# 12-22 October 2023

# FESTIVAL STATES OF THE PROGRAMME





We offer a wide range of programmes, taught by our lecturers who are leaders in their field



# Festival Highlights



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# **Book online now:** wimbledonbookfest.org







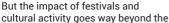




# Welcome to Wimbledon BookFest 2023

# More than 10 Days

'What do you do the rest of the year?' I'm often asked by a friendly punter at BookFest. Festivals appear to pop up from nowhere, creating a sense of magic, only to disappear days later as though they never happened.



immediate. They can act as catalysts for change and provide opportunities for connections. This year I was delighted to be invited to Lahore Literary Festival in Pakistan and ran into BBC broadcaster Kavita Puri. Kavita is the author of *Partition Voices*, which shares first-person narratives from the time of India's Partition in 1947.

'I'm here because of you, because of Wimbledon,' she told me. Kavita's family, like so many, were forced to move from their homes at the time of Partition. When speaking last year at our Sunset Festival on Wimbledon Common she too had been invited to Lahore, but by a member of our audience. As such, for the first time she was able to visit the land where her father's home had once stood.

Our wonderful Festival intern, Meghan Green, shared a story of coming to see Miranda Kaufmann speak about *Black Tudors*, the untold stories of Africans, whilst at Ursuline High School. This event, she told me, changed the whole way she saw history, which she then went on to study at University of Birmingham. Just two examples of how our cultural experiences can affect us beyond the present moment.

Working in the cultural space can be incredibly challenging, particularly at present. Beyond our 'fun' 10 days of Festival, our small, incredibly dedicated team have worked so hard this year – raising finance, finding venues, pitching for events, addressing compliance & IT, whilst also putting on literacy projects for 150 South London schools and delivering a new programme of activity for our partner, Merton Libraries.

This programme is down to them. I hope you enjoy.



Fiona Razvi Festival Director

Festival Founders: Tony Kane & Fiona Razvi

35 Wimbledon Hill Rd, London, SW19 7NB Info@wimbledonbookfest.org (Registered charity: 1120297)



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Katherine Rundell brings John Donne and his

# INSIGHTFUL

Our free investment trust magazine brings you stories about the ideas that shape our world. Read thought-provoking articles from our investment managers, academics and global thinkers, alongside exclusive interviews with distinguished authors.

Interested? You can discover the current issue on the festival's website.



Subscribe to *Trust* for your chance to win a break at a UK literary festival supported by Baillie Gifford. For full details, visit

bailliegifford.com/wimbledon





# Wimbledon BookFest 2023: a year-long programme

Wimbledon BookFest has a year-round programme of activity. This year our public Festival, running **12-22 October**, will be in the performance spaces in central Wimbledon – **Wimbledon High School**, **Wimbledon Library** and **New Wimbledon Theatre**.





# Libraries

BookFest has been extending its reach to deliver a programme of cultural activity for residents right across the borough of Merton.

### Activities includes:

- Author events
- · Writing & storytelling workshops
- Manga workshops
- Merton Big Read

Merton is just one of two London boroughs to have been given National Portfolio status by Arts Council England, and Wimbledon BookFest is their lead delivery partner.



# Iran: Woman Life Freedom Art Exhibition

Wimbledon BookFest is partnering with Saqi Books on an exhibition of art from forthcoming publication Woman Life Freedom: Voices and Art from the Women's Protests in Iran. We are hosting an event with editor of the book Malu Halasa on Saturday 14 October at Wimbledon Library, where she will be joined by several of the contributors.

### Schools Programme

Wimbledon BookFest works with over 150 schools in south London and Surrey. Throughout the year, we run a range of initiatives to encourage reading and literacy skills, including our annual Young Writers' Competition and events with children's authors.



### Lahore Literary Festival

2023 sees the start of a new partnership with Lahore Literary Festival. The LLF takes place annually in the Punjab, Pakistan and is considered one of South Asia's premier cultural events. Run by Razi Ahmed, it celebrated its 10th anniversary this February and we are delighted to be working with LLF to amplify voices of South Asian heritage.



# MEET THE LORD OF THE FLIES.

Come and see us at the festival and find out how our members help people, woods and wildlife thrive.

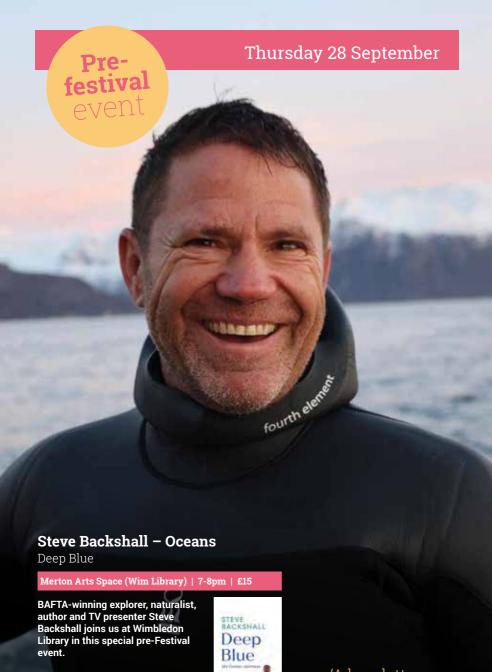






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Blending memoir, travel anecdotes and serious discussion on environmental science, Steve will take us on an unforgettable tour of the world's aquatic life. Expect to hear about Steve's most memorable oceanic encounters and his thoughts on how we can save our seas and preserve the future of

our marine life.

'A love letter to the most exciting environment on our planet.'

# **Working with Merton Libraries**

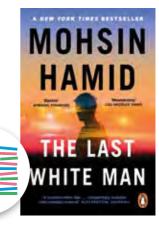
# BookFest Goes East

# **Merton Big Read**

Mohsin Hamid's The Last White Man

Running July-October, residents across Merton are encouraged to read *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid, our first borough-wide Festival read. Mohsin is a Pakistani writer who has spent time living between Lahore, London and New York. He is the writer of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Exit West*. In *The Last White Man* he tells the story of how the world changes for a man who wakes up to a darker skin tone. It addresses universal themes of identity, being an outsider and human fragility.

We have 500 copies to give out and copies are also available at libraries and through audio books.





# Author events and workshops

The festival will be running a range of events this autumn by published authors and for those interested in writing or telling their own stories in libraries across Merton.

Free tickets are also available on many Festival events for residents who live in the east of the borough of Merton in the following postcodes: CR4, CR7, SM3, SM4.

Visit **wimbledonbookfest.org** for more information on all Merton Libraries Projects.





# Thursday 12 October



### Mikaela Loach

Climate Action: Changing the Narrative

Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 5.30-6.30pm | £7.50

A chance to hear from climate activist, podcaster and twenty-five-year-old powerhouse, Mikaela Loach, who campaigns for an inclusive approach to tackling climate change.

