defining, period in their lives. Too often the target of relentless marketing campaigns and victims of social media pressures, girls at this age are often placed into an amorphous group described as 'tweens'. Through her photography and accompanying interviews, Mendelsohn allows each individual an opportunity to reclaim their identity, encouraging a dialogue on ambitions and aspirations, hopes and fears.

About the Author:

Carolyn is an Artist and Photographer. Her practice is rooted in telling stories and amplifying the voices of those who are not always heard. Her passion is to be able to connect and communicate with people of all ages and backgrounds, to create photographic work that is strong, compelling and based on their lives. She is the founder of Through Our Lens, a workshop and mentoring programme that enables people to tell their stories through the medium of photography.



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441



Michael Mansfield interviewed by Darren Forrester

The Power in the People: How We Can Change the World

About the Event:

With his incomparable presence and conviction, Michael will state his case for why and how unity and perseverance consistently empowers people, drawing on the myriad of high-profile examples he has had a personal hand in bringing to fruition, and assuring those in attendance that, however stacked the odds might seem, there will always be hope for the little people who can band together, hold strong, and harness the latent power they hold.

About the Book:

Barrister Michael Mansfield, KC, has spent his career fighting injustice, persecution and corruption, and be it the Birmingham Six, Bloody Sunday, Stephen Lawrence, the Marchioness, Hillsborough or Grenfell, he has come to learn one thing: people power is unstoppable. Time and time again, he has witnessed governments, police forces, legal institutions, the establishment in all its forms, attempt to prevent positive change in order to protect their interests, but almost every time he has seen the passion, perseverance, unity and courage of ordinary people create a momentum that is near-impossible to stop. Drawing upon 50 years of experience fighting for justice, Michael revisits his most important cases and clients, proving without doubt that when people get together they can, and do, make lasting, positive change. The power is in the people, not the people in power.

About the Author:

First called to the bar in 1967, Barrister Michael Mansfield became Queen's Counsel in 1989, and has spent his 50-year career fighting to overturn miscarriages of justice, championing victims, and supporting their families. He has represented clients from the Birmingham 6, the Guildford 4 and the Tottenham 3. He has fought for the Orgreave miners, the parents of Stephen Lawrence, and for the families of the victims of Bloody Sunday, Hillsborough, the Marchioness, Lockerbie and Grenfell. A prolific writer, Michael has published several books, including his 2009 autobiography, *Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer* (Bloomsbury, 2009), and recently launched a podcast, *Two Heads*, with fellow barrister Lorna Hackett.

Michael will be interviewed by Darren Forrester, who is a Partner in the Commercial and Dispute Resolution team at Berry & Lamberts Solicitors, sponsoring the Literary Festival for the second time.



Biography

Atrium,
The Amelia Scott

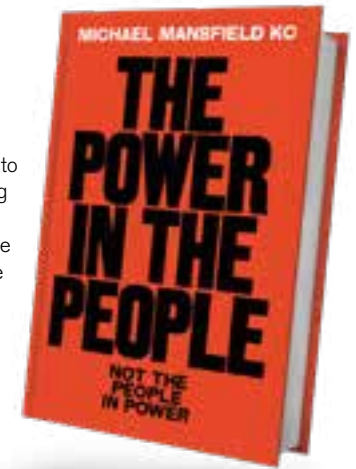
12 May 2024

16:30 – 17:30

Book signing

16+ Age Recommendation

'This is a book of great importance... An act of solidarity.' - Ken Loach



Find out More

TW LitFest Green Living Weekend in Calverley Grounds

Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May
Weekend Programme of Events

A vibrant celebration of everything good for us as people, and the planet as a whole.

Two jam-packed days with a focus on cooking and sustainability, wellbeing and happiness, explore what we can all do to effect change, make a difference and Plant a Pledge.

