

marlborough literature festival

2-4 OCTOBER 2015



BREWIN DOLPHIN

Investment Management and Financial Planning



Welcome to LitFest 2015



Committee from left to right: Kate Fry, Virginia Reekie, John Sykes, Amelia Trevethick, Mavis Cheek, Davina Jones, Jan Williamson (Chair), Natasha Lichter, Kay Newman, Ben Budd.

It's hard to believe that this is our sixth year, but we are now firmly established in Marlborough's calendar of events. We owe huge thanks for all the support we've received from the town, and particular thanks to our lead sponsor, Brewin Dolphin, who continue to support us.

LitFest remains committed to celebrating the best in writing. This year we have a feast of fiction with both established and new authors. We start with our Golding speaker Salley Vickers, whose book *Miss Garnet's Angel* bewitched so many of us, and end with Alexander McCall Smith, the creator of *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. In between we welcome prize-winning novelists Helen Dunmore, Andrew O'Hagan and Neel Mukherjee.

Like many, I was glued to my TV by the BBC's adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*. We are very excited that director Peter Kosminsky is coming to talk about the making of the programme with Channel 4's Jon Snow.

Two of our authors have local connections – Adam Thorpe, educated at Marlborough, talks about his memoir *On Silbury Hill*, and Jasper Fforde whose daughters were at St John's, has set many of his comic fantasy novels in Swindon.

We have poetry with the wonderful Welsh poet Gillian Clarke; history celebrating 800 years since Magna Carta and Alison Weir on the lost Tudor princess; politics with journalist Bidisha on asylum seekers and John Crace, parliamentary sketch writer. There's a new biography of Vita Sackville-West, a new translation of Anna Karenina, John Lanchester on money, workshops, debut novelists, award winners, breakfast with the authors, pub poetry and more. We hope you'll enjoy the programme.

Best wishes
Jan Williamson

Tours of Libanus Press

When we first offered tours of this hidden treasure we never intended it to become a mainstay of the festival. Libanus Press are creators of outstanding book design and typography. While we can't guarantee to bring it back in 2016, there seems to be a high demand each year. Perhaps this is due to the very limited numbers allowed within its elegant and welcoming premises.

Libanus Press designs beautifully illustrated editions, art books and exhibition catalogues. It also works on popular and mass market novels. Who would have thought the typesetting for *The*

Girl With The Dragon Tattoo was executed in Marlborough? The studio houses an exhibition of books designed by the press since its inception thirty years ago.

Numbers are limited to enable everyone to see clearly the many processes involved - there are only ten places for each of the two sessions - so it may be wise to book early.



Tickets £10
Venue Rose Tree House, 8 Silverless Street
Date Saturday 3 Oct 11am & 2.30pm



LitFest & Education

Marlborough LitFest is a registered charity and we were founded with the aims of encouraging reading and bringing the highest quality literature to all areas of the community.

Our educational outreach programme is broad and this year includes four events to encourage a love of literature amongst school age readers. In addition to Jane Hardstaff's talk on her Tudor novels, a creative writing workshop with Chris Wakling at Dautsey's and a talk by Ian Whybrow for younger readers, we will be bringing Marlborough its first Big School Read. The Big School Read takes place at The Theatre On The Hill on Thursday 1 October and is for year 8 students invited from local secondary schools.



The Big School Read Sarah Singleton

As well as talking about writing generally, author Sarah Singleton will be using her book *Century* as The Big School Read. She has written ten novels, including two for adults, and *Century* won her the Booktrust Teenage Prize in 2005.

We are also holding writing and drawing competitions as well as giving St John's pupils the chance to make online video diaries about their favourite book. Winning videos will be posted on our website.



Photo: Sarah Paterson

Fiction for Primary School children Jane Hardstaff

Jane Hardstaff is an impressive new voice in children's fiction. She will be talking to pupils invited from local primary schools about her novels set in Tudor England – *The Executioner's Daughter* and *River Daughter*.



As an introduction to slightly older fiction, this talk aims to inspire pupils to start thinking about developing their reading tastes and perhaps to try something more challenging. Jane's historical fiction is aimed

at 9-12 year olds and weaves great stories into a fascinating period of history giving young readers a very real sense of life at the time.

Set in the reign of Henry VIII, the tales of Moss and her sidekick, Salter, take place on the river and blend history with adventure. The books feature the murk of 16th Century London, grisly events at The Tower and plenty of imaginative Tudor swear words. On her quest to discover her family background, Moss has to negotiate riverwitches, child snatchers and myriad other hazards.

The event is sponsored by Kumon, the learning specialists for children.



Sean McGlynn

The Magna Carta

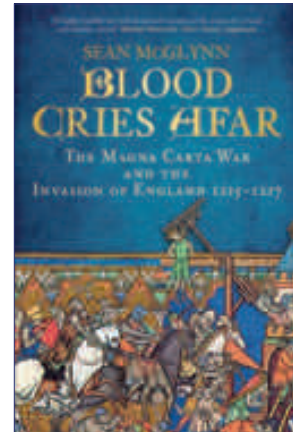
As one of the country's leading authorities on King John, Sean, a widely published expert on medieval history, is much in demand this year, the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

He has been sharing the stage with the world's leading experts, organising the largest conference in the UK on John and the Great Charter and is speaking at the British Library's Magna Carta exhibition. As academic advisor to Salisbury Cathedral, which holds one of the four original charters from 1215, he also writes their official Magna Carta guide.