Offering a fresh and hopeful perspective for real climate action that benefits all, Mikaela shares her years of experience in the climate movement and offers an accessible appraisal to empower action for a better future for all.



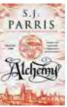
### Kate Mosse & S.J. Parris

Historical Fiction Writers in Conversation

Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 7.30-8.30pm | £10

Join these two bestselling historical fiction writers for an evening of escape into the worlds of Tudor crime and 17th Century pirates.







They will be talking about their new novels *Alchemy* and *The Ghost Ship. Alchemy* is the new gripping historical crime thriller following the renegade monk, philosopher and heretic Giordano Bruno, as he uncovers dark mysteries and plots in Tudor England and Renaissance Europe. The Joubert Family Chronicles continues with *The Ghost Ship*: a thrilling novel of adventure and buccaneering, love and revenge, stolen fortunes and hidden secrets on the high seas, inspired by real-life female pirates.

'Enthralling, thrilling books... There are echoes of C.J. Sansom's Shardlake series.'

Times on S.J. Parris

# Friday 13 October



# **Paterson Joseph**

The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho

Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 6-7pm | £10

Join Paterson Joseph, one of Britain's bestloved actors for a special event in Black History month, where he will read extracts from and discuss his debut historical novel.

The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho is based on the true story of the man born on a slave ship who went on to be a writer, leading abolitionist and the first Black Briton known to have voted in an election.



Paterson Joseph recently starred in *Vigil* and *Noughts* + *Crosses*. He also featured in *Peep Show* and *Law* & *Order UK* and he plays Arthur Slugworth in the forthcoming *Wonka* movie.

'An absolutely thrilling, throat-catching wonder of a historical novel... Told in wonderful prose and with dazzling energy and brilliant panache. Hugely recommended.' Stephen Fry

# Venue Hubs:

All located in central Wimbledon.

- · Wimbledon Library
- · Wimbledon High School
- New Wimbledon Theatre

### **VENUE KEY**

Wim Library: Wimbledon Library WHS: Wimbledon High School

See Page 77 for more information and addresses



# Friday 13 October

heartbreak.'

**Graham Norton** 



finding her feet and her sound at a

memorable point in London's cultural and musical history. Annie brings her insider savvy to her description of the

music industry and to what being a Londoner means.



# Radical Walk: Wimbledon's History

Led by Peter Walker

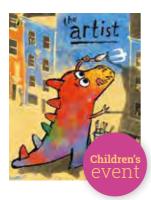
### William Morris House | 10am-12noon | £15

Learn about Wimbledon's radical history with local historian Peter Walker, on his hugely informative tour about the roots of Wimbledon's socialism.

Meeting Point: William Morris House, 267 The Broadway, SW19 1SD. Ends at Leather Bottle pub, 277 Kingston Road, SW19 3NW.



Radical Walk is sponsored by William Morris House



### **Ed Vere**

The Artist

### Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 10-10.45 am | £7.50

Join award-winning and New York Times bestselling author and illustrator Ed Vere as he celebrates his beautiful new picture book The Artist in this colourful story time and live drawing event. Ed shares how he creates your favourite characters like Mr Big, Max the Brave and Grumpy Frog, and shows you how you can be an artist too. Age 3+



Tickets are required for both adults and children (aged 2+)



# Sophy Henn

Lifesize

### Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 11.30am-12.30pm | £7.50

Step into the pages of author and illustrator Sophy Henn's playful picture book series featuring *Lifesize* illustrations of some of the world's smallest and largest animals. Take part in the animal challenges, learn some incredible facts and draw along with Sophy in this fun-packed, informative and interactive event. **Age 5+** 



Tickets are required for both adults and children (aged 2+)



### Linda Yueh

The Great Crashes: Lessons from Global Meltdowns

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 12.30-1.30pm | £15

A one-stop account of modern financial crashes, what lessons we can learn from them and where the next one will come from...

Renowned economist Dr Linda Yueh has recently been appointed by HM Treasury to examine banking crises and advise the government on mitigating the next

one. She joins us to share her take on where the next crisis might come from and shows how her framework could contain it.

'Fascinating, well-written and authoritative' **Tim Harford** 

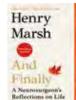


# **Henry Marsh**

And Finally

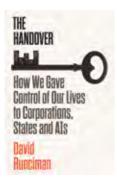
Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 2-3pm | £15

Join neuroscientist and bestselling author of *Do No Harm* to explore what happens when someone who has spent a lifetime on the frontline of life and death finds himself contemplating what might be his own death sentence.



Henry Marsh returns to BookFest with his masterful meditation on mortality and the importance of a life well lived. He will discuss the transition from doctor to patient, the inconvenience of illness, the mysteries of science and the brain, and what it is that really matters in the end.

'A close and courageous look at the prospect of death by someone who has seen it more clearly and more often than most of us.' Philip Pullman



# Susie Alegre & David Runciman

AI - Too Powerful to Control?

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 2.30-3.30pm |£17.50/£15

Do you want more understanding of the impact Al will have on our lives and how to live with this artificial agency?



Join international human rights lawyer Susie Alegre and author and academic David Runciman as they explore the serious challenges that modern technology and big data impose on our quest to liberate our minds and reflect on how we gave control of our lives to corporations, states and Als.

'Fascinating... We have all sleepwalked into this gloomy fairytale, and it's time to wake up.' **Guardian** 



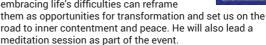
# **Gelong Thubten**

A Monk's Guide to Fearless Living

Wimbledon High Hall (WHS) | 2.30-3.30pm | £17.50/£15

Gelong Thubten, a Buddhist monk and bestselling author who has worked with everyone from Silicon Valley entrepreneurs to Hollywood stars, explores how to develop a fearless outlook on life.

A world pioneer in the Mindfulness movement, Gelong will discuss how embracing life's difficulties can reframe



'He clearly illustrates why we all need meditation and mindfulness in our lives' Benedict Cumberbatch



# **History of the Tattoo**

Matt Lodder

Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 3-4pm | £7.50

Dr Matt Lodder will take us through the history of tattooing, gleaning unique insights into forgotten areas of human history and visual culture.

Matt will reveal how tastes and technologies have affected the type of images being tattooed; how innovations in both style and method came about and



how tattooing has always been a permanent fixture of the visual culture of Britain's entire social spectrum – popular amongst sailors, socialites, mummies and kings.

'Tattoos are an expression of individualism, but they also illuminate the cultural environment in which they are created.' Shahidha Bari, Literary Review



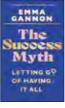
# 'Reminds us that it is what we are, not what we do, that will always ultimately count.' Alain de Botton

### **Emma Gannon & Thomas Curran**

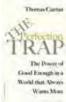
The Myth of Perfection

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 4-5pm | £15

What if we were told that our obsession with achievement is a trap? That everything we've been led to believe about traditional







success is a lie? That good enough really is good enough?