FRIDAY 10 May

The Marquee

Music Event

Gin and Jazz

Sarah-Jane Hassell Trio

19:00

SATURDAY 11 May

The Local Writers' Tent

Author talks:

Local Writers (All day)

11:00

The Talk Tent

Author Talk:

Clare Pooley

The Sober Diaries & How to Growing Old Disgracefully

11:00

Author Talk:

Rosemary Shrager:

Too Many Cooks

12.15

SATURDAY 11 May

The Marquee

Chef Talk: Will Devlin 13:15

The Small Holding
Farm to Fork Eating

Chef Talk: Atul Kochhar 14:30

Essence: Curry Everyday

Chefs' Panel: 15:45

A Taste of the Season

Patrick Hill Thackeray's

Scott Goss, The Beacon

Robin Read, The Counter

Chefs' Q&A: 16:45

Your Questions Answered

Comedy and Wine Event: 19.00

Comedy Uncorked

SUNDAY 12 May

The Poetry Tent

Author Talk:

There is No Wall

Allie Bailey

11:00

Poets Talk:

Poems as Friends

Fiona Bennet, Roxy Dunn, Sarah Salway

12:30

Poets Talk:

Poets for the Planet

Jess Mookherjee, Jacqueline Saphra, Jessica Taggart Rose, Steve Walter

14:00

Poets Talk: 15:30

In association with

The Forum

Word Up

STALLS
ALL WEEKEND

SUNDAY 12 May

The Marquee

Expert Talk:

Celia Aceae

11:00

Time for Tea

Author Talk:

Jon Alexander

12:00

Consumer, Citizen and its context in Climate Action, followed by a discussion with Amplifi

Author Talk:

Ian Beavis

14:30

Insects in the Ancient World

Talk: Panel

16.00

Local Gardeners' Question Time includes author Alex Mitchell: The Edible gardener and Notcutts

BEER TENT
Westerham Brewery, Chapel Down Wine Makers' Market

FREE OUTDOOR EVENTS

Performance:	The Woolly Wonder	11:00
Performance:	This is Us Dance Group	11:15
Storytelling:	Little Owl and Fox	12:30
Performance:	The Woolly Wonder	13:15
Storytelling:	Little Owl and Fox	14:30
Performance:	Little Owl and Fox	15:30
Storytelling:	The Woolly Wonder	16:00

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Face Painting	Health Walks	Mini Park Safaris
Bee Hotels	Bug Hunts	Puppet Shows
Yoga	Crafts	Tote Bag Printing
Picnic Area	Play Park	



GIN AND JAZZ

With the
SARAH-JANE HASSELL TRIO



AND HANDCRAFTED LOCAL GIN-MAKERS



MC BEN THORNTON

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2024

19:00 - 20:45 • Tickets £25 - Includes 3 gin cocktails

twlitfest.co.uk • 01892 554441 • The Marquee, Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells

Gin and Jazz

TW Lit Fest is delighted to present Gin and Jazz, a combined evening of entertainment and gin-tasting in association with Jonomade Gin and Local & Live's very own Paul Dunton.

Featuring the amazingly talented **Sarah-Jane Hassell Trio**, playing a sublime mix of jazzy classics, Americana-inspired tunes and modern-day hits the evening will be MC'd by local stand up comic, actor and musician **Ben Thornton**.

Prior to her career in jazz, Sarah-Jane performed extensively in the West-End, playing leading roles in *Evita*, *Les Miserables*, *My Fair Lady*, *Miss Saigon*, and *City of Angels*, to name just a few.

Jonomade Gin is a local family-run boutique gin distillery. Throughout the evening, you will be introduced by the makers of Jonomade to

the journey behind distilling their handcrafted micro-batch gins, the names of which are inspired by much loved family members:

Jonomade Classic is the family gin, designed to stand up to tonic & not to be overwhelmed.

Jonomade Dolly's Mix was developed to honour their sweet-toothed mother and grandmother, Dolly. It is their take on a "Pink Gin".

Jonomade Nana's Nip is inspired by a beloved grandmother, Annie who loved a gin & orange.

Price inclusive of the gin cocktails. Age Restriction: 18+



Music Event



The Marquee,
Calverley Grounds



10 May 2024



19:00 – 20:45



18+ Age Restriction

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Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival

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Clare Pooley interviewed by Louise Jameson

The Sober Diaries/How to Age Disgracefully

About the event:

With her effervescent spirit and effortless wit, Clare will be answering questions led by Louise Jameson on both The Sober Diaries and How to Age Disgracefully, waxing lyrical on the way she uses her personal experiences to flavour her fiction, as well as what it's been like to see her heartfelt memoir help so many people starting out on a path she herself has walked and conquered.

