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10 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2025



# CHISWICK BOOK FESTIVAL



Jeremy Vine



Reeta Chakrabarti



Jeremy Hunt



Fee Mak



Alan Johnson



Phyllis Logan



Anton du Beke



Kathy Lette



Jeffrey Holland



Gill Hornby



William Dalrymple



Lyse Doucet



Janey Lee Grace



Rose Sandy



Axel Scheffler



Book now and see the full updated programme at  
[www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net)



# THE CHISWICK CINEMA



TIMELESS ESCAPES  
EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES  
COMMUNITY FOCUS

[WWW.CHISWICKCINEMA.CO.UK](http://WWW.CHISWICKCINEMA.CO.UK)



The 17th Chiswick Book Festival brings together top authors and their readers for inspiring and entertaining events in many genres - fiction, history, politics, current affairs, crime, biography, music, workshops and children's books. See the full programme and author details on our website: [www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net).

ADULT EVENTS      Pages: 6 - 19

WORKSHOPS      Pages: 20 - 21

CHILDREN'S EVENTS      Pages: 22 - 25

The Chiswick Book Festival is a non-profit-making community event. Since 2009, it has raised more than £150,000 for charities and St Michael & All Angels Church, which runs the Festival as part of its mission of arts and community outreach. This year it will support St Michael & All Angels (registered charity no. 1133805) and these three reading charities:



**Read for Good**, which helps children to read for pleasure through programmes in schools and hospitals. Read more at [www.readforgood.org](http://www.readforgood.org)



**Koestler Arts**, the leading prison arts charity, promoting writing, reading and literacy in the criminal justice system. Read more at <https://koestlerarts.org.uk>



**Read Easy Ealing**, providing one-to-one tuition for local adults who want to learn to read or improve their reading skills. Read more at [www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/ealing/](http://www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/ealing/)

## FESTIVAL OFFICE

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



St Michael & All Angels  
Parish Office, Priory Avenue,  
London W4 1TX

[www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net)  
[admin@chiswickbookfestival.net](mailto:admin@chiswickbookfestival.net)

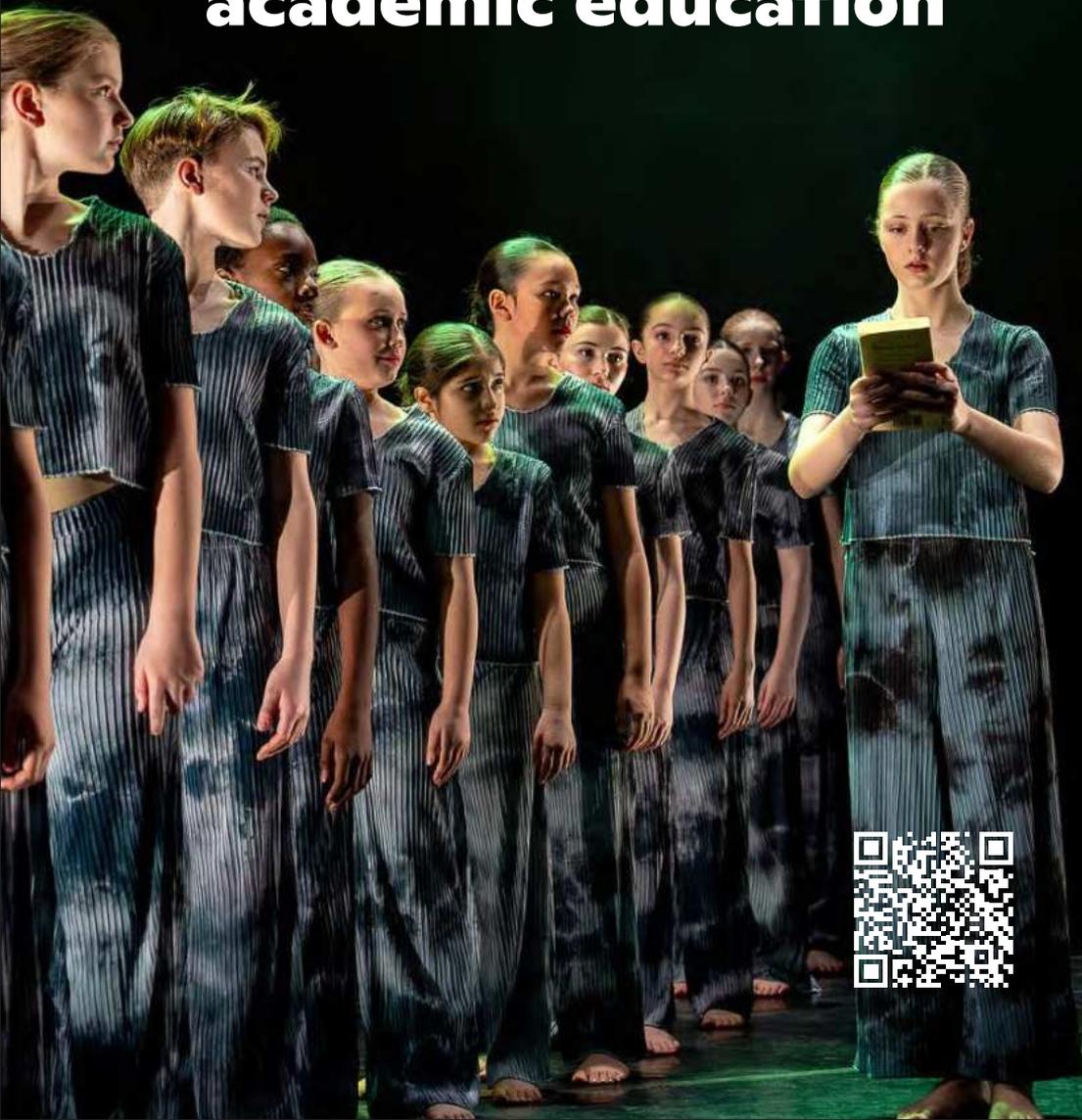
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# The arts at the heart of an outstanding academic education



## HOW TO BUY TICKETS:

ONLINE through TicketSource at: [www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net)  
Essential Companions are entitled to a free ticket by emailing [boxoffice@chiswickbookfestival.net](mailto:boxoffice@chiswickbookfestival.net)

## BUYING BOOKS

A team from Waterstones' Chiswick branch will sell copies of the authors' books after each event and most authors will stay after their talks to sign them.

## EVENTS

All events last one hour unless otherwise stated. Some children's events are shorter. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult, each with their own ticket.

## VENUES

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, most events take place within 5 to 8 minutes walk of Turnham Green tube station: at **St Michael & All Angels Church & Parish Hall** (Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1TT); **ArtsEd** (14 Bath Road, W4 1LY - please go to main reception); **Theatre at the Tabard** (2 Bath Road, W4 1LW); and **The Chiswick Cinema** (94-96 Chiswick High Road, W4 1SH).