Burnout, anxiety and depression are at record levels, driven by a combination of workplace competition, the world of social media, the quest for elite credentials and helicopter parenting. Join author and broadcaster Emma Gannon and acclaimed LSE professor and the world's leading expert on perfectionism Thomas Curran in conversation on how to create a culture that celebrates the joys of imperfection.







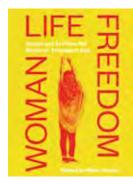
# Celebrate the world of books and literature with Viking

Every Viking journey is one of discovery, including the discovery of some of the world's great literary locations. From the eternal romance of Paris to the dreamy waters of the Mississippi and Egypt's fabled River Nile, there are many places that have served as a muse for writers and uncovering the literary culture of the countries you visit is a part of every Viking journey.

Indeed, your ship itself is home to an enriching library of books especially curated to deepen your knowledge of the destinations you are visiting. Join us aboard one of our award-winning river, ocean and expedition ships, and embark on a truly inspiring journey.



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# **Woman Life Freedom**

Voices and Art from the Women's Protests in Iran

Merton Arts Space (Wimb Library) | 5-6pm | £7.50

This panel event will discuss hardship, hope and empowerment in modern-day Iran and offer a context to the revolution, while celebrating the women determined to reclaim their freedom, dignity and self-expression.

-

Join Malu Halasa, editor of the forthcoming anthology *Woman Life Freedom*, along with contributors, Roshi Rouzbehani and Fari

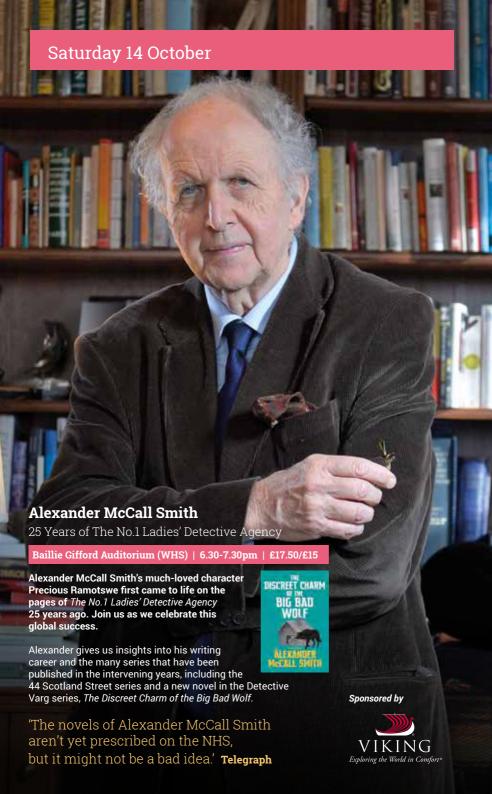
Bradley, as they reflect on the impact of the protests, where they are going and what the future holds for Iran at this critical moment in its history.

'The beauty and strength of our movement is that every single one of us here is a leader.'

Golshan, Women's Rights Activist in Iran



Over the Festival period we will be running an exhibition with art from the book at wimbledonbookfest.org and across selected Merton libraries. Please see website for further details.





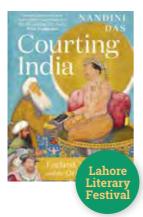
# **Anthony Seldon**

What Makes a Great Prime Minister

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 12noon-1pm | £17.50/£15

The 'Downing St' historian and head teacher has written biographies of seven British PM's: Margaret Thatcher, John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and now Boris Johnson. Getting inside the mind and court of each prime minister, and with unparalleled access, he is well equipped to analyse and assess factors that define a great PM and premiership.





### **Nandini Das**

Courting India

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 12.30-1.30pm | £12.50

New Generation Thinker Nandini Das discusses her ground-breaking new history.

Nandini dissects one of the most important encounters in the history of colonialism: the British arrival in India in the early seventeenth century. Selected as one of the 'FT books to read for 2023'.



'A sparkling gem of a book. This has the makings of a classic.' **Peter Frankopan** 



### **Afua Hirsch**

A radical exploration of rituals and beauty

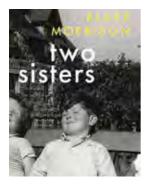
Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 2-3pm | £10

The Sunday Times bestselling broadcaster takes us on a global exploration of ancestral beauty practices.

Discover how modern mainstream Eurocentric beauty standards have evolved and how minoritised groups can transcend them by reclaiming their cultural roots.



'This is a ground-breaking book that speaks to all women.' **Bernardine Evaristo** 



### **Blake Morrison**

Two Sisters: Family & Memoir

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 2-3pm | £17.50/£15

The renowned author of And When Did You Last See Your Father? explores sibling relationships, secrets and addiction.

In this remarkable and heart-breaking memoir, Blake also looks at his own sibling relationships and those in literature and of literary figures.





# **Reclaiming the Witch**

Chikodili Emelumadu, Margaret Meyer and Jacqueline O'Mahony

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 4-5pm | £12.50

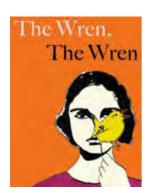
Magic, empowerment, fighting back against an oppressive patriarchy... 'witch lit' is having its moment. Come to this panel event to hear why.





Three authors discuss

their novels – giving voice to women who face oppression, violence, misogyny, erasure and suspicion, marginalised and scapegoated because of their feminine strength.



# **Anne Enright**

The Wren. The Wren

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 6-7pm | £15

The first Irish Laureate and Booker Prizewinning novelist Anne Enright is one of the most celebrated writers working in Ireland today.

Anne's work is part of a great tradition of Irish writing that explores themes of family life, relationships, love, repression and memory. She joins us to discuss her latest



novel *The Wren, The Wren,* which deals with the inheritance of trauma, wonder and love across three generations of women.



# Lisa Snowdon

Just Getting Started

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 4.30-5.30pm | £17.50/£15

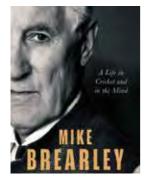
Lisa Snowdon is on a mission to spread the word: growing older just means getting better!

Inspirational and refreshingly honest,
Lisa will talk openly about all the
issues she has faced when entering
new phases of her life. Reframing
challenging life stages as golden
opportunities to become stronger and bolder, Lisa promises
the best is yet to come.



'Bravo, Lisa, for lifting the veil and shifting the perspective on this season in women's lives. It's not the end but a beginning.'

Jennifer Aniston



# **Mike Brearley**

A Life in Cricket and in the Mind

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6.30-7.30pm | £17.50/£15

Former England cricket captain Mike Brearley reflects on his extraordinary life and career, drawing in lessons and insights gained from his experience as a trained psychoanalyst.

Mike will look back on a lifetime of the sport, from childhood games to his captaincy in the Ashes, leading England to

one of their most famous victories, and candidly examine the various shifts, conflicts and triumphs of his life and career, both on and off the field.