About the book:

The Sober Diaries: Like many women, Clare found the juggling of a stressful career and family life a struggle so she left her successful role as a Managing Partner in one of the world's biggest advertising agencies to look after her family. She knew the change wouldn't be easy but she never expected to find herself an overweight, depressed, middle-aged mother of three who was drinking more than a bottle of wine a day, and spending her evenings googling 'Am I an alcoholic?'

This book is the bravely honest story of a year in Clare's life. A year that started with her quitting booze and then being given the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. By the end of the year she is booze-free and cancer-free, she no longer has a wine belly, is two stone lighter and with a life that is so much richer, healthier and more rewarding than ever before.

About the Author:

Clare Pooley is a blogger, public speaker and New York Times bestselling author from London. After graduating from Newnham College, Cambridge, she spent twenty years in the heady world of advertising before becoming a full-time mum after the birth of her third child. Upon realising that her 'wine o'clock' habit had spiralled out of control, she started her enormously popular blog, Mummy Was a Secret Drinker, a project that eventually led to the release of her critically acclaimed memoir, The Sober Diaries, in 2017. Her debut fiction novel, 2020's The Authenticity Project, was selected as a BBC Radio 2 Bookclub pick, quickly became a New York Times Bestseller, and won the RNA Debut Novel Award.

	Wellbeing, Memoir & Fiction
	The Author's Tent, Calverley Grounds
	11 May 2024
	11:00
	Book signing
16+	Age Recommendation

The Sober Diaries: This is Bridget Jones Dries Out!

'Uplifting, heartwarming and joyful. Restored my faith in humankind' - Ruth Jones



Rosemary Shrager interviewed by Gaby Huddart

Too Many Cooks

About the Event:

In the scenic surroundings of Calverley Grounds, Rosemary will be interviewed by Gaby Huddart in a cozy, conversational style, discussing this latest chapter in Prudence Bulstrode's deliciously dark and comic escapades, what the future might hold for our hash-slinging heroine, and the surprising links between cookery and crime writing.

About the Book:

Think bolsly Mrs Beeton meets Miss Marple. Witty, warm and so enjoyable. - Jo Brand

The next irresistible crime novel following on from The Last Supper and Proof In The Pudding! Crime and cookery continue to collide as Prudence and her long-suffering sidekick, granddaughter Suki, get drawn into another mystifying murder...

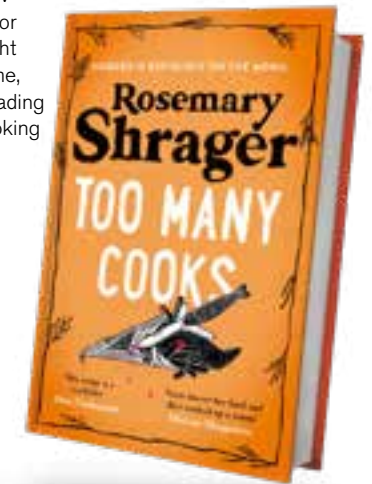
This recipe is a real killer!

About the author:

Local legend Rosemary Shrager is a proudly self-taught chef, TV presenter, cookbook writer and, as of 2022, accomplished author of exemplary cozy crime novels. With a myriad of TV credits, eight cookbooks and now three critically acclaimed novels to her name, Rosemary is currently focused on her fiction work, as well as leading the wildly popular cook-along demonstrations for her virtual cooking school, which started during lockdown and has only grown in popularity.



	Crime Fiction
	The Author's Tent, Calverley Grounds
	11 May 2024
	12:15 - 13:15
	Book signing
14+	Age Recommendation



More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office 01892 554441

Find out More



Chef's Table

The Marquee in Calverley Grounds

In a gastronomic feast, TW Lit Fest is hosting some of the best culinary minds in the county to share a rare collective insight into the inspiration, passion and imagination behind some of their favourite dishes, and their joint commitment to working with fresh, locally sourced produce. **Your chance to meet face to face these incredible chefs.**

Our chefs will share the joy of cooking, encourage people to explore the many superb, environmentally conscious local restaurants, and remind us all that when we eat well, we live well. These sessions are perfect for the food enthusiast, a passionate chef, or the cook at home simply looking for home tips and inspiration.



