

10TH DORCHESTER ANNIVERSARY LITERARY FESTIVAL 2024

Saturday 12th - Saturday 19th October



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WELCOME FROM THE FESTIVAL PATRON



Literary festivals are such a pleasure, for both readers and writers. Readers get to hear what goes on behind the making of a book, and share their interest with a room full of other excited book lovers. Writers get to meet their bosses – the people we're actually writing for! It's a thrill to me as a novelist to talk with readers of my books and hear their views: surprising, amusing, sometimes controversial, and always interesting.

Dorchester Literary Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year: 10 years of fascinating and entertaining guests, from cooks to crime writers, poets to politicians, Hardyans to historians, scientists to cyclists. I have loved witnessing the

festival's growth and success. For a small town, Dorchester punches above its weight when it comes to culture, and the Dorchester Literary Festival is one of its gleaming jewels. Here's to another 10 years!

Tracy Chevalier - Festival Patron

DLF TEAM

Janet Gleeson - Festival Director

Helen Mockridge - Publicity Director

Paul Atterbury - Festival Co Founder

Rosie Johnson - Volunteer Coordinator

Paul Gleeson - Sponsorship and Advertising Director

Contact us:
contact@dorchesterliteraryfestival.com

FESTIVAL CHARITY

We are delighted that Weldmar Hospice Care is our chosen charity this year.

FRIENDS OF THE DLF

You can support the festival and enjoy early bird bookings, invitation to the launch party, and reserved seating. See our website for more details www.dorchesterliteraryfestival.com

EVENTS & TICKETS

Events last approximately one hour.

Tickets are available from 31st August via www.dorchesterliteraryfestival.com or from Waterstones, 45-47 South Street Dorchester, DT1 1DQ Tel 01305 257123.

All tickets cost £12 unless otherwise stated. Children's events free but reservations required from Dorchester Library and Learning Centre, Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EF Tel 01305 224440

Tickets on the Door - Subject to availability tickets may be purchased on the door. Please check website.

Arrival at events - Please allow plenty of time and arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time to avoid disrupting other members of the audience. There are several car parks within easy walking distance, but they can get busy.

Cancellations - Tickets are non-refundable unless an event is cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the DLF and no substitution is offered. Details are correct at the time of printing but we reserve the right to change speakers, times and venues if necessary. For the latest information please check the website www.dorchesterliteraryfestival.com and our Facebook page.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We may take photographs in which audiences feature during events. We reserve the right to use these for publicity purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed please let us know.

LOCATIONS

Events will be held at:

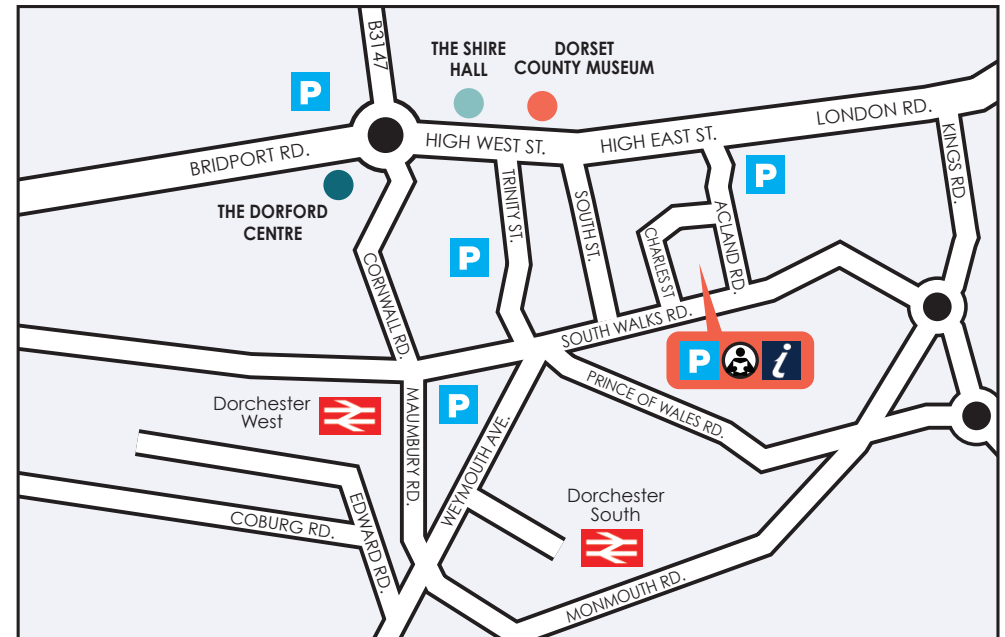
Dorset County Museum,
High West Street, DT1 1XA

The Dorford Centre,
Bridport Road, DT1 1RR

The Shire Hall,
High West Street, DT1 1UY

BOOKS

Waterstones will supply books for purchase and signing at events. You can pre-order books by phoning 01305 257123 or emailing dorchester@waterstones.com



Keep In Touch

Join our mailing list to hear the latest festival news:
email contact@dorchesterliteraryfestival.com



Save the dates

Next year's Festival 18th-25th October 2025

Cover illustration: Dorchester's High West Street in the 1960s, pen and watercolour.
Private collection

FESTIVAL DIARY

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER – SHIRE HALL

7.00pm *Poetry Slam* hosted by **Angie Porter**

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

12.00 **Rory Cellan-Jones** – *Sophie From Romania*

2.00pm **John Suchet** – *In Search of Beethoven*

4.00pm **Saul David** – *Sky Warriors*

5.30pm **Kate Mosse** – *The Map of Bones*

7.30pm **Ben Macintyre** – *The Siege*

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

12.00 **A Literary Walk: Wessex Writers with Mark Chutter**

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM

12.00 **Martin Gayford** – *How Painting Happens*

2.00pm **Michael Peppiatt** – *Francis Bacon: A Self Portrait in Words*

4.00pm **Gavin Pretor-Pinney** – *Cloud Spotting for Beginners*

6.00pm **Jack Cornish** – *Lost Paths*

TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM

10.30 **Nigel Toon** – *How AI Thinks*

12.00 **Jim Down** – *Life in the Balance*

2.00pm **Lt Col Tim Spicer** – *A Suspicion of Spies*

4.00pm **Robin Niblett** – *The New Cold War*

DORFORD CENTRE

6.00pm **Tracy Chevalier** – *The Glassmaker*

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FESTIVAL DIARY

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

10.30am **Vanessa Berridge** – *Garden Heaven* and **Christina Hart-Davies** – *The Herbal Year*

12.00 **Anne Somerset** – *Queen Victoria and her Prime Ministers*

2.00pm **Scotty Mills** – *Never Give In*

4.00pm **Rachel de Thame** – *A Flower Garden for Pollinators*

6.00pm **Alan Hollinghurst** – *Our Evenings*

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

10.30am **Nusrat Mehtab** – *Off the Beat*

12.00 **James Holland** – *Cassino '44*

2.00pm **Victoria Hislop** – *The Figurine*

4.00pm **The Oldie Event** – *Giles Wood and Mary Killen in conversation with Harry Mount*

