

# Bury St. Edmunds

## *Literature Festival*

8th - 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2026



**AUTHOR EVENTS BESTSELLERS NEW VOICES FICTION  
HISTORICAL CONTEMPORARY BOOK CLUB LITERARY  
THRILLER ROMANTASY GRAPHIC NOVELS  
NON-FICTION LOCAL INTEREST FOOD & COOKERY NATURE  
CLIMATE FOCUS HEALTH & WELLBEING  
FREE EVENTS FOR BABIES, KIDS & YOUNG PEOPLE  
GUIDED WALKS WRITING WORKSHOPS  
FILM SCREENINGS LIVE PERFORMANCE**



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IN.**



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## Welcome to Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival 2026!

“2026 has been dubbed **The National Year of Reading**. In response to our world with more distractions and less time, meaning that reading is in decline across many groups, **The National Literacy Trust** has put out the call to **'Go All In'**; helping people see that stories, ideas and imagination belong everywhere.

I am delighted to share our 2026 programme, in direct response to that call. It's our biggest, boldest array of exciting, thought-provoking and joyful talks, poetry readings, workshops, walks, film screenings and performance in our nine year history.

Stories are at the heart of the Festival, with fiction sessions from authors you'll recognise from best-seller lists and new voices to discover. We've themed our panel events, paired fiction with non-fiction and put together a special celebration of book clubs with **The Book Taster** brunch and showcase.

Our non-fiction programme is stronger than ever as we partner with **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** for their **Festival of Nature** and I am very excited to present our first **Food Programme** - a celebration of Bury St Edmunds' growing reputation as **'The Foodie Capital of East Anglia'** - expertly curated by local food writer Nic Miller. This feast of all things literary sits alongside our FREE programme for babies, children and young people, with sessions that offer interactive storytelling, graphic novels, myth, fantasy and adventure.

I hope that whatever you are into, you'll find something that will make you want to Go All In, when the Festival comes to town this October and provide you with plenty of reading inspiration for the year ahead.



*Kate Sawyer*

**Artistic Director**  
**Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival**  
**IG: @mskatesawyer**



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## Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival Team

**Artistic Director:** Kate Sawyer **Chair of Trustees:** Julia Wakelam

**Organising Committee:** Susan Pocklington, Jackie Burnett, Danielle Patrick, Kate Bolton, Nigel Bateson

**Social Media & Content:** Sophie Smith-Bosanquet **Food Programme Curator:** Nic Miller **PR**

**Consultant:** Fiona Smith - Smith & Baxter **Technical Event Management:** Alec Jarman



## A message from our Chair of Trustees Julia Wakelam

### Welcome to our 2026 Festival!

Once again, Kate has lined up some incredible authors, working in all genres, to intrigue, entertain, enlighten, stimulate and delight us. We also have writing and poetry workshops to get your own creative juices flowing, literary walks, an expanded children's and young person's programme and much, much more....

None of this, of course, would be possible without the support of many people and organisations and this is my chance to acknowledge and celebrate that.

Thank you to long time sponsors the Trustees of the Unitarian Meeting House, Greene & Greene, Solicitors and West Suffolk College. Thank you to Martin & Co, Chassis Cabs, Pigeon Investments and Ashtons for your continuing sponsorship and to new sponsors, Circle Health. Your support of the Festival is warmly appreciated.

We are delighted to continue our partnerships with Bury Library, Bury Tour Guides, Gold Dust Mentoring, Poetry Aloud, Theatre Royal and Abbeygate Cinema. This year we are also partnering with Suffolk Wildlife Trust as part of their Festival of Nature, and the Suffolk Book League.

The Festival aims to be accessible to all, so we are very grateful to the Suffolk Culture Project Fund, whose support this year has enabled us to caption every event at the Unitarian Meeting House.

And thank you to Bury Town Council whose support enables us to offer free tickets for under 18's and reduced price tickets to all those in receipt of benefits as well as supporting our workshops with schools..

I also want to thank those individuals who make our Festival happen. So thank you to our Honorary Patrons: writers Nicola Upson, Margaret Meyer, Jill Dawson and Ashley Hickson-Lovence and our Patrons: Mike and Judy Spenser-Morris and Caroline Marriage. Your generous support is very much appreciated.

And thank you, too, to our Artistic Director, Kate Sawyer, our new Social Media Assistant, Sophie Smith-Bosanquet, Nic Miller for her food programme curation Fiona Smith for her PR support and, in particular, to the other members of our Organising Committee: Susan Pocklington, Jackie Burnett, Danielle Patrick, Nigel Bateson and Kate Bolton. Thank you to our volunteers, too numerous to name, who help our events to run as smoothly as possible.

Without the commitment and hard work of you all there would be no Festival.

Find out more about the team behind the Festival: [burylitfest.co.uk/about](http://burylitfest.co.uk/about)

THANKS

Tickets: [burylitfest.co.uk](http://burylitfest.co.uk)



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THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## 11:00 LIBRARY

**Follow The Leader***Harriet Howe*

Picture Books for Toddlers &amp; Pre-Schoolers

## 14:00 ATHENAEUM

**Uncovering The Athenaeum***Adrian Tindall*

## 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**A Time of Witches***Madeleine Martin*

## 17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Workshop: Writing In Images***Monique Roffey*

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

## 17:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**The Cuckoo's Lea***Michael J Warren*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**An Evening With Rachel Joyce**Best-Selling author of *The Unexpected Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

## 19:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**The Waterlands***Stephen Rutt*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 19:30 ABBEYGATE CINEMA

**The Unexpected Pilgrimage of Harold Fry**

film screening partnership with Abbeygate Cinema - book direct

## 19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**An evening with Monique Roffey**Award-winning author of *The Mermaid of Black Conch*FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## 11:30 &amp; 13:00 LIBRARY

**That's Not My...***George Hoyle*

Sensory Storytelling for Babies &amp; Toddlers

## 12:00 ANGEL HILL - opposite Abbey Gate

**Literary Bury St Edmunds***Bury Tour Guides*

Guided walking tour

## 16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Snack Hacker X Fired Up***George Egg & Melissa Thompson*

Bury St Edmunds - Suffolk's Foodie Capital

## 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Constable's Year**

Susan Owens

## 17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Down To Earth***Robert Ashton*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**A Year of Creative Thinking***Jessica Swale*

## 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Smelling of Rooks***Louis De Bernières*Best-selling author of *Captain Correlli's Mandolin*

## 18:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Flying Planes: The Eccentric Birth of British Aviation***Charles Spicer*