Will Devlin



The Small Holding

Will Devlin interviewed by Gaby Huddart

The Small Holding, Kilndown

About the Event: Farm to Fork

Gaby Huddart meets Will Devlin, who with his brother Matt owns The Small Holding in Kilndown. She will discuss Will's key focus on sustainability, with growing and foraging being at the heart of what they do. Not only have they gained a great reputation for stunning food, beautiful drinks and unique farm to table experience for guests, Will is a strong proponent of fair working and great training opportunities for the next generation of chefs, and teaching all that is good about food and wellbeing.

Atul Kochhar interviewed by Gaby Huddart

Essence, The Pantiles



Atul Kochhar

About the Event: Curry Everyday

Author of six cookery books, Atul has been at the forefront of Indian Cuisine for the last 30 years. In this fascinating insight into his background influences, Atul will take us on a story of Indian gastronomic discovery and delight, focusing on his most recent book Curry Everyday.



Scott Goss



Patrick Hill



Robin Read

A Taste of the Season

Panel discussion with chefs:

Scott Goss – The Beacon, Patrick Hill – Thackeray's, Robin Read– The Counter

Scott is famous for his seasonal cooking bringing a comforting, familiar and nostalgic-induced feel to his seasonal menus.

Fittingly from the home of novelist William Makepeace Thackeray, Pat brings the best of British and European fine dining together with classic culinary tips for the keen cook to practice at home.

A supporter of the artisan farmers, growers and producers, and a strong advocate of naturally sourced produce, Robin has hunted down the best you can find from farm to sea. He takes great pride in having met all his suppliers and been to their farm, river, warehouse and bar across the country to make sure he has the best knowledge of his produce in the kitchen.

Individual introductions and talks will culminate in a Q&A discussion led by **Gaby Huddart** with members of the audience.



Essence



Chef's Table



The Marquee, Calverley Grounds



11 May 2024



14:30 – 15:30+



Age Recommendation



Chef's Table



The Marquee, Calverley Grounds



11 May 2024



15:45 - 16:45
Followed by a Q&A



Age Recommendation



Interviewer – Gaby Huddart

Local Writers' Showcase

Being a town with a truly rich creative history, it is no surprise that Tunbridge Wells is home to a host of incredibly talented authors, and where better to shed light on their exceptional work than at the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival?

Join us in scenic Calverley Grounds on Saturday 11th May for our spectacular Local Writers' Showcase, an incredible opportunity to meet some of Tunbridge Wells' most exciting homegrown literary talent. Taking place from 11:00 – 16:00, the showcase offers a chance for avid readers to discover their next authorial obsession, and seeks to nurture an appreciation for just how much creative brilliance can be found right here in our beloved borough.





This year's featured authors include:

Amanda Lynch & Francisco Centofanti, Emma Brand,

Jo Calman, Jo Simpson, Karen Langston, Laurel Lindström

Leonora Langley, Lisa Brett, Lotte James, Ram Gidoomal,

Rukshana Horwood and more!

	Writers' Showcase
	The Marquee, Calverley Grounds
	11 May 2024
	11:00 – 16:00
All	Age Recommendation



Comedy Uncorked

Bursting with laughter and wine, '**Comedy Uncorked**' is coming to Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival, in association with the TN card!

Curious about local wine and want a laugh with friends? Join three hilarious comedians for a funny and unforgettable evening's entertainment, all hosted by MC Aimee Cooper in collaboration with Tunbridge Wells Fringe Festival!

Featuring entertainment from three corking comedians, the night promises to be full of sips and giggles, with a wine tasting lead by wine expert **Paul Olding**, author of The Urban Vineyard and owner of Wildwood Vineyard, leading you through a delightful selection of their wines.