Sean is currently writing a biography of King John. His critically acclaimed book, *Blood Cries Afar: The Magna Carta War and the Invasion of England, 1215-1217*, is the first book to examine the dramatic war and the



subsequent French invasion. A second Norman Conquest came within a hair's breadth when half of England fell under French rule and the majority of barons paid homage to the forgotten King Louis I of England.



Tickets £8
Venue Town Hall
Date Friday 2 October 5pm

The Golding Speaker

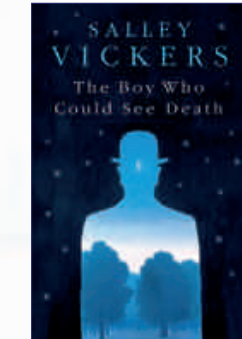
Salley Vickers

We are very proud that Salley Vickers will be our 2015 Golding Speaker, our tribute to Marlborough's greatest literary son, William Golding.

Salley's first novel, *Miss Garnet's Angel*, was notable as a word-of-mouth bestseller rather than being the result of a publisher's marketing push, prefiguring the social media age. Just one thousand imprints were originally published, yet it has since clocked up sales well in advance of one million.

"The great writers
are great
psychologists"
according to
Salley who

was, amongst other things, a Jungian psychoanalyst before becoming an author. She is insistent that she learned more about the human condition from her English degree than from her professional training. Tolstoy, Dickens, George Eliot, Conrad, Dostoyevsky and Henry James are cited to support her case.



Salley's most recent novel, *The Cleaner of Chartres*, was Robert McCrum's Book of The Year 2012 in The Observer. Her new book of short stories is *The Boy Who Could See Death*.

Tickets £10
Venue Town Hall
Date Friday 2 October 7.30pm

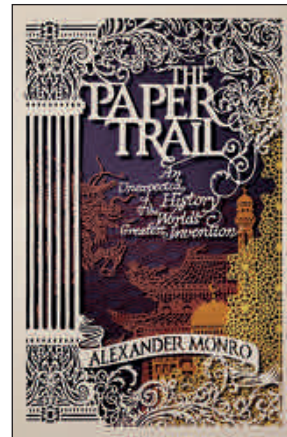


The Paper Trail Alexander Monroe

Paper conquered the world.

The Paper Trail, Alex Monroe's first full-length book won the Royal Society of Literature's Jerwood Award for Non-Fiction.

It is the story of how a Chinese invention revolutionised written knowledge across Eurasia, from its birth in China two thousand years ago to the printing explosion that galvanised Europe fifteen hundred years later. It is a journey through politics and religion, as leaders in both spheres allied with paper to ensure ideological influence or domination.



Alex Monroe was born in London and studied Modern European Languages at Durham University. He first lived in China as a student in 2002 and returned for part of his MPhil in Chinese Language and Politics at the University of Cambridge.

He has worked as an arts and features writer for Reuters in Shanghai, and as a political risk consultant (focused on China) at Trusted Sources

in London. He continues to write on contemporary China. He has edited two poetry anthologies including a collection of translated classical Chinese poetry.

Tickets £8
Venue Church Hall, St. Mary's
Date Saturday 3 October 10.30am

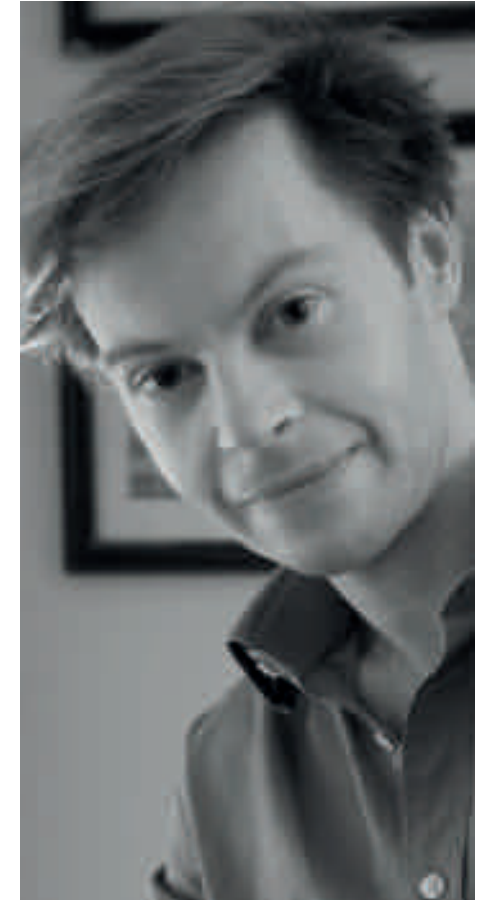
The Life of Vita Sackville-West Matthew Dennison

Aristocrat, literary celebrity, 'Rose Queen', devoted wife, lesbian, recluse, iconoclast – Vita Sackville-West was many things, but she was never straightforward.

She is perhaps best known as the creator of England's most-visited garden, at Sissinghurst Castle, and was the inspiration for Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. She was also an award-winning poet, best-selling novelist, biographer, travel writer and journalist with a huge and devoted following. Yet behind the public mask of her many achievements, another more complicated, often troubled Vita lay.