Brearley is comfortable with abstract ideas, but he wears his learning lightly. His voice is tolerant, and his mind is always open.'

Times



### Ben Okri - The Wasteland

Poetry & Dance

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 8-9pm | £20

A stirring one-man performance of T.S. Eliot's iconic long poem by one of Britain's most acclaimed poets and novelists, Ben Okri. T.S. Eliot The Waste Land and other poems

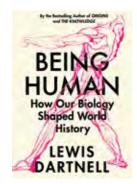


Accompanied by live dance performed by

choreographer and dance activist Charlotte Jarvis, with a musical underscoring, Ben will give a solo, on-book rendition of acclaimed modernist poem 'The Wasteland'.

'In these times when so much is collapsing around us... this is just the poetic medicine we need, one that speaks the truths we need to hear.' Ben Okri

# Monday 16 October



### **Lewis Dartnell**

How Our Biology Shaped World History

### Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 6-7pm | £12.50

Professor Lewis Dartnell joins us with his brilliant blend of science and big history, looking at how our bodies – in all their miracles and flaws – helped forge world history.

From the Black Death ending feudalism to haemophilia undermining royal families across Europe and scurvy inadvertently giving rise to the Mafia, we are the sum of our frailties and faculties. Our biology has shaped our relationships, societies, economies and wars. This event reframes human history and the way we see the world.

'Illuminating.' Tim Marshall



### **Edward Stourton**

Confessions

### Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6-7pm | £17.50/£15

Respected journalist and broadcaster of over forty years, Edward Stourton reflects on the life he has led and the events that have shaped him.



As a young journalist, Ed reported first from party conferences and picket lines and then from war zones, witnessing the events making international headlines before

returning home to join BBC Radio 4's *Today*. Brought face to face with the author of his obituary and his own inevitable mortality, he reminisces with candour, humour and insight.

'He has led a life in full — and has the brainpower to analyse it all with wit and perspective.' **Nicholas Coleridge** 

# Why not read the books you really enjoy... and let us take care of yours



"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

**Edward Everett Hale** 



Call us on **020 8545 7600** or visit **wsm.co.uk** 



# Monday 16 October



'Its mystery is its life. We must not let in daylight upon magic.' Walter Bagehot

# Writing the Royals

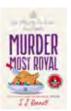
Jane Thynne, Sophia Bennett & Andrew Lownie

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 8-9pm | £12.50

Three authors whose books feature royal figures discuss the pleasures and ethics of writing about the royal family.







Up for discussion is the fascination of writing about royalty and whether it throws up any particular joys or pitfalls. Also tackled are the ethical considerations in fictionalising the inner lives of these famous public figures and what hurdles must be conquered when lifting the curtains on the Windsors. These ideas and more will be tackled by Jane Thynne, Sophia Bennett and Andrew Lownie.

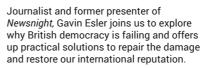


### Gavin Esler

Britain Is Better Than This

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 8-9pm | £17.50/£15

An urgent and timely exploration of a British political system in peril – and what we must do to save it.



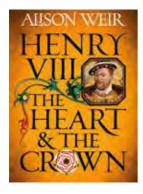


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'Gavin Esler rightly asserts that Britain is better than this, shows with vivid insight why it is a country in deep crisis and what can be done about it' **Steve Bichards** 

# Tuesday 17 October



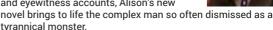
### **Alison Weir**

Henry VIII: The Heart & the Crown

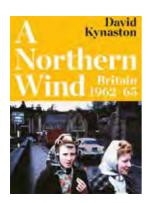
Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 6-7pm | £12.50

Acclaimed historian, biographer and novelist Alison Weir discusses the life and times of Henry VIII.

Alison's unparalleled knowledge and understanding of the Tudor era is turned on the most infamous king in English history. A piecing together of period detail and evewitness accounts. Alison's new



'Alison Weir achieves the impossible: she makes Henry VIII's story feel like it has never been told before.' Tracy Borman



# **David Kynaston in conversation** with Craig Brown

Opportunity Britain: A Northern Wind

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6-7pm | £17.50/£15

Talking to iournalist and author Craig Brown, historian David Kvnaston refreshes familiar events from three crucial years in Britain's history.







1962-1965 oversaw the construction of Britain as we know it today: dramatic changes in consumer culture, the shocking nature of the welfare state, and evolutions in the relationship between the political and industrial in our lives. Eloquent and affable, David will bring to light the tales of the everyday people witnessing this history.

'No other writer evokes Britain's past so well.' New Statesman

# Tuesday 17 October



'Frankopan is a brilliant guide to terra incognita.'

**Sunday Times** 

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Actual Investors

# Wednesday 18 October



### **Rose Tremain**

Absolutely and Forever

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 6-7pm | £12.50

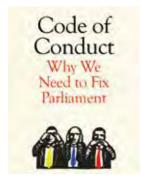
One of our greatest living writers and master of her craft Rose Tremain joins us to discuss her most personal novel yet.

Rose's latest book is set in the near past, but, as always she speaks directly to contemporary readers. Expect a conversation on the themes and artistry of *Absolutely & Forever* and, in the year of Rose's 80th birthday, a look back on a life's work.

ROSE TREMAIN

Absolutely & Forever

'Rose Tremain is one of the very finest British novelists,' **Salman Rushdie** 



# **Chris Bryant & Ian Dunt**

Fixing Westminster

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6-7pm |£17.50/£15

Two
Westminster
insiders come
together to
suggest how
parliament
might, at last,
get its house
in order.







Leading MP Chris Bryant and political journalist and broadcaster Ian Dunt examine every angle of parliamentary conduct to show how we got where we are today and how to drag Westminster out of the current corrosive political culture.

'A real eye-opener about the state of British politics today.' **Bill Browder** 

# Wednesday 18 October



# **Anna Murphy**

Destination Fabulous: Finding the Best You

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 8-9pm | £15

At 50, Fashion Director of *The Times* Anna Murphy feels more visible than at any point in her life to date.

Combining knowledge from years of writing about fashion and beauty with an openness to alternative ways of thinking, join Anna as she talks about the need to embrace age and celebrate the wisdom and inner beauty that comes with it.



'Deliciously upbeat and full of positivity, it's a perfect roadmap for the years ahead.'

Mariella Frostrup

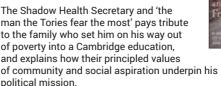


### **Wes Streeting**

One Boy, Two Bills and a Fry Up

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 8-9pm | £17.50/£15

One of the Labour Party's most prominent front bench MPs joins us to talk about his East-End boyhood and journey to public life.





'An engaging memoir [that] can be read as a personal manifesto for a new era of Labour Government.'