## 19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Artists, Lovers, Outsiders***Damian Barr & Andrew Durbin*

## 19:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**George Szirtes - Poetry**Followed by **Open Mic**

in partnership with Poetry Aloud

## 20:00 ABBEYGATE CINEMA

**Captain Corelli's Mandolin**

film screening partnership - book direct with cinema

## 20:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Ouida: A Little Scandal is an Excellent Thing***Lynn Whitehead*

A one woman performance

SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## 10:30 THE HUNTER ARTS CLUB

**Book Taster Coffee Morning***Book & Pudding Clubs UK*

## 11:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**What the Wild Sea Can Be***Helen Scales*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 11:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Gold from Newton's Apple Tree***Nabil Ali*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 11:00 LIBRARY

**Dad Bot***Jack Noel*

Hilarious Graphic Novels for Kids 5+

## 11:00 QUAKERS MEETING HOUSE

**Workshop: Writing Beyond What You Know***Guinevere Glasfurd*

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

## 11:15 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Magic, Myths & Lovers - Romantasy & New Adult Fiction***Annaliese Avery, Lex Croucher, Melinda Salisbury*

## 12:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**And So I Roar - Finding Your Louding Voice***Abi Daré*

## 12:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**The Beautiful Game***Anna Trench, George Harrison, Ashley Hickson-Lovence*

## 13:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**East Anglian Voices: Midlife Debuts***Jenny Knight, Camilla Balshaw, Elspeth Latimer*

## 13:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

**Workshop: Writing Crime***Andrew Wilson*

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

## 14:00 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

**Workshop: Writing Poetry***George Szirtes*

in partnership with Poetry Aloud

## 14:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Booktaster - Book Club Fiction Showcase***Sarah Turner, Matson Taylor, Philippa Malicka*

in partnership with Book &amp; Pudding Clubs UK

## 14:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Litwitchure***Jen Cowie and Fiona Lensvelt*

## 14:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Who Are We Writing For?***MiMi Aye & Tim Anderson*

Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital

## 15:00 LIBRARY

**Myths, Legends & Folk Tales***Kevin Crossley-Holland*

Storytelling for Kids 9+

## 15:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

**Workshop: Goal Setting for Writers***Annaliese Avery*

## 16:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Ever Land***Amy Abdelnoor*

## 16:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Pixie***Jill Dawson*

## 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**From Thriller to Killer TV***Lesley Kara & TM Logan*

## 17:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Lebani: A journey through family, food & the flavour of Lebanon***Jad Youssef*

## 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**An Evening with Sarah Winman**Best-selling author of *Still Life*

## 18:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Modern Man: Masculinity in Literary Fiction***Cecile Pin, Nicolas Padamsee**Ashley Hickson-Lovence*

## 19:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Kevin Crossley Holland - Poetry**Followed by **Open Mic**

in partnership with Poetry Aloud

## 19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Fundamentally***Nussaibah Younis*

## 19:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Dark Fairy Tales***Viktor Wynd*

Storytelling and Live Folk Music

SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## 10:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Words From The Hedge***Richard Negus*

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

## 11:00 LIBRARY

**The Girl Who Raced The World***Nat Harrison*

Adventure fiction for Children 5+

## 12:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Marilyn Monroe: Fact & Fiction of a Dazzling Life***Andrew Wilson & Julie Owen-Moylan*

## 13:00 LIBRARY

**The Cruise Ship Kid***Emma Swan*

Mystery fiction for Children 5+



WELCOME

Tickets: [burylitfest.co.uk](http://burylitfest.co.uk)



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13:00 LIBRARY

**The Cruise Ship Kid**

*Emma Swan*

Mystery fiction for Children 5+

13:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**The Power of Anxiety**

*Dr Sian Williams & India Sturgis*

14:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**This Allotment: Stories of growing, eating and nurturing**

*Sarah Rigby*

14:00 MEET ON ANGEL HILL

**Literary Bury St Edmunds**

*Bury Tour Guides*

*Guided Walking Tour*

14:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Family Matters**

*Jodie Chapman, Harriet Evans, Emily Itami*

15:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Baking and The Meaning Of Life**

*Dr Helen Goh & Dr Aaron Vallance*

*Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital*

15:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Women of a Certain Age**

*Julia Tuffs & Amy Beashel*

16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Despite it all: An Event for Climate Hopefuls**

*Fred Pearce*

16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**The Golden Years: Continuing The Cazalets**

*Louisa Young*

17:00 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**The Stitch Up: Seeking Solutions to Systemic Medical Misogyny**

*Emma Szewczak*

17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Days of Light**

*Megan Hunter*

17:45 ABBEYGATE CINEMA

**The Prince and The Showgirl**

film screening partnership with *Abbeigate Cinema* - book direct

18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

**Modern Love**

*Claire Daverley, Nicola Dinan, Bobby Palmer & Kate Young*

*& Kate Young*

18:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

**Our Complex International Families - Poetry**

*Sue Wallace-Shaddad, Mary Mullholland & Alex Corrin-Tachibana*

*in partnership with Poetry Aloud*

19:30 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**Mrs Dickens**

*Emily Howes*

19:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

**Food & Book Pairing**

*Alessandra Pino & Kate Young*

*Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital*

We advise booking all tickets in advance - including those that are free of charge.

Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, according to availability and returns, but cannot be guaranteed.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

### PRICING

**Author Events : £10 | Student/Benefits\*£5 | Under 18 £0**

**Workshops: £40 | Student/Benefits £20 | Under 18 £0**

**Walks : £15| Student/Benefits £10| Under 18 £0**

**Children's Events: Child: FREE |Accompanying Adults: £2.50**

\*Benefits: Universal Credit, Personal Independent Payment, Disability Living Allowance & Pension Credit. Please Note: There is no discount for pensioners unless in receipt of Pension Credit.

See back page for full ticketing details and special offers.



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Be ambitious.  
Be curious.  
Be you.



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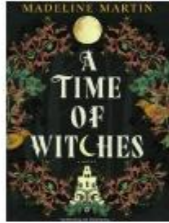


**14:00 THE ATHENAEUM  
UNCOVERING THE ATHENAEUM**

*Adrian Tindall*

Bury St Edmunds' magnificent Athenaeum has witnessed centuries of history and now its secrets are finally being told. Historian and author Adrian Tindall presents the fascinating story of this extraordinary building: its architecture, its distinguished visitors, its role in the social and cultural life of the town, and the remarkable people who have passed through its doors. A treat for history lovers and anyone curious about the hidden stories that lie beneath the surface of one of the Bury's familiar buildings.

A2



**16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
A TIME OF WITCHES**

*Madeleine Martin - chaired by Lynn Whitehead*

NYT bestseller Madeleine Martin's gripping novel weaves past and present through the East Anglian Witch Trials. Join the exclusive UK launch as she discusses what drew her to this haunting history.