6.00pm **Kate Humble** – *Where the Hearth Is*

FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

11.00am **Adam Nicolson** – *How to Be*

1.00pm **Polly Toynbee and David Walker** – *The Only Way Is Up*

3.00pm **Tom Heap** – *Land Smart*

5.00pm **Clare Balding** – *The Isle of Dogs*

7.00pm **Pam Ayres** – *Doggedly Onwards: The Collected Poems*

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER – THE DORFORD CENTRE

10.30am **Chris Atkins** – *Time after Time*

12.00 **Mick Conefrey** – *Fallen*

1.30pm **Tom Baldwin** – *Kier Starmer*

3.30pm **Michael Mansfield** – *The Power in the People*

5.30pm **Jonathan Dimpleby** – *Endgame '44: How Stalin Won the War*

7.30pm **Mike Brearley** – *Turning Over the Pebbles*

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER – THE SHIRE HALL CAFÉ



7.00pm

POETRY SLAM

An open mic event for local writers and poets.
Hosted by Angie Porter

Join us to hear poets and writers read and perform their work. To sign up to participate at this event please contact us directly via contact@dorchesterliteraryfestival.com or come along and listen.

Angie Porter is a local poet, performer and painter who brings creativity to the fore in whatever she does. Her monthly She Speaks poetry slams are hugely popular and Angie is actively involved in promoting new poetry work. Originally from Melbourne Australia, Angie is currently researching her local roots and the immigration experience from rural Somerset to outback Australia in the early 1800s.

This event is sponsored by The Occasional Poetry Magazine a free publication published by Julian Nangle Rare Books

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

12.00

RORY CELLAN-JONES

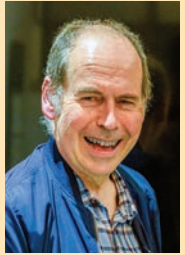
Sophie From Romania

In January 2022, the Cellan-Jones-Coyle family said goodbye to their beloved elderly Collie Cross, Cabbage. Newly retired, Rory had become inseparable from her during daily pandemic walks which alleviated his Parkinson's Disease symptoms. After a grief-stricken year, Rory and his wife Diane contemplated opening up their hearts again and came across a dog listing for 'a kind girl who loves everybody and is just looking for her forever home'.

A moving story of growing together through love, kindness and patience and a celebration of rescue dogs and community and new friends forged through the #SophieFromRomania hashtag.

Rory Cellan-Jones is a journalist and former BBC News technology correspondent and has appeared on many programmes including Breakfast Time, Money Programme, Newsnight, and BBC News. He is the author of *Dot Bomb*, *The Secret History of Social Networking* and *Ruskin Park: Sylvia, Me and the BBC*. He is also a member of *Movers and Shakers* a podcast discussion about life with Parkinson's.

Rory Cellan-Jones will be in conversation with Lulu Taylor



2.00pm

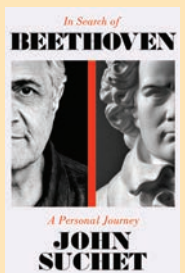
JOHN SUCHET

In Search of Beethoven

A deeply personal account of Suchet's relationship with the great composer. Suchet charts a journey from Beethoven's early years in Bonn to his life in Vienna, following in the composer's footsteps and interweaving his story with Suchet's own. Suchet's witty narrative offers a candid portrayal of Beethoven and includes some surprising discoveries, shedding light on groundbreaking information about Beethoven's health and ancestry.

John Suchet OBE is a bestselling author, journalist, radio and TV presenter. He was the voice of morning radio on Classic FM for almost a decade and one of the UK's best-known television journalists and newscasters, regularly presenting ITN's flagship *News at Ten*. A recognised authority on Beethoven, he is the author of the *Sunday Times* bestselling *Beethoven: The Man Revealed*, as well as biographies of Mozart, Strauss, Verdi and Tchaikovsky. To date John has written seven books on Beethoven. *In Search of Beethoven* will be his eighth.

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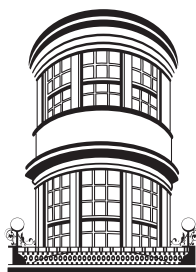
4.00pm
SAUL DAVID
Sky Warriors

A gripping new history of the British airborne experience during the Second World War.

The legendary 'Red Devils' were among the finest combat troops of the Second World War. Created at Churchill's instigation in June 1940, they began as a single parachute battalion of 500 men and grew into three 10,000-strong airborne divisions: the 1st, 6th and 44th Indian, each composed of parachutists and glider-borne troops. They served with distinction in every major theatre of the conflict and played a starring role in some of the most iconic airborne operations in history including Operation Varsity, the biggest parachute drop ever, in March 1945.

Saul David is a historian, broadcaster and the author of several critically acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction, including most recently *Silent Warriors* and *Devil Dogs*. His history books have been named Waterstones Military History Book of the Year and Amazon History Book of the Year. He is Professor of Military History at the University of Buckingham.

This event is sponsored by Dorchester Town Council



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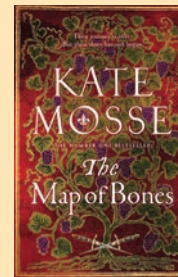
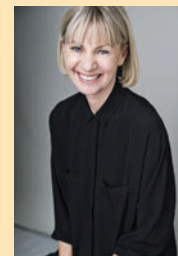
5.30pm
KATE MOSSE
The Map of Bones

A sweeping and epic story of adventure and courage, injustice and triumph, painstakingly researched and beautifully told, this is the fourth — and final — novel of *The Joubert Family Chronicles*, following the bestselling *The Burning Chambers*, *The City of Tears* and *The Ghost Ship*.

Kate Mosse CBE FRSL is an award-winning novelist, playwright, performer, campaigner, interviewer and non-fiction writer. She is the Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction – the world's largest annual literary awards celebrating writing by woman, the founder of the global #WomanInHistory campaign and has her own monthly YouTube book show, *Mosse on a Monday*. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Kate is also an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Authors and President of the Festival of Chichester.

Kate Mosse will be in conversation with Jason Goodwin

This event is sponsored by the Thomas Hardy Society



7.30pm
BEN MACINTYRE
The Siege

On April 30, 1980, six armed gunmen burst into the Iranian embassy on Princes Gate in London. There they took 26 hostages, including embassy staff, visitors, and three British citizens. A tense six-day siege ensued as millions gathered around screens across the country to witness the longest news flash in British television history, while the SAS – hitherto an organisation shrouded in secrecy – laid plans for a daring rescue mission.

Drawing on unpublished source material, exclusive interviews with the SAS, and testimony from hostages, negotiators, intelligence officers, Ben Macintyre takes readers from the build-up to a gripping minute-by-minute account of the siege and rescue.

