



**10 - 11 APRIL
& 4 - 9 MAY
2026**



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Breakfast 10am - 11.45am • Lunch 12 noon - 4.45pm

Dinner from 5pm

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info@cafehuxleys.co.uk 01386 840537 www.cafehuxleys.co.uk

High Street, Chipping Campden, Glos, GL55 6AL

WELCOME

Welcome to our 2026 programme featuring events, many moderated by experienced journalists and practitioners, on the written and spoken word: play script; memoir; biography; fiction; non-fiction; poetry; and translation. We believe we are unique among book festivals that, in a single programme, we're producing a professional performance of Noel Coward's 1930's play *Private Lives*; staging a jazz tribute to Cleo Laine, and a live piano accompaniment to Charlie Chaplin shorts; plus a French themed literary lunch with an award winning actress; and, following an event with a brilliant chef, a tutored tasting of top French wines. In 2026 we are delighted to welcome back a record number of past authors: William Boyd, Justine Picardie, Tim Coulson, Carol Drinkwater, Paula Byrne, Jonathan Bate, Jacqueline Riding, Gwen Adshead, and Anna Whitehouse. And we are thrilled that those joining us for the first time include Antony Beevor, Simon Jenkins, Jonathan Wilson, Jonathan Freedland, & Rowley Leigh. Despite higher overheads, the generosity of our sponsors, patrons and friends, enables us to offer a number of lower priced seats at events in Cidermill Theatre and St James' Church. We hope there is something for everyone from Rasputin to The World Cup and from marking 100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II to the 250th anniversary of births of Turner and Constable.

Vicky & Charlie

General Enquiries: vicky@campdenliteraturefestival.co.uk

Web Site:
campdenmayfestivals.co.uk

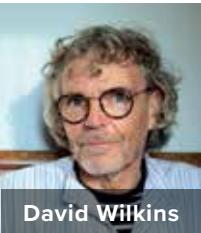
Telephone: 01386 849018
(Messages only. Email is the quickest form of contact)



OUR WRITERS



David Gushee



David Wilkins



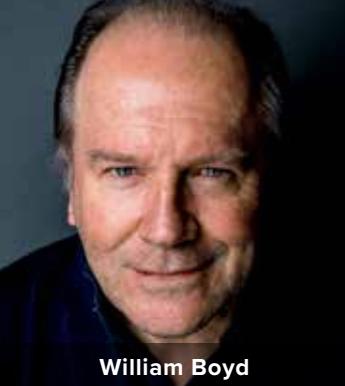
Edith Hall



Jessica Duchen



Rahul Bery



William Boyd



Chris Tutton



Anna Whitehouse



Charlotte Whittle



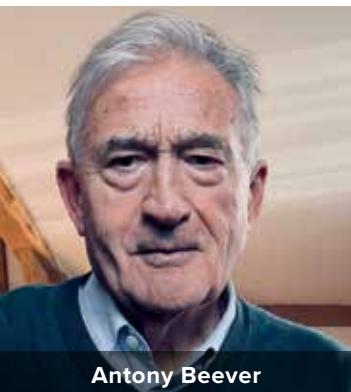
Michael J Warren



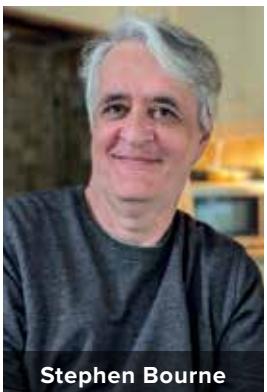
Frances Wilson



Gordon Corera



Antony Beever



Stephen Bourne



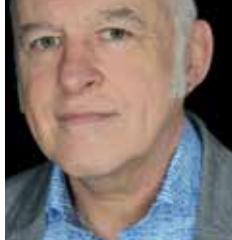
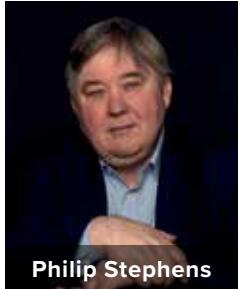
Jonathan Freedland



Jonathan Wilson



James Fox



OUR INTERVIEWERS

Charlie Bennett award winning wine merchant, founder and former director of Chipping Campden Music Festival, and co-director of Chipping Campden Literature Festival

Revd Canon Craig Bishop Vicar for the Parish of Chipping Campden since 2014, serving a wide rural area.

Sue Cook one of the UK's most experienced broadcasters: BBC TV shows include *Crimewatch UK*, *Children in Need*, and *Holiday*; to radio listeners she's been a familiar voice since the 70s, including *You and Yours*, and *Making History*.

Tim Coulson Professor of Zoology, Oxford and author of *A Little History of Everything from the Big Bang to You* and Science and Environment Correspondent, *The European*.

Danni McCabe experienced bridal stylist. After years of immersing herself in the wedding, music and events industry, Danni launched Cotswold Bridal Couture in 2024.

Lindsay Mackie, journalist, a partner in the NewWeather Institute, which examines social and economic alternatives to neoliberalism, and formerly a campaigns consultant for Nef, the new economics foundation.

Alan Rusbridger former editor of *Prospect Magazine*, chair of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, and editor in chief of the *Guardian* from 1995-2015. Author of three non-fiction books.

Meg Sanders contributor to many publications, radio and television. Regular chair at book festivals. Co-author of eight novels and author of 20 works of non-fiction.

Caroline Sanderson Associate Editor of *The Bookseller*, Co-Director/ Artistic of Stroud Literary Festival, and regular chair at book festivals. Author of six non-fiction books including *Listen With Father*.

Peter J Smith Professor Emeritus of Renaissance Literature at Nottingham Trent University, author / editor of four books on early modern theatre and culture and currently co-editing *The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Biography*.

Caroline Stanford Historian for The Landmark Trust, interpreting history's physical remains. Co-author of *Landmark: A History of Britain in 50 Buildings*.

OUR PATRONS & FRIENDS

2026 Festival Patrons

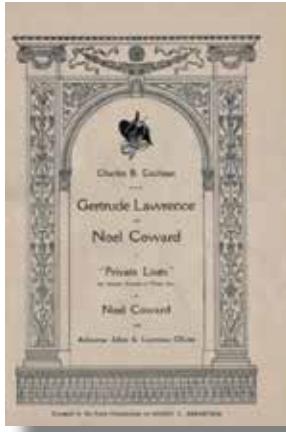
Richard Adkinson,
Eric & Ann Allen,
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Helena Collins,
Mike Craven & Chris Bell,
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Emma Defries,
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Mary Doney,
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Plus several anonymous donors.

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Plus several anonymous donors.