A3

**A4 17:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
THE CUCKOO'S LEA**

*Michael J Warren*

What can the cuckoo tell us about our countryside? Naturalist Michael J Warren follows Britain's most elusive bird through memoir, nature writing and urgent ecological investigation - with an introduction from Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



**18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
AN EVENING WITH RACHEL JOYCE**

*Rachel Joyce - chaired by Kate Sawyer*

Rachel Joyce has created some of the most deeply beloved novels of recent years - stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things, shot through with compassion, humour, and a deep understanding of the human heart. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* became a phenomenon; *Mrs Benson's Beetle* enchanted a new generation of readers. Now, with *The Homemade God*, she returns with a literary family drama set on the sundrenched shores of an Italian lake, as four adult siblings try to make sense of their father's untimely death. In this headline event, Rachel will be in conversation with BLF Artistic Director Kate Sawyer, talking about *The Homemade God*, her remarkable career to this point and what we can expect from her next. An unmissable evening for fans and new readers alike.

A5



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Followed by a screening of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* at Abbeygate Cinema - see pg !! for details



**19:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
THE WATERLANDS**

*Stephen Rutt - chaired by Matt Gaw*

Follow a single raindrop from cloud to sea and discover a world of ecological richness and fragility. Stephen Rutt's *The Waterlands* is a nature-writing tour de force: a precise, poetic call to action. In conversation with local nature-writer Matt Gaw, Stephen will explore what it means to truly know a place, and why water connects us all, whether we notice it or not.

A6

**A7 19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
AN EVENING WITH MONIQUE ROFFEY**

*Monique Roffey - chaired by Julia Wakelam*

Costa Award winner Monique Roffey is one of the most blazingly original novelists writing in English today. Her fiction - rooted in the Caribbean but reaching to the universal - explores mythology, desire, displacement and the deep human need to belong. Monique joins BLF chair Julia Wakelam to discuss her remarkable body of work, from *The Mermaid of Black Conch* to her most recent novel. Expect a conversation as vivid and passionate as Roffey's prose.



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**16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE B3**  
**SNACK HACKER X FIRED UP**

George Egg & Melissa Thompson · chaired by Nic Miller  
What happens when a comedian-cook meets a live-fire barbecue expert? A delicious, unexpected conversation – with cooking live on stage. George Egg and Melissa Thompson, hosted by food writer Nic Miller.

**B4 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH**  
**CONSTABLE'S YEAR**

Susan Owens · chaired by Nicola Upson  
Art historian Susan Owens brings her meticulous research and infectious enthusiasm to this exploration of Constable's world. This promises to be a very special event for East Anglian audiences and those who enjoyed the recent adaptation of *Constable's Year* for BBC Radio 4.

**17:45 UNITED REFORMED - HALL B5**  
**DOWN TO EARTH: SOIL AND ITS SECRETS**

Robert Ashton · chaired by Hellen Bynum  
Beneath our feet lies a world of extraordinary complexity – and our planet's fate may depend on it. Robert Ashton explores the living soil that sustains all life, with Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

**B6 17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE**  
**A YEAR OF CREATIVE THINKING**

Jessica Swale · chaired by Margaret Meyer  
Olivier Award-winning playwright and director of *Paddington the Musical*, Jessica Swale shares 366 prompts, provocations and exercises to spark creativity. In conversation with novelist Margaret Meyer. For makers, writers and curious minds.

**18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH B7**  
**SMELLING OF ROOKS**

Louis de Bernières · chaired by Karen Angelico  
Louis de Bernières, author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, turns to the English countryside in his most intimate book yet. Louis will reflect on a life spent listening to the rhythms of rural England, on what it means to grow old in a place you love, and on the relationship between landscape, memory, and the imagination that has sustained his writing for decades. A headline event not to be missed.

Followed by a screening of *Capatin Corelli's Mandolin* at Abbeygate Cinema - see pg !! for details



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**Ashtons**  
LEGAL

**B8 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL**  
**FLYING PIANOS**

Charles Spicer · chaired by Midge Gillies  
Before the Wright Brothers, British eccentrics launched themselves skyward in contraptions of bamboo, silk and optimism. Historian Charles Spicer resurrects this forgotten chapter of aviation history in vivid, surprising detail.

**19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH B9**  
**ARTISTS, LOVERS, OUTSIDERS**

Damian Barr & Andrew Durbin · chaired by Gill Lowe  
Two writers. Two extraordinary books. One electrifying conversation. Damian Barr and Andrew Durbin are both, in their very different ways, chroniclers of the outsider experience – artists, lovers, misfits and trailblazers who refused to fit the mould.

In this unmissable headline event, chaired by Gill Lowe and supported by Suffolk Book League, Damian Barr (BBC R2 Book Club hit *The Two Roberts*) and Andrew Durbin (*The Wonderful World That Almost Was*) discuss their brilliant books and the real artists - Robert MacBryde and Robert Colquhoun, Peter Hugar and Paul Thek - whose lives and work inspired and feature in them. Join us as our guest authors discuss the artistic legacies and love stories that these two extraordinary books finally bring into the light.



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**B10 19:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE**  
**GEORGE SZIRTES & OPEN MIC**

George Szirtes · open mic hosted by Poetry Aloud  
T. S. Eliot Prize-winning poet George Szirtes opens this special evening with readings and Q&A, before the stage opens for an open mic hosted by Poetry Aloud. Newcomers warmly welcome.

**20:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL B11**  
**OUIDA: A LITTLE SCANDAL IS AN EXCELLENT THING**

Lynn Whitehead  
Ouida - born Maria Louise Ramé in Bury St Edmunds in 1839 - became one of the most famous and scandalous novelists of the Victorian age, adored by millions and mocked by critics who were too stuffy to appreciate her genius. In this captivating one-woman performance, Lynn Whitehead breathes vivid life into this extraordinary woman. A perfect blend of theatre, biography and literary history - and a long-overdue celebration of one of Bury's most remarkable daughters.



The Trustees of the Unitarian Meeting House are proud to sponsor Bury St. Edmunds Literature Festival



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[www.umhburystedmunds.com](http://www.umhburystedmunds.com)

### Unitarian Meeting House

Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

# Suffolk BOOK League

READING MATTERS

[suffolkbookleague.org](http://suffolkbookleague.org)

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Literature Festival



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**10:30 THE HUNTER ARTS CLUB  
BOOK TASTER COFFEE MORNING** C1

Hosted by Jenna Smith from Book & Pudding Clubs UK  
Start your Saturday in style at this exclusive Book Taster Coffee Morning — a relaxed and welcoming meet-and-greet for book lovers, bloggers and festival friends. Over coffee and pastries, you'll receive a specially curated goody bag containing exclusive proof copies of some of the most exciting books of the year, before sharing your reading loves and discovering your next obsession. Numbers are strictly limited to create a truly intimate atmosphere. Whether you're a dedicated Book Taster community member or joining us for the first time, this is the warmest possible start to a day full of wonderful events. Price includes coffee, pastries and your goody bag.