Ben Macintyre is the multimillion-copy bestselling author of books including *Colditz*, *Agent Sonya*, *SAS: Rogue Heroes*, *The Spy and the Traitor*, *Agent Zigzag*, *Operation Mincemeat* and *A Spy Among Friends*. He is a columnist and Associate Editor at *The Times*, and has worked as the newspaper's correspondent in New York, Paris and Washington. Several of his books have been made into films and television series, including *Operation Mincemeat*, *A Spy Among Friends* and *SAS: Rogue Heroes*.

This event is sponsored by Dorchester BID



SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER - THE THOMAS HARDY STATUE



12.00 midday

MARK CHUTTER A LITERARY WALK – WESSEX WRITERS

A guided walk with Chairman and Academic Director of the Thomas Hardy Society, Mark Damon Chutter, through Dorchester and Fordington to explore the world of architect, writer and poet Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), the Dorset dialect poet and philologist, William Barnes (1801-1886), and the LGBT pioneer Sylvia Townsend Warner (1883-1978), all of whom feature Dorchester in different ways.

Meet at the Thomas Hardy Statue at the Top O' Town. The walk will be from 12 midday until 2pm. At 2pm there will be a cream tea at a cost of £10 per person. Please book separately and directly with The Old Tea House for this on 01305 263719.

Mark Damon Chutter is a Drama and English specialist and head of Performing Arts at Wey Valley Academy. Mark was shortlisted as one of the top six teachers in the country by *The Times* in 2014 and 2015. He is a member of the committee of the Dorchester Civic Society, the Dorchester Town Council Heritage Committee and STAND.

This event is sponsored by the Duchy of Cornwall



10% Discount at Shire Hall Museum Cafe

Dorchester Literary Festival ticket holders can enjoy a 10% discount off food and drinks at Shire Hall Museum's Cafe.

Open Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Proof of booking required to redeem this offer. Offer valid from 12th - 19th October 2024.

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM

12.00

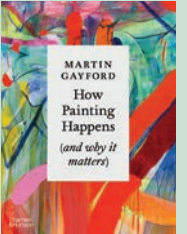
MARTIN GAYFORD

How Painting Happens

As a way of making images, pigment applied to any surface from cave wall to canvas, painting, has been around for tens of thousands of years. Yet it has proved capable of endless renewal. Martin Gayford talks to artists such as Frank Auerbach, Gillian Ayres, Georg Baselitz, Frank Bowling, Richard Estes, Lucian Freud, Katharina Fritsch, Rebecca Horn, Shirazeh Houshiary, Lee Ufan, Paula Rego, Bridget Riley, Jenny Saville, Frank Stella, Hiroshi Sugimoto, discovering how they work, their contemporaries, and predecessors.

Martin Gayford is a writer and art critic. His books include *Man with a Blue Scarf: On Sitting for a Portrait by Lucian Freud*; *Modernists and Mavericks: Bacon, Freud, Hockney and the London Painters*; *A History of Pictures: From the Cave to the Computer Screen* and *Spring Cannot Be Cancelled: David Hockney in Normandy*, both with David Hockney; *Shaping the World: Sculpture from Prehistory to Now*, with Antony Gormley; *Love Lucian: The Letters of Lucian Freud, 1939-1954*, with David Dawson; and *Venice: City of Pictures*.

This event is sponsored by Duke's Auctioneers



2.00pm

MICHAEL PEPPIAT

Francis Bacon – A Self Portrait in Words

Francis Bacon is one of the 20th century's most influential artists. *A Self-Portrait in Words* illustrates Bacon's sharp wit and ability to express complex ideas in highly personal, memorable language in letters to friends, patrons and fellow artists, as well as intriguing notes and interviews, many of which have only come to light since his death. Bacon frequently came up with memorable epithets and definitions. He delighted in doing with words what he set out to do in painting: 'I like phrases that cut me.'

Michael Peppiatt is a well-known writer and curator, who began his career as an art critic in London and Paris in the 1960s. Described by *The Art Newspaper* as 'the best art writer of his generation', his previous books include *Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma*, *Francis Bacon in Your Blood* and *Francis Bacon: Studies for a Portrait*.



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MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM

4.00pm

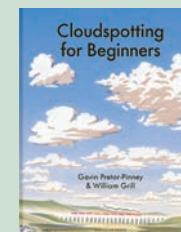
GAVIN PRETOR-PINNEY

Cloud Spotting for Beginners

An introduction to the wondrous world of clouds, by the internationally bestselling founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society.

Clouds come in all manner of shapes and sizes, from low-lying Stratus to high-flying Cirrus via roll clouds, banner clouds and tornados. This illustrated guide reveals the facts, secrets and stories of all the major cloud types, and how they shape the weather around them. We learn where they like to hang out, and even visit them on other planets, where they are sometimes made of acid.

Gavin Pretor-Pinney is founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society, which has more than 47,000 members in 120 countries. He is the author of the internationally bestselling *Cloudspotter's Guide* and *Cloud Collector's Handbook*. His third book, *The Wavewatcher's Companion*, won the prestigious Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Books. Gavin is a TED Global speaker with over 1.2 million views. He has presented television documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4 and is a Visiting Fellow at the Meteorology Department of Reading University and winner of the Royal Meteorological Society's Michael Hunt award.



6.00pm

JACK CORNISH

Lost Paths – A History of How we Walk from Here to There

Footpaths, tracks, country lanes and urban streets illuminate how our ancestors interacted with and shaped their landscapes in the pursuit of commerce, salvation, escape, war, and leisure. Hundreds of thousands of miles of paths connect communities across England and Wales. By 2026, 10,000 miles of undiscovered footpaths around Britain stand to be lost. Jack Cornish has dedicated the last five years of his life to walking these forgotten routes. This narrative history takes us through ancient forests, exposed mountainsides, urban back streets and coastal vistas to reveal how this millennia-old network was created and has been transformed.

Jack Cornish is head of paths at the Ramblers, Britain's largest walking charity, with over 100,000 members. In 2017, he walked across the country from Land's End to John O'Groats, and is ten years into a (probably futile) attempt to walk every street in London.



TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM



10.30am

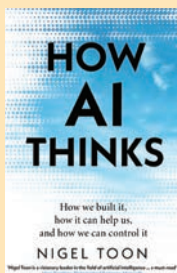
NIGEL TOON

How AI Thinks

Leading British AI entrepreneur Nigel Toon explains why AI is so exciting and how it can be controlled. Unlike other books on AI which often scare us, Nigel Toon helps us understand AI and its incredible possibilities. He explains that AI is a tool that we can control and how it will augment our own amazing human intelligence. We need to learn more, not just about the risks but also about the benefits that this important new technology can deliver, because it will end up changing our lives and, perhaps more importantly, the lives of the next generation.

Nigel Toon is a leading figure in AI and is often called upon to speak at major industry events. He has been recognized with numerous industry awards including, ranked #1 on Business Insiders '100 most influential people shaping British technology' and as one of the 'Top 100 entrepreneurs in the UK' by the Financial Times.