Jason Cowley, Sunday Times



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# Thursday 19 October



### **Katherine Rundell**

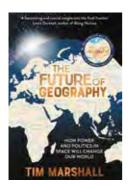
Super-Infinite: John Donne

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 6-7pm | £15

The bestselling writer and academic talks about her prize-winning biography of John Donne, the man best known as a metaphysical poet, but who was incapable of being just one thing. Katherine will discuss the many sides of John Donne's extraordinary life – ultimately unveiling him as the most remarkable mind and as a lesson in living.



Super-Infinite is the winner of the 2022 Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.



### **Tim Marshall**

The Future of Geography & the Race for Space

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6.30-7.30pm | £17.50/£15

Bestselling author and international diplomacy expert Tim Marshall joins us to lift the lid on the geopolitical space race. Expect an unmissable meditation on power, politics and the future of humanity.

Sponsored by







# Will Gompertz

Art: See What You're Missing

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 8-9pm | £15

Author, expert and champion of the arts Will Gompertz discusses the ways artists have learned to notice the world, and how we can too. Enjoy an engaging journey into the minds of artists from Constable to Kahlo and insights into how we can look at and experience the world with their heightened powers of perception.

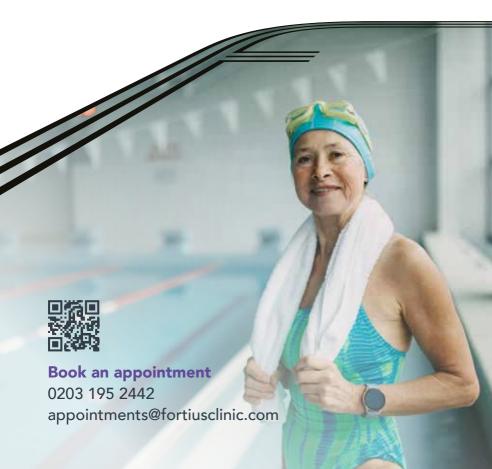




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We offer competitive self pay prices and finance options if you don't have private medical insurance.



# Thursday 19 October



# **Danny Cipriani**

In conversation

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 8-9pm | £17.50/£15

One of the most polarising personalities in rugby reflects on who he was, where he's come from and the man he's become.

Sharing sharp insights into playing under Martin Johnson, Stuart Lancaster and Eddie Jones, Danny will talk openly about competing with Jonny Wilkinson and Owen Farrell, his pride at playing for England, and the lengths he went to, through drink, drugs and women, to try and escape his demons. Danny grew up in Wimbledon and attended local schools, Donhead and Whitgift.

# Friday 20 October



# **Timothy West**

Pru and Me

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 5-6pm | £15

National treasure Timothy West joins us for a cosy, witty and above all uplifting conversation about two souls who found one another and have clung together through thick and thin. Prui Ac Vic

Tim will trace his and Pru's united steps through life, professionally and personally, delivering a fascinating insight into decades of British theatre and television, and a moving account of caring for a partner with dementia.

'Charming, funny and almost unbearably poignant.' Guardian

# The Gift of Reading!

Support Wimbledon BookFest's education work with schools

150 schools take part every year

wimbledonbookfest.org

#### Friday 20 October



#### Xiaolu Guo

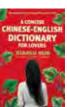
Radical: A Life Between Words & Language

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 7-8pm | £12.50

The prizewinning Chinese-British filmmaker and writer joins us to discuss her original and provocative memoir.







Expect a deep dive into what it's like to exist as an outsider. Having moved to Britain from China, Xiaolu was separated from her family and culture, Xiaolu explores her nostalgia for Eastern landscapes and a desperate longing to connect. She looks at the power of narrative, language and memory in navigating the past and how she has used these forces in her work.

'When it comes to spinning light and shadow on the complexities of living, loving and language, Xiaolu Guo is one of the most valuable writers in the world.' **Deborah Levy** 



#### **QI Elves**

Everything to Play For: Sports Quiz

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 7.30-8.30pm | £17.50/£15

QI Elves James Harkin and Anna Ptaszynski join us for a fun packed interactive event that delves into the world of sports.

Test your knowledge, win prizes and hear some surprising facts and intriguing stories, including the psychology of football chants,



comically large cricket bats, pole-vaulting priests and professional pillow-fighting.

'The QI Elves are barnstormingly brilliant.' **Zoe Ball** 

#### Sat 21 October



#### **Natalie Haynes**

Goddesses in Greek Myths

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 12noon-1pm | £15

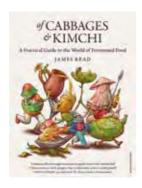
Broadcaster, classicist and comedian Natalie Haynes takes us on a fast-paced examination of the role of the goddesses in Greek mythology with *Divine Might*.

A 'rock star mythologist' in the words of the Washington Post, Natalie is well-versed in taking a fresh look at the ancient world for her BBC Radio 4 show Natalie Haynes Stands



Up for the Classics. Get ready to meet the deities who are as mighty, revered and destructive as their male counterparts.

'Haynes is a master of her trade... She succeeds in breathing warm life into some of our oldest stories.' Daily Telegraph



#### Fermented Food: Cabbages & Kimchi

James Read

Wimbledon High Hall (WHS) | 12.30-1.30pm | £10

From sauerkraut to sourdough, kombucha to kimchi, fermentation educator and advocate James Read is on a mission to make homefermenting accessible.



Beyond their trendy image, fermented foods are cornerstones of many culinary cultures, vital as a means of preservation, sustenance and food

security. James will give a demonstration, recipe ideas and lots of stories about the surprising history and microbial wonder of fermentation, and even a sample of Tepache!

'Brings a freshness to the subject, which gave me an itch to do more of it' **Bee Wilson** 



#### **Islamic Architecture and Europe**

Diana Darke

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 2-3pm | £12.50

Author, broadcaster and Middle-Eastern specialist Diana Darke traces the Arab and Islamic roots of Europe's architectural heritage in this illustrated talk.

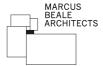




Europe's cultural debt to

the Islamic world can be seen in some of the continent's most recognisable buildings, including the Notre Dame in Paris and the Alhambra in Spain.

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'Shows how our cultures — including our religious cultures — interact and interweave in ways that challenge all kinds of assumptions we might make about our history.' Rowan Williams



#### **Mohsin Hamid**

Merton Big Read - The Last White Man

This online event will allow you to speak direct to the 'Big Read' author, who will be streamed live from Pakistan.

Launched this year, the aim of the 'Big Read' is to get everyone across the borough of Merton reading and talking about the same book. *The Last White Man* tells the story of a man who wakes up to find his skin has turned darker. Its themes are universal, and it allows the reader to reflect on themself and how others see them.

500 free copies of *The Last White Man* are available for residents. Print, e-books and audio copies are also available from libraries across Merton. Find out more or request a copy at wimbledonbookfest.org







#### Janice Hallett

Modern Crime with Joy Kluver

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 4-5pm | £12.50

Queen of crime Janice Hallett joins us to share the literary secrets of writing her ingenious whodunits.