Most of our children's sessions take place at: **Chiswick Library** (1 Duke's Avenue, W4 2AB), the **Catholic Centre** (2 Duke's Avenue, W4 2AE, opposite the Library); and **Orchard House School Innovation Hub**, 1a Woodstock Road, W4 1DS.

Some sessions take place slightly further afield: on Wednesday 10th September at the George IV pub in the **Boston Room** (185 Chiswick High Road, W4 2DR); on Thursday September 11th at **Chiswick House & Gardens** (Burlington Lane, W4 2RP); on

Monday 15th at **Hogarth's House** (Hogarth Lane, Great West Rd W4 2QN); and our **Writers Walks**. See details and map on website.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Garden Pavilion at Chiswick House, St Michael & All Angels Church and Parish Hall, ArtsEd, Chiswick Library, the George IV, Hogarth's House and the Catholic Centre have full disabled access. Theatre at the Tabard is accessed by a staircase and unfortunately does not have a lift. See our website for more details on access and accessibility.

## TRAVEL & TIMINGS

Turnham Green (District Line) is the nearest tube station. Buses go along Bath Road, Chiswick High Road, Turnham Green Terrace and Southfield Road. Parking: free north of the Bath Road on Saturday and Sunday; on meters towards Chiswick High Road (some 4-hour meters).

## FOOD AND DRINK

Coffee and home-made cakes will be sold outside the Parish Hall. Drinks will be on sale before the evening sessions at the George IV, Chiswick House, ArtsEd and Hogarth's House; in the Church & Parish Hall on Saturday; and at The Chiswick Cinema on Saturday and Sunday. There are cafes and restaurants near the main venues.

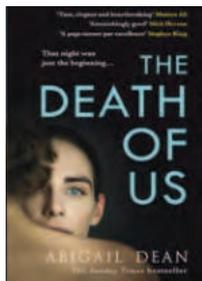
## REFUNDS

Event line-up may be subject to change, please check the website for updates. Refunds will only be issued if the event itself is cancelled.

**We hope you enjoy your visit to the Chiswick Book Festival.**

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER



6-6:45pm:

### Chiswickbuzz Online Book Club

**Abigail Dean** discusses her latest novel, *The Death of Us*, online with members of the Chiswickbuzz Book Club and Chiswick Book Festival attendees. For fans of her stunning first novel *Girl A* (being adapted for TV) and equally gripping crime thriller, *Day One*. 'A mesmerising blend of crime and romance' - *Sunday Times* Pick of the Month.

**Online only, £4. Ticket holders will be sent the link on the afternoon of the session.**



### 7-9pm: Local Authors' Showcase

To kick off the Festival in style, **Jo James** showcases the wealth of local talent that Chiswick has to offer. Each author has just two minutes to speak about their book, making this a fast-paced, fun and fascinating evening. There is a bar open throughout this event, and an interval halfway through.

**Boston Room, George IV Pub, Chiswick High Road, £8**

**Bar open from 6pm**

See Festival website for author details.



2-3:30pm:

### Festival Walk 1: Riverside Writers of Chiswick

On this 90-minute stroll with London Blue Badge Guide **Guy Fairbank**, encounter a very 'U' author, a screenwriter who made a lot of bread from comedy, a mysterious spy, an angry young man, and a former banana salesman who once roasted a deer on Oliver's Island. It begins at Strand-on-the-Green (Kew Bridge end) and ends near Chiswick mainline station.

**Strand Café, 109 Strand-on-the-Green, £15**



### 7pm: Jane Austen: Fact & Fiction with Gill Hornby

250 years after the birth of Jane Austen, there is plenty we don't know about the private life of one of our best-loved novelists. Why after her death did

her sister Cassandra burn a precious cache of family letters? **Gill Hornby**, president of the Jane Austen Society, explores the mystery in her bestselling novel *Miss Austen*, now a hit BBC drama. With its director, **Aisling Walsh**, and Chiswick actors **Phyllis Logan** and **Kevin McNally**, who played Jane's parents, Hornby will discuss Austen in fact and fiction. Chaired by Festival Director, **Torin Douglas**.

Supported by Chiswick House & Gardens Trust and Savills Chiswick

**Bar open and books on sale from 6pm**

**The Garden Pavilion, Chiswick House, £15**



**6:15pm: Jeremy Hunt: Can We Be Great Again? Why Britain Has More Influence Than We Think**

What will be Britain's place in the world in the century ahead? Looking back at his time as this country's global ambassador,

**Jeremy Hunt** asks: is Britain a minor player, marginalised by our departure from the EU and dwarfed by the rise of new economies? Or is there a major role for us to play in a rapidly changing international order?

Chaired by **Caroline Frost**.

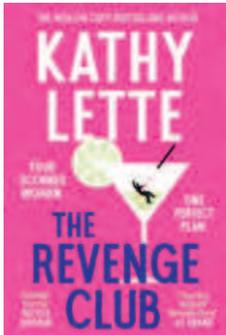
Supported by The Arts Society Chiswick  
**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**



**11am: Fearsome Females, with Nicola Rayner & Ellen Alpsten**

Their settings may differ but the new novels by **Nicola Rayner** (*Paris Dancer*) and **Ellen Alpsten** (*The Last Princess*) are united by strong female protagonists at their heart. Chaired by radio presenter **Jojo Silva**, the authors discuss the importance of strong women – and how they bring them to life on the page.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



**8-9pm: Kathy Lette: The Revenge Club**

What happens to high-flying women when society decides they are past their amuse-by dates? In **Kathy Lette's** *The Revenge Club*, four women at the top of their game realise they are being overlooked

in their personal lives and muscled out by less-qualified men at work. Instead of getting mad, they decide to get even – and plan diabolical revenge. Kathy talks to comedian and actor **Ronni Ancona** about her wickedly subversive new novel.

**Bar open from 7pm**

**The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, ArtsEd, 14 Bath Road, £12**



**11am-1pm: Festival Walk 2: Chiswick Rocks!**

On this two-hour musical history tour **Guy Fairbank** will take you past the studios where David Gilmour, the Rolling Stones and The Who recorded albums; show you where Lady Gaga once entertained a wedding party, the headquarters of Island Records, the home of a groovy raver and a flat once lived in by the writer of Rock-A-Doodle-Do.

**Meeting point: Stamford Brook tube station, £15**

**CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**



Poetry Prize-giving is at 4.30pm on Friday  
See page 22 for Children's events.