This event is sponsored by C P Fry



12.00

JIM DOWN

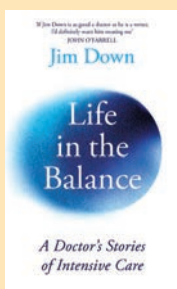
Life in the Balance

With honesty, humility and a streak of dark humour, Dr Jim Down describes the quietly heroic work of doctors and nurses on the ICU, a place which sits at the cutting edge of medical technology and where a split-second decision can make the difference between life and death. From headline-grabbing cases like that of Alexander Litvinenko, poisoned by Russian agents, to the appalling aftermath of a train crash, and the mundane daily struggle to simply find enough beds, Jim Down provides a unique insight into life on the Unit, and the critical medicine doctors and nurses perform there.

Dr Jim Down is a consultant in critical care and anaesthesia at University College London Hospitals. He chairs the ICU Consultants' Group, the Department of Anaesthesia weekly scientific meetings, and the UCLH Trust Guideline Committee. During the Covid-19 pandemic he worked on UCLH's busy ICU ward, and was interviewed by the BBC for a groundbreaking report depicting medics on the frontline. His account of that period, *Life Support*, was published in 2021.

Dr Jim Down will be in conversation with Dr Helen Thomas

Photograph by
Kalpesh Lathigra



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TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER – DORSET MUSEUM



2.00pm

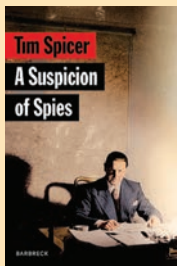
LT COL TIM SPICER

A Suspicion of Spies

The compelling first biography of Wilfred 'Biffy' Dunderdale—a ruthless and effective spymaster whose career spanned the Russian Revolution to the Cold War and beyond. *A Suspicion of Spies* is filled with stories of adventure, revealing the intrigues of the world of British intelligence. A lifelong friend of Ian Fleming, Biffy is considered to be the blueprint for James Bond.

Biffy, born and raised in Odessa, studied Naval Architecture in St Petersburg—broadening his education further in the waterfront bars of Odessa and St. Petersburg. Aged 18, he was engaged by Naval Intelligence as an interpreter and grew into a buccaneering member of the British Secret Intelligence Service in a career spanning forty years.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Spicer OBE has led a life filled with action and adventure. During his twenty years in the British Army, he saw active service in Northern Ireland, the Falklands campaign, the Gulf War and the Balkans, as well as serving in the Far East, Cyprus and Germany. In 2001 he founded the private security company Aegis, which has counted the UK, US and Italian governments among its clients. He is the author of *An Unorthodox Soldier: Peace and War* and *the Sandline Affair*, including the events surrounding his time in Papua New Guinea when he was captured and held at gunpoint.



4.00pm

SIR ROBIN NIBLETT

The New Cold War

An urgent and essential assessment of the global contest between the US and China, and how looking to history will help us to navigate it.

We have entered a new Cold War, even if most people choose not to admit it. The contest between America and China is global and unbridgeable, and it encompasses all major instruments of statecraft: diplomacy, technology, military power, intelligence, trade and investment. But this Cold War is nothing like the last, which defined the second half of the 20th century. We need new ideas to avoid a globally devastating war.

Sir Robin Niblett is a leading expert on international relations. He is a distinguished fellow at Chatham House, spending 15 years as its director and chief executive, as well as senior adviser at Hakluyt, the British strategic advisory firm. He is also engaged by the Asia Society Policy Institute and the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) in Washington DC, has served as chair of several World Economic Forum councils, and advises governments and private institutions.

Sir Robin Niblett will be in conversation with Jo Durrant

This event is sponsored by Eve and Michael Bonham Cozens



TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

6.00pm

TRACY CHEVALIER

The Glassmaker

Venice, 1486. Across the lagoon lies Murano. Time flows differently here – like the glass the island's *maestros* spend their lives learning to handle. Women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men. But perfection may take a lifetime.

Skipping like a stone through the centuries, we follow Orsola as she hones her craft through war and plague, tragedy and triumph, love and loss. The beads she creates will adorn the necks of empresses and courtesans from Paris to Vienna – but will she ever earn the respect of those closest to her?

Tracy Chevalier is the author of 10 novels, including the international bestseller *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which has sold over 5 million copies and been made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth. American by birth, British by geography, she lives in London with her husband and son. Tracy is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and has honorary doctorates from her alma maters Oberlin College and the University of East Anglia.

Tracy Chevalier will be in conversation with Lulu Taylor

This event is sponsored by Blanchards Bailey



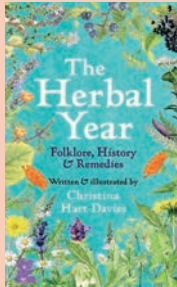
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10.30am

CHRISTINA HART-DAVIES AND VANESSA BERRIDGE

The Herbal Year and Garden Heaven

Drawing on writers, storytellers and poets through the centuries, Christina Hart-Davies examines the history of herbal remedies, healing plants and the beliefs that surround them, including simple recipes for use at home, in an enchanting guide illustrated by the author.

Vanessa Berridge takes us on a unique tour of thirty of Britain's most beautiful gardens, classic and modern, telling the stories of the gardens and the people who created them. The gardens range from legendary romantic gardens like Sissinghurst and Great Dixter to dramatic locations like Bodnant and Overbecks.

Christina Hart-Davies is a botanical illustrator and writer. Her watercolours have featured in collections worldwide and have won six RHS Gold Medals. She has illustrated *The Collins Wild Flower Guide*, and is the author of *A Wild Plant Year*, *The Greenwood Trees* and *The Whole Story*.

Vanessa Berridge is an acclaimed garden writer. She launched *The English Garden* magazine in 1997, and her books include *The Princess's Garden: Royal Intrigue and the Untold Story of Kew*, *Great British Gardeners* and *Kiftsgate Court Gardens*.

Christina Hart-Davies and Vanessa Berridge will be in conversation with Paul Atterbury

This event is sponsored by Hall & Woodhouse



12.00

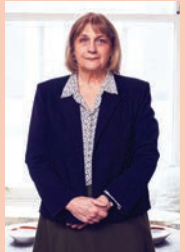
ANNE SOMERSET

Queen Victoria and her Prime Ministers

Anne Somerset masterfully traces Victoria's political evolution, from headstrong teenager to seasoned octogenarian, demonstrating her passionate involvement in state affairs.

Drawing extensively on unpublished sources such as material from the Royal Archives and never-before-seen prime ministerial papers, she casts a fresh and highly illuminating perspective not just on Victoria, but on the exceptionally able politicians who served her in government.