With access to new private papers, *Behind the Mask* is the first biography on Vita for thirty years. Matthew Dennison is an acclaimed writer and broadcaster. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Last Princess, Empress of Rome: The Life of Livia, The Twelve Caesars* and most recently, *Queen Victoria: A Life of Contradictions*. He is a regular contributor to BBC radio, Country Life and the Telegraph Magazine.



Tickets £8
Venue Town Hall
Date Saturday 3 October 10.30am

Asylum and Exile Bidisha

Bidisha is a British Indian writer, broadcaster and journalist. She is a great friend and supporter of Marlborough LitFest.

Her interests lie predominantly in international affairs, social justice, human rights and travel. Her fifth book is entitled *Asylum and Exile: The Hidden Voices of London*. It is based on months of research into the lives of those fleeing violence and seeking refuge in the UK. Often professional people but without papers authorising them to work, many must now subsist on five pounds a day doing illegal, unseen and dangerous work.

Tickets £8
Venue Church Hall, St. Mary's
Date Saturday 3 October 12 noon



Bidisha began writing for national publications at the age of fourteen soon adding i-D, Dazed and Confused, and NME to her CV. She signed a £15,000 book deal with Harper Collins at sixteen and her first novel was published at eighteen while studying at Oxford.

Bidisha's TV and radio appearances have included The Big Questions, Newsnight Review, Sunday Morning Live, Woman's Hour, Front Row, Night Waves and The Word.

Interviewed by John Crace



Photo: Shekhar Bhatia



Jasper Fforde

Jasper Fforde suffered 76 rejections before anyone risked publishing him! His characteristic fusion of sci-fi, detective, horror, comedy and even romance was, understandably, a little difficult to pigeonhole. Sixteen novels later however, it's clear just how wrong the doubters were. Jasper's trademark wordplay, tightly scripted plots and refusal to accept convention have helped amass a sizeable and fanatical following.

The *Thursday Next* series is perhaps his best known, but his work also includes the *Last Dragonslayer* titles and the *Nursery Crime* books, which inject modern

sleuthing into traditional folk tales. *Shades of Grey* imagines a world where each inhabitant's position in the social hierarchy is dictated by the colour they see. Thus the giddy heights of purple can be attained via the progeny of an ambitious red and blue coupling.

All of Jasper's books are evidence of a fantastically vivid imagination perhaps not seen since the days of Douglas Adams. Nor are they devoid of the occasional comment on our own society!

He is also running a writing workshop for teenagers as a separate event.



Tickets £8
Venue Town Hall
Date Saturday 3 October 12 noon



Adam Thorpe

On Silbury Hill

Hilary Mantel has recently written: "There is no contemporary I admire more than Adam Thorpe, whose novel *Ulverton* is a late twentieth century masterpiece." The late John Fowles said of *Ulverton* "...the most interesting first novel I have read these last years". Adam's most recent novel, *Flight*, was described by DJ Taylor in The Guardian as confirming "a long-held impression that Thorpe is one of the most underrated writers on the planet."

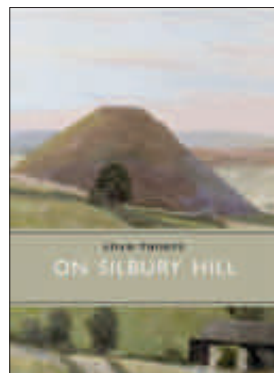


In 2007 he was shortlisted for prizes in three respective genres: the Forward Poetry Prize, the BBC National Short Story Award and the South Bank Show Award for the year's best novel *Between Each Breath*.

Adam started his career as an actor, and is the author of many BBC radio dramas. His one stage play, *Couch Grass* and

Ribbon, written almost entirely in Berkshire dialect, was performed at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury, in 1996. His first work of non-fiction, *On Silbury Hill* was Book of The Week on Radio 4 in August 2014.

Born in Paris in 1956, he was educated at Marlborough College where he first discovered Silbury Hill and the neolithic landscape around Marlborough. *On Silbury Hill* is both a personal memoir and a tribute to the people who built these ancient monuments.



This event is for children aged 6+ as well as parents

Children's author

Ian Whybrow

A bucketful of Ian Whybrow's meerkats, dinosaurs and superstar animals.

This year we are delighted to welcome Ian Whybrow to our festival. His talk, aimed at independent readers rather than the very young, is about how children's authors use animal characters to which children really relate.

He's a prolific writer of children's books and a family favourite. His first, *The Sniff Stories*, was published over 25 years ago and now he has written well over a hundred. These have been translated into many languages and published worldwide.



Ian is best known for the million-selling picture book series about *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs*, which has been adapted into an animated television series. Other favourites include the series about Little Wolf (beginning with his *Book of Badness* which has also been adapted for the screen and stage), his *Books for Boys* series and, most recently, his *Meerkat Madness* series.



Tickets £8
Venue Church Hall, St. Mary's
Date Saturday 3 October 1.30pm

Tickets £5
Venue Town Hall
Date Saturday 3 October 1.30pm

Authors in
conversation
with Bidisha



Kathryn Simmonds & Patricia Ferguson

Tickets £8
Venue Church Hall, St Mary's Church
Date Saturday 3 October 3pm



The author, journalist and broadcaster Bidisha will interview two writers of contemporary history whose work she especially admires.

Kathryn Simmonds's debut novel is *Love and Fallout*. It tells of a woman revisiting her muddy past at the Greenham Common women's peace camp.

Her first book of poems, *Sunday at The Skin Launderette* won the Forward Prize for best first collection and was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award.