### 11am: The New Breed of Book Clubs

Discover how a new approach to book clubs is shaping literary culture. Join **Fee Mak** in conversation with **Que Wolf**, **Emily D'Souza** (*It's Hardback Out Here*), **Peju Alli-Balogun** from *The Goodies Who Read*, and **Linda Malek** and **Omnia Ahmed** from *The Candid Book Club* as they discuss community, representation and the power of collective reading.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



### 11.30am: Good, Occasionally Rhyming: A History of the Shipping Forecast

On the centenary of its first BBC broadcast, join newsreader **Kathy Clugston** and writer and editor **Robert Stepney** as they celebrate the *Shipping Forecast* with Radio 4 presenter **Paddy O'Connell** in poetry and prose. This mainstay of the airwaves has transcended its origins as

a vital weather bulletin for seafarers and now charms (and lulls to sleep) its many recreational listeners.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**

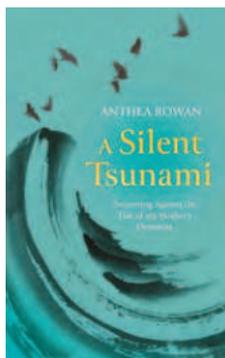


### 12pm: The Nazi Mind: Laurence Rees

How could the Nazis commit the atrocities they did – and why did the German people tolerate them? Former head of BBC TV History **Laurence Rees** discusses his groundbreaking and

timely new book *The Nazi Mind: Twelve Warnings from History*, which blends history and cutting-edge psychological research, with broadcaster **Julian Worricker**. Rees traces the history of the Nazis while highlighting disturbing signs to look out for in modern political leaders.

**The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, ArtsEd, £10**

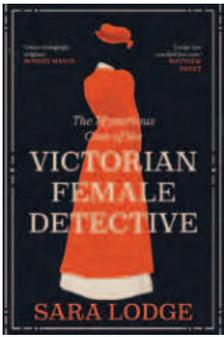


### 12.30pm: A Silent Tsunami: My Mother, Dementia and Me

Ahead of World Alzheimer's Day on 21st September, join **Anthea Rowan** as she discusses her moving new book chronicling the impact of her mother's dementia.

Part exploration of a mother-daughter relationship, part scientific exploration on how dementia presents and why, *A Silent Tsunami* aims to prepare others for what to expect when a loved-one receives this life-changing diagnosis. Chaired by **Sandra Parsons**, author of *Age Less*.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £10**

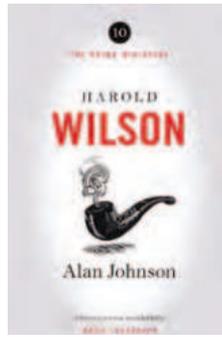


**12.30pm: The First Female Detectives: Sara Lodge**

In *The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective*, historian **Dr Sara Lodge** uncovers the forgotten crime-fighting women of Victorian Britain – and the cultural

sensation they inspired. The archetypal Victorian detective is now male, but female investigators worked for both the police and private detective agencies, not least in Chiswick! With radio presenter **Jojo Silva**, Lodge traces the popular fiction about cross-dressing, fist-swinging heroines they inspired.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**

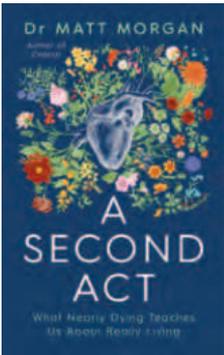


**1.15pm: Harold Wilson by Alan Johnson**

Harold Wilson was as much a part of the sixties as the Beatles and the Profumo Scandal and one of the most successful Prime Ministers of recent years. He won four elections and

oversaw sweeping reforms that improved many lives – including legalisation of homosexuality, protection for ethnic minorities, and improvements in womens’ rights. With **Clare Clark**, former Labour cabinet minister **Alan Johnson** discusses his new biography of a truly 20th Century man. Supported by The Small Library Company bookshop.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**

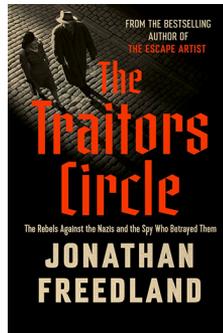


**12:30pm: A Second Act: Nearly dying and really living**

What happens after a person ‘comes back from the dead’? **Dr Matt Morgan** has met hundreds of people brought back to life by the ICU techniques he specialises in. Join him as he discusses how

these people have had their lives transformed by a second chance, and the lessons he has learned in caring for them. In discussion with **Fr Kevin Morris**.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



**1.45pm: The Traitors Circle**

Berlin, 1943. A group of 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. Undone from

within and pursued to near-destruction by one of the Reich's cruellest men, they showed a heroism that raises the question what kind of person does it take to risk everything and stand up to tyranny? Author **Jonathan Freedland** talks to Julian Worricker about this remarkable true story of betrayal and courage.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £10**

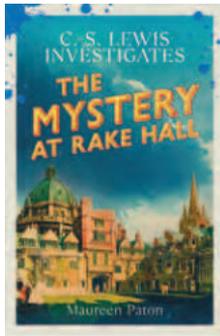
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**CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL** 

See pages 22-25 for Children's events

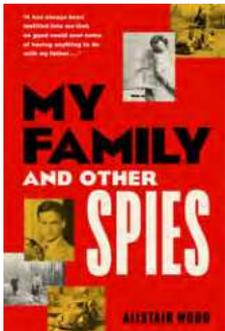


**2pm: Authors as Detectives:**

**C.S. Lewis and Josephine Tey**

**Nicola Upson** (*Shot With Crimson*) and **Maureen Paton** (*The Mystery at Rake Hall*) both write detective novels featuring fictionalised versions of real life authors solving mysteries – Josephine Tey and C.S. Lewis, respectively. They talk to editor and producer **Caroline Raphael** about the joys and challenges of bringing much-loved writers back to life on the page.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



**2pm: My Family and Other Spies**

**Alistair Wood** comes from a family of spies. His mother was one of the few female agents to operate behind enemy lines in post-war Berlin. His father – ostensibly a heroic humanitarian – was found to have led

a secret double life after his expulsion from the Service four decades earlier. Part memoir, part spy story, part detective investigation, *My Family and Other Spies* charts Wood's childhood in a secret service training camp and his quest to uncover the truth about his parents.

Chaired by **Alex Gerlis**.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



**2.30pm: The Guardian: Witness in a Time of Turmoil**  
In 1986, *The Guardian* was still a single-section, black-and-white newspaper. In the decade that followed, it faced a radical redesign, tense boardroom battles and the controversial acquisition of the

*Observer* – all played out against the fall of Margaret Thatcher, the toppling of the Berlin Wall and brutal conflicts in Iraq and Bosnia. Join author **Ian Mays** and former editor **Alan Rusbridger** as they discuss the first volume of this new history of *The Guardian*, with BBC culture and media editor **Katie Razzall**. **The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, ArtsEd, £12**

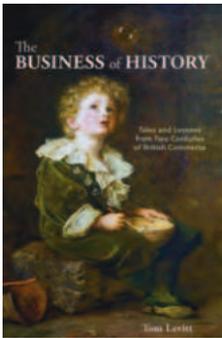


**3pm: Crete 1941: A Doctor's Escape**

The wartime letters and writings of Major Ralph Ford Tredre form a detailed and evocative account of how an unassuming middle-aged malariologist, who volunteered to serve in the Royal Army Medical Corps, found himself on the front line in the Evacuation of Greece and the Battle of Crete in 1941. His grandson **Roger Tredre** has edited the papers and donated them to the National Army Museum. They've been described as "A ripping yarn about a daring escape."