Anne Somerset was born in 1955 and read History at King's College, London. Her books include, *The Life and Times of William IV*, the bestselling *Ladies-in-Waiting: From the Tudors to the Present Day*, an acclaimed biography of Elizabeth I, *Unnatural Murder: Poison in the Court of James I: The Overbury Murder*, *The Affair of the Poisons: Murder, Infanticide and Satanism at the Court of Louis XIV* and *Queen Anne: The Politics of Passion*.



Photograph by Eithan Humphries



2.00pm

SCOTTY MILLS

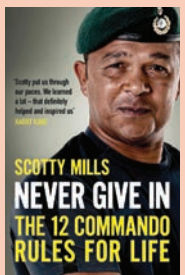
Never Give In

Former Royal Marine, Major Scotty Mills, blends personal experiences from his remarkable life with inspirational advice to provide his 12 Commando Rules for Life.

A sudden downpour while Scotty Mills was walking down a street in South London sent him diving for cover into what turned out to be a recruitment centre for the Royal Marines. After a few minutes' conversation, Scotty was hooked and signed up to join the elite force. It changed his life and would end up with him leading the Marines on operations around the world, becoming an Olympic flag bearer in 2012 and dining at Buckingham Palace with the Queen and the royal family.

Scotty Mills was born and raised in south London. He became the highest-ranking commissioned black officer in Marines history. He worked with the England rugby World Cup-winning squad of 2003, the GB women's Olympic hockey team and Gareth Southgate's England football squad. His reputation as an inspirational team builder led to him being described as Gareth's secret weapon.

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WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE



4.00pm

RACHEL DE THAME

A Flower Garden for Pollinators

With bees, butterflies and other pollinators threatened by climate change and habitat loss, it's now more important than ever to support and nurture pollinators in your garden. In this practical and beautiful guide, expert horticulturalist and *Gardener's World* presenter Rachel de Thame shows you how to create a garden that provides an abundant resource of plants rich in nectar and pollen. Arranged by season, this book provides a useful guide to supporting nature. Whether you have a courtyard garden or a large country garden, Rachel suggests plants to attract and sustain a host of pollinators all year round.



Rachel de Thame is a horticulturalist, broadcaster and writer. A familiar face on our screens since 1999, Rachel is perhaps best known for presenting on BBC's flagship series *Gardeners' World* and the hugely popular series *Countrywise* for ITV1.

Rachel de Thame will be in conversation with Mike McCarthy.

This event is sponsored by Summer Lodge Hotel

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

6.00pm

ALAN HOLLINGHURST

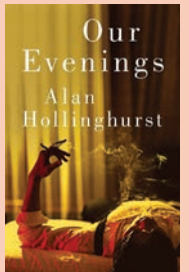
Our Evenings

Dark, luminous, poignant and wickedly funny, Alan Hollinghurst's new novel gives us a portrait of modern England through the lens of one man's acutely observed and often unnerving experience. It is a story of race and class, theatre and sexuality, love and the cruel shock of violence, from the finest writer of our age.

Our Evenings is Dave Win's own account of his life as a schoolboy and student, his first love affairs, in London, and on the road with an experimental theatre company, and of a late-life affair, which transforms his sixties with a new sense of happiness and a perilous security; but it is also the story of his widowed mother, whose life takes a new turn after her son leaves.

Alan James Hollinghurst is an English novelist, poet, short story writer and translator. He has won the Somerset Maugham Prize, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the 2004 Booker Prize for *The Line of Beauty*. Hollinghurst is credited with having helped gay-themed fiction to break into the literary mainstream through his six novels.

Alan Hollinghurst will be in conversation with Mark Chutter.



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THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE



10.30am

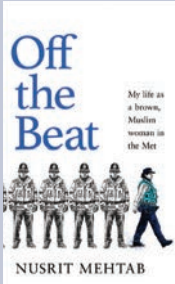
NUSRIT MEHTAB

Off the Beat

When Nusrat Mehtab joined the Metropolitan Police in the late 80s, she entered an organisation that was rife with racism, misogyny and homophobia. She had grown up in East London not trusting the police and had never seen a police officer who looked like her – a woman with brown skin – but she wanted to change that from the inside. Nusrat stayed in the force for 30 years, battling both for herself and for other officers facing discrimination to get fair opportunities and be treated equally. This is her story.

Nusrat Mehtab was born in Pakistan and came to the UK with her family as a baby. During her 30 year career in the Met she worked in some of the most challenging areas of policing, including Serious and Organised Crime, Counter Terrorism, Clubs and Vice. She was the first Muslim woman of Pakistani heritage to become an undercover officer in the UK. Nusrat is now a lecturer in policing law and criminology at the University of East London.

Nusrat Mehtab will be in conversation with Jenny Devitt.



THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

12.00

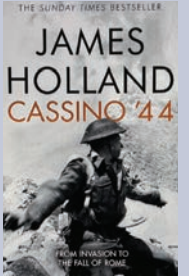
JAMES HOLLAND

Cassino '44

It should have been an easy victory. After triumph in Tunisia, the sweeping success of the Sicilian invasion, and with Italy finally knocked out of the war, the Allies were confident that they would be in Rome before Christmas 1943. And yet the Allied advance came to a standstill some sixty miles south of Rome, at the foot of the hill on which stood the thousand-year-old abbey of Monte Cassino. The battle for that rock was one of the most brutal of the entire war, costing the lives of over 75,000 soldiers and civilians. James Holland has written the definitive account of the battle, reconstructing what it was really like to be at the centre of the maelstrom of war.

James Holland is an historian. His best-selling histories include *Brothers In Arms* and *Normandy '44*. The author of nine works of fiction and a dozen *Ladybird Experts*, and the co-founder of the annual Chalke Valley History Festival, he has presented and written for the BBC, Channel 4, National Geographic and the History and Discovery channels, and is a research fellow at St Andrew's University and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

This event is sponsored by HK Law



2.00pm

VICTORIA HISLOP

The Figurine

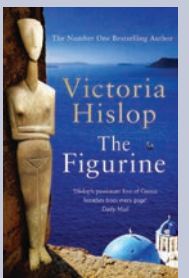
In her irresistible new novel, *Sunday Times* No 1 bestselling author Victoria Hislop shines a light on the questionable acquisition of cultural treasures and the price people – and countries – will pay to cling on to them.

When Helena inherits her grandparents' apartment in Athens, she is overwhelmed with memories of the summers she spent there as a child, when Greece was under a brutal military dictatorship. Her remote, cruel grandfather was one of the regime's generals and as she sifts through the dusty rooms, Helena discovers an array of valuable objects and antiquities. How did her grandfather amass such a trove? What human price was paid for them?

Victoria Hislop is one of the UK's bestselling novelists. She worked as a journalist before writing her first novel, *The Island*, inspired by her love of Greece. Since then she has continued to dominate bestseller lists, with books including *The Return*, *The Thread*, *The Sunrise* and *Carte Postales from Greece* and *Those Who Are Loved*.