**C2 11:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
WHAT THE WILD SEA CAN BE**

Helen Scales · chaired by Andrzej Szewczak  
Marine biologist and author Helen Scales — shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction — asks the most urgent question of our age: what might the seas become if we truly protect them?



**11:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
GOLD FROM NEWTON'S APPLE TREE** C3

Nabil Ali  
Before synthetic pigments, artists made inks from oak galls, walnuts and rust. Nabil Ali explores the history, science and beauty of natural ink-making — art history, ecology and craft fused together.



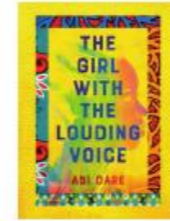
**C5 11:15 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
MAGIC, MYTHS & LOVERS : ROMANTASY & NEW ADULT FICTION**

Annaliese Avery, Melinda Salisbury & Lex Croucher · chaired by Lauren Emms (The Bury Bookclub)  
Romantasy and New Adult fiction are the most exciting categories in publishing — and three of their most compelling voices come together at BLF. An essential event for fans - and an ideal introduction for anyone who hasn't yet discovered what all the excitement is about.



**12:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
AND SO I ROAR - FINDING YOUR LOUDING VOICE** C6

Abi Daré · chaired by Megan Reynard  
The Girl With the Louding Voice announced Abi Daré as one of the most important literary voices of her generation - a novel of fierce compassion, humour and hope, told through the irresistible voice of Adunola, a young Nigerian girl determined to get an education and find her place in the world. In And So I Roar (Winner of the 2025 Climate Fiction Prize), Abi returns with a story just as urgent and necessary. In conversation with Megan Reynard, she will discuss her writing process, the girls and women who inspire her characters, the power of finding your voice in a world that tries to silence you - and what it means to tell stories that the world needs to hear.



**C7 12:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
THE BEAUTIFUL GAME**

Anna Trench, George Harrison & Ashley Hickson-Lovence  
Football as a lens on class, community, gender and belonging. From a graphic novel uncovering the history of women's football to the pressures of professional sport, from the terraces to the dressing room, this is a wide-ranging, passionate conversation moderated by novelist, lifelong football fan and referee Ashley Hickson-Lovence. Suitable for sports fans and literary enthusiasts alike - no football knowledge required!



**12:45 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
EAST ANGLIAN VOICES: MIDLIFE DEBUTS** C8

Jenny Knight, Camilla Balshaw & Elspeth Latimer · chaired by Georgy Jamieson  
It's never too late to write your first novel - and these three East Anglian authors prove it magnificently. Each published their debut later in life, bringing decades of experience, observation and hard-won wisdom to their fiction. The results speak for themselves: three utterly distinctive voices with three extraordinary first books. A celebration of new writing from the region, chaired by broadcaster Georgy Jamieson.





**14:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
BOOK TASTER: BOOK CLUB FICTION  
SHOWCASE**

C9  
T

Sarah Turner, Matson Taylor & Philippa Malicka · hosted by Jenna Smith and presented in partnership with Book and Pudding Clubs UK

Part chat-show, part book club — three brilliant authors Sarah Turner (*The Unmumsy Mum*), Matson Taylor (*Roman Mornings*) and Philippa Malicka (*Reese's Book Club smash In Her Defence*) about their uplifting, thoughtful and thrilling reads and discuss the fiction book clubs everywhere will be reading in the year ahead. With pudding!

This is the perfect event for book clubs to attend together - or for individuals to find a new club...maybe you could even be the person who establishes Bury's own Book and Pudding Club?

**C10 14:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
LITWITCHURE**

Jen Cownie & Fiona Lensvelt

Jen Cownie and Fiona Lensvelt explore the fascinating intersection of literature and tarot — inviting you to see books through a new lens. Less fortune-telling; more storytelling.



**14:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
WHO ARE WE WRITING FOR?**

C11  
CC

George Egg & Melissa Thompson · chaired by Nic Miller

MiMi Aye and Tim Anderson — two of the most exciting food writers working today — discuss identity, culture and the responsibilities of writing about a cuisine, chaired by Nic Miller.



**C13 16:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
EVER LAND**

Amy Abdelnoor · chaired by Monisha Rajesh

A striking debut: a Jewish teenager arrives in Israel; a Palestinian girl watches from an in-between world. Amy Abdelnoor's *Ever Land* is a gripping, powerful novel of belonging and displacement.



**16:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
PIXIE**

C14  
CC

Jill Dawson · chaired by Andrew Wilson

Honorary Patron of Bury St Edmunds Literary Festival, Jill Dawson is one of Britain's most consistently brilliant novelists. In her most recent novel, *Pixie*, Jill renders the real-life figure of Pamela 'Pixie' Colman Smith, artist, publisher and illustrator of the still iconic Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck, in arrestingly vivid detail.

Jill will be in conversation with her friend, writer and biographer Andrew Wilson, as they explore the history she explored in the writing of it, and her own personal connection to the tarot, and its place in her creative practice.

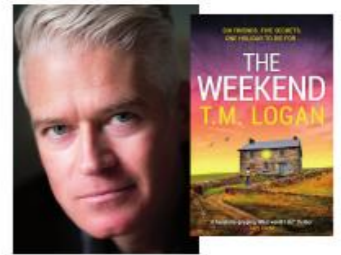
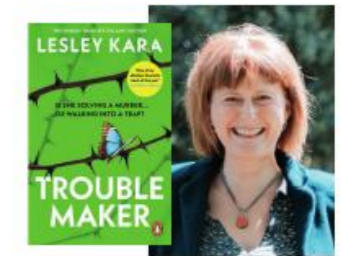
**C15 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
FROM THRILLER TO KILLER TV**

T

Lesley Kara & TM Logan · chaired by Susan Pocklington

Two of the UK's bestselling thriller writers. Multiple novels adapted for film and television. Millions of readers gripped from the first page. What is the secret of the psychological thriller - and how does a book designed to terrify you on the sofa translate to the screen?

In this fantastic headline event, moderated by Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival founder Susan Pocklington, Lesley Kara and TM Logan discuss their craft, their inspirations, the experience of adaptation, and how to keep readers guessing until the very last page.