Profits from the book are going to the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £10**

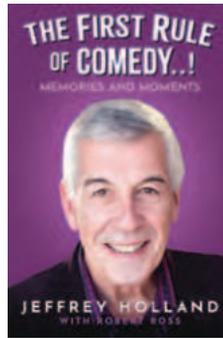


**3.15pm: The Business of History: Tom Levitt**

What does it take to build a business that lasts? From Boots to Cadbury, Dunlop to Wedgwood, **Tom Levitt** charts the evolution of 32 well-known businesses. Some

were icons of British commerce, yet only four remain intact today and many exist only as brand names. Chaired by **Julia Wheeler**, Levitt discusses how today's businesses came to be as they are – and what we can learn from the ones that didn't make it.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



**4.15pm: The First Rule of Comedy: Jeffrey Holland**

Beloved sitcom actor **Jeffrey Holland** talks about his life at the heart of the British comedy scene, from *Hi-de-Hi* to *You Rang, M'Lord* and many more, detailed in his memoir

*The First Rule of Comedy*. With co-author and British comedy historian **Robert Ross**, Holland reflects on the comedy greats who inspired his career and tells hilarious tales about those he has worked with.

**The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, ArtsEd, £12**

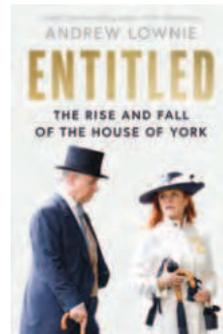


**3.30pm: Outstanding Debuts:**

**Reeta Chakrabarti & Aisha Hassan**

Families are at the heart of **Reeta Chakrabarti** and **Aisha Hassan**'s debut novels. In Chakrabarti's *Finding Belle*, a mother-daughter relationship strains under the weight of family secrets. Laloo, the hero of Hassan's *When the Fireflies Dance*, must fight to rescue his family from the brickyards of Lahore. The pair will be in conversation with **Clare Clark**.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



**5pm: Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York, by Andrew Lownie**

Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson are two of the most controversial figures in modern royal history.

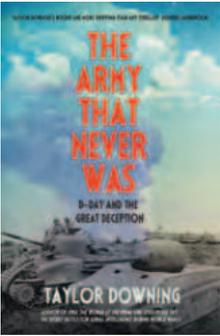
**Andrew Lownie** discusses his explosive

new biography of the pair, packed with revelations about their extravagant lifestyles and the controversies that have dogged "the happiest divorced couple in the world", from Andrew's links with Jeffrey Epstein to Fergie's financial recklessness. Chaired by **Julia Wheeler**.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



See page 20 for Workshops for adults and book your tickets at [chiswickbookfestival.net](http://chiswickbookfestival.net)



### 5pm: **The Army That Never Was: Taylor Downing**

The D-Day invasion was the pivotal moment of the Second World War. At its heart lay a remarkable series of hoaxes and misdirections by Allied forces, detailed by

historian and broadcaster **Taylor Downing** in *The Army That Never Was*. This was the most audacious ploy of them all: the effort to convince German troops that plans to storm Normandy were a mere sideshow, complete with a fictitious army and hundreds of dummy landing craft, tanks, and planes. He talks to **Alex Gerlis**.

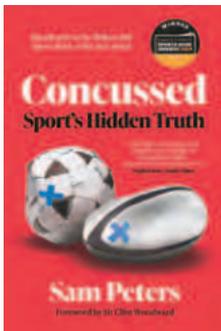
**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**

**6pm:**

### **Festival Drinks for our Charities**

Join us for Festival drinks and meet representatives of our 2025 charities - Read for Good, Koestler Arts and Read Easy Ealing.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall (downstairs), pay bar**



### 6pm: **Concussed: Sport's Hidden Truth**

**Sam Peters** spent over a decade investigating sport's concussion crisis, spearheading a campaign that brought it from a niche issue for rugby union to front page news. *Concussed: Sport's Hidden Truth*

won the UK Sports Book of the Year award for outstanding sports writing and was shortlisted for the William Hill Sports book of the Year. *Concussed* expands Sam's research on rugby

into football and NFL, and poses difficult questions about what sporting organisations need to change to keep their players safe. He talks to former TV sports correspondent **James Munro**.

**The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, ArtsEd, £12**



**6.30pm:**

### **From Wham! to Woo: A Life on the Mic**

**Janey Lee Grace** has spent her life on the mic. Her memoir traces her journey from Manchester nightclub singer to touring with Wham! and Boy George, before hustling her

way into the world of broadcast, co-presenting *Steve Wright in the Afternoon* on BBC Radio 2 and airing her views on health and holistic living. Joined by **Janet Ellis**, Grace will share her colourful behind-the-scenes tales and "woo woo" wisdom.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



**6.30pm:**

### **Lyse Doucet in conversation**

When it opened in 1969, the Inter-Continental Kabul was Afghanistan's first luxury hotel, symbolising the country's hopes of becoming an affluent, modern nation. Over

half a century on, it has endured Soviet occupation, multiple coups, a grievous civil war, a US invasion, and the rise, fall, and rise again of the Taliban. In *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*, BBC Chief International Correspondent **Lyse Doucet**, weaves the hotel's history together with that of modern Afghanistan - and its people. In conversation with journalist and broadcaster **Julian Worricker**.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**



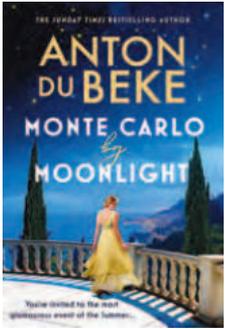
**8pm: Get In: The Inside Story of Labour Under Starmer**

Get the inside scoop on how the Labour Party went from electoral wipeout in 2019 to its landslide return to power in 2024 with political journalists **Gabriel Pogrund** and **Patrick Maguire**. The pair discuss their definitive account of Keir Starmer's ruthless transformation of the Labour Party with Times Radio presenter and podcaster **Ryan Tubridy**.  
**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**

**11am-1pm: Festival Walk 3: Writers of repute, from Chiswick Park to Bedford Park**

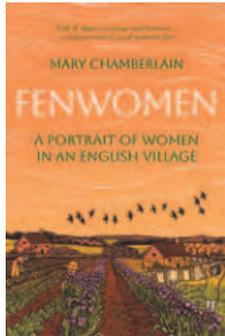
Chiswick has been home to writers of massive world-wide repute. On this 2-hour (or just over) walk, **Alan Fortune** leads us through the streets of Chiswick and Bedford Park, past the former homes of two Nobel Prize winners and a Man Booker Prize winner; a hugely popular comedian; a great chronicler of London's 'underbelly'; and a famous writer of dystopian novels.