Age Restriction: 18+

	Comedy Uncorked
	The Marquee, Calverley Grounds
	11 May 2024
	19:00
18+	Age Restriction

WILDWOOD
VINEYARD

THE *tn* CARD
SHOP LOCAL. BE REWARDED

TW LIT FEST 2024

COMEDY
Uncorked

Sat 11 May, 7.00pm

Join us in Calverley Grounds for an evening full of sips and giggles!

MC - Aimee Cooper.
Star of "The Monster stand-up show!"



Wine Tasting

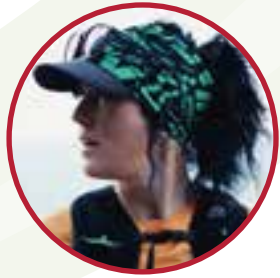
Rosé De Noirs 2021 Brut

Eagle Ridge Rose 2022

Thieving Badger Regent red 2022

Tickets: £25

twlitfest.co.uk | 01892 554441
The Marquee, Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells



Allie Bailey interviewed by Daniel Huckfield

There Is No Wall

About the event:

Allie's story is extraordinary.

In her own words: 'My thing about talks is that there is a lot of BS spouted by people who stand up and yap about the power of running, endurance sport and their adventures and then try and sell you a book or some kind of weird diet or training scheme that will change your life. I am different. I believe that you should be completely honest. I believe that authenticity is key. I don't have anything to sell, but I do have some stories to tell. I have wealth of real experience when it comes to running, mental health, and some pretty awesome, sometimes funny stories.'

"Allie is an amazing, raw, honest and engaging speaker. She is an incredibly inspiring person that has achieved unbelievable things and is able to speak about them in a captivating way."

- Mike Seaman - Director, The National Running Show

About the Book:

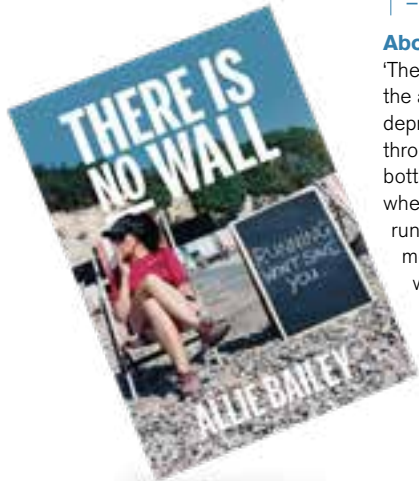
'This is an extraordinary book. It's about running (and some) and mental health (and some) ... Powerful, emotional and also funny!'

- Vassox Alexander, Runner and Broadcaster

About the author:

'The important thing is that I have been through the mill and have had the absolute pleasure of hitting rock bottom as the result of pushing depression, addiction and self-care so far under the rug that they fell through the cracks in the floorboards. I wouldn't advise hitting rock bottom. It's not great. I have done an immense amount of work on where it all went wrong - and it turns out it had nothing to do with my running and everything to do with the stories my brain was telling me - not only about running but about my self worth, my place in the world and my own capabilities. I vowed to never, ever allow myself to go back to that place. I did the work and now I want to show other people that almost anything is possible.' Allie Bailey

Age Restriction: 16+



The Marquee

All day, the Marquee is dedicated to giving the stage over to authors and speakers around topics connected to climate change, sustainable food, wildlife regeneration & biodiversity.

Jon Alexander interviewed by Bob Willard Witts

Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything is All of Us

About the event:

Jon joins us to discuss his work and its practical applications. Through this important and timely book, and as a founder of the New Citizenship Project, Jon encourages us to reframe our world view from that of consumer to citizen and asks, when we do so, what can we achieve?

Afterwards, Jon will be joined by Jenny Kitchen of Amplifi and Ruth Rogers, a community and placemaking producer, for a Q&A about citizen action and how it can help with the fight against climate change.