Private Lives

Noel Coward

FRIDAY 10 APRIL

7.00 pm

SATURDAY 11 APRIL

2.30 pm

& 7.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£35 & £15

“the thin dividing line between sex and savagery” in *Private Lives* puts Coward on a par with the Swedish playwright August Strindberg”

Michael Billington

Private Lives opened at London's Criterion Theatre on September 24th, 1930 with **Gertrude Lawrence** as Amanda, **Noël Coward** as Elyot, **Laurence Olivier** as Victor, and **Adrienne Allen** as Sibyl, and while some modern writers and critics may now dismiss Coward's plays as outdated

and frivolous, nothing could be further from the truth. **Harold Pinter** was greatly influenced by *Private Lives*, observing that a character could “Say one thing and the audience would know he actually meant something else”.

Director: Christian Durham - Casting Director: Edward Bennett - Cast to be announced

Principal sponsors Robert & Sarah Vaudrey

Numerous other donors have helped make this production possible
and will be acknowledged in the production programme

An introduction to Private Lives

With grateful thanks to Michael Billington, almost 50 years chief drama critic of the *Guardian*, for offering to write this for us.

Private Lives is easily Coward's most durable play yet when it opened in 1930 it was seen by the critics largely as an evanescent charade. Ivor Brown in *The Observer* described it as an "airy nothing" that would collapse when considered in cold blood. James Agate in *The Sunday Times* compared Coward unfavourably to Oscar Wilde and the *Tatler* critic unequivocally announced that the play would not "survive a decade." Yet nearly a century later it is rarely out of the repertory and it is worth asking why.

For a start, there is its structural elegance. The first act alone is a masterpiece of plotting in which Elyot and Amanda, five years after their divorce, find themselves on honeymoon with their new partners in the same Deauville hotel. Right from the start Coward makes it clear that Elyot is no more truly in love with his second wife, Sibyl, than Amanda is with her stuffed shirt of a husband, Victor. There is tension in the air even

before Elyot and Amanda espy each other on their adjacent balconies and, as the hotel orchestra strikes up a sentimental tune, realise that their chance encounter will be anything but brief.

But plays don't survive on technical brilliance alone. They have to be about something and, for all Coward's resistance to intellectual analysis, *Private Lives* is almost Strindbergian in its suggestion that love and hate are umbilically linked. The play's extraordinary middle act shows that, for Elyot and Amanda, life together is a mix of sexual magnetism and physical assault. Increasingly productions, such as those starring Alan Rickman and Lindsay Duncan in 2001 and Stephen Mangan and Rachael Stirling in 2023, have upped the level of domestic violence so that the central act is less a sedate romp than a mixture of pain and pleasure.

Apart from its psychological astuteness, the play also offers social comment: a defence of laughter and

gaiety to ward off seriousness and thoughts of mortality. As Elyot says, "Let's be superficial and pity the poor Philosophers. Let's blow trumpets and squeakers and enjoy the party as much as we can, like very small, quite idiotic schoolchildren. Let's savour the delight of the moment." You can take this in two ways. You can see it as an embodiment of "carpe diem": of seizing the day. But it can also be seen as a sign of the desperation that affected a post First World War generation. Coward's latest and best biographer, Oliver Soden, says that "Amanda and Elyot believe neither in God, nor in war, nor in man... Sincerity is so deeply pointless that flippancy is the only option."

This is a play of symmetrical structure, brilliant dialogue - as Kenneth Tynan wrote "Coward took the fat off English comic dialogue; he was the Turkish bath in which it slimmed" - and shrewd psychology. But while the play invariably provokes waves of laughter, it is infinitely more than the piece of ephemeral nonsense that the drama critics of 1930 rashly assumed.

© Michael Billington



SUNDAY 3 MAY
2.00 pm

CHIPPING CAMPDEN CRICKET CLUB
FREE ENTRY - EVERYONE WELCOME

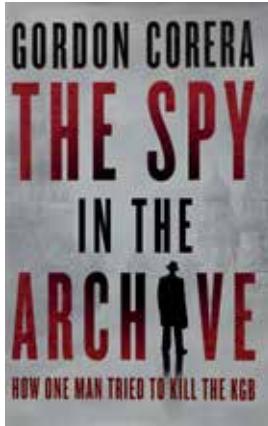
Licensed Bar and Tea

The Authors XI v Campden Select XI

The Authors are one of the oldest wandering cricket teams. Founded in 1891, the side played an annual match against the Actors at Lord's, as well as the Artists and Publishers. Arthur Conan Doyle usually captained and PG Wodehouse and AA Milne were regulars. They played their last match together in 1912. There were a

number of later incarnations before the team was revived in 2012. Since then they have played thirty games a year, with tours to India, Sri Lanka, Iceland, Corfu and Rome, where they took on the might of the Vatican. Their book *The Authors XI: A Season of English Cricket* from Hackney to Hambledon was published by Bloomsbury.

Authors XI
Players to be announced



The Spy in the Archive

How one man tried to Kill the KGB

MONDAY 4 MAY

10.30 am

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

GRIPPING RUSSIAN COLD WAR HISTORY FROM THE CO-HOST OF
THE REST IS CLASSIFIED

How do you steal the most secret, heavily guarded archive in the world?

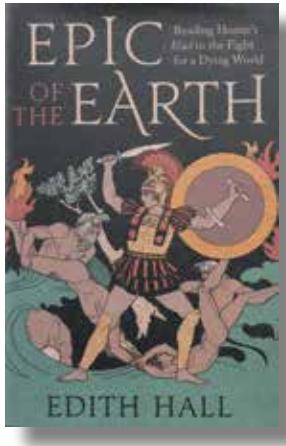
Gordon Corera, historian, journalist and writer on intelligence and security issues, since 2004 a security correspondent for the BBC, and award-winning author of *The Politics of Borders*, shares with **Alan Rusbridger**, the remarkable story of how an introverted archivist who loved nothing more than dusty files ended up changing the world.

“An intriguing new biography”
Telegraph

As the in-house archivist for the KGB, the secrets Vasili Mitrokhin was exposed to inside its walls turned him first into a dissident and then a spy, a traitor to his country but a man determined to expose the truth about the dark forces that had subverted Russia, forces still at work in the country today.