**14:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
LEBNANI**

C16



Jad Youssef · chaired by Nic Miller

Celebrity MasterChef alum Jad Youssef does more than document Lebanese recipes in *Lebnani* — he tells the story of family, culture and a country through its dishes. With Nic Miller.

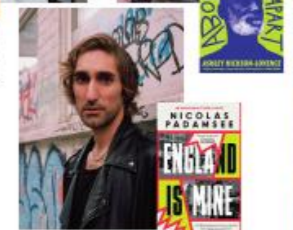


**C18 11:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
MEN ON THE PAGE: MASCULINITY IN BRITISH  
LITERATURE**

CC

Cécile Pin, Nicolas Padamsee & Ashley Hickson-Lovence · moderated by Danielle Patrick

How do contemporary novelists write about men? Three celebrated literary authors at the top of their game discuss their novels exploring masculinity in crisis, transformation and everyday life — from grief to identity to Black British manhood. Moderated by Danielle Patrick.



**C17 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH**  
**AN EVENING WITH SARAH WINMAN**

*Sarah Winman* - chaired by *Catherine Lerner*  
*Sarah Winman* is one of the UK's most beloved novelists. From *When God Was a Rabbit* to *Tin Man* and the magnificent *Still Life*, her novels have moved millions of readers with their warmth, their humanity, and Sarah's ability to illuminate the small, irreplaceable moments that make a life. In this very special headline event, Sarah joins local journalist *Catherine Lerner* to talk about her writing, her background as an actor, and the books that have made her the writer she is. An evening in extraordinary literary company - not to be missed.



Kindly sponsored by



KEVIN CROSSLEY-HOLLAND  
 Collected Poems



**19:00 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - HALL**  
**KEVIN CROSSLEY-HOLLAND & OPEN MIC**

*Kevin Crossley-Holland* - open mic hosted by *Poetry Aloud*  
 An evening of poetry in the hands of a true master - and in yours. *Kevin Crossley-Holland*, one of the most treasured poets and storytellers of our region, opens the evening with readings from his *Collected Poems*. After his readings, Kevin will be taking your questions, before the stage opens for an *Open Mic* hosted by *Poetry Aloud*. Whether you come to listen or to share your own work, this is an evening that celebrates the extraordinary power of poetry: its ability to name what feels unspeakable and to connect us across every kind of difference.

C19

**16:15 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH**  
**FUNDAMENTALLY**

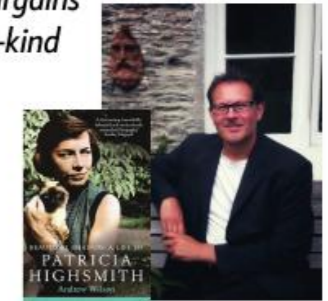
*Nussaibah Younis* - chaired by *Margaret Meyer*  
**When Nadia flees heartbreak for a UN posting in Iraq, tasked with rehabilitating ISIS women. Her unlikely friendship with Sara — fierce, funny, and fifteen when she joined — threatens to upend everything.**  
*Fundamentally* is one of the most talked-about debut novels of the past few years - a bold, unsettling and darkly funny book about extremism, identity and what we are prepared to believe. In conversation with *Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival* Honorary Patron, *Margaret Meyer*, *Nussaibah* will discuss the genesis of the novel, the research that underpins it, and the personal and political questions that drove her to write it.



C20

**C21 19:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE**  
**DARK FAIRYTALES - AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING & LIVE FOLK MUSIC**

*Viktor Wynd and The Blackshore Collective*  
 As the night draws in, the stories change. *Viktor Wynd* - artist, collector, showman and the presiding genius of London's *Last Tuesday Society* - brings his singular vision to this late-night performance event, weaving together storytelling and live folk music in a darkly enchanting evening inspired by his book *Dark Fairy Tales*. These are not the fairy tales of childhood. They are older, stranger and far more dangerous - tales in which forests have teeth, bargains have prices, and the magic is always double-edged. A one-of-a-kind festival experience for adventurous adult audiences. Not recommended for the faint of heart!



**19:30 THEATRE ROYAL**

**SWITZERLAND followed by ACT 2 - Post Show Talk**

*Andrew Wilson* in conversation with *Margaret Meyer* about his novel *Beautiful Shadow - A Life of Patricia Highsmith*.

Book direct with Theatre Royal: <https://theatreroyal.org/events/switzerland-thriller/>

THEATRE ROYAL  
 BURY ST EDMUNDS

9 - 24 October

directed by  
 Owen CALVERT-LYONS

written by  
 Joanna MURRAY-SMITH

SWITZERLAND

I like MURDER. I've committed THOUSANDS.

Catherine RUSSELL  
 as Patricia HIGHSMITH

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**10:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
WORDS FROM THE HEDGE**

Richard Negus

Master hedgelayer and writer Richard Negus makes a passionate case for Britain's hedgerows — among our most biodiverse habitats — and asks what we stand to lose as they disappear.

D1  
CC

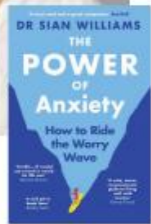
**D3 12:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
Marilyn Monroe: Fact & Fiction of a Dazzling Life**

CC

Julie Owen Moylan & Andrew Wilson · chaired by Andrew Hook

On the centenary of the iconic film star's birth, two authors - one writing from a fictional perspective, one from a biographical - bring their very different takes on Marilyn's dazzling and tragic life to this richly illuminating conversation. Julie Owen-Moylan and Andrew Wilson ask: who was the real Norma Jean, really? And why does the dazzling life of Marilyn Monroe still capture our imagination? Moderated by author Andrew Hook - whose short stories also use Marilyn's life as inspiration.

Followed by a screening of *The Prince and The Showgirl* at Abbeygate Cinema - see pg !! for details



**13:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
THE POWER OF ANXIETY**

Dr Sian Williams · chaired by India Sturgis

Anxiety is one of the most widespread and least understood experiences of modern life. But what if we've been thinking about it all wrong? In *The Power of Anxiety*, journalist and television presenter Dr Sian Williams - who has spoken openly about her own mental health journey - argues that anxiety is not simply a disorder to be eliminated, but a signal to be understood, a force that can be harnessed.

Sian will be in conversation with journalist India Sturgis, author of *How To Eat An Elephant: The life-changing power of managing anxiety, one bite at a time*, discussing the strategies that can help us embrace uncertainty with the help of science, their own experiences, and the stories of experts and ordinary people alike. This promises to be a warm, honest and profoundly helpful conversation for anyone who feels they could sometimes use a little helping hand in navigating life's challenges.

