

Bury St. Edmunds *Literature Festival*

8th - 11th 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**



burylitfest.co.uk

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**



‘UNSURPASSED IN EAST ANGLIA’

LEGAL 500 (UK)

Trusted legal advice, rooted in heritage,
shaped by progress.

www.greene-greene.com



01284 762 211 | mail@greene-greene.com | [in](#) Greene & Greene Solicitors
80 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QB

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



Contents

Page 3	Artistic Director's Note	Pages 24-28	Sunday 11th October
Page 4	Contents and Thanks	Page 29	Film Screenings
Page 5	Chair of Trustees' Note	Page 30-31	Writing Workshops
Pages 6 - 8	Schedule	Page 31	Guided Walks
Pages 10-11	Thursday 8th October	Page 32-33	FREE events for Kids
Page 12-13	Friday 9th October	Page 35	Map
Pages 16-21	Saturday 10th October	Page 36	Ticketing Information

With thanks to 2026 Season Sponsors



2026 Season Partners



2026 Patrons, Honorary Patrons, Ambassadors, Angels, Supporters & Friends

Mike & Judy Spenser-Morris, Caroline Marriage
Nicola Upson, Margaret Meyer, Jill Dawson, Ashley Hickson-Lovence
Gina Long MBE
Tonia Dawson

Nicholas Knight, Judith Grandi, Gwen Williams, Julie Eaton, Antony Hurden, Sheila Rush, Zigurds Kronbergs, Jo Keeley

Sue Robinson, Pauline Hawes, Robert Felgate, Catherine Torres, Penny Turner

To find out more about supporting us visit: buryliffest.co.uk/supporters-scheme

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: buryliffest.co.uk/about

Tickets: buryliffest.co.uk



THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER

11:00 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

Follow The Leader A1

Harriet Howe

Picture Books for Toddlers & Pre-Schoolers

14:00 ATHENAEUM

Uncovering The Athenaeum A2

Adrian Tindall

16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

A Time of Witches A3

Madeline Martin

17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Workshop: Writing In Images W1

Monique Roffey

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

17:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

The Cuckoo's Lea A4

Michael J Warren

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

An Evening With Rachel Joyce A5

Best-selling author of The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

18:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

The Waterlands A6

Stephen Rutt

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

19:30 ABBEYGATE CINEMA

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

film screening partnership with Abbeygate Cinema - book direct

19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

An evening with Monique Roffey A7

Award-winning author of The Mermaid of Black Conch

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER

11:30 & 13:30 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

That's Not My... B1 & B2

George Hoyle

Sensory Storytelling for Babies & Toddlers

12:00 MEET ON ANGEL HILL

Literary Bury St Edmunds WK1

Bury Tour Guides

Guided walking tour

16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Snack Hacker X Fired Up B3

George Egg & Melissa Thompson

Bury St Edmunds - Suffolk's Foodie Capital

16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

Constable's Year B4

Susan Owens

17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Down To Earth B5

Robert Ashton

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

A Year of Creative Thinking B6

Jessica Swale

18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

Smelling of Rooks B7

Louis De Bernières

Best-selling author of Captain Correlli's Mandolin

18:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Flying Planos: The Eccentric Birth of

British Aviation B8

Charles Spicer

19:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Artists, Lovers, Outsiders B9

Damian Barr & Andrew Durbin

19:45 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

George Szirtes - Poetry B10

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 - CHURCH

Ouida: A Little Scandal is an Excellent

Thing B11

Lynn Whitehead

A one woman performance

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

10:30 THE HUNTER ARTS CLUB

Book Taster Coffee Morning C1

Book & Pudding Clubs UK

11:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

What the Wild Sea Can Be C2

Helen Scales

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

11:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Gold from Newton's Apple Tree C3

Nabil Ali

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

11:00 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

Dad Bot C4

Jack Noel

Hilarious Graphic Novels for Kids 5+

11:00 QUAKERS MEETING HOUSE

Workshop: Writing Beyond What You Know W2

Guinevere Glasfurd

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

11:15 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Magic, Myths & Lovers - Romance & New Adult Fiction C5

Annaliese Avery, Lex Croucher, Melinda Salisbury

Salisbury

12:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

And So I Roar - Find Your Louding Voice C6

Abi Daré

12:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

The Beautiful Game C7

Anna Trench, George Harrison, Ashley Hickson-Lovence

Hickson-Lovence

13:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

East Anglian Voices: Midlife Debuts C8

Jenny Knight, Camilla Balshaw, Elspeth Latimer

Latimer

13:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Workshop: Writing Crime W3