“Enthralling”
Literary Review

This event is sponsored by Idle Assembly Rum
www.idlespirits.com



Epic of the Earth

*Reading Homer's "Iliad" in
the Fight for a Dying World*

MONDAY 4 MAY

12.00 noon

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

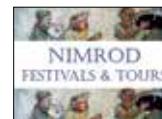
“Exhilarating”

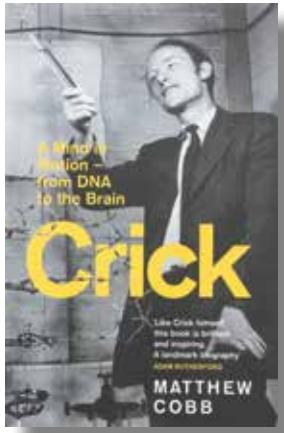
Emma Greensmith, TLS

Award-winning classicist **Edith Hall** discusses with **Lindsay Mackie** how underlying Homer's account of brutal military operations, alliances, and cataclysmic struggle is a palpable understanding that the direction in which humanity was headed could create a world that was uninhabitable. With unparalleled insight into the ancient origins of climate change, Edith argues it is possible that some of the violence done to the environment throughout history has been authorised,

if not exacerbated, by the celebration of the exploitation of nature in the Iliad. Drawing compelling analogies to contemporary poetry, literature, and film, Hall demonstrates that Homer's poem, as a priceless document of the mindset of early humans, can help us understand the long history of ecological degradation and inspire activism to rescue our planet from disaster.

This event is sponsored by
Nimrod Festivals & Tours
www.nimrodfestivals.com





Crick

A Mind in Motion - from DNA to the Brain

MONDAY 4 MAY

2.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

The first major biography of one of the twentieth century's most exciting minds

AN ECONOMIST BOOK OF THE YEAR 2025

Matthew Cobb, Professor of Zoology at the University of Manchester, and **Tim Coulson**, Professor of Zoology at Oxford University, discuss Matthew's brilliant and inspiring biography meticulously researched and shot through with insight and electrifying detail: Crick was a restless, relentless thinker, as fascinated by Beat poetry and psychedelics as the

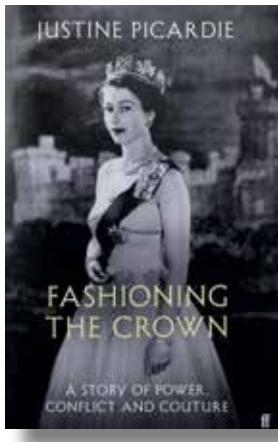
‘Vivid and authoritative ... [an] intriguing portrait of a gifted, self-absorbed, exuberant, and intuitive man’

New York Times

genetic meaning of life and the inner workings of the brain. Debate and conflict with collaborators – Jim Watson on DNA, artists in Cambridge and California, and his wife Odile, who drew the figure of the double helix that illuminated his most famous discovery – powered a mind in motion.

“Impressive ... absorbing ... Cobb writes with clarity and a touch of affection for his subject.”

The Times



Fashioning the Crown

A Story of Power, Conflict and Couture

MONDAY 4 MAY

3.30 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

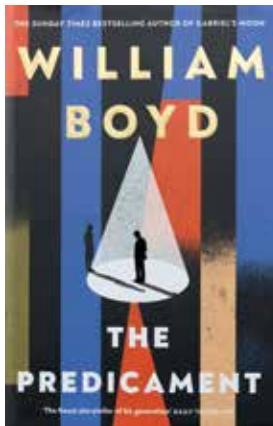
£15 & £10

To mark 100 years since Queen Elizabeth II's birth on 21st April 1926 a sumptuously illustrated book with over 100 images.

Previously unseen archival sources from the couturiers and informed by Justine Picardie's conversations with the late Queen and Queen Camilla

Justine Picardie, author of *Sunday Times* bestseller *Coco Chanel*, discusses with **Sue Cook** her exquisitely hidden history of the Crown and how it survived a tumultuous era: The women of the House of Windsor - Queen Mary, the Queen Mother, Wallis Simpson who would become Duchess of Windsor and Queen Elizabeth II – faced abdications and assassinations, revolutions, the rise of fascism and war. Their sartorial decisions projected power and perpetuity, diplomacy

and even defiance. In this cinematic, vivid story of soft power and couture, Justine uncovers the fascinating, little-known lives of the couturiers behind the clothes, figures like Hardy Amies, Edward Molyneux and Norman Hartnell, and traces the ways in which visual iconography safeguarded the monarchy even when their reign seemed to be hanging by a thread.



The Predicament

New historical spy novel from Britain's most beloved storyteller and author of instant Sunday Times best seller Gabriel's Moon

MONDAY 4 MAY

5.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

“a superb evocation of a vanished world, seen through the eyes of a relatably hapless accidental hero.”

The Guardian

“Extravagantly enjoyable”

The Times

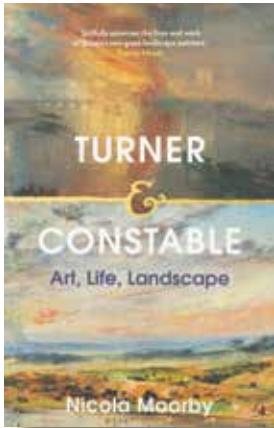
“William Boyd once again brings to the spy novel his particular storytelling genius”

Mick Herron

“ingenious, thrilling and wonderfully entertaining”

John Banville

This event is sponsored by Campden House Estate



Turner and Constable

Art, Life, Landscape

MONDAY 4 MAY

6.30 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

Celebrating Tate Britain's recent definitive exhibition of two pivotal British artists in the 250th year of their births

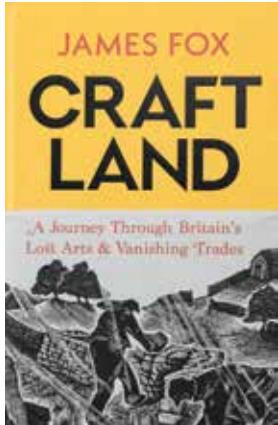
Nicola Moorby, historian and curator, in conversation with **Meg Sanders**, uncovers the layers of fiction that have embellished and disguised the greatest achievements of JMW Turner and John Constable: despite his beginnings in gritty Georgian London Turner quickly became a rising star of the art world. Constable, son of a wealthy Suffolk

merchant, faced a more arduous rise to acclaim. Both had a profound connection to nature, and set their sights on transforming landscape painting creating images as dissimilar as their personalities yet sharing common cause as champions of a distinctively British art.

“[Moorby] provides a way of addressing what really matters in any artist’s life story: the work they leave behind.”

TLS

This event is sponsored by Susan Lovelock-Seed



TUESDAY 5 MAY
10.00 am
ST JAMES' CHURCH
£12 & £5

Craftland

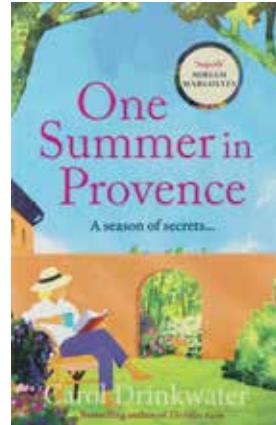
Glimpse a past way of life that might still shape our future.