**Meeting point: Chiswick Park Station, £15**



**8pm: Anton du Beke In Conversation**

Delve into the glamorous world of 1960s Monte Carlo in the new novel from *Strictly* favourite and bestselling author **Anton du Beke**, as he talks to former BBC arts correspondent **Rebecca**



**11am: Fenwomen at 50: A Portrait of Women in an English Village**

**Mary Chamberlain's** *Fenwomen* was the first book published by acclaimed feminist publisher Virago. A vivid social and oral history of the women of an

isolated village in the Cambridgeshire fens, it was a groundbreaking portrait of working-class rural life at a time when intermarriage was still common and a single family owned almost all the land. As *Fenwomen* is republished in a 50th anniversary edition, Mary discusses the book and its legacy with **Caroline Raphael**.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**

**Jones**. Monaco is awash with preparations for the Grand Prix when the world-famous Forsyth Variety Company returns to the city to perform at Princess Grace's high society ball, causing past and present to collide on the French Riviera.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**

**REMINDER**



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# 17<sup>TH</sup> CHISWICK BOOK FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

VENUE	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3
Church		A History of the Shipping Forecast		Alan Johnson on Harold Wilson	
Parish Hall		Fee Mak: The New Breed of Book Clubs		Dr Matt Morgan: A Second Act	Alistair Wood: My Family and Other Spies
ArtsEd Theatre			Laurence Rees: The Nazi Mind		Ian Mayes & Alan Rusbridger:
Tabard		Fearsome Females: Ellen Alpsten & Nicola Rayner		Sara Lodge: The First Female Detectives	Nicola Upson & Maureen Paton: Authors as Detectives
Chiswick Cinema		Anthea Rowan: My Mother, Dementia and Me			Jonathan Freedland The Traitors Circle
Catholic Centre		Michael Holland: Gardens and Sunshine		Zohra Nabi: Disappear into Deep Dark	Robert Tregoning: The Rock Family Band!
Orchard House School Innovation Hub		Kev Sutherland: Comic Masterclass 1			Kev Sutherland:
Chiswick Library				Michael Holland: Print Your Own Bookmark	Jonathan Sellars:
ArtsEd 141		Christina Strang: Handwriting Analysis			Rose Sandy: The Four Questions Every Writer
ArtsEd 142		Fanny Mills: How to Write a Memoir			Eleanor Pilcher: Find Your Social Platform,
Chiswick Cinema Screen 5					Christina Strang: 1-2-1 Handwriting
Festival Walk		Festival Walk 2: Chiswick Rocks!			
Gabriel Room					

## SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

VENUE	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3
Church			Rupert Gavin & Arthur Smith: Amorous or Loving		Crime waves: Jeremy Vine and Andrew Cartmel
Parish Hall		Asia Mackay, Ava Glass & MJ Robotham: Killer Spies and Lies		Petroc Trelawny & Sandy Burnett: Petroc's Cornwall	The Immigrant Experience:
Tabard		Mary Chamberlain: Fenwomen		Wartime Love Letters: Caroline Cecil Bose & Rosanna Greenstreet	John Willis: The People's War
Chiswick Cinema				Joan Smith: Unfortunately she was a Nymphomaniac...	Robert Ross: Peter Sellers - A Life in Comedy
Catholic Centre		Mariesa Dulak	Nathanael Lessore		Tom Kerrs: Children's Guide to the Night Sky
Festival Walk		Festival Walk 3: Writers of Repute from Chiswick Park to Bedford Park			Eve Wersock Morris:

# THE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9
	Axel Scheffler: Welcome		Taylor Downing: The Army That Never Was		Lyse Doucet: The Finest Hotel in Kabul	Anton du Beke
	Reeta Chakrabarti & Aisha Hassan: Outstanding Debuts		Andrew Lowrie: Entitled: The House of York		Janey Lee Grace: From Wham to Woo	Patrick Maguire & Gabriel Pogrand: Labour Under Starmer
The Guardian		Jeffrey Holland: The First Rule of Comedy		Sam Peters: Concussed: Sport's Hidden Truth		
	Tom Levitt: The Business of History					
	Roger Tredre Crete 1941: A Doctor's Escape					
	Comic Masterclass 2					
	Poems from Saturn!					
	Must Answer to Craft a Bestselling Novel					
	Build Your Author Brand					
	Analysis sessions, 10 minutes each					
				Festival Drinks in aid of our charities		

	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9
		William & Sam Dalrymple: India's Forgotten History				
Jamila Pereira & Manuel Domingos		Hannah Beckerman & Marina Kemp: Writing Relationships				
		Sam Cullen: London's Lost Pubs				
	Dr Strangelove - Screening					
Creative Writing Workshop		JP Rose: Birdie				

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER



**11.30am: Killer Spies and Lies: Asia Mackay, MJ Robotham and Ava Glass**

Spies, sabotage and serial killers abound in the entertaining works of **Asia Mackay** (*A Serial Killer's Guide to Marriage*), **MJ Robotham** (*Mrs Spy*) and **Ava Glass** (author of the *Alias Emma* series). They are joined by **Katie Tyler** to discuss writing thrilling, killing women.

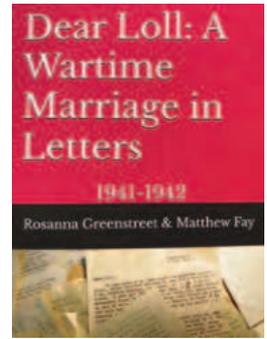
**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**



**12.30pm: Amorous or Loving? The Highly Peculiar Tale of English and the English**

How did English become the world's language? Join theatre and film impresario **Sir Rupert Gavin** as he discusses his new book tracing the unique evolution of our language from a marginal dialect to a lingua franca spoken by 1.6 billion people worldwide. He talks to comedian and writer **Arthur Smith**, many of whose shows he has produced.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**



**12.30pm:**

**World War Two Love Letters: Caroline Cecil Bose and Rosanna Greenstreet**

In *We've All Life Before Us*, **Caroline Cecil Bose** charts the tragic love story of RAF pilot Bob Keddie and his wife Diana via their own letters, diaries and photographs. **Rosanna Greenstreet's** *Dear Loll* describes a marriage enduring the hardships of wartime separation, via the letters of *Manchester Guardian* journalist Gerard Fay (great-grandfather of her co-author and husband **Matthew Fay**, who will read some of the letters) and his wife Alice. Chaired by **David Shreeve**. **Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