Andrew Wilson

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

14:00 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Workshop: Writing Poetry W4

George Szirtes

in partnership with Poetry Aloud

14:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

Booktaster - Book Club Fiction Showcase C9

Sarah Turner, Matson Taylor,

Philippa Malicka

in partnership with Book & Pudding Clubs UK

14:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Litwitchure C10

Jen Cowie and Fiona Lensvelt

14:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Who Are We Writing For? C11

MiMi Aye & Tim Anderson

Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital

15:00 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

Myths, Legends & Folk Tales C12

Kevin Crossley-Holland

Storytelling for Kids 9+

15:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Workshop: Goal Setting for Writers W5

Annaliese Avery

16:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Ever Land C13

Amy Abdelnoor

16:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Pixie C14

Jill Dawson

16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

From Thriller to Killer TV C15

Lesley Kara & TM Logan

17:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Lebnani: A journey through family, food & the flavour of Lebanon C16

Jad Youssef

18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

An Evening with Sarah Winman C17

Best-selling author of Still Life

18:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Men On The Page: Masculinity in

Literary Fiction C18

Cecile Pin, Nicolas Padamsee

Ashley Hickson-Lovence

19:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL

Kevin Crossley Holland - Poetry C19

Followed by Open Mic

in partnership with Poetry Aloud

19:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH

Fundamentally C20

Nussaibah Younis

19:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Dark Fairy Tales C21

Viktor Wynd

Storytelling and Live Folk Music

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

10:45 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

Hugh Bonneville D1a

Rory Sparks

Adventure fiction for Children 5+

11:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Words From The Hedge D1

Richard Negus

part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Festival of Nature

11:00 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

The Girl Who Raced The World D2

Nat Harrison

Adventure fiction for Children 5+

11:00 MEET ON ANGEL HILL

Literary Bury St Edmunds WK2

Bury Tour Guides

Guided Walking Tour

12:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

Marilyn Monroe: Fact & Fiction of a Dazzling Life D3

Andrew Wilson & Julie Owen-Moylan

13:00 LIBRARY *FREE KIDS EVENT*

The Cruise Ship Kid D2a

Emma Swan

Mystery fiction for Children 5+



**13:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH****The Power of Anxiety D4***Dr Sian Williams & India Sturgis***14:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL****This Allotment: Stories of growing, eating and nurturing D5***Sarah Rigby***14:00 MEET ON ANGEL HILL****Literary Bury St Edmunds WK3***Bury Tour Guides**Guided Walking Tour***14:00 ABBEYGATE CINEMA****The Prince and The Showgirl***film screening in partnership with Abbeygate Cinema - book direct***14:15 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE****Family Matters D6***Jodie Chapman, Harriet Evans, Emily Itami***15:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH****Baking and The Meaning Of Life D7***Dr Helen Goh & Dr Aaron Vallance**Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital***15:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL****Women of a Certain Age D8***Julia Tuffs & Amy Beashel***16:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE****Despite It All: An Event for Climate****Hopefuls D9***Fred Pearce***16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH****The Golden Hours: Continuing The Cazalets D10***Louisa Young***17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL****The Stitch Up: Seeking Solutions to Systemic Medical Misogyny D11***Emma Szewczak***17:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE****Days of Light D12***Megan Hunter***18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH****Modern Love D13***Claire Daverley, Nicola Dinan, Bobby Palmer & Kate Young***18:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL****Our Complex International Families - Poetry D14***Sue Wallace-Shaddad, Mary Mulholland & Alex Corrin-Tachibana**in partnership with Poetry Aloud***19:30 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH****Mrs Dickens D15***Emily Howes***19:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE****Food & Book Pairing D16***Alessandra Pino & Kate Young**Bury St Edmunds: Suffolk's Foodie Capital*

Be confident. Be ambitious. Be curious. Be you.



DISCOVER WHO
YOU COULD BE
AT AN OPEN DAY!



West Suffolk College,
Conservatoire East and
Digital Saint are proud to
support LitFest.



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.



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.



16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH A TIME OF WITCHES

Madeline Martin · chaired by Lynn Whitehead

NYT bestseller Madeline 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.

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.

Followed by a screening of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* at Abbeygate Cinema - see pg 29 for details



Kindly sponsored by

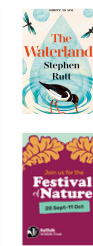


A2

A3



A5



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.

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.