James Fox, art historian and multi-award-winning broadcaster, takes us on his *Sunday Times* bestselling “A Journey Through Britain’s Lost Arts & Vanishing Trades”: blacksmiths and wheelwrights, cutlers and coopers, bellfounders and watchmakers.

“Wonderful”
Michael Morpurgo

Please donate generously to the upkeep of St James’
www.stjameschurchcampden.co.uk/support-us

This event is sponsored by Court Barn Museum
Church Street, Chipping Campden
Open 10-4pm Tue – Sun inclusive
www.courtbarn.org.uk



TUESDAY 5 MAY
12 noon
MONTROSE SUITE
£53

Lunch with Carol Drinkwater

RESERVATIONS ONLY WITH
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
01386 840330

After a two course lunch with a glass of wine **Carol Drinkwater**, award winning actress best known for her portrayal of Helen Herriot in the BBC TV series *All Creatures Great and Small*, film-maker, and author of twenty-five books including the *Olive Farm* memoir series selling over a million copies world-wide, discusses her latest novel with **Caroline Stanford**.

“Enough to make you rush straight to the Eurostar”
Daily Mail



Six Weeks By The Sea

The Summer Jane Austen fell in love

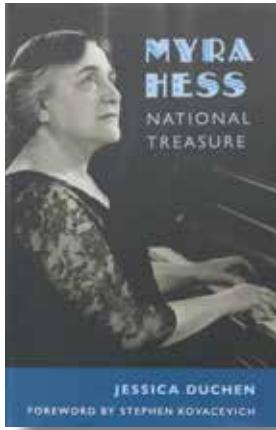
From the bestselling biographer and author of the book that inspired the BBC TV series – *Jane Austen Rise of a Genius* – comes a gorgeously escapist novel about the summer the greatest romance novelist fell in love.

Paula Byrne, returning to our festival for a fifth time, discusses her latest novel of dazzling ingenuity with her husband the academic, biographer, literary critic, broadcaster, and scholar **Jonathan Bate**: set against the backdrop of Jane Austen's family, the tensions of the war against France, and naval and colonial politics, in the fashionable Georgian seaside resort of Sidmouth during the summer of 1801 Jane Austen, the most famous romance writer of all time, fell in love for the first time. Paula's bestselling biographies include *The Real Jane Austen*, *Jane Austen: Rise of a Genius*, *The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym*, and *Hardy Women*.

TUESDAY 5 MAY
6.00 pm
CIDER MILL THEATRE
£15 & £10

“Delicious”
The Times

“No one is better qualified than Byrne to imagine and expand upon Austen’s true romance. Her treasure chest of Austen knowledge and her ability to spiritually inhabit historical figures are displayed to fine advantage”
Washington Post



Myra Hess

National Treasure

A *Financial Times* Best
summer books of 2025

Newsreel footage illustrates this discussion between **Jessica Duchen**, journalist, biographer, novelist and librettist and **Charlie Bennett**: Myra Hess DBE transformed from rebellious young woman into an inimitably powerful national heroine and international superstar. Hess's WWII National Gallery lunchtime concerts took place every weekday for six and a half years. She continued to play through the Blitz. Londoners queued along Trafalgar Square for admission and the Queen Mother attended several times, chamber music becoming a symbolic act of national resistance.

TUESDAY 5 MAY

7.30 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

“A sympathetic and thoroughly researched study of a musical legend.”

Steven Isserlis

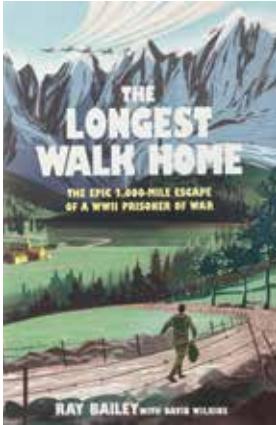
“a tour-de-force, revealing the real Myra Hess beyond the myths”

Tasmin Little

“An engrossing read”

Fiona Maddocks

This event is sponsored by a donor whose mother arrived in the UK
on the Kindertransport



WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
10.00 am
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

The Longest Walk Home

The epic 2,000 mile escape of a WWII POW, written in his own words soon after the events

David Wilkins presents the memoir that he found at auction: June 1940 21-year-old Vauxhall motors apprentice **Raymond Bailey** of the 1st Kensingtons is among the thousands of British soldiers captured at the Battle of St Valery. He encounters German soldiers and the Spanish Civil Guard as, cold and hungry, he escapes across Europe and over the Pyrenees to British Gibraltar, home in time for Christmas.

“Beautifully compact, wide-ranging and enjoyable”

TLS

“Illuminating”
Vogue



WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
11.30 am
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

Captives and Companions

Shortlisted for 2025
Baillie Gifford Prize for
Non-Fiction

A startling exploration of slavery in the Islamic World from 7th Century to the present

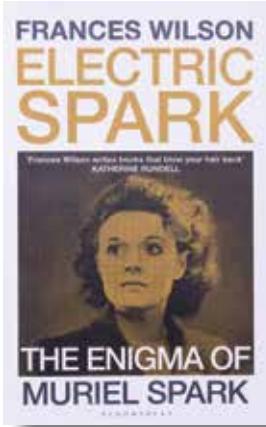
Justin Marozzi, historian and journalist in the Muslim world, presents the lives of those caught up in a remarkable overlooked story: enslavement in the Islamic world ranging from agricultural labour and domestic toil to elite concubinage, guardianship of sacred spaces, political leadership and even military command.

“A bold, brilliant and timely history”

Peter Frankopan

“A masterly and thoughtful study of human endurance and suffering”

Financial Times



WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
2.00 pm
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

Electric Spark

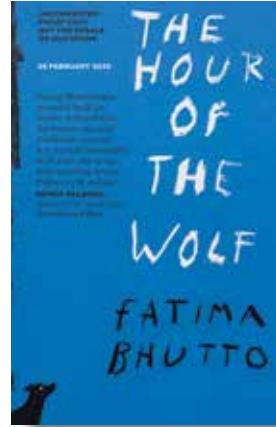
Shortlisted for 2025
Baillie Gifford Prize for
Non-Fiction

The Enigma of Muriel Spark

Frances Wilson follows the clues, riddles and instructions Muriel Spark planted in her writing for posterity. If the divorce, madness, murder, espionage, poverty, skulduggery, blackmail, love affairs, revenge, and a major religious conversion sounds like a novel by Spark it is because her experiences of the 1940s and 1950s became, alchemically reduced, the material of her art.