Victoria Hislop will be in conversation with Lulu Taylor

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THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE



4.00pm

THE OLDIE EVENT

Giles Wood & Mary Killen discuss *Country Life* in conversation with Harry Mount



Former townies Giles and Mary swapped city life for rural Wiltshire over thirty years ago, and each has embraced it in their own different way, grumbling and bumbling towards contented country life. Mary has traded London salons for monthly lectures at the Farmers' Club, competitive school quizzes, church interactions and local auction house sales. Giles has immersed himself in the catastrophic consequences of conventional farming, his organic no-dig veg-patch, the response by local landlords to trespassers and the death of village house martins.

Giles Wood Giles Wood is an accomplished artist and writer, with columns in *The Telegraph* and *The Oldie*. In the podcast space, he can be heard on *Giles and Mary's Oldie Newsround with Harry Mount*.

Mary Killen is a journalist, with a weekly column in *The Spectator*, and regular contributions in many other national publications. She has appeared on Channel 4's hit show *Gogglebox* since 2015 with her husband Giles, sitting together in their cottage in Wiltshire. This is Mary's seventh book.

Giles and Mary will be in conversation with Harry Mount, editor of *The Oldie Magazine*.

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

6.00pm

KATE HUMBLE

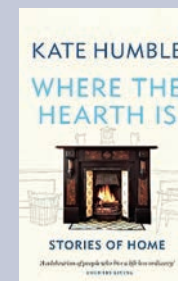
Where the Hearth Is

Kate Humble has a knack for sharing her own journey towards a more pleasing and purposeful life in a way that inspires readers. She turns now to reimagining whatever we consider 'home' - examining her own experiences and expectations, and considering the views of others living happily, gaining insights from some unexpected quarters - including the animal kingdom. *Where the Hearth Is* will resonate with all those seeking to make the most of their lives during the many hours we all spend at home - whether it's a case of tiny adjustments while staying put, moving out, living differently or dreaming of building something new.

Kate Humble is a television presenter and narrator, mainly working for the BBC, specialising in wildlife and science programmes. Humble served as president of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds from 2009 until 2013. She is an ambassador for the UK walking charity Living Streets.

Kate Humble will be in conversation with Steve Harris.

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FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE



11.00am

ADAM NICOLSON

How to Be

What is the nature of things? Must I think my own way through the world? What is justice? How can I be me? How should we treat each other?



Prize-winning and bestselling writer Adam Nicolson travels through the transforming world of ancient Greece and asks what light its thinkers can throw on our deepest preconceptions. Sparkling with maps, photographs and artwork, *How to Be* is a journey into the origins of Western thought.

Hugely formative ideas emerged from this civilisation: fluidity of mind, the search for coherence, a need for the just city, a recognition of the mutability of things, a belief in the reality of the ideal — all became the Greeks' legacy to the world.

Adam Nicolson is the author of many books on history, travel and the environment. He is winner of the Somerset Maugham Award and the British Topography Prize and lives at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent.

Adam Nicolson will be in conversation with Danny Danziger.

This event is sponsored by Hall & Woodhouse



1.00pm

POLLY TOYNBEE AND DAVID WALKER

The Only Way is Up

Political change is coming. But the new Westminster government's inheritance looks grim. We're all in it together, the Tories used to say. But they bequeath social division, increased inequality, a stagnant economy and unfulfilled commitments on climate change – all at a time of unprecedented international tension. Combining the latest data with expert analysis Polly Toynbee and David Walker tell the story of what went wrong during the Tories' wild ride and what must now be remedied.

Polly Toynbee is a journalist, author and broadcaster. A *Guardian* columnist and broadcaster, she was formerly the BBC's social affairs editor. She has written for the *Observer*, the *Independent* and *Radio Times* and was an editor at the *Washington Monthly*.

David Walker is contributing editor of the *Guardian's* website Public. A former member of the Audit Commission. David he is a member of council at the Economic and Social Research Council, a trustee of the Franco-British Council and of Longview, and visiting professor at City University, London. With Polly Toynbee he is author of *The Verdict, did Labour change Britain?*

This event is sponsored by Porter Dodson



FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

3.00pm

TOM HEAP

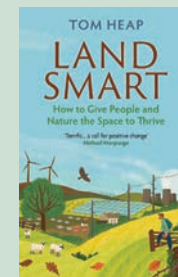
Land Smart

We need land for humanity's growing needs, such as food, renewable energy, carbon storage and housing. Traditionally, we've stolen it from nature, but this has led to a mounting toll of extinction and pollution that is now punishing us. With no land left to take, how do we get more from the same, or preferably less?

Tom Heap tours the British countryside meeting the farmers, scientists, conservationists and even warehouse managers who are solving the most pressing challenges facing our countryside and the world. If we use land cleverly it can give both humanity and nature the space to thrive on just the one planet. If not, we're in trouble.

Tom Heap presents on BBC1's *Countryfile*, specializing in investigative films, and has made many BBC Panorama documentaries on food, energy and the environment. Tom is also the presenter of Radio 4's new *Rare Earth* series and was the anchor of *The Climate Show* on Sky News. He was the creator and presenter of BBC Radio's flagship climate change podcast '39 Ways to Save the Planet'.

Tom Heap will be in conversation with Mike McCarthy



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FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE



5.00pm

CLARE BALDING

The Isle of Dogs

Dogs are never just pets. Not for the British. We love them as members of the family. They work with us, sleep with us, eat with us, help us live our daily lives and come on holiday with us. Some parents will freely admit to enjoying the company of their dogs more than their children while many couples would choose the dog over their partner. So what is it that makes our bond so special? Clare Balding explores the many roles dogs fulfil and the history of how they became such an intrinsic part of our lives. She talks to people whose everyday survival depends on their dog, those whose experience of life has been transformed by them and what dogs have meant to her.



Clare Balding OBE, CBE is an award-winning writer and broadcaster who has been at the forefront of sports presentation since 1998. She was a key commentator on the BBC's television coverage of King Charles III's Coronation in 2023 and for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee coverage in 2022. She has presented the television coverage of Crufts for nearly two decades and *Lost Dogs Live* on Channel 5. Her first book, *My Animals and Other Family*, won the National Book Award for biography of the year.

This event is sponsored by Domvs



7.00pm

PAM AYRES

Doggedly Onwards: The Collected Poems

Pam Ayres has spent a lifetime providing hilarious and profound insights into the delights and tribulations of everyday life. As a young woman in the 60s she doggedly pursued a career as a performer and writer, stepping far outside of what was expected of her. In doing so she created a life for herself of which she could only have dreamed, travelling the world, and bringing roars of laughter wherever she went.



Now Pam has gathered six decades of poetry into a beautifully illustrated collection that traces the course of her family life, from young woman to terrified new mother and adoring granny, and reflecting on much-loved dogs, her fascination with wildlife, travels, mistakes, regrets, and the sober business of aging as well as Pam's extraordinary spirit and the new avenues she continues to explore.