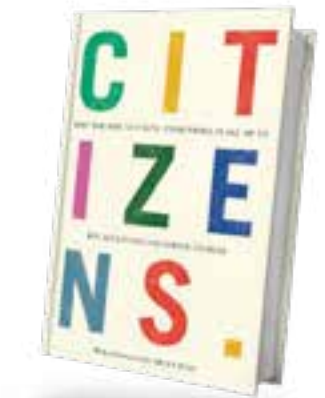
About the Book:

Citizens was recently listed by McKensey as one of its Top 5 Recommended Books in its Summer Reading Guide 2022, described as 'an underground hit' in the FT and selected by the World Economic Forum for its CEO Book Club.

About the author:

Jon began his career with a decade in the advertising industry, winning the prestigious Big Creative Idea of the Year, before making a dramatic change. Driven by a deep need to understand the impact on society of 3,000 commercial messages a day, he gathered three master's degrees, exploring consumerism and its alternative from every angle. In 2014 he co-founded the New Citizenship Project to bring the resulting ideas into contact with reality. In Citizens he shares them with the world.

Amplifi is a local initiative aiming to unite businesses for climate and the community.



Sustainability



The Author's Tent, Calverley Grounds



12 May 2024



12:00 - 13:30



Book signing

14+

Age Recommendation



Wellbeing, Memoir



The Author's Tent, Calverley Grounds



12 May 2024



11:00 - 12:00



Book signing

16+

Age Restriction



Dr Ian Beavis

Talk: Insects in the Ancient World

About the Book:

A Cultural History of Insects in Antiquity (2024) is a multi-author survey of the role of insects in Classical Greece and Rome and other cultures of the Ancient World. Ian's opening chapter Insect Knowledge explores the extent and accuracy of the Ancients' knowledge of the insect world, and the extent to which their approach can be described as scientific.

About the Author:

Dr Ian Beavis read Classics at the University of Exeter, and his doctoral thesis was published as *Insects and Other Invertebrates in Classical Antiquity* by the University Press in 1988. He joined the former Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery in 1985 and currently holds the post of Research Curator at the Amelia Scott. Ian is the author of a number of books and papers on local history and natural history, and regularly lectures and leads public events on these themes.

Talk: Local Gardeners' Question Time

About the Event:

Looking to transform your garden or allotment into a vibrant oasis? Our team of seasoned gardeners is here to help! Whether you're tending to a small garden, nurturing an allotment, or exploring rewilding practices, join us for expert advice tailored to our local area.

Join us for an engaging session where you'll learn about:

- Best plant selection for our region's climate and soil conditions, including varieties ideal for allotments and small garden vegetable growing.
- Secrets to creating stunning and functional outdoor spaces, maximizing space in small gardens, and incorporating rewilding principles.
- Eco-friendly pest and disease management strategies that support biodiversity and rewilding efforts.

Bring your questions and enthusiasm, and let's elevate your gardening game together. Whether you're looking to enhance your veg growing skills, create a wildlife-friendly habitat, or simply enjoy the therapeutic benefits of gardening, we've got you covered!



Biodiversity



The Marquee, Calverley Grounds



12 May 2024



14:30 – 15:15

14+ Age Recommendation



Biodiversity, Wildlife and Nature



The Marquee, Calverley Grounds



12 May 2024



16:00 – 17:00

14+ Age Recommendation
(Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult)

The Poetry Tent

Fiona Bennett, Roxy Dunn, Sarah Salway

Poems as Friends

About the Event:

Fiona Bennett, co-author of the unique *Poems as Friends* anthology is joined by special guests Roxy Dunn and Sarah Salway in a sumptuous hour celebrating the power of poetry in our lives. In this lively, warm and uplifting event, *The Poetry Exchange* will share stories and poems from the book to reveal the life-changing power of connection created in the company of poems as friends.

About the anthology:

The Poetry Exchange is an award-winning podcast and project that celebrates the role poetry plays in people's lives. In their first anthology, Fiona Bennett and Michael Shaeffer draw on ten years of archival material to bring together a collection of poems chosen by readers that know them as friends, presented alongside their personal stories of connection. Featuring Brian Cox on John Clare, Andrew Scott on George Herbert, Maxine Peake on Tony Harrison and many more, in this gathering of poems you can reacquaint yourself with old friends, perhaps make some new ones, and enjoy the companionship poetry can offer us.