“A brilliant,
wonderfully
shrewd
biography”
William Boyd

“Joyously, brilliantly
intelligent. In Wilson,
Spark has met her
true match”
Anne Enright



WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
3.30 pm
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

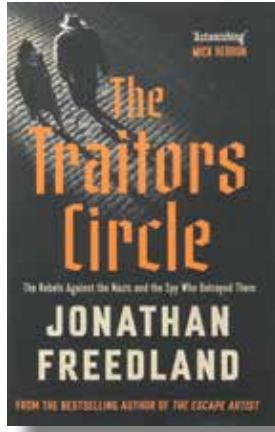
The Hour of the Wolf

A conversation about the advantages of being independent

Author **Fatima Bhutto** zooms in to discuss her most powerful book yet with **Marigold Atkey** – her publisher at the independent publishing house Daunt – and with the owner of two independent book shops **Sarah Dennis**. A teenager when her beloved father was shot outside their home by his political opponents, Fatima thought she had found something special: a charismatic man who promised to take away her pain; all she had to do was believe in him.

This event is sponsored by
Daunt Publishing
www.dauntbookspublishing.co.uk





The Traitors Circle

The Rebels Against the Nazis and the Spy Who Betrayed Them

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

6.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

When the whole world is lying, someone must tell the truth.
A heroism that raises a question with new urgency for our time:
What kind of person does it take to risk everything and stand
up to tyranny?

Jonathan Freedland – past winner of the Orwell Prize for journalism, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *The Long View* and podcasts *Politics Weekly America* and *Unholy* – discusses his latest instant *Sunday Times* best seller with **Alan Rusbridger**: Berlin, 1943, two countesses, a diplomat, an intelligence officer, an ambassador's widow and a pioneering headmistress, high-society anti-Nazi dissenters, meet for a tea party one late summer afternoon. They do not know that, sitting around the table, is someone poised to betray them all to the Gestapo – revealing their secret to the Nazis' most ruthless detective.

“Magnificent . . . Important and impressive”

Telegraph

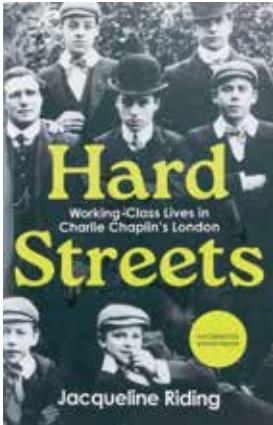
“Compelling”

Max Hastings, Sunday Times

“reads like a thriller. Totally gripping and timely”

Jonathan Dimbleby

This event is sponsored by Henry St George



An Evening with Charlie Chaplin

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY
7.30 pm
CIDER MILL THEATRE
£20 & £10

Meg Morley accompanies *The Immigrant* 1917 American silent romantic comedy short written and directed by, and starring, Charlie Chaplin.

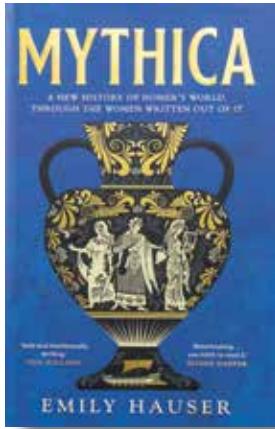
Jacqueline Riding, a specialist in British history and art and an advisor/consultant for museums, historic buildings, film and TV, including Mike Leigh's *Mr. Turner* (2014), *Peterloo* (2018) and Wash Westmorland's *Colette* (2018) discusses with **Meg Sanders** how Chaplin's work and outlook were always shaped by the world he came from, a place of cheap entertainments and the threat of the workhouse, radical politics and desperate poverty. Framed through the life of his iconic success story Jacqueline breathes life into forgotten stories of suffering, survival and success against the odds, painting a striking portrait of a vanished city.

INTERVAL

Meg Morley accompanies 1917 American comedy shorts: *The Cure* written and directed by Chaplin who plays a drunkard; and *Easy Street* directed by Chaplin who plays The Tramp.

Meg Morley, Australian-born pianist, composer and improviser, collaborates within diverse artistic genres. Classically trained from the age of two, she has worked extensively with dance companies (English National Ballet, Pina Bausch, Matthew Bourne), performed and composed for international film festivals and institutions (BFI London, Viennale, Il Cinema Ritrovato) and was deemed an 'Exceptional Talent' by Arts Council England after releasing debut recordings of her original music.

This event is sponsored by Mary Doney



THURSDAY 7 MAY
10.00 am
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

Mythica

A new history of Homer's world through the women written out of it

Emily Hauser blends archaeology, literature, history and myth to uncover the real heroes of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. From Helen of Troy, Briseis, Cassandra and Aphrodite to Circe, Athena, Hera, Calypso and Penelope, Emily reassesses the reality behind the often-mythologized women of Greece's greatest epics. Her quotations are for the most part from Emily Wilson's translations whose *Odyssey* (2018) was unbelievably, the first time it was translated by a woman.

“Bold and intellectually thrilling . . . blending history and science, rigorous scholarship and dazzling feats of imagination.”

Tom Holland

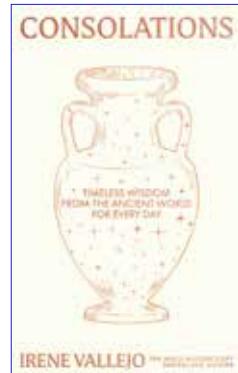
This event is sponsored by
Florence Butler Studio
www.florencebutler.com

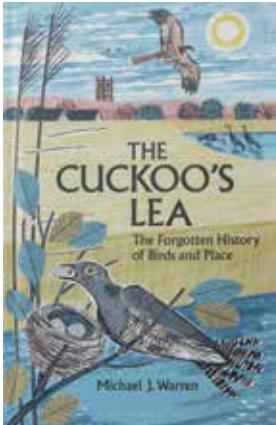


THURSDAY 7 MAY
11.30 am
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

The Art of Translation

Rahul Bery and Charlotte Whittle discuss their latest translations from Spanish into English with Meg Sanders and end with a SLAM! **Rahul**'s works include David Trueba's *Rolling Fields* (Translators Association First Translation prize shortlist) and novels by Afonso Cruz, Simone Campos and Vicente Luis Mora. **Charlotte**'s works include Norah Lange's *People in the Room* (Best Translated Book Award longlist, and Warwick Prize for Women in Translation and Society of Authors First Translation Prize shortlists) and Irene Vallejo's international sensation *Papyrus* (Queen Sofia Translation Prize).