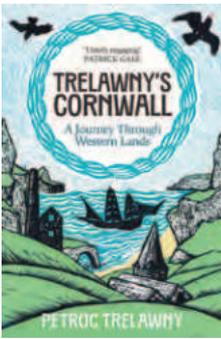
**12.45pm:**

**Unfortunately she was a Nymphomaniac... with Joan Smith**

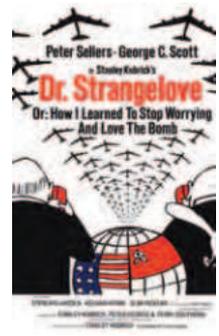
Murderers, wicked stepmothers, nymphomaniacs... The women of Imperial Rome have had an almost universally bad press – until now. In

her revelatory new book, **Joan Smith** draws on years of experience campaigning against domestic and sexual violence to reinterpret the histories of Rome's most important women. In conversation with **Bridget Osborne**.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £10**



**1pm: Trelawny's Cornwall**  
**Petroc Trelawny** is as Cornish as they come. Or is he? Spurred by a stranger questioning his ancestry, the BBC Radio 3 presenter returned to the land of his boyhood to explore its history – and whether he still belongs there.



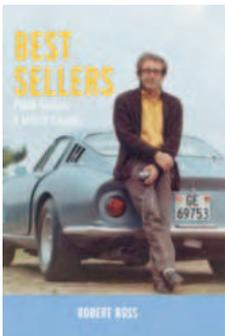
**3.30pm: Screening: Dr Strangelove**

Following the Robert Ross interview, Chiswick Cinema is holding a special screening of *Dr Strangelove*, in which Sellers plays three roles including Strangelove and the US President. The Cold War black comedy has been called ‘Stanley Kubrick’s *magnus opus*’ and one of the greatest and most influential films ever made and has interesting echoes today.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £12 - booking via the Cinema website**

Joined by musician and broadcaster **Sandy Burnett**, Trelawny discusses his excavations of Cornwall’s (and his own) past, present and future.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**

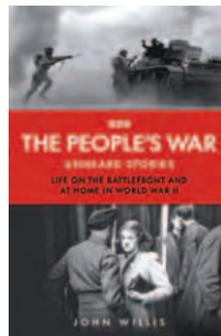


**2pm: Peter Sellers - A Life in Comedy, with Robert Ross**

Hailed by Spike Milligan as “one of the true comedy greats of the 20th Century”, Peter Sellers lit up screens, from his manic beginnings in *The Goon Show* to his

Oscar-nominated performance as Chance the Gardener in *Being There* - and fan-favourite role as Inspector Clouseau. Join comedy historian **Robert Ross** as he discusses his affectionate new biography of Sellers with **Gemma Ross**.

**Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £10**



**2.15pm: John Willis: The People's War**

In the early 2000s, the BBC gathered over 47,000 testimonies from ordinary people about their experiences of the Second World War. This treasure trove sat unexplored in the

archives for two decades, until historian **John Willis** began to explore these untold stories of everyday bravery, terror, and community at home and on the front. He is joined by award-winning BBC *Panorama* reporter and journalist **Jane Corbin**.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



**WORKSHOPS**

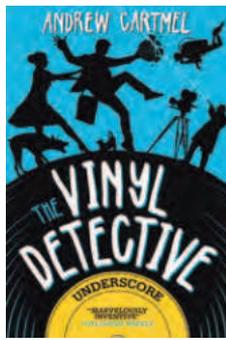
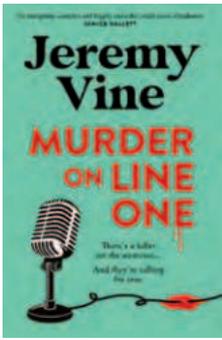


See page 20 for Workshops for adults and book your tickets at [chiswickbookfestival.net](http://chiswickbookfestival.net)

**CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**



See pages 22-25 for Children’s events

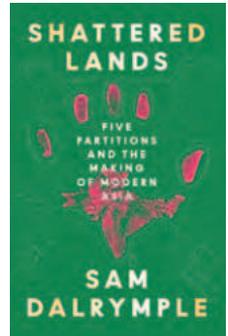
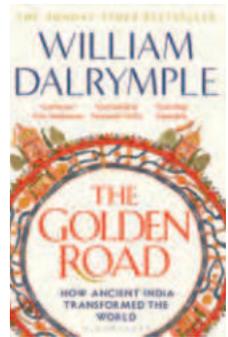
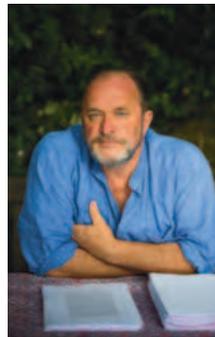


### 3.45pm: London's Lost Pubs: Sam Cullen

What do we lose when it's last orders for a pub? Join **Sam Cullen** as he discusses with **Nick Hennegan** (*The London Literary Pub Crawl*) the colourful untold stories of London's lost pubs, from the old haunts of

Chelsea bohemians to the favourite watering holes of stressed-out City workers, and what they tell us about changes to the capital's landscape – and our own tastes.

**Theatre at the Tabard, £10**



### 4pm: India's Forgotten Histories: William and Sam Dalrymple

Join historians **William Dalrymple** and **Sam Dalrymple** as they chart India's lost histories, from its forgotten influence at the heart of the ancient world (highlighted in William's *The Golden Road*) to the unmaking of the Raj, the crown jewel of the British Empire, and how it

### 2.15pm: Crime waves:

#### Jeremy Vine and Andrew Cartmel

A washed-up radio host turns detective after realising his listeners are being picked off one-by-one in *Murder on Line One*, the crime debut by broadcaster **Jeremy Vine**. *Underscore*, the latest in **Andrew Cartmel**'s Vinyl Detective series, sees the hero plunge into the world of Italian movie soundtracks. Chaired by **Clare Clark**.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**

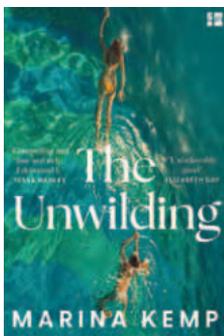
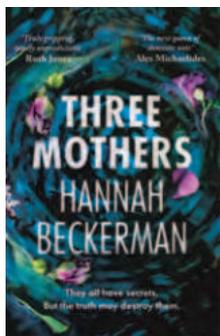


### 2.30pm: The Immigrant Experience: Jamila Pereira and Manuel Domingos

With complex narratives surrounding immigration dominating the media, this panel event will celebrate the role that literature plays in exploring the voices and experiences behind the headlines. Join **Jojo Silva** (*Capital Xtra*) in conversation with **Jamila Pereira** (*54Mag*, *Rolling Stone Africa*) and **Manuel Domingos** (*PostCreditScene Podcast*) as they explore the reality of building a life in a new land.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**

shaped modern Asia (traced in Sam's debut, *Shattered Lands*). Chaired by **Caroline Frost**.  
**St Michael & All Angels Church, £12**



**4pm: Writing Relationships: Hannah Beckerman and Marina Kemp**

How well do we really know our partners and our children? Family secrets are at the heart of the latest novels by **Hannah Beckerman** (*Three Mothers*) and **Marina Kemp** (*The Unwinding*). Join the pair as they discuss writing family, grief and troubled relationships and intimacy with BBC Radio 1Xtra DJ **Fee Mak**.