A6

Suffolk Wildlife Trust presents:

Festival of Nature

20 Sept - 11 Oct

Art

Community

Nature

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

suffolkwildlifetrust.org/festivalofnature



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.



17:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL **B5** DOWN TO EARTH: SOIL AND ITS SECRETS

Robert Ashton · chaired by Helen 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.

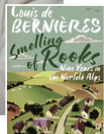


18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH **B7** SMELLING OF ROOKS

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 *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* at Abbeygate Cinema - see pg 29 for details



Kindly sponsored by

Ashtons
LEGAL

B8 18:30 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 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE 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 Hujar 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.



Kindly sponsored by



B10 19:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL 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 - CHURCH **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



There's always pressure to conform...
Unitarians offer a thoughtful alternative.

We meet at 3pm on the 1st and 3rd
Sundays of each month.

Experience the unique atmosphere of our
Meeting House on Churchgate Street as a
special place to stretch the mind, and warm the
heart & soul.

www.umhburystedmunds.com

Unitarian Meeting House

Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH



suffolkbookleague.org

Proud
sponsors
of...

Bury St Edmunds
Literature Festival



For the joy of
books...

Uniting reader and author.
Who will you meet next?



Your trusted property people



For all your property needs

- ✓ Large portfolio of investors
- ✓ Dedicated in-house Property Management Team
- ✓ Property expert Justine Hoy - 29 years sales experience
- ✓ Up to date on legislation
- ✓ Unrivalled customer service and excellence
- ✓ On-site mortgage advisor



   martinco.com | 01284 701511
Sales. Letting. Property Management. Investment.

Justine - Senior Sales Manager



Charlotte - Senior Sales Negotiator





10:30 THE HUNTER ARTS CLUB BOOK TASTER COFFEE MORNING

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 Harris

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

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.

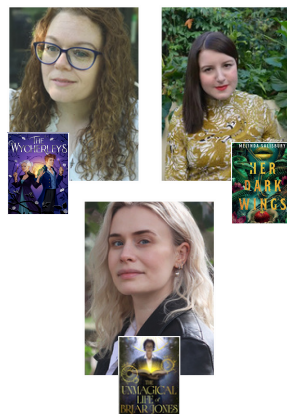
C3



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.



C1



12:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH AND SO I ROAR - FIND YOUR LOUDING VOICE

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 Adunni, 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.

C6



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!



13:00 UNITED REFORMED - HALL EAST ANGLIAN VOICES: MIDLIFE DEBUTS

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.

C8





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



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 14:30 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?



MiMi Aye and Tim Anderson · 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



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.

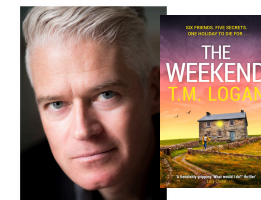
C15 16:30 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH FROM THRILLER TO KILLER TV



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.



17:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL LEBNANI



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.

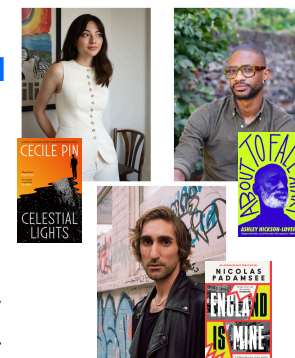


C18 18:00 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE MEN ON THE PAGE: MASCULINITY IN BRITISH LITERATURE



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.

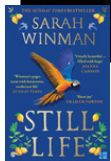



C17 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH
AN EVENING WITH SARAH WINMAN


Sarah Winman · chaired by Catherine Larner

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 Larner 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


C19 19:00 UNITED REFORMED - 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.


C20 19:30 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.

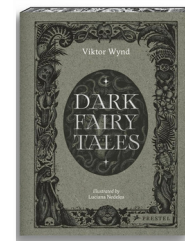
Fundamentally is one of the most talked-about debut novels of the past few years - a bold, unsettling and darkly funny book about extremism, identity and what we are prepared to believe. In conversation with Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival Honorary Patron, Margaret Meyer, Nussaibah will discuss the genesis of the novel, the research that underpins it, and the personal and political questions that drove her to write it.


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!



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

theatreroyal.org

St Edmunds Hospital
Part of Circle Health Group



Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds is collaborating with Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival to host post-show talks with authors connected to the world of Switzerland.

Sat 10 Oct, 7.30pm After the evening performance, Andrew Wilson — author of *Beautiful Shadow: A Life of Patricia Highsmith* — will be in conversation with Margaret Meyer.