D4  
T



Kindly sponsored by



**D5 14:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
THIS ALLOTMENT: STORIES OF GROWING, EATING AND NURTURING**

Sarah Rigby · chaired by Barbara Segall

Sarah Rigby has brought thirteen brilliant writers together in a glorious celebration of allotments — those plots that mean so much more than the soil they sit on. With local horticultural writer Barbara Segall.



D6  
CC



**14:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
FAMILY MATTERS**

Jodie Chapman, Harriet Evans & Emily Itami · chaired by Isabelle Broom

What makes a family? What tears one apart? And how do the family stories we inherit shape the people we become? Three novelists whose books circle these questions with great skill and different perspectives come together for a richly rewarding panel discussion about family as one of fiction's great subjects.

From Jodie Chapman's *California Gold*, to Emily Itami's *Kakigori Summer* and Harriet Evans' *The Treasures*, this is a conversation about love, loyalty, loss and the extraordinary, maddening, irreplaceable complexity of family life. Chaired by local novelist Isabelle Broom.



**D7 15:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
BAKING AND THE MEANING OF LIFE**



Dr Helen Goh · chaired by Dr Aaron Vallance

Is there a philosophy of baking? Can the act of making a cake tell us something important about how to live a good life? Dr Helen Goh, who has spent a career thinking about both baking and wellbeing, believes that it can. Food writer and NHS psychiatrist Aaron Vallance will be in conversation with Helen - psychologist, Ottolenghi collaborator and food writer - about her new cookbook, exploring the psychology behind why we bake.



**15:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE: WHY MID-LIFE WOMEN MAKE THE BEST CHARACTERS**

Julia Tuffs & Amy Beashell · chaired by Lisa Brennan

Mid-life women are having a moment in fiction. Julia Tuffs and Amy Beashell celebrate the fierce, funny, complicated women at the heart of their novels, chaired by Lisa Brennan.

D8





DESPITE IT ALL. A HANDBOOK FOR CLIMATE HOPEFULS. FRED PEARCE



**16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
DESPITE IT ALL**

*Fred Pearce*

The headlines about the climate crisis are relentless - and relentlessly dark. But is despair the only rational response? In *Despite it All*, environmental journalist Fred Pearce makes a rigorously evidenced, surprising case for hope.

This is not naive optimism. Fred doesn't ask us to look away from the scale of the challenge. Instead, he argues that hope - grounded in science, driven by action, and resilient in the face of setbacks - is not only possible but essential. An inspiring and energising event for anyone who cares about the future of the planet.

D9



**D10 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
THE GOLDEN HOURS: CONTINUING THE CAZALET**



*Louisa Young · chaired by Harriet Evans*

Elizabeth Jane Howard's *Cazalet Chronicles* - a beloved quintet of novels that follow the upper middle class Cazalet family from 1937 on the eve of the Second World War, through it until 1958 - is one of the great achievements of British fiction. Now, Louisa Young, Howard's niece, has written *The Golden Years*: a new instalment that carries the beloved Cazalets into a new era.

In conversation with novelist Harriet Evans, Louisa will discuss the extraordinary privilege and responsibility of continuing another writer's world, how being a relative of Howard mean she is best placed to continue these characters, how she found her way into the voices readers have loved for decades, and what the Cazalets still have to tell us about families, history and the enduring human need for story.

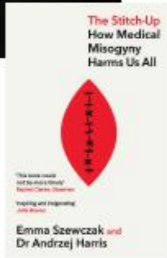


D11

**17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
THE STITCH-UP**

*Emma Szewczak*

Women's pain has historically been dismissed or simply not believed. In *The Stitch-Up*, Emma Szewczak investigates the systemic failures that have left women under-researched and under-treated. This is a book that asks hard questions and demands serious answers. In this frank and necessary conversation, Emma discusses the evidence, the personal stories, and the structural changes that are urgently needed. An essential event for anyone who cares about women's health - which should be everyone.



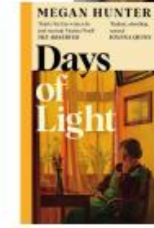
**D12 17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
DAYS OF LIGHT**



*Megan Hunter · chaired by Catherine Lerner*

Megan Hunter is one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary British literary fiction. Her debut *The End We Start From* - now a major film starring Jodie Comer - was followed by the psychologically intense *The Harpy*. Now, with *Days of Light*, she turns her focus to the Bloomsbury Group with a novel that traces the life of one woman through six pivotal days across six decades, from the cusp of the Second World War to the present day.

In conversation with local journalist Catherine Lerner, Megan discusses a body of work characterised by its compression, its imagery, and its refusal to look away from the hardest truths. An event for readers who care about literature at its most serious and most beautiful.



**D13 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH  
MODERN LOVE**

D13



*Claire Daverley, Nicola Dinan & Bobby Palmer · chaired by Kate Young*

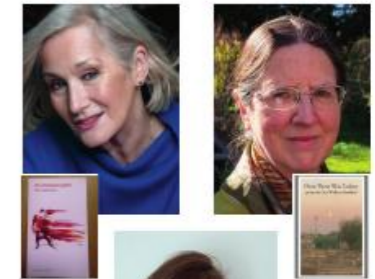
How do we fall in love in the twenty-first century? How do we stay in love? And how does the messy, joyful, painful reality of modern relationships find its way onto the page? Four of the most exciting voices writing about love and connection today explore these questions - and celebrates fiction's unmatched ability to make us feel less alone. Chaired by Kate Young, author of *Experienced*.



**D14 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL  
OUR COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES - POETRY**

*Sue Wallace-Shaddad, Mary Mulholland & Alex Corrin-Tachibana · in partnership with Poetry Aloud*

Three poets shaped by complex international family histories read and reflect on language, inheritance and identity - and what it means to live at the intersection of cultures. Sue Wallace-Shaddad, Mary Mulholland and Alex Corrin-Tachibana each bring their own distinctive voice to this gathering, exploring inheritance, identity and the particular richness of lives lived at the intersections.

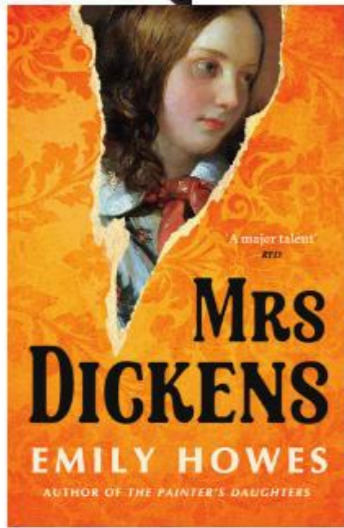




**19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH**  
**MRS DICKENS**



*Emily Howes - chaired by Julia Wakelam*  
Catherine Hogarth married Charles Dickens in 1836. She bore him ten children. He made her the villain of their separation, publicly humiliating her and largely excluding her from his biography. Emily Howes restores her to the centre of the story.