**St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10**

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

**7pm: The Dream Factory: Shakespeare's little-known Shoreditch theatre**

Before the Globe, Shakespeare learned to ply his trade in a little-known playhouse built in a muddy field in Shoreditch. In *The Dream Factory*, **Daniel Swift** uncovers the untold history of London's first purpose-built commercial playhouse – a hotbed of controversy at a time when theatregoing was held to be a sin. He tells the story of a place of high culture and quick profit, where the Elizabethan stage began to flourish, and where Shakespeare became Shakespeare. Chaired by **Torin Douglas**. Supported by The Small Library Company bookshop.

**Hogarth's House, Hogarth Lane, Great West Road, London W4 2QN, £10**

**Hogarth's House and its Mulberry Garden will be open for ticket holders from 6pm**



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# WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

## 11am-1pm: How to Write a Memoir with Fanny Mills

If you're thinking of writing a memoir, make sure it is compelling to write, not just to read. **Fanny Mills'** two-hour workshop describes the techniques for generating that energy and direction in a memoir which she learned in writing hers. The session includes: The why; The struggle; The how; and The pitch – how you distill it all down to a pithy concept which will make everyone pick your memoir up and devour it. Fanny offers a taster of her own acclaimed memoir *Unravelled* and a critique of her favourite memoirists, from Horatio Clare to Keggie Carew.

**Room 142, ArtsEd, £25**



## 11am-1pm: Hidden Stories of your Handwriting - A Handwriting Analysis Workshop with Christina Strang

Did you know your handwriting reveals more than words? Graphology is a powerful tool for understanding human behaviour and personality traits. The way we write tells the story of our development - from early childhood scribbles to the mature writing style we develop as adults. Join **Christina Strang** for an immersive, hands-on workshop where you'll learn the fascinating art of graphology. Your handwriting tells a unique story - isn't it time you learned how to read it?

**Room 141, ArtsEd, £25.**



## 2-4pm: What Does Your Handwriting Say About You?

Discover hidden insights in a 10-minute private handwriting analysis session with **Christina Strang**. Gain insights into your personality, strengths, and characteristics - all in a quick, 1-2-1 setting. Check the website to book your specific 10 minute slot. You will be asked to arrive 10 minutes before time, in order to handwrite a given paragraph.

**Screen 5, Chiswick Cinema, £10 per 1-2-1 session**



**2-4pm: The Four Questions Every Writer Must Answer to Craft a Bestselling Novel: Rose Sandy**

Join publisher and author **Rose Sandy** (founder of the HarperCollins Author and Design Academy) as she opens the crate of story gold and reveals the four questions every writer must answer to craft a bestselling novel. Whether you're plotting thrillers, adventure, romance, or fantasy, these questions are the cornerstone of compelling fiction. This talk is for anyone ready to turn creative sparks into unforgettable stories and discover how bestselling books are not just written, but engineered.

**Room 141, ArtsEd, £25**

**2-4pm: Find Your Social Platform, Build Your Author Brand: Eleanor Pilcher**

In this workshop from award-winning book marketer, TikTokker and author, **Eleanor Pilcher**, you'll learn which social platform(s) work best for which genre, to authentically build your author brand online and develop an audience organically. This workshop will guide you through choosing the right platform for you, pinpoint where to start when posting content and how to create a manageable strategy that works for your time. Whether you're new to social media or looking to refine your usage, this workshop will pull back the curtain and make social media a long-term tool for success.

**Room 142, ArtsEd, £25**





# CHISWICK CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL



FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

## 4:30pm: Young Poets Prize Giving

Author and poet **Dean Atta** will present the prizes for the Chiswick Book Festival Young Poets Competition. Now in its 15th year, the competition attracts entries from many local schools and is supported by ChiswickW4.com. Free to attend, but booking essential.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, Free**



SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER



## KEV F SUTHERLAND'S COMIC ART MASTERCLASS

## 10:45am-12:45pm: Comic Masterclass

Kev F Sutherland has written and drawn for *Beano*, *Doctor Who* and *Marvel* comics, and will show you how easy it is to produce your own comic strips. Everyone will go away with a comic containing a strip by everyone in the class, plus an individual caricature by Kev F. His latest graphic novel *Richard The Third* will be available to purchase.

**Orchard House School Innovation Hub, 1a Woodstock Rd, £15 (accompanying adults can attend free). Ages 7+**

## 11:30-12:15pm: Michael Holland: Gardening and Sunshine

Discover how childhood passions, influential people, and life's twists shaped author **Michael Holland** and his award-winning books *I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast* and *The Little Gardener's Handbook*. See some amazing plant artefacts with surprising botanical stories. There'll also be time for questions, book buying, and signing. Supported by Abundance London.

**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 3+**



SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER



**12:45-1:30pm: Disappear into Deep Dark with Zohra Nabi**

Join **Zohra Nabi** for a thrilling Dickensian-style adventure in the first Cassia Thorne Mystery, *Deep Dark*. Watch out for the sea monster lurking in the Thames! This interactive event will explore Victorian Britain and whether you could have survived Cassia's London. Perfect for fans of Enola Holmes.

**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 8+**



**1:15-2:15pm: Michael Holland – Print Your Own Bookmark workshop**

Create beautiful botanical bookmarks using sage leaves and ink pads in this hands-on workshop with author **Michael Holland**. Discover the art, science & history behind plant printing while exploring your creativity and celebrating the natural world. Supported by Abundance London.

**Chiswick Library, £5. Ages 7+**



**2-4pm: Comic Masterclass**

**Kev F Sutherland** has written and drawn for *Beano*, *Doctor Who* and *Marvel* comics, and will show you how easy it is to produce your own comic strips. Everyone will go away with a comic containing a strip by everyone in the class, plus an individual caricature by Kev F. His latest graphic novel *Richard The Third* will be available to purchase.

**Orchard House School Innovation Hub, 1a Woodstock Rd, £15 (accompanying adults can attend free). Ages 7+**



**2-2.45pm: Robert Tregoning: The Rock Family Band!**

Are you ready to ROCK? At this interactive story time event, award-winning author and star of the West End **Robert Tregoning** will introduce you to *The Rock Family Band!* The family's youngest member, flute-playing Sam, is different from the rest of his glam-rock family. Can the Rocks find a way to bring harmony into their music and into their lives? Find out as Robert reads this picture book about embracing each other for being who we are, whatever the tune that we sing and no matter how glam-rock we roll! Then dust off your air guitars and get ready to make your own music as we put on an all-singing, all-dancing, ROCK-tastic performance of our own!