This event is sponsored by Hall & Woodhouse

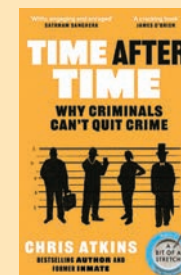
SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER – DORFORD CENTRE

10.30am

CHRIS ATKINS

Time After Time

British prisoners have to endure the most inhumane and barbaric conditions, so why do so many of them keep going back? 80% of criminals who receive cautions or convictions are reoffenders. 46% of ex-prisoners are re-convicted within a year of leaving prison. Reoffending costs the taxpayer £18 billion per year. Former inmate Chris Atkins spent six years tracking the fortunes of a dozen repeat offenders to understand why the state fails to keep them out of trouble. Featuring funny, wild and poignant stories, *Time After Time* exploits Chris's unprecedented access to the criminal underworld to understand why the system actually makes reoffending all but inevitable for ex-prisoners.



Chris Atkins is a BAFTA-nominated filmmaker. His documentaries *Taking Liberties* and *Starsuckers* were critically acclaimed and made front-page news. Following his release from prison, he is now back in North London, filming documentaries and writing. He is the author of bestselling *Bit of A Stretch*.

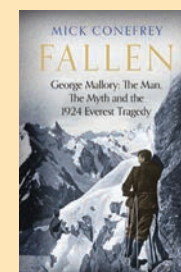
This event is sponsored by John and Jennie Paterson

12.00

MICK CONEFREY

Fallen

On 6 June, 1924 George Mallory donned an oxygen set and set off for the summit of Everest with his young partner Andrew Irvine. Two days later they were glimpsed through clouds heading upwards, but after that they were never seen again. Whether they died on the way up or on the way down no one knows. In the years following his disappearance, Mallory was elevated into an all-British hero. Based on diaries, letters, memoirs and thousands of contemporary documents, *Fallen* is both a forensic account of Mallory's last expedition to Everest in 1924 and an attempt to get under his skin and separate the man from the myth.



Mick Conefrey is an award winning writer and documentary maker. He made the landmark BBC series *Mountain Men* and *Icemen* and *The Race for Everest* to mark the 60th anniversary of the first ascent. His previous books include *Everest 1953*, the winner of a Leggi Montagna award, and *The Ghosts of K2* which won a US National Outdoor Book award in 2017.



1.30pm
TOM BALDWIN
Kier Starmer

A compelling account of how this untypical politician rose to be leader of his party then transformed it with a ruthless rapidity that has enraged opponents from the left just as much as it has bewildered those on the right. Based on interviews with the Labour leader himself, as well as unprecedented access to members of his family, his oldest friends and closest colleagues, Baldwin tells an unexpectedly intimate story, explaining how feelings of grief and love have motivated Starmer more than ideology or loyalty to faction. The book tracks Starmer's emergence from a troubled small town background and rebellious youth, legal career as a human rights barrister and the country's chief prosecutor, to becoming an MP relatively late in life.

Tom Baldwin is a journalist and writer who has worked for *The Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. He was a senior political adviser to Ed Miliband and the Labour Party's director of communications and strategy.

Tom Baldwin will be in conversation with Danny Danziger



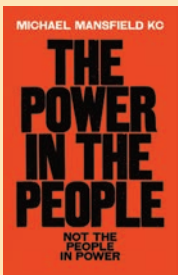
3.30pm
MICHAEL MANSFIELD
The Power in the People

Barrister Michael Mansfield, KC, has spent his career fighting injustice, persecution and corruption. Through cases such as the Birmingham Six, Bloody Sunday, Stephen Lawrence, the Marchioness, Hillsborough or Grenfell, he has come to learn one thing - that people power is unstoppable. When governments, police forces, legal institutions and the establishment try to block change in order to protect their interests, passion, perseverance, collective action and courage create a powerful momentum difficult to stop.

The veteran barrister revisits his most important cases and clients, proving that when people get together they can make positive change. The power is in the people - not the people in power.

Michael Mansfield KC is an English barrister and head of chambers at Nexus Chambers. He was recently described as "The king of human rights work" by The Legal 500 and as a leading Silk in civil liberties and human rights.

Michael Mansfield will be in conversation with Jason Goodwin.



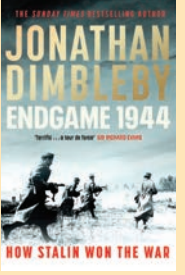
5.30pm
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY
Endgame 1944: How Stalin Won the War

June 1944 saw the Allies triumph on the beaches of Normandy, but it was events on the Eastern Front that were the knockout blow in the Second World War.

Drawing on previously untranslated German and Russian sources - many from ordinary soldiers - bestselling historian Jonathan Dimbleby describes this momentous year. He illuminates the bloody battles, explaining the unusual roles played by deception, the partisans, and the war within a war in Ukraine, as well as the relationships Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin that enabled the Soviet leader to dictate the terms of the post-war settlement and lay the foundations for the Cold War.

Jonathan Dimbleby is the author of *The Battle of the Atlantic and Destiny in the Desert: The Road to El Alamein*, which was shortlisted for the Hessell-Tiltman Prize and was followed by his BBC2 programme *Churchill's Desert War*. His other books include, *Russia: A Journey to the Heart of a Land and Its People*, *Richard Dimbleby: A Biography*, *The Palestinians*, *The Prince of Wales: A Biography* and *The Last Governor: Chris Patten and the Handover of Hong Kong*.

Jonathan Dimbleby will be in conversation with Allan Mallinson.

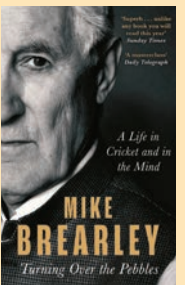


7.30pm
MIKE BREARLEY
Turning Over the Pebbles

Mike Brearley reviews his life in what he calls a 'memoir of the mind'. Deeply thoughtful, erudite and elegantly framed, he blends meditations on sport, philosophy, literature, religion, leadership, psychoanalysis and music, examining the conflicts and triumphs of his extraordinary life and career on and off the field.

Mike Brearley was educated at Cambridge, where he captained the university. He played for Middlesex County Cricket Club and captained the English side from 1977 to 1980, winning seventeen test matches. He was recalled to the captaincy in 1981 for the Ashes home series, leading England to one of their most famous victories. Since 1981, he has worked as psychoanalyst and lecturer. He is the author of the bestselling *The Art of Captaincy*, *On Form*, *On Cricket*, *Spirit of Cricket* and has written on cricket and the psychology of sport for the *Sunday Times*, *Observer*, *The Times* and *Prospect*.

Mike Brearley will be in conversation with Paul Atterbury.



OUR INTERVIEWERS

Paul Atterbury

Paul is Co-Founder of the Dorchester Literary Festival, as well as a regular face on *BBC Antiques Roadshow*, a lecturer and the author of more than 30 books.

Mark Chutter

Mark is the Chairman and Academic Director of the Thomas Hardy Society. He is the head of Performing Arts at Wey Valley Academy and has been shortlisted as one of the country's top teachers by *The Times*.