In *Mrs Dickens*, Emily gives Catherine her voice back - tracing the arc of a marriage that began with love and ended in cruelty, and asking what it meant to be the wife of a genius in Victorian England. In conversation with Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival Chair, Julia Wakelam, Emily discusses her meticulous research, her passion for giving marginalised historical women their due, and the enduring fascination of the Dickens myth.

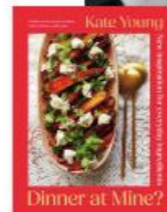
**D16 16:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE**  
**FOOD & BOOK PAIRING**



*Alessandra Pino & Kate Young - chaired by Dr Amy Crawford*

What do you eat while reading *Frankenstein*? What wine pairs perfectly with *Middlemarch*? And is there a better biscuit for Agatha Christie than a digestive? As we close our Festival for 2026, and celebrate our first food programme, this gloriously indulgent event pairs literary fiction and food writing in ways you never expected - and the results are delicious.

Alessandra Pino and Kate Young - two brilliantly creative minds working at the intersection of food and literature - bring their appetites and their bookshelves to this playful, passionate and genuinely illuminating conversation about the relationship between eating and reading. Chaired by bookseller Dr Amy Crawford.



**THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 19:30**  
**THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY**

*following An Evening with Rachel Joyce 18:00 (A5)*  
When a retired pensioner sets off to post a letter and just keeps walking — 500 miles across England — he discovers that saving a dying friend might just save himself. Based on the best selling novel by Rachel Joyce.

**FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 20:00**  
**CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN**

*following Smelling of Rooks - Louis de Bernières 18:00 (B7)*  
On a sun-drenched Greek island during WWII, a spirited Italian officer and a local woman fall into forbidden love, torn apart by war, loyalty, and the wounds time leaves behind. Based on the best selling novel by Louis de Bernières.



**FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 14:00**  
**THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL**

*following Marilyn Monroe: Fact and Fiction of a Dazzling Life 18:00 (A5)*  
In 1910s London, a stiff Eastern European prince and a vivacious American showgirl clash, flirt, and surprise each other — proving that charm and stubbornness make the most unlikely romance.

**Tickets must be booked direct with Abbeygate Cinema:**  
**abbeygatecinema.co.uk**  
**£7.50 or £4.50 with code 'BURLIT'**



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GOLD DUST  
MENTORING WRITERS

**THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER**  
**17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL**  
**WRITING IN IMAGES WITH MONIQUE ROFFEY**

*in partnership with Gold Dust Mentoring*

Written stories on the page mimic the oral tradition in that action and emotion is dramatized and relevant information is summarised.

We also call this 'showing and telling' and learning to get the mix right is key to becoming a storyteller for the page.

Being 'told' too much can be off putting both in speech and in fiction. There's a psychologist behind the camera in the eye, who likes to puzzle for herself, who likes to SEE things on the page. This workshop deals with how to create scenes and how to choose the right words to make your scenes come alive.

Whether you're a seasoned writer or someone who has always wanted to put pen to paper, this session will challenge, inspire and unlock your creativity.

**W2 SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER**  
**11:00 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**  
**RESEARCHING YOUR NOVEL: WRITING BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW WITH GUINEVERE GLASFURD**

*in partnership with Gold Dust Mentoring*

Join acclaimed author Guinevere Glasfurd for an immersive, practical session on the art of research for fiction. Drawing on her own experience writing richly detailed historical and literary novels, Guinevere will show you how deep research doesn't constrain your creativity; it unlocks it.

You'll discover how to find the telling detail that brings a scene to life, how to handle the gaps where the record falls silent, and how to weave your research invisibly into your prose so it never reads like a textbook.



GOLD DUST  
MENTORING WRITERS

W1



GOLD DUST  
MENTORING WRITERS

**SATURDAY 13:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**  
**WRITING CRIME WITH ANDREW WILSON**

*in partnership with Gold Dust Mentoring*

Crime fiction is one of the most technically demanding - and rewarding - forms of the novel. In this practical workshop, crime writer Andrew Wilson shares his expertise on the craft of constructing a mystery: how to plant clues, build suspense, create an unreliable narrator, and above all, keep the reader turning pages.

Whether you're planning your first crime novel or want to sharpen skills you already have, this is an intensive, hands-on session designed to send you away with new tools, fresh ideas, and a renewed excitement about your writing.

W3

**W4 SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER**  
**14:00 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**  
**WRITING POETRY WITH GEORGE SZIRTES**

*in partnership with Poetry Aloud*

A rare and intimate opportunity to work directly with one of Britain's greatest living poets. T.S. Eliot Prize-winner George Szirtes leads this small-group poetry workshop.

Whether you write poetry regularly or haven't put pen to paper since school, George's warmth, depth of knowledge and generosity as a teacher makes this workshop open to all. transformative experience.



**THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER**  
**15:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**  
**GOAL SETTING FOR WRITERS WITH ANNALIESE AVERY**

Writing a book is one thing. Finishing one is quite another. In this practical and energising workshop, Annaliese Avery shares the goal-setting strategies, habit-building techniques and mindset shifts that have helped her complete multiple novels - even alongside a busy life. Whether you're working on your first book or your fifth, whether you're stuck in the middle or haven't started yet, this session will give you a clear, actionable plan for getting words on the page. A workshop that's as much about the writer as the writing.

W5

**LITERARY BURY ST EDMUNDS: A GUIDED WALK**

**WK1 FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 12:00**  
**WK2&3 SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 11:00 & 14:00**  
Bury Tour Guides



Bury St Edmunds has inspired writers for centuries - and this fascinating guided walk, led by the expert Bury Tour Guides, reveals the literary history woven into every street and building of our town.



From medieval monks who copied manuscripts by candlelight to the celebrated authors who have lived, worked, and set their stories here, this walk brings Bury's rich literary past to life in vivid and unexpected detail, sharing stories that most residents have never heard.

**MEET ON ANGEL HILL OPPOSITE ABBEYGATE**  
Comfortable footwear recommended. The walk lasts approximately 90 minutes.





A1

**11:00 LIBRARY  
FOLLOW THE LEADER: PICTURE BOOK STORYTELLING***Harriet Howe*

A magical morning of interactive storytelling designed especially for our youngest festival-goers. Join author Harriet Howe for a joyful, hands-on session that brings her vibrant picture books to life.