APPEAL

To be desired in the state of the st



In conversation with crime writer Joy Kluver, Janice will explore the process

of building the tricksy puzzle at the centre of her books alongside all the unique and complex characters that inhabit them. This event is sure to be a hit for fans of mind-bending twists and expertly constructed mysteries.

'Agatha Christie for the 21st century.' Times

# The Wombles are marked the Wombles are marked welcome return to the welcome return to th



The Wombles are making a welcome return to their home in Wimbledon this autumn and they're coming to BookFest.

Wimbledon BookFest will be launching a new series of books that will focus on the environment. Events will include storytelling and workshops for children.

More information will be available at wimbledonbookfest.org



Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 4.30-5.30pm | £22.50/£20

Distinguished BBC journalist and host of Mastermind, Clive Myrie joins us to share his life experience and what it means to be an outsider.

Determined not to be defined by his background, but also fiercely proud of his roots, Clive has been reporting on major global events for over 30 years. He shares what he has learned about the intersection of the personal and the professional and how he has managed success at the highest level.

'I just think Clive's terrific.'
Emily Maitlis



Sponsored by





#### Aasmah Mir & Osman Yousefzada

Memoir: Living Between Two Cultures

Merton Arts Space (Wim Library) | 5.30-6.30pm | £7.50

Broadcaster
Aasmah Mir and
designer Osman
Yousefzada
come together
to discuss
the joys and
challenges of
growing up







between British and Pakistani cultures.

'The narratives that shape who we are and how we fit in are not givens but negotiations and always up for revision.'

Rev Richard Coles

Offering insights into a diverse Britain, both memoirists examine what it means to be an outsider and how to find your identity whilst weaving in and out of two worlds. They'll discuss their struggles with the dual burdens of racism and community expectations and how to find yourself where you are.

Osman Yousefzada is an interdisciplinary artist and writer and has dressed clients including Beyoncé and Lady Gaga. Aasmah Mir currently co-hosts the Times Radio Breakfast show.



#### Sebastian Faulks

The Seventh Son

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 6.30-7.30pm | £17.50/£15

Worldwide bestseller and master storyteller Sebastian Faulks returns to BookFest on the 30th anniversary of *Birdsong*, with his most ambitious literary novel to date. Sebastian Faulks ne Seventh Son

Confronting prescient issues of surrogacy and medical ethics, the acclaimed author weaves a literary thriller revolving around a

megalomaniacal tech entrepreneur and a very special – and unusual – child, resulting in a spectacular examination of what it is to be human.

'Faulks is beyond doubt a master.' **Financial Times** 



## Ashworths Solicitors LLP

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# Looking To Build Your Dream Home?



If you are looking to build your new dream home, this FREE guide from renowned London architect John Dyer Grimes will show you everything you need to know about building your perfect home – and the costly mistakes to avoid.



Renowned London architect John Dver Grimes

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- The ten critical steps to choosing the right architect for your project
- How to set your budget and expected return on investment
- How much to spend on your new home
- Success tips for building a new dream home
- The ten essential mistakes to avoid that could cost you a fortune
- The three big planning mistakes and how to avoid them
- And much more ...







#### **FREE GUIDE**



Claim your **FREE** guide at DyerGrimesArchitects.com or call 020 8003 0857





#### Sunday 22 October



#### The Marvellous Myth Hunter

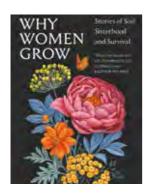
In the Beginning

#### Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 10.30-11.15am | £7.50

Love heroes, monsters and mythical tales? Dust off your maps and strap on your jetpacks for a journey around the world at our storytelling event.

We'll travel to ancient Congo to meet a god with an upset stomach, dodge the foul ice giants of Norse mythology, and voyage to the lands of the Anishinaabe in Canada. Bring your best adventure outfit and join us for daring escapes, sword fights, weird creatures, interactive games and the chance to become an honorary member of The Myth Hunter Academy.

Suitable for everyone aged 5–11, their families and familiars.



#### Why We Grow

Alice Vincent & Claire Ratinon talk to Maya Thomas

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 12noon-1pm | £12.50

Unstereotypical gardeners Alice Vincent and Claire Ratinon discuss their relationships with nature with herbologist Maya Thomas.







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Alice and Claire look to the natural world to reconsider our histories, the way we think about gardening and growing, and the complex relationships we all have with the land. This event promises to bring a little bit of the outside in to nourish, connect and heal, and teach us how to cultivate on our own terms.

'Shows the beauty and grit of tending the soil.' **Katherine May** 

#### Sunday 22 October





Actual Investors

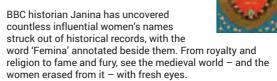
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#### **Janina Ramirez**

Femina

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 2-3pm | £12.50

Extraordinary women have held positions of power throughout history. But, aside from the select few, why do we not hear about them? Cultural historian, author and broadcaster Janina Ramirez joins us to put women back into history.



'Absolutely brilliant.'
Caitlin Moran



#### Wimbledon and the Age of Slavery Walk

Led by Peter Walker

Crooked Billet, Wimbledon Village | 2.30-4.30pm | £15

Exploring Wimbledon's links to the slave trade.

As public discussion intensifies about Britain's involvement in the slave trade, this walk looks locally, stopping at some of the houses lived in by prominent residents who directly benefited from the slave trade. The walk also visits



the house where William Wilberforce lived and campaigned, in what turned out to be a forty-year fight, culminating in the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833.

Meeting Point: Crooked Billet Green, SW19 4RQ End: Cannizaro House. SW19 4UE



#### **David Baddiel**

The God Desire

Baillie Gifford Auditorium (WHS) | 2.30-3.30pm | £17.50/£15

Stand-up comedian, activist and presenter David Baddiel isn't afraid of a big question, and his latest book – *The God Desire* – asks one of the biggest: does God exist?

Despite a lifetime of fantasising about the existence of God, Baddiel has concluded it's that very desire that proves God's non-existence. With openness and vulnerability, David contributes to one of the most ancient of debates with his trademark wit, honesty and humour.

'Magnificent. Breathtaking.' **Stephen Fry** 

#### Sunday 22 October



#### **Ravinder Bhogal**

Comfort & Joy

Wimbledon High Hall (WHS) | 3-4pm | £15

Ravinder Bhogal is an award winning chef, restaurateur, author and journalist. Born in Kenya, to Indian parents, Ravinder's food is inspired by her mixed heritage and the UK's diverse immigrant culture.



In Ravinder's new book *Comfort* & *Joy: Irresistible Pleasures from a Vegetarian Kitchen* she uses a series

of beautifully written essays to address themes including: 'Breaking Bread', a brave and honest meditation on food and self-denial, 'Souper Bowls', a story of immigration, assimilation and nostalgia, and 'An Education', which reflects on Ravinder's culinary education and inheritance from her mother.

This very special event will include tasters from Ravinder Bhoghal's Michelin-starred restaurant, Jikoni.