Danny Danziger

Historian, best-selling author and award winning columnist for several national newspapers, Danny is the author of eight books including *The Year 1000*.

Jenny Devitt

Jenny is an experienced radio presenter, producer and an award winning scriptwriter who presents a magazine programme on two Dorset radio stations.

Jo Durrant

Jo is an award-winning presenter and podcaster who has worked for BBC Radio and chaired events at many festivals.

Jason Goodwin

Jason is an award-winning novelist, historian, travel writer, and cookery writer

as well as dragoman and hierophant. He writes a regular column in *Country Life*.

Steve Harris

Steve is a journalist, broadcaster and regular host of BBC Radio Solent's Dorset Breakfast Show.

Allan Mallinson

Allan is an author and retired British Army officer. He is best known for a series of historical novels set the Napoleonic Wars as well as for his non-fiction works *1914: Fight the Good Fight* and *Too Important for the Generals: Winning and Losing the First World War*.

Mike McCarthy

Journalist and environmentalist Michael is one of Britain's leading and award-winning writers on the natural world and the environment.

Lulu Taylor

Lulu is an editor, interviewer and Sunday Times bestselling author. Her latest book *The Forgotten Tower* is published this autumn.

Helen Thomas

Retired GP Helen Thomas was the national medical adviser for integrated urgent care for NHS England.

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LIBRARY EVENTS

RHYME TIME

Tuesday 15 October 10.15 – 10.45 am

Tuesday 15 October 11.15 – 11.45 am

Dorchester Library will be running a 'transport' themed session at their regular Rhyme time. Children will love joining in with the book *Car, Car, Truck, Jeep*

There'll be rhymes and actions galore for everyone to enjoy.

Free event

Rhyme time for Dorchester Literary Festival Tickets, Tue 15 Oct 2024 at 10:15 | Eventbrite
Rhyme time as part of Dorchester Literary Festival 2024 Tickets, Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 11:15 AM | Eventbrite

SCHOOLS EVENT

Tuesday 15 October 9.15 – 10 am (Online event)

Schools will be invited to join the fantastic Ruth Quayle.

Have you ever wanted to see inside a writer's world? Ruth will talk about how she became an author, with pictures, props and funny stories. She will read her books aloud and answer loads of questions.

The event is aimed at primary aged children Online children's author event with Ruth Quayle Tickets, Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 9:15 AM | Eventbrite



RHYME TIME

Friday 18 October 2.15 – 2.45 pm

Dorchester Library will be running a 'transport' themed session at their regular Rhyme time. Children will love joining in with the rhyme row, row, row your boat.

There'll be rhymes and actions galore for everyone to enjoy.

free event

Friday rhyme time for Dorchester Literary Festival Tickets, Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 2:15 PM | Eventbrite

Library Gets Lively

Saturday 21st October 10.15 – 10.45 am

Dorchester Library will be theming their regular Library Gets Lively to the book 'Duck in a Truck'.

Duck's truck is stuck in the muck. Who will help him out? First, frog lends a hand. Then sheep helps push, too. But duck's truck won't come unstuck!

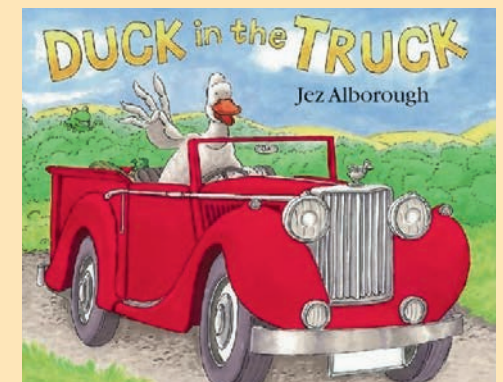
There'll be great actions to join in with, and crafts to make and do.

free event

Duck in the Truck themed Library gets Lively event Tickets, Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 10:15 AM | Eventbrite



DORSET LIBRARIES
EVENTBRITE



SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME – FREE EVENTS

Sponsored by Wessex MAT

Events will take place at Thomas Hardy School and other schools within Wessex MAT and all queries should be emailed to Jenny Stevens, Librarian at The Thomas Hardy School: jstevens@thomas-hardye.net

Matt Dickinson – Mortal Chaos

October 14 10:00 – 11:00
Suitable for Yrs 7 & 8

Matt asked for a pair of mountain boots for his 10th birthday and since that point, he has never looked back! He is an award-winning film maker and writer living a life of adventure and has filmed Everest's summit, in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska, the Sahara Desert and on top of the highest live volcano in the world.



Maz Evans – Who Let the Gods Out

October 15 10:00 – 11:00
Suitable for Yrs 5 & 6

Maz Evans is the author of the bestselling WHO LET THE GODS OUT? series, which has sold to 19 countries worldwide and has received over 20

award nominations. Her career began as a TV journalist and she still regularly broadcasts her views on anything from politics to parenthood on the BBC and the bus.

Jack Meggitt-Phillips – The Beast and the Bethany
October 16 10:00 – 11:00
Suitable for Yrs 3 & 4

Jack is an author, scriptwriter and playwright whose work has been performed at The Roundhouse and featured on Radio 4. In his mind, Jack

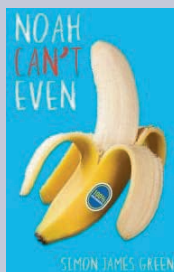


is an enormously talented ballroom dancer, however, his enthusiasm far surpasses his actual talent. Jack lives in north London where he spends most of his time drinking peculiar teas and reading PG Wodehouse novels.

Simon James Green – Noah Can't Even

October 16 @ 13:30 – 14:30
Suitable for Yrs 10 & 11

Simon James Green is an author and screenwriter. He has written numerous YA and middle grade novels which have been nominated for numerous awards. His YA novels include Noah Can't Even, picked by WH Smith as one of the most important LGBT books of the last 50 years.



James Turner and Steve May – Poo Crew Adventures: Journey to Pootopia

October 17 @ 10:00 – 11:00
For Yrs 1 & 2

James is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and comic writer with five published graphic novels and a weekly strip in The Phoenix. Steve is a life long doodler and his illustration style made him the perfect partner for Puffin's best-selling Dennis the Menace fiction series.

Luke Palmer Grow

October 17 @ 13:30 – 14:30
Suitable for Yr 9

Luke Palmer is a poet, author and secondary school teacher. He has written two novels for Young Adults, 'Grow' which was published in 2021 and deals with radicalisation and an exploration of grief and 'Play' which was published in 2023 and deals with friendships and the dangers of drugs.

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11TH DORCHESTER LITERARY FESTIVAL 2025

ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 18th - Saturday 25th October

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The logo consists of the letters 'AG' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a square. The square is divided diagonally from the bottom-left corner to the top-right corner. The upper-left portion of the square is a vibrant pink color, while the lower-right portion is a dark navy blue color.

AG

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