Patricia Ferguson trained in nursing and midwifery, and wrote her first book, *Family Myths and Legends* while working as an obstetric nurse in Canada. It won the Betty Trask, David Higham and Somerset Maugham awards. Two of her novels were longlisted for the Orange Prize.

In the words of Will Self "...her ability to give form to those shadows that lurk in the corners of the psyche is astonishing". Patricia's latest novel is *Aren't We Sisters?*



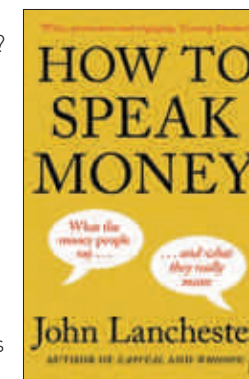
Bidisha is also talking at her own event earlier in the day about her book *Asylum and Exile: The Hidden Voices of London*.

Photos L: Ben Phillips, R: Vicki Brown

How to Speak Money John Lanchester

Can you explain the difference between the deficit and the debt? Did you know that a 'bankster' is a rude term fusing banker and gangster? Have you heard of a 'dead cat bounce'? If so, then maybe you can already 'speak money'.

If not, then you're not alone. The City speaks another language from most of us, and even some of those within the Square Mile don't understand it. So it's important we all learn what's going on.



is both humorous and balanced, being neither too technical nor too patronising. What's more, he is a fine writer.

John is a novelist and journalist who has won numerous awards including the First Novel Whitbread award in 1996 and the EM Forster prize in 2008. This event is brought to you by our lead sponsor, Brewin Dolphin, specialists in investment management and financial planning.

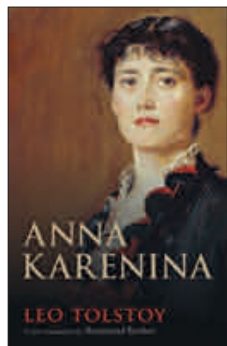


BREWIN DOLPHIN
Investment Management and Financial Planning



Tickets £10
Venue Town Hall
Date Saturday 3 October 3pm

Anna Karenina revisited Rosamund Bartlett



Tolstoy is thought to have inserted himself into this magnificent epic, through the character Levin - Lev being the great writer's first name. But of course it is far more than autobiography.

Part psychological study, part window on Russian history and part tragic romance, *Anna Karenina* is widely regarded as one of the most significant works of fiction ever. Its vast scope from high society to peasantry includes unforgettable scenes

- the ballroom, the skating rink and the railway station, to name but a few.

Why another translation? For those of us unable to read Tolstoy in his native tongue, this is the closest we'll get. As well as being faithful to the original's sentiment, Bartlett represents Tolstoy's stylistic quirks and character, warts and all, where other translations have smoothed them out. Yet the book remains eminently readable.

Rosamund Bartlett is a writer, scholar, translator and lecturer specialising in Russian literature. She is author of biographies on both Tolstoy and Chekhov and lectures at universities throughout the world.

Tickets £8
Venue Church Hall, St Mary's
Date Saturday 3 October 4.30pm



Helen Dunmore

Helen Dunmore was the first ever winner of the Orange Prize, in 1996.

She has also won the National Poetry Competition, The McKitterick Prize and the Whitbread Novel of The Year. Her most recent book, *The Lie*, was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize this year.

Some of Helen's most powerful work is set in the 1st World War period and *The Lie* also sees a return to the Cornwall of her first novel, *Zennor in Darkness*. The idea of an older generation misleading a younger one is echoed by a seemingly unimportant lie which grows in significance over time. Her dominant themes include isolation, the difficulty of adjustment and mental illness.



In addition to being a successful novelist, she is a poet, short story writer, children's author and writes for national newspapers.

Helen's work is on the GCSE English



Language syllabus and she has taught at the Arvon Foundation and Bristol University. Her critical writing has included works on Emily Bronte, Tolstoy, DH Lawrence, F Scott Fitzgerald and Virginia Woolf.



Tickets £10
Venue Town Hall
Date Saturday 3 October 4.30pm

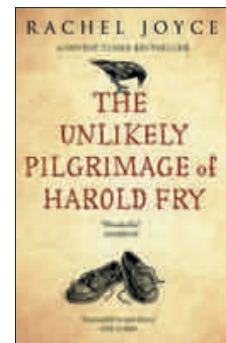


The Big Town Read Rachel Joyce

The Big Town Read is a firm favourite at Marlborough LitFest, where the audience discusses a chosen book with the author. Rachel Joyce follows in the footsteps of Sathnam Sanghera and Jackie Kay. Her bestselling debut, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, is our chosen book this year. It tells of one man's journey across England to save a dying woman. With each chapter depicting a separate encounter there is a delightful nod to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. We strongly recommend book groups and individuals read it in advance.

Rachel Joyce was longlisted for the Man Booker prize for her *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* and in 2012 she won the New Writer of The Year award from The National Book Association. The follow-up, *The Love Song of Queenie Hennessy*, was

published at the end of last year. She has written extensively for radio including twenty afternoon plays for BBC Radio 4.



Rachel moved to writing after a twenty-year career in theatre and television, performing leading roles for the RSC, the Royal National Theatre, The Royal Court, and Cheek by Jowl.