THURSDAY 7 MAY
2.00 pm
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

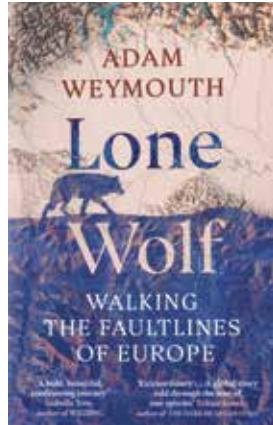
The Cuckoo's Lea

The Forgotten History of Birds and Places

Michael J. Warren demonstrates how – from buzzards in Oxfordshire to cranes in Kent – once common birds left their mark in British place names: the past is hauntingly and movingly present on timeless marshes where curlews cry, where goshawks are breeding again for the first time in centuries, through silent cuckoo-woods lost under concrete sprawl, in the winter roosts of corvids and an owl village that vanished centuries ago.

“The best statement for the importance of the medieval I’ve ever read”
David Crystal

“A brilliant blend of birds, places, history and language.”
Stephen Moss



THURSDAY 7 MAY
3.30 pm
MONTROSE SUITE
COTSWOLD HOUSE HOTEL
£12

Lone Wolf

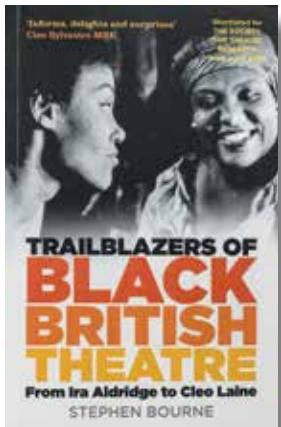
Walking the faultlines of Europe

Shortlisted for 2025
Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction

Adam Weymouth follows the path across the Alps to north of Verona travelled in 2011 by a GPS tracked young wolf named Slavc. Slavc met female wolf, Juliet... The call to rewild in Europe meets the urge to preserve culture; nationalism and globalisation pull apart; climate change is radically changing lives; and migrants, too, are on the move.

“A deeply fascinating story, grippingly told”
Robert Macfarlane

“A bold, beautiful, confronting journey charting a continent buckling under social and economic pressure”
Isabella Tree



A Tribute to Cleo Laine

Trailblazers from Ira Aldridge to Cleo Laine

THURSDAY 7 MAY

7.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£25 & £10

“Stephen Bourne is a
hero of our history.”

Bernadine Evaristo

Stephen Bourne and **Peter Smith** discuss pioneers of Black British theatre. Beginning in 1825 when Ira Aldridge played Othello, Stephen's book, illustrated with his personal photographic collection, includes a long overdue critique of Olivier's Othello; twentieth century trailblazers such as Paul Robeson; the ground-breaking work of playwrights at the Royal Court; and Cleo Laine.

INTERVAL

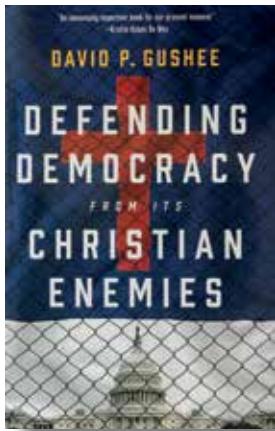
Live jazz from Nik Payton & Friends

Featuring iconic Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth tracks.

Nik Payton: Clarinet & Saxophones | Zoltan Sagi: Saxophones & Clarinet | Steve Fishwick: Trumpet | TBC: Trombone | Richard Busiakiewicz: Piano | Dave Green: Bass | Steve Brown: Drums | Aret Komolosy: Vocals

Nik Payton, CC School alumnus, and protégé of the great Bob Wilbur, has toured with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, performed with Wynton Marsalis, Maria Schneider, Bob Wilber, and Kenny Davern, and at top jazz festivals including Cork and Edinburgh, and headlined the International Jazz Festival in Brazil.

This event is sponsored by Mike Craven & Chris Bell



FRIDAY 8 MAY
10.00 am
ST JAMES' CHURCH
£12 & £5

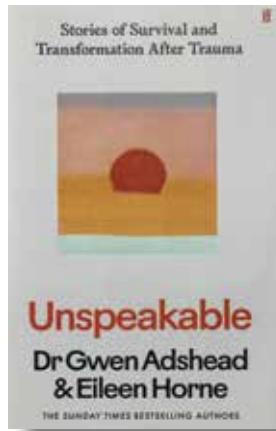
Defending Democracy

From its Christian enemies

Those claiming to act in the name of Jesus Christ and his supposed representative on earth, Donald Trump, were at the forefront of Americans storming the Capitol in 2021.

David Gushee Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University, Atlanta Georgia in conversation with **Craig Bishop** urges Christians to fight back.

Post talk refreshments in aid of St James' Church with thanks to Ailsa Scott and Sarah Roberts.



FRIDAY 8 MAY
12 noon
ST JAMES' CHURCH
£12 & £5

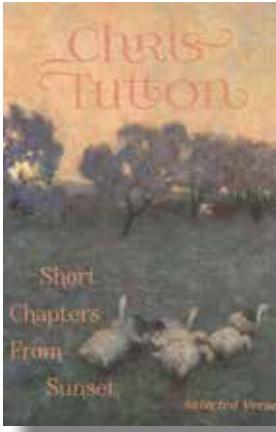
Unspeakable

Survival and Transformation after Trauma

Gwen Adshead, pioneering psychiatrist and psychotherapist, BBC Radio 4's 2024 Reith Lecturer, and co-author of *Sunday Times* best seller *The Devil You Know*, discusses with **Meg Sanders** not trauma but survival based on her work with patients struggling in the wake of a range of distressing and painful life events.

Pre talk refreshments in aid of St James' Church with thanks to Ailsa Scott and Sarah Roberts.

Please donate generously to the upkeep of St James' in the boxes in this church
or visit www.stjameschurchcampden.co.uk/support-us



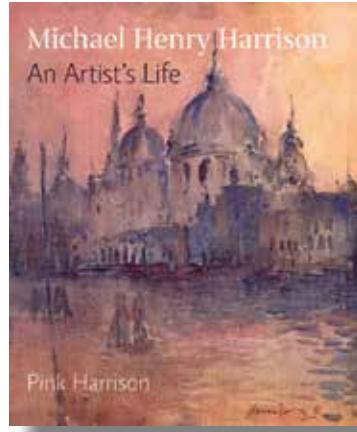
FRIDAY 8 MAY
2.00 pm
COURT ROOM
OLD POLICE STATION
£12

Short Chapters from Sunset Poetry Showcase

At our open mic (without a mic) poet and performer **Chris Tutton** reads from his eighth collection in which familiar notions of love, loss, identity, communication, vulnerability, language and truth are exquisitely deconstructed, affectingly re-evaluated; laid bare and scrutinised with a philosopher's eye.