#### Tom Holland

Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age

Rutherford Theatre (WHS) | 4-5pm | £15

Award-winning historian, author, broadcaster and co-host of the popular *The Rest Is History* podcast, Tom Holland introduces his third Roman history epic, *Pax*.

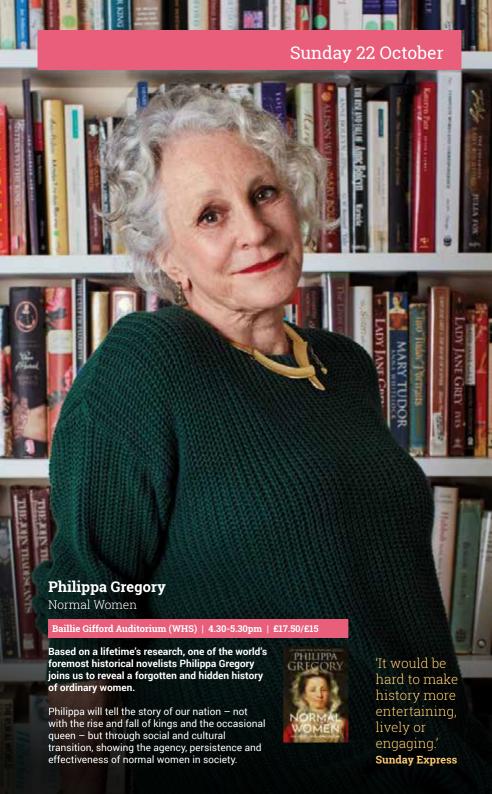


The series that began with *Rubicon* and continued with *Dynasty* now arrives at the period which marks Rome at the very pinnacle of greatness. Tom will provide

a portrait of the ancient world's ultimate superpower at war and at peace; from the gilded capital to the barbarous realms beyond the frontier.

'Re-evaluating Rome for a new generation.'

**Robert Harris** 



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SAT 28 OCT 2023



31 OCT - SAT 4 NOV 2023



THU 2 NOV - SAT 11 NOV 2023



TUE 7 NOV - SAT II NOV 2023



THU 30 NOV - SAT 2 DEC 2023



FRI 8 DEC 2023 - SUN 7 JAN 2024



MON 29 JAN - SAT 3 FEB 2024



MON 12 FEB - SAT 17 FEB 2024



MON 1 APR - SAT 6 APR 2024





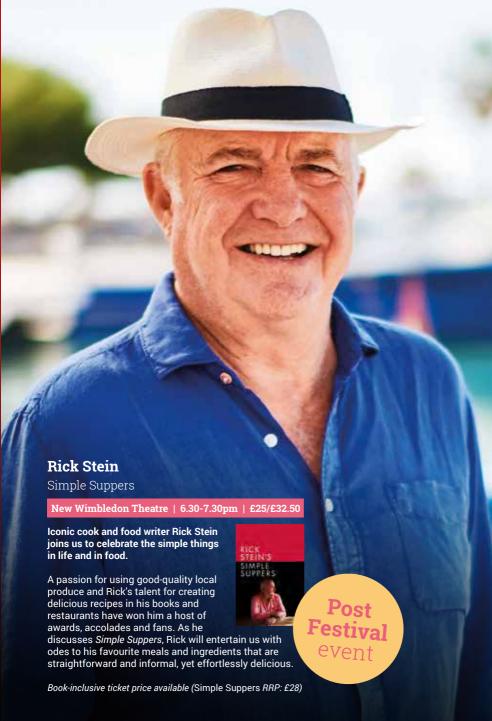
MON 13 MAY - SAT 18 MAY 2024 TUE 21 MAY - SUN 26 MAY 2024



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#### Sunday 29 October





## Word Up! Events for Schools

Our Festival programme of events includes a stellar line-up of children's writers and authors – Cressida Cowell • Nikita Gill

- George the Poet Olaf Falafel SF Said Sathnam Sanghera
- Katherine Rundell Kate Wakeling Stephen Mulhern

#### Listings on wimbledonbookfest.org

Schools can email education@wimbledonbookfest.org for more information







## **Open Events**

Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 21st September 6-8pm Whole School Open Morning: Saturday 23rd September 9am-12noon Whole School Open Morning: Monday 25th September 9.15am-10.45am

Through School 3-18: Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior & Sixth Form **Ewell Village, Epsom, Surrey www.ewellcastle.co.uk** 







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Thursday 28 September 2023 from 5.30pm





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There is an extensive range of places to eat and drink, catering for all tastes and budgets, close to our Festival venues.

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For more information on exploring the locality visit **lovewimbledon.org** and **wimbledon-village.com** 



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#### Cent Anni Modern Independent Italian

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#### Jeroboams

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#### Light House Neighbourhood Dining

Light House is a highly regarded restaurant in Wimbledon village serving modern international food in a comfy setting. The menu changes frequently ensuring fresh seasonal produce at its best with fresh fish delivered daily from the south coast. Open for breakfast 9 -11.30am Wednesday to Saturday, lunch Wednesday to Sunday 12-3pm and dinner Monday to Saturday 5.30-10pm. Offer: Enjoy a complimentary glass of fizz during Wimbledon BookFest.

Please mention the offer when booking.

Light House 75-77 Ridgway, Wimbledon SW19 4ST 020 8944 6338 • www.lighthousewimbledon.com



## Bombay Delight A Real Treat Awaits You

Explore an extraordinary menu of the finest flavours of South Asian cuisine in stylish surroundings at Bombay Delight on The Broadway where, a focus on fresh ingredients and fragrant spices brings traditional recipes to life. The delicious Avocado Chat with onion and tomato in a mint tamarind chutney is an absolute must! Call or go online to book a table or feast at home via Deliveroo or Uber Eats.

#### **Bombay Delight**

271-273 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SD 020 4568 6294 • www.bombaydelight.co.uk



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#### Beer & Beyond

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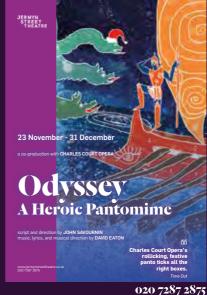
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## Support Us!

#### Your support is vital to our work.

Every year, Wimbledon BookFest brings together some of the UK's leading authors with audiences of all ages and backgrounds, in an exciting celebration of the written word, of story-telling, reading, writing and conversation.

Year round, we work with over 150 schools and local communities across South London to improve literacy and bring the joy of books to thousands of children and adults.

As a registered charity, we rely on the generous support of our Friends and Benefactors, and from Festival sponsors and audiences to do what we do

#### How you can support us:

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wimbledonbookfest.org/support



## Iran: Woman Life Freedom

Physical and digital exhibitions showcasing the art of resistance at sites across Merton – Wimbledon, Mitcham & Morden libraries. Visit: wimbledonbookfest.org. Running autumn 2023.