Through playful participation, babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers will discover the pleasure of stories told out loud. Harriet's warm, engaging style makes this the perfect first festival experience for little ones and their grown-ups - expect giggles, wonder, and maybe a few roars.

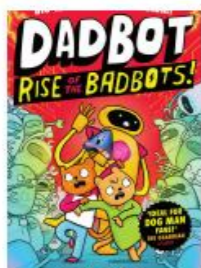
**SUITABLE FOR AGES 0-5****FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 11:30 & 13:45 LIBRARY  
THAT'S NOT MY... SENSORY STORYTELLING FOR BABIES & TODDLERS***George Hoyle*

The much-loved *That's Not My...* books come to life in this sensory storytelling experience for babies and toddlers. Storyteller George Hoyle creates a magical multi-sensory world of textures, sounds and surprises, bringing the iconic books to life in a way that captivates even the very youngest audience members.

Each session lasts approximately 30 minutes and is designed for children aged 6 months to 3 years, accompanied by a grown-up. A wonderful opportunity for little ones to experience the joy of stories, and for families to share books together.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 0-5**

C4

**SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 11:00 LIBRARY  
DAD BOT: HILARIOUS GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR KIDS 5+***Jack Noel*

Warning: this event may cause uncontrollable laughter! Jack Noel - creator of the anarchic and hilarious *Dad Bot* graphic novel series - brings his wonderfully chaotic world of malfunctioning robots, bewildered children and parental chaos to life in a packed interactive workshop for children aged 5 and above.

Expect drawings, games, storytelling and the kind of jokes that make children cackle and parents groan (in the best possible way). Jack's workshops are legendary for their energy, warmth and the impressive speed at which he can draw a robot exploding.

No artistic experience required - just a willingness to join in.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 5+****SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 15:00 LIBRARY  
MYTHS, LEGENDS & FOLK TALES FOR KIDS 8+***Kevin Crossley-Holland*

Journey to the age of gods and heroes with one of the great masters of myth and folklore. Kevin Crossley-Holland - whose retelling of the Norse myths and the Arthurian legends has inspired generations of young readers - leads this immersive interactive workshop for children aged 8 and above. Through storytelling, drama and imagination, Kevin brings the great tales of the ancient world roaring to life. Children will not only hear these timeless stories - they'll take part in them. A genuinely unforgettable experience from one of the most distinguished writers for young people working today.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 8+**

D2

**SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 11:00 LIBRARY  
THE GIRL WHO RACED THE WORLD***Nat Harrison*

Strap in for an interactive workshop with one of the most exciting new voices in children's adventure fiction. Nat Harrison, creator of the fast-paced and fearless *Girl Who Raced The World* series, brings her high-energy adventures to life in a workshop packed with storytelling, activities and challenges for young readers.

Ideal for children aged 6 to 11, this session celebrates the joy of adventure, the importance of courage, and the very particular thrill of a book that simply will not let you put it down.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 6+****SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 13:00 LIBRARY  
THE CRUISE SHIP KID***Emma Swan*

Join Emma Swan - author, actor, award-winning comedian and West-End star of *Horrible Histories* - for a warm, funny and gloriously unusual children's event focussing on her bestselling mystery series: *Cruise Ship Kid*, based on her childhood growing up on cruise ships. This interactive workshop explores both Emma's Waterstone's Book of The Month debut *Cruise Ship Kid: Thief at Sea!* And her new novel *Cruise Ship Kid: Kidnap at Sea!* - two action-packed stories about growing up in the most unexpected of places, and discovering that home is wherever your people are.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES 6+**

Older children and young people are welcome at all of our events but we have programmed the following events on **Saturday 10th October** with them in mind.

**C6** And So I Roar - Abi Daré **C5** Magic, Myths & Lovers - Romantasy & New Adult Fiction**C7** The Beautiful Game - Anna Trench, George Harrison, Ashley Hickson-Lovence**Tickets for under 18s are FREE. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.**

C12





From our base in the heart of Bury St Edmunds, Pigeon delivers exceptional results through intelligence and imagination, connecting people, property, and places.

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- VENUES**
-  **URC- CHURCH & URC - HALL**  
United Reformed Church & Hall  
Whiting Street, IP33 1NR
  -  **UMH**  
Unitarian Meeting House  
Churchgate Street, IP33 1RH
  -  **Atheneum**  
Angel Hill, IP33 1LU
  -  **Bury St Edmunds Library**  
St Andrew's Street N, IP33 1TZ
  -  **Bury Tour Guides**  
Angel Hill opp Abbeygate, IP33 1LU
  -  **Theatre Royal**  
Westgate Street, IP33 1QR
  -  **QMH**  
Quakers Meeting House  
St John's Street, IP33 1SJ
  -  **Abbeygate Cinema**  
Hatter Street, IP33 1LZ
  -  **The Hunter Club Arts Centre**  
St Andrew's Street Sth, IP33 3PH

## TICKETS

We advise booking all tickets in advance - including those that are free of charge. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, according to availability and returns, but it is not guaranteed.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

## PRICING

It is our goal to offer accessible ticket prices for all events, whilst ensuring we pay our speakers fairly.

**Author Events : £10 | Student/Benefits\*£5 | Under 18 £0**

**Workshops: £40 | Student/Benefits £20 | Under 18 £0**

**Walks : £15| Student/Benefits £10| Under 18 £0**

**Children's Events: Child: FREE |Accompanying Adults: £2.50**

\*Benefits: Universal Credit, Personal Independent Payment, Disability Living Allowance & Pension Credit. Please Note: There is no discount for pensioners unless in receipt of Pension Credit.

## SPECIAL OFFERS

### EARLY BIRD

10% off all tickets until July 31<sup>st</sup>. Use code: **BLFCatchWorm26** at check-out.

### MULTI-BUY

**GOLD: 20 tickets for £120 (£80 saving) | SILVER: 10 tickets for £70 (£30 saving)| BRONZE: 5 tickets for £40 (£10 saving)**

Discount will be automatically applied to eligible orders at the checkout. Author Events only.

### DRINKS OFFERS

For select events you can to **pre-order a drink for a £2 discount** on prices on the night

### ACCESSIBILITY

**All of the events in our United Reformed -Church venue have a Hearing Loop.**

**Events at the Unitarian Meeting House on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> and Sun 11<sup>th</sup> will have live**

**captions. Please look for the symbols when booking**



All of our venues are wheelchair accessible. If you have additional access needs, please note these when booking tickets. We offer free tickets to essential companions, please contact us [hello@burylitfest.co.uk](mailto:hello@burylitfest.co.uk) with your order number to confirm.



**BOOK TICKETS**  
**burylitfest.co.uk**

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