Audience members who would like to showcase one of their own poems please email vicky@campdenliteraturefestival.co.uk

Praise for Chris Tutton's poetry:
"Dramatic passion and dignity"
The Sunday Times
"Absolutely beautiful!"
Alexander Waugh

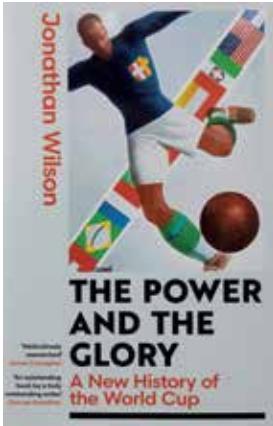


FRIDAY 8 MAY
4.00 pm
COURT ROOM
OLD POLICE STATION
£12

Michael Henry Harrison *An Artist's Life*

Pink Harrison discusses the book she crafted to shine a light on her late husband Michael Henry Harrison 1948-1983. Though Michael's life was tragically short, his artistic contributions were profound, and his work was recognised by esteemed institutions such as the Royal Watercolour Society, the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Pink's book features a collection of Michael's paintings and sketches, interwoven with her personal reflections.

An intimate glimpse into both the artist and the man whose love of nature and beauty shaped everything he created.



The Power and the Glory

A New History of the World Cup

FRIDAY 8 MAY

6.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

The football World Cup is the most watched sporting event on the planet. It has become a global obsession and has been running for almost a century. Yet there was no comprehensive history of the tournament: based on fresh interviews and meticulously researched this book has changed that.

Jonathan Wilson – editor of *The Blizzard*, freelance writer for the *Guardian*, *World Soccer* and *Sports Illustrated*, author of twelve books and co-host of the podcast *It Was What It Was* considers not only the matches and goals, the players

and coaches, the tales of scandal and genius, the haggling and skulduggery of the bidding process, but also placing the tournaments within a socio-political framework.

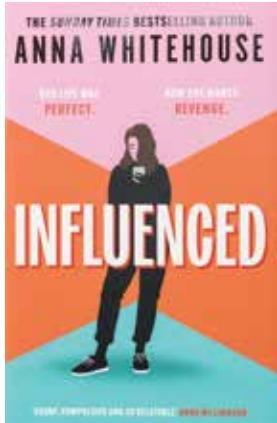
“Breathtaking. Wilson’s eye for detail and his elegant writing brings the World Cup to life like no other book on the topic I have ever read”

Elis James

“Meticulously researched and well-organised - an informative account of how the World Cup became the global event it is today.”

Jamie Carragher

“An outstanding book by a truly outstanding writer”
Duncan Hamilton three-time winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year



Influenced

Her life is perfect. Now she wants revenge.

The explosive and conversation-starting book club read!

Anna Whitehouse AKA MOTHER PUKKA and trailblazing *Sunday Times* best selling author of *Parenting the Sh*t out of Life* and *Where's My Happy Ending?* and **Danni McCabe**, owner of Cotswold Bridal Couture, were with us in 2022 to discuss Anna's debut novel *Underbelly*. This great duo return with Anna's latest novel: Alexandra is falling apart. She's lost her job, her husband barely acknowledges her existence and her daughter hates her. The only place she truly feels seen is online.

FRIDAY 8 MAY

7.30 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

“A gripping story brilliantly told; I couldn't look away! Truly addictive reading”

Helen McGinn AKA Knackered Mother's Wine Picks

“Raw, honest and funny”

HEAT

This event is sponsored by Cotswold Bridal
www.cotswoldbridalcouture.co.uk

COTSWOLD
BRIDAL
COUTURE



A Barrister for the Earth

Ten Cases of Hope for Our Future

Can a planet have legal rights? Could it be defended in a court of law? How do we redefine a 'right to life'?

If corporations can be legal persons, why not rivers?

Pioneering London barrister **Monica Feria-Tinta** advocates for those who have no voice: for rivers, forests and endangered species. Through beautifully crafted narratives Monica takes us behind the scenes of ten real cases as she argues against the destruction of cloud forests and for sovereign states to account for inaction. Each of these are landmarks signalling that we are at an important juncture, in which the law can be a powerful tool for the lasting change.

SATURDAY 9 MAY
10.30 am
CIDER MILL THEATRE
£15 & £10

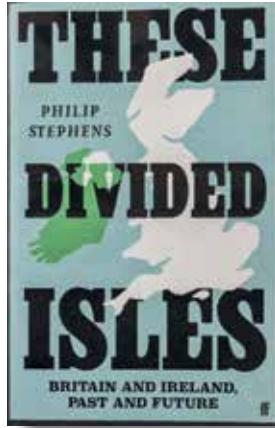
“I was punching the air as I read this powerful, inspiring book.”

Isabella Tree

“[Feria-Tinta is] painstakingly focused and intellectually very, very ambitious.”

Jake White, Head of Legal Advocacy WWF UK

This event is sponsored by Campden House Estate



These Divided Isles

Britain and Ireland, Past and Future

SATURDAY 9 MAY

12 noon

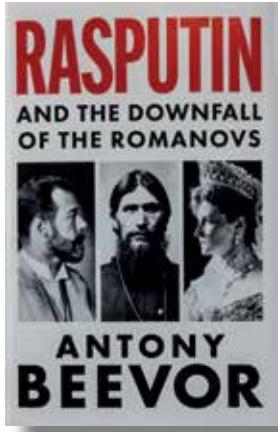
CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

A story written by big political leaders - David Lloyd George, Michael Collins, Winston Churchill and Eamon de Valera - and the millions of Irish emigrants who crossed from Ireland to Britain to begin new lives.

Award-winning *Financial Times* journalist and author **Philip Stephens** in conversation with **Alan Rusbridger** evokes the tumultuous history of the relationship between Britain and Ireland from the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1922 to the present day. Philip tells the story from both sides of the Irish Sea, cutting through the layers of grievance and prejudice to explore the emotional intimacy and enmity of a

relationship shaped by close familial ties and clashing national identities. The post-Brexit weakening of the UK and Sinn Féin's historic string of electoral victories in Northern Ireland since 2022 have brought the possibility of Irish unity into view and Philip asks how Ireland might deploy its history to inform its future rather than hold it in place.



Rasputin

and the downfall of the Romanovs

SATURDAY 9 MAY

2.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£18 & £10

Antony Beevor's books have appeared in 35 languages and sold over 9 million copies.