Tickets £8
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Saturday 3 October 6pm**

Royal Literary Fund Talk Neel Mukherjee



Last year *The Lives of Others* was shortlisted for both the Man Booker prize and the Costa prize. It was the winner of the Encore Award. Inequality and a fracturing society are brought into sharp relief from the offset in Neel Mukherjee's masterpiece. While a bourgeois family in 1960s Calcutta busies itself bickering over imported consumer goods and inheritances, another family at the other end of the social hierarchy experiences desperation, murder and suicide.

Neel Mukherjee illuminates the long after-effects of Empire upon Indian society, and asks many questions such as can you escape what is in your blood?

Neel was born in Calcutta and educated at Oxford, before completing his PhD at Cambridge. He also has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. He is a fiction reviewer for The Times and The Sunday Telegraph and has written for many other national publications in Britain and the USA.



Chaired by **Julian Evans** of The Royal Literary Fund

Tickets £8
Venue **Church Hall, St. Mary's**
Date **Saturday 3 October 6pm**



Protecting writers' rights

The Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) represent the interests of all types of writer. We are dedicated to protecting and promoting authors' rights and ensuring that writers are fairly compensated for any works that are copied, broadcast or recorded.

Find out more about the work we do for writers at www.alcs.co.uk

ALCS

protecting
and promoting
authors' rights

Political humour John Crace

John Crace is a political satirist, journalist, author and ardent Spurs fan.

As the Guardian's parliamentary sketch writer, spending his days in the press gallery provides an excellent vantage point for the skulduggery of our political system, and following in the footsteps of the late and great Simon Hoggart is no mean feat. His most recent book, published just before the 2015 election, is called *I Never Promised You A Rose Garden* - a reference to the famous Downing Street launch of the coalition government. John's secret weapon is his use of imagined exchanges between key political figures, resulting in an extremely witty yet highly important commentary on the period.



John also writes the Guardian's Digested Read column. He purports to "read the books so that you don't have to" - although, of course, we at Marlborough LitFest would in no way endorse this sentiment - and distills the essence of classic and contemporary novels to a few paragraphs, to a hilarious effect.

Tickets **£10**
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Saturday 3 October 7.30pm**



Look and listen in Savernake Forest Stephen Moss

"Wherever we are there are birds,
and wherever there are birds there is
birdsong".

Stephen Moss will take a small group of
people to Savernake Forest to experience
the sights and sounds of nature.

Stephen is a natural historian, birder,
author and TV producer. For fifteen years
he made some of the most popular
wildlife programmes ever broadcast,
including Springwatch, Birds Britannia
and Big Cat Diary. He has worked with
Alan Titchmarsh, Kate Humble, Chris

Packham and Sir David Attenborough, and
many times with Bill Oddie.

He has also written extensively, including
for the Guardian, The Independent and
BBC Wildlife magazine. His specialist
areas of interest include climate
change, the social history of wildlife and
environmental issues. Stephen has written

and collaborated on
more than twenty
books including *Tweet
of The Day, A Sky Full of
Starlings* and *Wild Hares
and Hummingbirds*.

His latest
book *Natural
Histories* will be
published in
October.

Numbers
are limited to
twenty, so book
early to avoid
disappointment.



Tickets **£10**
Meet at **The White Horse Bookshop 10.15am**
Date **Sunday 4 October 10.30 - 1pm**



Photo: Malcolm Hadley

Breakfast with Tessa Hadley & Sarah Butler

Tessa Hadley always wanted to be a
published novelist but took 23 years to
realise her ambition. She now has five
novels and two short story collections to
her name and is also Professor of Creative
Writing at Bath Spa University.

Her books have been described as
"Sensational" by The Literary Review, "Quite
brilliant" by The Sunday Times and "An
addictive read" by Mariella Frostrup. She
was longlisted for the Guardian First Book
Award for *Accidents in the Home*. Her new
novel is *The Past*. It was evidently worth the
23 year wait.



Sarah Butler's *Before The Fire* is her second
novel and follows a young man who finds
himself involved in the 2011 riots. Sarah
demonstrates tremendous empathy, writing
about a working class world which too few
novelists attempt to get under the skin of,
and even fewer manage convincingly.

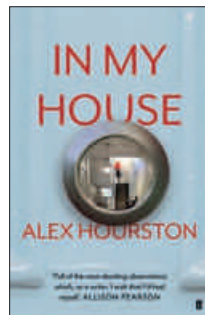
Sarah lives in Manchester and runs a
consultancy developing literature and arts
projects that explore our relationship to the
spaces we live in.

She is also running a creative writing
masterclass as a separate event.

Tickets **£10 (includes coffee & croissant)**
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Sunday 4 October 11am**

Hiscox Young
Authors in
conversation

Alex Hourston & Jemma Wayne



Tickets **£8**
Venue **The Merchant's House**
Date **Sunday 4 October 12 noon**



We are grateful to Hiscox, who each year sponsor this event to support emerging talent.

Alex Hourston's *In My House* is an assured and highly original debut novel. At Gatwick Airport the 57 year old Maggie heroically saves teenager Anja from her trafficker and becomes a minor celebrity in the process. The story describes the uneasy development of a relationship between these two very different women.

After fifteen years in advertising Alex returned to her first love, books, completing a Master's Degree in English.

In My House was shortlisted for the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize.

Jemma Wayne's background is in journalism. She has written for screen and stage. Her debut novel also concerns the lives of highly diverse individuals.