About the poets:

Fiona Bennett is a writer, director and founder of the Poetry Exchange. She has been working in theatre and poetry for over 30 years. Her poems have featured on BBC Radio and in journals and anthologies across the UK and internationally. As a curator, collaborations include work with the National Theatre, Ballet Black and the RSC.

Roxy Dunn is a writer, performer and graduate of the BBC's *Writer's Room*. Her collection of poetry *Big Sexy Lunch* is published by Verve Poetry Press and her debut novel, *As Young As This*, is forthcoming from Penguin Random House.

Sarah Salway has published six books of poetry and prose. Her work has been featured in *Poetry London*, *The FT* and BBC Radio among many other places. She is a tutor and mentor, a Hawthornden Fellow, a Royal Literary Fund Fellow and runs a long-standing reading group in Kent.



Wellbeing and Poetry



The Poetry Tent, Calverley Grounds



12 May 2024



12:30 – 13:30



Book signing

14+ Age Recommendation





All Day Free Family Zone 11:00 – 17:00

Learning about, connecting with and exploring nature is such an important way to engage children with our planet and the importance of protecting it.

Tackling climate change and improving sustainability is a journey that our children will see the impacts of more than most. We hope our dedicated wellbeing and sustainability day at this year's festival, will further foster this important connection and passion towards sustainability and nature for all ages.

Bring your own picnic to enjoy amidst the tranquil surroundings of the park. Additionally, children can explore the play park and participate in various free engaging activities tailored for family fun.

For those feeling crafty, there will be drop in bee hotel-making, highlighting the importance of preserving local bee populations, did you know there is an endangered species of bee that lives in and around Calverley Park!

Families can also look forward to the return of Little Owl and Fox for a delightful puppetry storytime, promising entertainment for attendees of all ages.

Nature enthusiasts will have the opportunity to join a family nature walk, offering a first-hand exploration of the park's natural wonders and learning about the local ecosystem.

Mini Park Safari
12.30 – 13:00
Please book to ensure a place

Little Owl Story telling
12.30; 14.30 & 15.30

This is Us Dance Performance 15:00

The Woolly Wonder Performances:
11:00; 13:15 & 16:00

Drop in family activities:
Bee hotel making and facepainting from 11:00

All Day – Opportunity to meet local charities and business that work to promote sustainability and wellbeing locally 11:00 – 17:00



Sustainability and Poetry

The Poetry Tent, Calverley Grounds

12 May 2024

14:30 – 15:30

14+ Age Recommendation (Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult)

Speaker:

Talk: Poets for the Planet

About the Event: **Poets for the Planet** is a community of kindred poets, performers and artists raising their voices to engage with climate and ecological emergency through poetry.

In the movement of molecules; in the swirl of clouds over seas; in the silences between words and notes of music; in the dance of bees.

And our planet is in crisis. Global climate emergency and ecological disaster can no longer be sidelined or ignored. Poets for the Planet insists on the care, conservation and regeneration of our environment and resources.

Inspired by protest round the world, we believe that the poetry community has an important role to play in calling on a range of voices, experiences and passions to respond to this crucial moment of challenge.

Come along to hear from excellent poets, including the Poets for the Planets Chair, Jacqueline Saphra, alongside Jessica Taggart Rose, Jess Mookherjee and Steve Walter.



Sustainability and Poetry

The Poetry Tent, Calverley Grounds

12 May 2024

15:30 – 17:00

All Age Recommendation

Word Up, Disruptive Creative

About the Event: Word Up is on a mission to make all voices heard through spoken word. Established in 2013, we encourage all lovers of poetry to join us for an eclectic evening that will move and soothe you. We run an open mic on a first come, first served basis and regularly have over 25 poets performing. Truly an event with something for everyone. You will laugh and cry and hopefully be inspired to write or read yourself.

All Day Free Go Wild Zone

11:00 – 17:00



Nature can have such an impact on our wellbeing, and as such, it's important that we have a positive impact on nature!

Our 'Go Wild' area is a great way to learn about how you can improve biodiversity in your own garden and tackle the impacts of climate change when doing so, whilst also learning to embrace nature in your own health and wellbeing journey.