No.1 bestselling author of *Stalingrad* **Antony Beevor** discusses with **Caroline Sanderson** his extraordinary new work that searches for the truth about Rasputin: Russia's Dowager Empress, pregnant with the future Tsar, dreamed that a peasant would one day kill her son. The idea terrified her, and for the rest of her days she 'lived under the pressure of the prophecy'. Rasputin had no official position. A barely literate moujik from Siberia, he had no forces at his

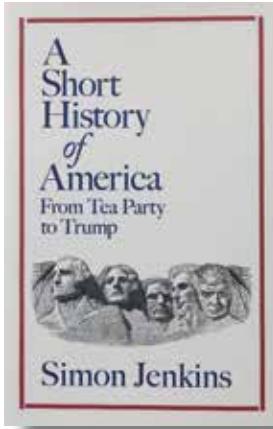
"Antony Beevor, [is] the pre-eminent military historian of his generation."

Wall Street Journal

command. He was a devoted monarchist, not a revolutionary. And yet, through his uncanny seduction of the imperial household, he contributed more than any other individual to the collapse of the greatest autocracy in the world. One writer who knew Rasputin well observed, 'Like a character out of a novel, he lived in legend, he died in legend, and his memory is cloaked in legend.'

"combination of clarity with vividness is Beevor's defining strength as a historian."

Misha Glenny, The Sunday Times



A Short History of America

From Tea Party to Trump

SATURDAY 9 MAY

3.30 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£18 & £10

From arrogant conquistadors and idealistic revolutionaries to imperial presidents – a narrative so astonishing it often feels like fake news.

A gripping must-read for anyone seeking to make sense of our world today.

Simon Jenkins, author of the bestselling *A Short History of England*, *A Short History of Europe*, *Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations*, *England's Thousand Best Churches* and *England's Thousand Best Houses* discusses his latest book with **Alan Rusbridger**: The global powerhouse that is the United States of America is younger even than the British Museum, Guinness and

the flushing toilet. In 2026 it will celebrate its 250th birthday. How did this vast land, long inhabited by diverse indigenous cultures, come to be dominated by English speakers? How has it grappled with the stark contradictions between its ideals of liberty and the grim reality of genocide and slavery?



A Long and Messy Business

Recipes and essays, first published in the Financial Times

SATURDAY 9 MAY

5.00 pm

CIDER MILL THEATRE

£15 & £10

Winner of the Guild of Food Writers General
Cookbook Award 2019

Rowley Leigh discusses his life as both professional chef and home cook with **Charlie Bennett**: working with the Roux brothers at Le Gavroche in 1979, Rowley took over their Le Poulbot restaurant as head chef winning *The Times*' Restaurant of the Year 1986. He opened the great Kensington Place in 1987, leaving there to open Le

Café Anglais in 2007. A consultant for the Soho House group, he oversaw the opening of Café Monico brasserie in April 2016. He has won three Glenfiddich awards for contributions to the *Guardian*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Financial Times*. Currently Rowley is consultant to The Don restaurant in St Swithin's Lane.

“The recipes are brilliantly precise, the essays eloquent and entertaining”
Sunday Telegraph

This event is sponsored by Huxleys Brasserie of Chipping Campden
www.cafehuxleys.co.uk



SATURDAY 9 MAY

7.00 pm

THE BARN, GREVEL HOUSE

£75

“Tour de France” Wine Tasting

Following the event with great chef Rowley Leigh at 5pm in Cidermill theatre, our festival closes with Charlie Bennett’s ‘Tour de France’ Fine Wine Tasting in the unique and historic setting of the beautifully restored barn at the oldest house in Chipping Campden. Rowley will be guest of honour and tasting places limited to 60 with priority given to those attending Rowley’s 5pm event in Cidermill Theatre.

Wines tasted will be from the great French wine regions: Champagne **Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve**; Loire 2024 **Sancerre Domaine Vacheron**; White Burgundy 2023 **Chablis 1er Cru ‘Les Vaudevey’ Domaine Laroche & 2022 Chassagne-Montrachet ‘Les Chaumes’ Domaine Caroline Lestime**; Red Burgundy 2022 **Chambolle Musigny Domaine Drouhin**; Beaujolais 2024 **Morgon ‘Côte du Py’ Jean-Marc Burgaud**; Alsace 2021 **Riesling Rolly Gassmann**; Red Rhone 2023 **Cote Rotie Maison Les Alexandrins**; Red Bordeaux 2020 **Château Fleur de Lisse, Saint-Émilion Grand Cru**; White Bordeaux 2022 **Ch Laville Sauternes**.

A range of delicious canapés will be served throughout the tasting

This event is sponsored by Toke's Food & Drink
www.tokesfoodanddrink.co.uk

toke's.
OF CHIPPING CAMPDEN



Bennett
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Local family run specialist events caterer providing a friendly, flexible service with delicious food and fabulous drinks at iconic and idyllic venues and private houses in London and the Cotswolds.

To discuss your event catering requirements contact
Sam Bennett (directly on 07963352406).

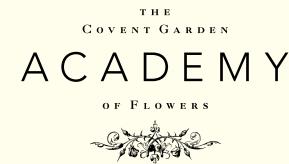


Cotswolds - 01386 575 840
London - 020 3872 7790



sam@bennettandfriends.co.uk
www.bennettandfriends.co.uk





The Covent Garden Academy of Flowers is a Flower Design school and lifestyle shop in Chipping Campden.

Selling a beautifully sourced range of homeware, gifts and plants alongside a seasonal programme of inspirational flower workshops in the studio.



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How To Book

- **No booking fees**
- **Book Online** Cidermill Theatre & St James' Church select your seats. Other venues seating is unreserved. Website campdenmayfestivals.co.uk
- **Help with booking**
email charlie@campdenliteraturefestival.co.uk
- **Disabled Access or Free Student Tickets**
email vicky@campdenliteraturefestival.co.uk

Telephone: 01386 849018 (Messages only)

Email is the quickest contact method

REFUNDS

In the event of the cancellation of a talk or performance only. Tickets are transferable

PARKING IN CHIPPING CAMPDEN

Free on street parking where there are no yellow lines.
Free parking bays in Back Ends. Pay and display in the Square. Disabled parking space in the Square and outside the library.

PARKING IN CHIPPING CAMPDEN SCHOOL CAR PARK

- **Availability:** all day weekends + Mon 4th May. Weekdays after 4pm only.
- **Chargeable:** use pay-as-you-go parking app or on-site ticket machine.
- **Failure to pay incurs a fine.**

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