After Before features three women, each suffering their own demons. Emily is an immigrant survivor of the Rwanda genocide, Vera, a Christian Londoner haunted by past secrets, and Lynn is battling disease and bitterness. They inadvertently change each other's futures, ultimately enabling each to move on.

Photo left: Jonathan Ring

Poetry in the pub An invitation to all poets



Would you like to read your poem to an audience of other poets?

Following last year's successful event we will again be running an Open Mic session on Sunday. The event will be hosted by Alex Hickman. He blogs at www.stuff-happens.org and lives in the Pewsey Vale.

If you would like to participate, you can submit a poem in advance to Alex at general@marlboroughlitfest.org. Or you can simply turn up on the day with your poem. Poems submitted in advance will be read first. Don't miss this chance to listen to others and be heard yourself.

No tickets are required. Drinks and sandwiches can be bought at the bar.

Tickets **FREE**
Venue **The Green Dragon**
Date **Sunday 4 October 1pm**

Photo: Ben Phillips

Creative writing workshops

Adults with Sarah Butler



Photo: Ben Phillips

What do Dickens, Austen and Wodehouse have in common? Surely it's the unforgettable characters that make their work so special.

Acclaimed author Sarah Butler will lead a two-hour workshop (with break for refreshments) on the theme of Creating and Exploring Character.

She'll use a range of stimulating exercises and techniques to develop complex and memorable characters that could transform your writing. This workshop is limited to 15 people so please hurry to secure your place.

Sarah will also be speaking at a separate earlier event.

Tickets **£25**
Venue **North Block, Marlborough College** (meet at main gate to be escorted to the venue)
Date **Sunday 4 October 1.30–3.30pm**

Teens with Jasper Fforde



Photo: Mari Fforde

How to write fiction that transcends the ordinary and becomes dazzling.

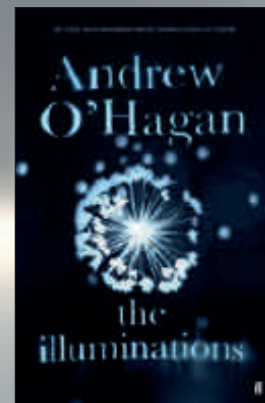
Best-selling author Jasper Fforde will introduce the art of writing fantasy fiction to a small group of teenagers.

Open to aspiring young writers of all abilities and levels of experience, this quick and fun session lifts the lid on the novelist's art, with practical and enlightening tips. Places are limited to 12 so please book early.

Jasper will also be speaking in the morning about his own work.

This event is sponsored by Mrs Vivien Clark in conjunction with William Golding Ltd.

Tickets **£5**
Venue **Green Dragon Function Room**
Date **Saturday 3 October 3–4.30pm**



HISCOX

Andrew O'Hagan

Andrew O'Hagan is very much a chronicler of our times in contemporary Britain.

Andrew has been twice nominated for the Man Booker prize, being shortlisted in 1999 for *Our Fathers*. He has also won the Los Angeles Times Book Award, the EM Forster Award and the James Tait Black Memorial Award.

He writes non-fiction as well as novels, his work often blurring the boundaries between memoir, fiction, documentary and journalism. His first book, *The Missing*, explored the painful subject of the lives of

people in the UK who have disappeared and the families they have left behind.

Andrew is highly adept at getting inside the head of his subjects and deploying an appropriate tone of voice. His 2010 novel *The Life and Opinions of Maf the Dog* is told from the point of view of a dog given to Marilyn Monroe by Frank Sinatra.

In *The Illuminations*, his most recent novel, he inhabits the mind of a mentally disintegrating woman in sheltered accommodation, and interlinks it with the story of her grandson out in Afghanistan.

Tickets **£8**
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Sunday 4 October 1.30pm**



Winner of the Betty Trask Award Ben Fergusson

The Betty Trask award is for first novels by authors under the age of 35 written in a romantic, traditional but not experimental style. Previous winners include Chibundu Onuzo, Zadie Smith, Evie Wyld, Adam Foulds and Sarah Waters.

This year the winner is Ben Fergusson for his debut *The Spring Of Kasper Meier*, published by Little Brown. Ben will be in conversation with Michèle Roberts, Betty Trask judge and Booker shortlisted author.



The setting is a post-war Berlin where prostitution, scavenging and starvation are the norm. The protagonist is a 50 year old gay man and survivor.



The intricate plot unfolds from Kasper's relationship with blackmailer Eva.

An uncanny sense of time and place is undoubtedly due to Ben's four-year period living and working in Berlin as well as meticulous

research and a rare imagination. His writing style has been likened to Graham Greene at his best.

The novel has also been shortlisted for the HWA Debut Crown 2015 and long listed for the Author's Club First Novel Award.

Photos: Charlie Hopkinson

The Lost Tudor Princess Alison Weir

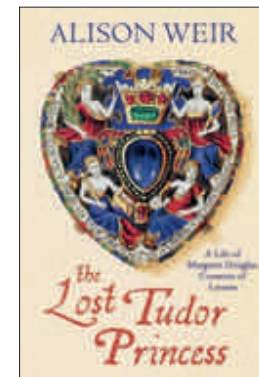
Alison Weir is the biggest selling female historian in the UK and has published 21 books. More recently she has become particularly popular for her historical fiction.

She is an expert on the Tudor period with subjects including Eleanor of Aquitaine, the princes in the tower, Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. All of her work is meticulously researched, and she manages to maintain historical accuracy and readability concurrently.