Sat 17 Oct, 2pm After the matinee performance, Jill Dawson — author of *The Crime Writer* — will be in conversation with Kate Sawyer.

Book direct with Theatre Royal: theatreroyal.org





Providing legal support for generations

WE'RE WITH YOU...

when you're looking to the future

For business or individual advice call or email

01284 762331

enquiry@ashtonslegal.co.uk

www.ashtonslegal.co.uk



Bury St Edmunds | Cambridge | Ipswich | Leeds | Norwich



St Edmunds
Hospital

Chosen by you, for over 45 years

Private Care, Tailored for You across a range of specialties, including:



Orthopaedics



Private GP services



Ophthalmology



Gynaecology



Urology



ENT



Cardiology



General surgery



To book an appointment, please give us a call on
01284 716714 or visit circlehealthgroup.co.uk/stedmunds



10:45 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE WORDS FROM THE HEDGE

Richard Negus

Master hedgelay 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



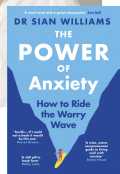
D3 12:30 UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE

CC MARILYN MONROE: FACT & FICTION OF A DAZZLING LIFE

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 29 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



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.



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.

D6



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 Beashel · chaired by Lisa Brennan

Mid-life women are having a moment in fiction. Julia Tuffs and Amy Beashel 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 CAZALETS



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.



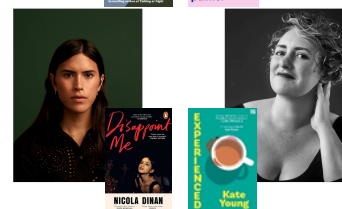
D13 18:00 UNITED REFORMED - CHURCH MODERN LOVE

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*.

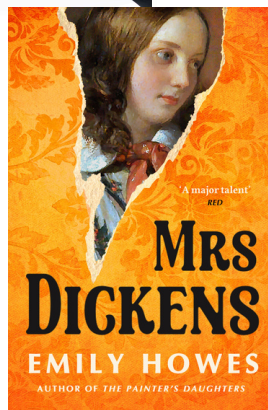


D14 18:30 UNITED REFORMED - HALL OUR COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES - POETRY

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 19:30 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.

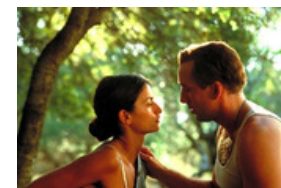


SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 14:00

THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL

following *Marilyn Monroe: Fact and Fiction of a Dazzling Life* 12:30 (D3)

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'



ABBEGATE
CINEMA

NEW RELEASES BALLET + OPERA
THEATRE SCREENINGS FAMILY
MATINÉES DOG FRIENDLY
SCREENINGS PARENT + BABY
LIVE COMEDY ARTS RESTAURANT



4 Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LZ
www.abbeygatecinema.co.uk



GOLD DUST
MENTORING WRITERS

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

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer Mentoring

Written stories on the page mimic the oral tradition in that action and emotion is dramatised 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 Writer 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

W3



GOLD DUST
MENTORING WRITERS

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
13:30 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
WRITING CRIME WITH ANDREW WILSON

in partnership with Gold Dust Writer 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.

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.



SATURDAY 10TH 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 9TH OCTOBER 12:00

WK2&3

SUNDAY 11TH 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



THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER
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 & 13:30 LIBRARY
THAT'S NOT MY... SENSORY STORYTELLING FOR BABIES & TODDLERS

George Hoyle

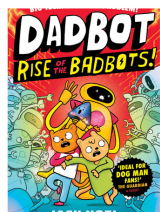
The much-loved *That's Not My...* books come to life in this sensory storytelling experience for babies and toddlers. Storyteller George Hoyle creates a magical multi-sensory world of textures, sounds and surprises, bringing the iconic books to life in a way that captivates even the very youngest audience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



B1 & B2

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
15:00 LIBRARY
MYTHS, LEGENDS & FOLK TALES

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+



D2a

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.

C5 Magic, Myths & Lovers - Romantasy & New Adult Fiction **C6 And So I Roar** - Abi Daré

C7 The Beautiful Game - Anna Trench, George Harrison, Ashley Hickson-Lovence

Tickets for under 18s are FREE. Under 14s must be accompanied by a paying 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.

www.pigeon.co.uk



Tickets: burylifefest.co.uk



35

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 August 31st. 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 **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 10th and Sun 11th 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 with your order number to confirm.



BOOK TICKETS

burylitfest.co.uk

Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival Charity no 1209140