Hear from the contributors on Sat 14 October at Wimbledon Library - see page 18

## General Information



#### Booking

Please purchase your tickets at wimbledonbookfest.org. E-tickets will be issued.

#### Venues

The Festival takes place in venues in central Wimbledon - Wimbledon High School, Wimbledon Library and New Wimbledon Theatre.

#### Events

Most events last 1 hour but see event listings to confirm. Authors will usually be available to sign copies of their books after their events.

#### Waterstones

Our on-site bookshop will be run by Waterstones and will stock a range of titles by the authors attending the Festival.

#### Access

If you require any specific arrangements to assist your visit to the Festival, please email boxoffice@wimbledonbookfest.org who will be happy to help.

#### **Toilets**

There are toilet facilities available on site in all venues.

#### Refreshments

Drinks and simple refreshments will be available from our venues. A range of cafés & restaurants are located in Wimbledon town centre and Wimbledon Village.

#### Sustainability

We are working towards being a sustainable organisation using local suppliers who are committed to being green. We use recyclable materials wherever possible and minimise waste. We encourage visitors to use public transport, walk, or cycle where possible.

#### Health and Safety

Your wellbeing is our priority. We have First Aid-trained staff on-site to deal with any medical problems which may arise. If you feel unwell, or you see someone who needs help, please alert one of our stewards who will provide the relevant assistance.

#### Get into BookFest -**Ethical Pricing**

We are committed to accessibliity and have made every effort to keep our ticket pricing low this year. Tickets available for 25s & under at £10 (subject to availability). Proof of age for these tickets will be required on the door.

A limited number of free tickets for certain events for Merton residents in the following postcodes: CR4, CR7. SM3. SM4. Email boxoffice@ wimbledonbookfest.ora for info.

# Why should the kids have all the fun?

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## Diary of Events

#### Pre-Festival Even

Steve Backshall - Oceans

**Thursday 28 September 7pm** Merton Arts Space

#### Thursday 12 October

Mikaela Loach

5.30pm Merton Arts Space

Kate Mosse & S.J. Parris

7.30pm Merton Arts Space

#### Friday 13 October

Paterson Joseph

6pm Merton Arts Space

**Annie Macmanus** 

8pm Merton Arts Space

#### Saturday 14 October

Ed Vere: The Artist CHILDREN'S

10am Merton Arts Space

**Radical Walk with Peter Walker** 

10am Off-Site

Sophy Henn: Lifesize CHILDREN'S

11.30am Merton Arts Space

Linda Yueh

12.30pm Rutherford Theatre

**Henry Marsh** 

2pm Rutherford Theatre

**Gelong Thubten** 

2.30pm Wimbledon High Hall

Susie Alegre & David Runciman

2.30pm BG Auditorium

**History of the Tattoo** 

3pm Merton Arts Space

Emma Gannon & Thomas Curran

4pm Rutherford Theatre

Iran: Woman Life Freedom

5pm Merton Arts Space

**Alexander McCall Smith** 

6.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Sunday 15 October

**Anthony Seldon** 

12noon BG Auditorium

**Nandini Das** 

12.30pm\*\* Rutherford Theatre

**Afua Hirsch** 

2pm Rutherford Theatre

**Blake Morrison** 

2pm BG Auditorium

**Reclaiming the Witch** 

4pm Rutherford Theatre

Lisa Snowdon

4.30pm BG Auditorium

**Anne Enright** 

6pm Rutherford Theatre

Mike Brearley

6.30pm BG Auditorium

Ben Okri - The Wasteland

8pm Rutherford Theatre

#### Monday 16 October

**Lewis Dartnell** 

6pm Rutherford Theatre

**Ed Stourton** 

6pm BG Auditorium

Writing the Royals

8pm Rutherford Theatre

**Gavin Esler** 

8pm BG Auditorium

#### Tuesday 17 October

**Alison Weir** 

**6pm** Rutherford Theatre

David Kynaston & Craig Brown

6pm BG Auditorium

Peter Frankopan

7.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Wednesday 18 October

**Rose Tremain** 

**6pm** Rutherford Theatre

**Chris Bryant & Ian Dunt** 

6pm BG Auditorium

Anna Murphy

8pm Rutherford Theatre

**Wes Streeting** 

8pm BG Auditorium

#### Thursday 19 October

#### **Katherine Rundell**

6pm Rutherford Theatre

#### **Tim Marshall**

6.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Will Gompertz

8pm Rutherford Theatre

#### **Danny Cipriani**

8pm BG Auditorium

#### Friday 20 October

#### **Timothy West**

5pm Rutherford Theatre

#### Xiaolu Guo

7pm Rutherford Theatre

#### **QI Elves Sports Quiz**

7.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Saturday 21 October

#### **Natalie Haynes**

12noon Rutherford Theatre

#### Fermented Food: Cabbages & Kimchi

12.30pm Wim High Hall

#### **Islamic Architecture & Europe**

2pm\*\* Rutherford Theatre

#### Janice Hallett

4pm Rutherford Theatre

#### **Clive Myrie**

4.30pm BG Auditorium

#### **Aasmah Mir & Osman Yousefzada**

5.30pm\*\* Merton Arts Space

#### Sebastian Faulks

6.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Sunday 22 October

#### Marvellous Myth Hunter CHILDREN'S

10.30am Rutherford Theatre

#### Why We Grow

12noon Rutherford Theatre

#### **Janina Ramirez**

2pm Rutherford Theatre

#### Walk: Wimbledon and the Age

of Slavery

2.30pm Off-Site

#### David Baddiel

2.30pm BG Auditorium

#### **Ravinder Bhogal**

3pm\*\* Wim High Hall

#### **Tom Holland**

4pm Rutherford Theatre

#### **Philippa Gregory**

4.30pm BG Auditorium

#### Post-Festival Event

#### Rick Stein

Sunday 29 October 6.30pm New Wimbledon Theatre



#### Venue Key

Merton Arts Space: Wimbledon Library 35 Wimbledon Hill Rd, SW19 7NB

BG Auditorium: Baillie Gifford Auditorium, Wimbledon High School

Entrance: Wimbledon Hill, SW19 4AB

Rutherford Theatre, Wimbledon High School

Entrance: Mansel Rd, SW19 4AB

Wimbledon High Hall, Wimbledon High School Entrance: Mansel Rd. SW19 4AB

Entrance: Mansel Rd, SW19 4AE

New Wimbledon Theatre 93 The Broadway, SW19 1QG

Off-site: See listings

\*\* In partnership with Lahore Literary Festival

## Events generally last 1 hour – see listings to confirm

**Seating:** Seats are unallocated. Premium seating is available in the Baillie Gifford Auditorium.

**Children's Events:** Usually last 45 mins. All adults and children aged 2+ must have a paid ticket.

**General:** Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

## Book tickets at wimbledonbookfest.org

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## Venues:

Wimbledon High School
Wimbledon Library
New Wimbledon Theatre

# **Book online at:** wimbledonbookfest.org

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