Alison regrets the

trivialising of figures such as Anne Boleyn who seem to have been reinvented as mere celebrities to fit in with our 21st Century mindsets. She has voiced particular disdain for TV dramatisations such as The Tudors, which she sees as bearing almost no relation to the facts. Conversely, she feels strongly that history belongs to everyone and should not be the sole preserve of academics.

Her latest historical biography, *The Lost Tudor Princess*, concerns Mary Douglas, Countess of Lennox. She is now working on six new novels, one for each of the wives of Henry VIII.



Tickets £8
Venue The Merchant's House
Date Sunday 4 October 1.30pm



Tickets £10
Venue Town Hall
Date Sunday 4 October 3pm

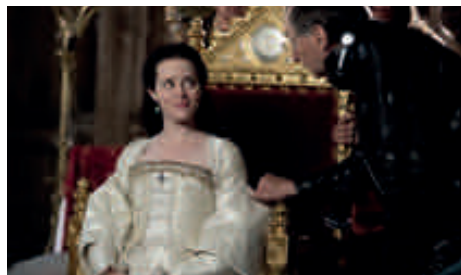


Peter Kosminsky

Interviewed by Jon Snow

Peter Kosminsky is a writer and director. He trained at the BBC for two years before landing his first real job there. He recently directed the BBC adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*. (Incidentally, 'Wulf' Hall was a real place near Marlborough, and home to the Seymour family).

Inspired to make a career in film from watching Ken Loach's ground breaking



Tickets **£10**
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Sunday 4 October 4.30pm**



Days of Hope, Peter has gone on to create many remarkable works for television and Hollywood including *No Child of Mine*, *Warriors*, *Britz*, *White Oleander* and *Wuthering Heights*.

Jon Snow is the longest running presenter of Channel 4 News. He has been ITN's Washington Correspondent, Diplomatic Editor and the main anchor for Election Night.

His autobiography, *Shooting History*, includes many remarkable stories such as the near assassination of Idi Amin on a plane. He has refused to wear any symbols of his views on air, condemning "poppy fascism". However, he is well known for donning highly colourful socks and ties.



Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith is best known for his *No.1 Ladies Detective Agency* series, the latest of which is *The Handsome Man's Deluxe Café*. These charming and life-affirming tales set in Botswana feature many much-loved characters including, of course, Mma Precious Ramotswe, the principal detective. They have been



translated into fifty languages and sell many millions worldwide.

However, he writes many other popular series and is highly prolific, having published a total of 46 novels, a volume of short stories,

27 children's books and many academic texts. He is an expert on medical law and bioethics.

Alexander, Sandy to his friends, was born in Bulawayo and educated in Edinburgh where he studied law. He taught at Queen's University, Belfast and co-founded The University of Botswana where he was also a lecturer. He was awarded a CBE in 2006.

He lives in Edinburgh, close to both JK Rowling and Ian Rankin, and is a keen musician – both an amateur bassoonist and co-founder of the Really Terrible Orchestra.



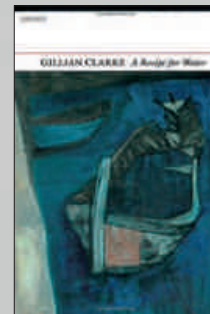
Tickets **£10**
Venue **Town Hall**
Date **Sunday 4 October 6pm**



Festival Finale: Poetry Gillian Clarke

Gillian Clarke is the National Poet of Wales. Her work is studied by GCSE and A-Level students throughout Britain. She is part of the GCSE Poetry Live Team which includes John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage amongst others.

She was born in Cardiff and loved words



from an early age, her favourite being 'pandemonium' for a while. Her life changed when an aunt took her to the theatre at Stratford on Avon.

She sees poetry as one of the most valuable gifts people

have and the only work of art one can own for free – just write it in your notebook or memorise it, and it's yours. Words live forever – Shakespeare, John Donne, Seamus Heaney – they're all embedded in the language.

Gillian says her poems are just her telling the truth, and that she writes factually. She also views words as exceptionally powerful things and cites the example of reading to a depressed man who hadn't spoken for years. He suddenly stood up and recited Wordsworth's *Daffodils*, exclaiming "I always did love poetry".

Tickets **£10**
Venue **The Memorial Hall, Marlborough College**
Date **Sunday 4 October 7.30pm**



Sponsors & Friends of LitFest

The committee of the Marlborough LitFest would like to thank Broo Doherty and Stephen May for their invaluable help and advice for putting together the programme.

We would also like to thank the following for their generous support. William Golding Ltd, Society of Authors, The Reading Agency, Fingal-Rock, The Merchant's House, Marlborough College, Marlborough Library, St John's International Academy, Marlborough News

Online, Pound Arts, Waitrose, The White Horse Bookshop, Reflex Productions, Gazette and Herald, Barbara Hosking.

Golden Friends: Peter and Louise Page, Susie Fisher, Vivien Clark, Paul and Di Stibbard, Philip and Tanya Cayford, Marianne and Bob Benton.

We would love your support. Please consider becoming a Golden Friend, an annual donation of £500, or a Silver Friend,

an annual donation of £250.

We cannot run the festival without the generous support of our volunteers. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact us at **general@marlbroughlitfest.org**

The White Horse Bookshop sells LitFest tickets and helps promote our authors. Please support your local bookshop.