Sunday's line-up caters to all who wish to learn more about local nature and biodiversity or those looking to experience the health and wellbeing benefits of being in nature. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with local charities, such as **Bedgebury, Folly Wildlife** and **Notcutts** dedicated to supporting and caring for wildlife and green spaces in the area. Stands will be set up where visitors can learn about the important work being done and how they can get involved.

For those with a green thumb, gardening tips will be readily available from the **Tunbridge Wells in Bloom Team**, offering valuable insights into nurturing local flora and fauna.

Additionally, attendees can book onto a **Health Walk**, to immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the park while reaping the benefits of physical activity.

For a more serene experience, **yoga** sessions will be held in the park, providing an opportunity for everyone to connect with nature and rejuvenate their minds and bodies amidst the tranquil surroundings.

1. **Health Walk, 13:30 – 14:30**

Free and drop in available but booking is preferred.

The Ramblers Wellbeing Walks provide sociable walking groups throughout the borough of Tunbridge Wells.

There are weekly walks in several of the parks of Royal Tunbridge Wells, which feature the stunning views of cultivated landscapes and architecture.

Walkers enjoy the benefits of friendly leaders, good company, fresh air and stunning scenery. Most groups also take the opportunity to stop for refreshments after the walk. Why don't you try it for yourself!

Duration up to 60 minutes. The walk will include well paved paths with some inclines and a couple of roads to cross, but generally very easy going. Meet outside the café.

2. **Yoga in the park, 10:15 – 11:00**

Free and drop in available but booking is preferred.

Come along to a yoga session in the beautiful surroundings of the park. Whether you're just starting out or a seasoned practitioner, all are welcome to enjoy the session. Embrace the tranquility and join us for an enriching experience suitable for 10+ (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Delivered by **Homehealthyoga**.



All Day Local Zone

11:00 – 17:00

Sustainability is eating local, travelling local, shopping local and holidaying local.

In Tunbridge Wells there is an abundance of ways to do all of the above, with many local businesses taking the plunge into sustainability and making a difference every day. Support local and make a difference.

Meet the faces behind the eco-friendly initiatives and learn how they're making a positive impact in our community. Organisations include **Charles Angels** and **Brains Matter, NHS Health Bus**, and local business **Goupie**, as well as **TW Good and Green, Tunbridge Wells Repair Café** and **Men in Sheds**. Also, local charities such as **Hospice in the Weald**, and **MIND** all of whom are very resourceful in supporting local people. Artist Imogen Partridge will be capturing the day in water colour.

Plus, don't miss **Visit Tunbridge Wells**, who want to hear your ideas! Print your own reusable tote bag and learn about greener ways to travel and explore Tunbridge Wells. Join us in supporting local businesses and building a greener future together!

1. **Time for Tea: Celia Aceae 11:00 – 12:00**

Come and taste some unique teas with Celia Aceae, a Tea Sommelier and Camellia enthusiast. As a tea research and development specialist for one of North America's largest loose-leaf tea companies, Celia developed blends and sourced straight tea for over nine years and as if that weren't enough to prove her love of tea, she went on to pursue an MSc in Plant Taxonomy, specialising in Camellia (that's right—the genus responsible for your daily cuppa). So bring your curiosity and any burning questions you've been saving for the next time you meet a tea expert, such as, where does my tea come from and what temperature should my water be? Are green and black tea the same thing? Which one has more caffeine? You'll learn all about the great variety of flavour that the mighty Camellia sinensis leaf offers, some tasting tricks, the truth behind a few common tea myths, and so much more!

2. **Mindfulness Taster: 15:00 – 15:45** Please book.

Mindfulness is for anyone who wishes to do something for themselves to enhance their mental and physical wellbeing, improve resilience to stress, and live life more fully.

Mindfulness is easy to both learn and use. It is best described as being fully aware without judging your feelings, thoughts and the world around you. It is being fully awake and engaged in your daily life and offers a simple yet powerful way of improving your experience of life and can stimulate a better sense of wellbeing. Delivered by **Tansy in the Wild**.



Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival Locations



Please walk, cycle or use Public Transport where possible



Waterstones supports
Tunbridge Wells
Literary Festival