**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 4+**



SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

**2:45-3:30pm: Jonathan Sellars: Improved Poems From Saturn!**

Part poetry recital, part amateur theatre, part grey area between artistic innovation and chaos. Equally perfect for those who just want to sit and watch funny poetry, and those who want to volunteer and channel their inner aunt-eating alligator or bouncy-bellied cow (or any one of the many other characters you'll meet).

**Chiswick Library, £5. Ages 5-11**



**Welcome**



A book about friendship  
written by Aliam Goss  
Illustrated by  
Axel Scheffler

**3:15-4:15pm: Axel Scheffler: Welcome**

Come and see award-winning illustrator, **Axel Scheffler** read from his latest picture book *Welcome*, plus *Jonty Gentoo: The Adventures of a Penguin*, his most recent collaboration with Julia Donaldson, and of course, his classic best seller *The Gruffalo*. He will be live drawing and the chance to ask Axel some questions. He will be live drawing and answering questions.

**St Michael & All Angels Church, £5. Ages 5+**

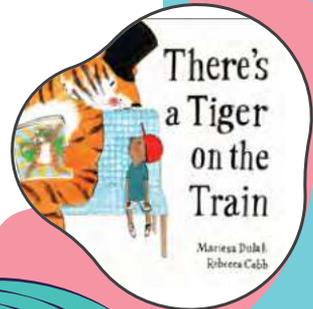


SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

**11:15am-12pm: Two Stories with Mariesa Dulak**

Join storyteller **Mariesa Dulak** as she brings two enchanting tales to life: *There's a Tiger on the Train*, a playful adventure with animals and rhymes, and *The Silver Shadow*, a beautiful story filled with wonder and imagination. With lively storytelling, interactive fun, and moments to giggle and dance, this event is perfect for little listeners who love big adventures and magical stories. Hop aboard and let's explore together!

**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 3-5yrs**



**12:15-1pm: Nathanael Lessore: Solving Crimes Is NOT My Superpower**

Controlling the wind, smelling fear, farting colours... Everyone in Walsham has been granted superpowers – except Sara. But when the school's football trophy is stolen, it's up to Sara to solve the mystery and track down the missing trophy. Join **Nathanael Lessore** as he reads from his laugh-out-loud new adventure book.

**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 7-9yrs**



SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

**1:30-2:15pm: Tom Kerss: Children's Guide to the Night Sky**

Join astronomer Tom Kerss for a fun, fact-filled, interactive talk inspired by his book, *Children's Guide to the Night Sky*. Come along to discover what to see in the autumn sky, and how to get started stargazing with your eyes, binoculars or a telescope. Perfect for budding astronomers and space fans!  
**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 7+**



**2:45-3:30pm: Eve Wersocki Morris: Creative Writing Workshop** A fun and interactive workshop for aspiring authors and illustrators who love mystery, adventure and baddies! Put on your sneaky shoes create a jewel thief and plan a heist with bestselling writer **Eve Wersocki-Morris**, author of *Clem Fatale Has Been Betrayed* – an adventure comedy about jewel thieves set in 1950s London. Eve is dyslexic so no one needs to worry about perfect spelling and grammar – this workshop is all about ideas and imagination!  
**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 8+**

**4-4:45pm: JP Rose: Birdie**

When Birdie is sent to live with her great-aunt in 1950s Yorkshire, she befriends the village's last remaining pit pony. As the weeks pass, Birdie forms a special bond with the spirited little pony. But his future is in danger, and Birdie comes up with a daring plan to save his life... A story of hope and courage, exploring themes of family, racism and identity.  
**Catholic Centre, £5. Ages 8+**



**TICKETS** | Purchase online through TicketSource at [www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net)

**VENUES** | Our children's sessions take place at: Chiswick Library (1 Duke's Avenue, W4 2AB), the Catholic Centre (2 Duke's Avenue, W4 2AE), Orchard House School Innovation Hub (1A Woodstock Road, W4 1DS) and St Michael & All Angels Church (Bath Road W4 1TT).

Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult, each with their own ticket, unless otherwise stated.

# FESTIVAL TEAM AND SUPPORTERS

Festival Director: Torin Douglas (*group photo*)  
Programme Director: Jo James (*photo top right*)  
Production Manager: Vicky Taylor (*group photo*)  
Box Office Manager: Shelley Hasseldine (*group photo*)  
Children's Festival Co-ordinator: Jenny Griffiths (*group photo*)  
Volunteers Co-ordinator: Jenny de Montfort (*group photo*)  
Venues Co-ordinator: Lisa Read (*group photo*)  
Website Manager: Roger Green  
Box Office Assistant: Olivia Pearce  
Marketing & PR: Jeannie Shapiro, Louise McCarron,  
Shona Lowe, Alexis Lungu  
Young Poets Competition - Chair of Judges: James Priestman,  
Administrator: Charmaine Stone  
Festival Treasurer: Alyson Mitchell  
Waterstones Manager: James Barber

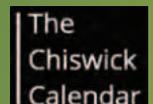


Many thanks to the local firms who sponsor events or give their services free, particularly to our **Diamond Partners**: Savills; Chiswick House & Gardens Trust\*; ArtsEd\*; Orchard House School\*; The Chiswick Cinema\*; The Chiswick Calendar; and Waterstones Chiswick\*, who sell the authors' books. \* See advertisements in this brochure.

We are also very grateful to our **Gold and Silver Partners**: The Arts Society Chiswick, the University of West London, Bown Design & Build, ChiswickW4.com, Home Instead, Trotters, Theatre at the Tabard, Young Veterinary Partnership, Abundance London, Bookcase London, DiscoverChiswick.co.uk, The Small Library Company, Paul Vick Architects, and other companies who sponsor individual sessions; Fosters Bookshop, Oxfam Books and Everybody Reads for their support; our **Venue Partners**: George IV, Chiswick Library, Chiswick Catholic Centre (and others named above) for hosting events; our **Community Partners**: including ActOne Cinema, Bedford Park Society, Chiswick Business Network, Grove Park Group, Strand on the Green Association and others for sharing our programme; and Jennifer Yen of westeastdesign.co.uk, who designed this brochure.

Special thanks to our participating authors, their publishers, the chairs and the many hardworking volunteers who donate their time free of charge, and whose support helps us raise money for our charities and without whom Chiswick Book Festival would be much less fun!

*Information correct at time of going to print: July 4th 2025. Programme and other details subject to change. More events may be added - see posters, notice boards and Festival website for updates: [www.chiswickbookfestival.net](http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net)*





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