BREWIN DOLPHIN
Investment Management and Financial Planning



protecting
and promoting
authors' rights

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE



Graphics: Aly Storey 07787 500590

Cover photo: Matt Faber

Print: Thoroughbred Design & Print 01460 240773

Website: Ghost

PR: Fran Del Mar

Marlborough Literature Festival Registered Charity No. 1149252



Event Listings, Booking & Venues

FRIDAY
11.15am & 1.30pm
JANE HARDSTAFF
Town Hall
5pm
SEAN MCGLYNN
Town Hall
7.30pm
SALLEY VICKERS
Town Hall

SATURDAY
10.30am
ALEX MONRO
Church Hall, St Mary's
10.30am
MATTHEW DENNISON
Town Hall
12 noon
BIDISHA
Church Hall, St Mary's
11am & 2.30pm
LIBANUS PRESS
8 Silverless Street
12 noon
JASPER FFORDE
Town Hall

1.30pm
ADAM THORPE
Church Hall, St Mary's
1.30pm
IAN WHYBROW
Town Hall
3pm
SIMMONDS AND
FERGUSON
Church Hall, St Mary's
3pm
JOHN LANCHESTER
Town Hall
3pm
JASPER FFORDE W/S
Green Dragon Function
Room
4.30pm
ROSAMUND BARTLETT
Church Hall, St Mary's
4.30pm
HELEN DUNMORE
Town Hall
6pm
RACHEL JOYCE
Town Hall

6pm
NEEL MUKHERJEE
Church Hall, St Mary's
7.30pm
JOHN CRACE
Town Hall
SUNDAY
10.15am
STEPHEN MOSS
Meet at White Horse
Bookshop
11am
TESSA HADLEY & SARAH
BUTLER
Town Hall
12 noon
ALEX HOURSTON &
JEMMA WAYNE
The Merchant's House
1pm
POETRY IN THE PUB
The Green Dragon
1.30pm
SARAH BUTLER W/S
North Block,
Marlborough College

1.30pm
ANDREW O'HAGAN
Town Hall
1.30pm
BEN FERGUSSON winner
of THE BETTY TRASK
AWARD
The Merchant's House
3pm
ALISON WEIR
Town Hall
4.30pm
PETER KOSMINSKY
interviewed by JON
SNOW
Town Hall
6pm
ALEXANDER MCCALL
SMITH
Town Hall
7.30pm
GILLIAN CLARKE
Memorial Hall,
Marlborough College

Memorial Hall, Marlborough College from the High Street by car, head for the A4 westwards towards Calne and Devizes. Pass under a brick footbridge and ignore the main college gates on your left. After 150 metres turn left into College Parade Ground car park. College students will direct you to the Memorial Hall from there, a very short walk. By foot, the College is a 15-20 minute walk from the Town Hall.

Dauntsey's is an independent secondary school in the Wiltshire village of West Lavington, 20 miles from Marlborough. Head for Devizes via the westbound A4 to Beckhampton roundabout. At Devizes follow the Salisbury road southbound for 6 miles.



The White Horse Bookshop is conveniently located within a minute's walk from the Town Hall on the north side of the High Street.



The Town Hall
A late Victorian building which dominates the east end of the High Street. The Assembly Room is the main festival venue. The Court Room will be a bookshop and café for the weekend. Parking is available in the High Street or in Waitrose car park, between the High Street and George Lane.



Church Hall is next door to St Mary's Church. The church is behind the Town Hall. Access is from the bottom of Kingsbury Street via Patten Alley. From the church follow signs to the entrance of the hall up steps to the left of the church.

Libanus Press is located at Rose Tree House on Silverless Street, which is on the north side of The Green. From the Town Hall walk up Kingsbury Street and take the first right turn into Silverless Street.



The Merchant's House an outstanding 17C listed building with unique wall paintings and an unspoilt interior. It was built for a wealthy silk merchant, Thomas Bayly. The festival venue will be in the Panelled Room with its elaborate fireplace and glass sundial. The Merchant's House is situated on the north side of the High Street, 100 metres from the Town Hall.



The Green Dragon stands on the south side of the High Street, 100 metres from the Town Hall. Originally a coaching Inn, it dates back to the 15C.



HOW TO BOOK
Online: www.marlboroughlitfest.org
Telephone: **01249 701628** (through Pound Arts
£1 charge for cards plus 50p postage)

Booking Terms & Conditions We do not exchange or refund tickets; this includes moving to an alternative performance. Tickets can be collected from the venue 30 minutes before the start of each performance. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult for all family events. Details in this brochure were correct at the time of going to print. The Festival reserves the right to make changes in the event of unforeseen circumstances.



BREWIN DOLPHIN

Investment Management and Financial Planning

Brewin Dolphin is proud to sponsor the Marlborough Literature Festival

At Brewin Dolphin, our focus is on providing investment and financial planning advice that is as unique as each client's needs. Our dedicated and experienced professionals can offer guidance in a broad range of areas including:

- Investments
- ISAs
- Inheritance planning
- Pension provision and investment management

To find out more about how we can help you, please contact us to arrange a free, no-obligation meeting.

Contact **Beverley McIlvar** on 01672 519600 or email marlborough@brewin.co.uk for details.

brewin.co.uk/marlborough

The value of investments can fall and you may get back less than you invested.

Brewin Dolphin Limited is a member of the London Stock Exchange, and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Financial Services Register reference number: 124444).