

f @chiswickbookfest

X @w4bookfest

9 - 14 September 2026

Kamal Ahmed Samira Ahmed Tahmima
Anam Matt Baker Tim Beard Nick Clegg
Felicity Cloake Charles Cumming Iain
Dale Louise Doughty Alf Dubs Janet
Ellis Peter Fiennes Essie Fox Caroline
Frost Dominic Funnell Sophie Hannah
Robert Hardman Michael Parkinson Fergal
Keane Bechan Kidron Mark Lewisohn
Ben Macintyre Catherine Mayer Blake
Morrison Kate Mosse Peter Osborne
Adele Parkes Tony Palmer Tony Parsons
Mary Portillo Prati James Reed Cathy
Rentzenbrink James Rodgers Anthony
Seldon Miranda Seymour Jojo Silva
Edward Stourton Jane Thynne Jeevan
Vasagar Sarah Vine Natasha Walter Bee
Wilson Jacqueline Wilson John Yorke

CHISWICK BOOK FESTIVAL



Book now and see the full updated programme at
www.chiswickbookfestival.net



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Welcome to the Chiswick Book Festival 2026



The 18th Chiswick Book Festival brings together top authors and their readers for inspiring and entertaining events in history, politics, current affairs, crime, espionage, biography, business, music and sport. See the full programme and author details on our website: chiswickbookfestival.net

This year we have given the programme a fresh look. We moved most of our children's events to a special Children's Books Day in March 2026 and have reduced the number of weekend venues and sessions, to tighten up the programme and help it flow more smoothly.

Scan the QR code to book tickets for Festival events, or visit the Festival website www.chiswickbookfestival.net



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:



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 for Good, which helps children to read for pleasure through programmes in schools and hospitals. Read more at www.readforgood.org

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/

Festival Office

St Michael & All Angels Parish Office,
Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX
www.chiswickbookfestival.net
admin@chiswickbookfestival.net



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ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL

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Step into St Benedict's

OPEN EVENTS

Senior School & Sixth Form Open Morning
Thursday 17 September 2026

Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 24 September 2026

Whole School Open Morning
Saturday 3 October 2026

Nursery & Junior School Open Morning
Wednesday 11 November 2026

Co-educational school for students aged 3 - 18

Nursery | Junior School | Senior School | Sixth Form

www.stbenedicts.org.uk



Planning your visit

How to buy tickets

ONLINE through TicketSource at:

www.chiswickbookfestival.net

Carers are entitled to a free ticket by emailing boxoffice@chiswickbookfestival.net

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

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.

Venues

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, we have reduced the number of venues and all our events take place within five minutes' walk from Turnham Green tube station: at **St Michael & All Angels Church & Parish Hall** (Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1TT) and **Theatre at the Tabard** (2 Bath Road, W4 1LW). Our Sunday film screening is at **The Chiswick Cinema** (94-96 Chiswick High Road, W4 1SH) which is 8 minutes walk away from the station.

Some sessions take place slightly further afield: on Wednesday 9th September at the **George IV pub** in the Boston Room (185 Chiswick High Road, W4 2DR); on Thursday September 10th at **Chiswick House & Gardens** (Burlington Lane, W4 2RP); and on Monday 14th at **Hogarth's House** (Hogarth Lane, Great West Rd W4 2QN); Our **Writers Walks** start at the Café, Chiswick House &

Gardens W4 2RP; Strand Café, 109 Strand on the Green, W4 3NQ; and Chiswick Park tube station. See details and map on website.

Accessibility

The Chiswick Book Festival actively supports the 'Wheelchair Happy' campaign which aims to improve accessibility at public venues in Chiswick. **The Garden Pavilion at Chiswick House, St Michael & All Angels Church and Parish Hall, the George IV, The Chiswick Cinema and Hogarth's House** 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 and Hogarth's House**; in the **Church & Parish Hall** on Friday and Saturday; and at **The Chiswick Cinema** on Sunday. There are cafes and restaurants near the main venues.

Refunds

Refunds are only issued if the event itself is cancelled.

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

Wednesday 9 September



6-6:45pm:

Chiswickbuzz Online Book Club: Patrick Gale

Patrick Gale discusses his latest novel, *Love Lane*, online with members of the Chiswickbuzz Book Club and Chiswick Book Festival attendees. "*Love Lane* is the irresistible story of five individuals, linked by the past and yet separated by the present. I have just fallen in love with a beautiful book" - Rachel Joyce

Online only, £4. Ticketholders will be sent the link on the afternoon of the session.



7-9pm: Local Authors' Showcase

To kick off the Festival in style, Capital Xtra presenter **Jojo Silva** 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, £12**

Bar open from 6pm

See Festival website for author details.

Thursday 10 September



Beatles Day at Chiswick House: Paperback Writer 1966-2026

2:30pm:

Festival Walk 1: The Beatles in Chiswick

60 years after the Beatles filmed their *Paperback Writer* video in Chiswick House Gardens, follow in their footsteps with London Blue Badge Guide and 'Chiswick Rocks' walk leader **Guy Fairbank**. The 90-minute stroll continues along Chiswick Mall to the birthplace of other rock legends.

Meet outside the Cafe, Chiswick House & Gardens, W4 2RP, £15

7pm: Paperback Writer: Celebrating The Beatles in Chiswick

60 years after the Beatles came to Chiswick, we celebrate that iconic moment and reflect on their unique place in rock history with three Beatles experts. Broadcaster **Samira Ahmed**, author of the new BFI Classics book on *A Hard Day's Night* (also filmed in west London), chairs a discussion with Beatles historian **Mark Lewisohn** (*The Beatles: All These Years, Volume 1 - Tune In*) and **Tony Palmer**, director of the 17-part TV documentary series *All You Need Is Love: The Story of Popular Music*. Supported by **Chiswick House & Gardens Trust** and **Savills Chiswick**. **Bar open and books and DVDs on sale from 6pm**

The Garden Pavilion, Chiswick House, £17.50

Friday 11 September



11am:

Festival Walk 2: Chiswick's Riverside Writers

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.

Meeting at Strand Café, 109 Strand on the Green, W4 3NQ, £15



4.30pm: Young Poets Prizegiving

Broadcaster and passionate advocate for literature, storytelling and education **Jojo Silva** will present the prizes for the Chiswick Book Festival Young Poets Competition. Now in its 16th year, the competition attracts entries from many local schools and is supported by ChiswickW4.com.

**St Michael & All Angels Church,
Free to attend, but booking essential**

How to Save the Internet

The Threat to
Global Connection
in the Age of AI
and Political Conflict

Nick Clegg



6.15pm:

Nick Clegg: Can He Save the Internet?

In *How to Save the Internet* **Nick Clegg**, former UK Deputy Prime Minister and latterly one of Meta's most senior executives, presents a blueprint for reforming Big Tech while preserving the openness of the internet, to make it safer and more effective. Chaired by **Caroline Frost**. Supported by **The Arts Society Chiswick**

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

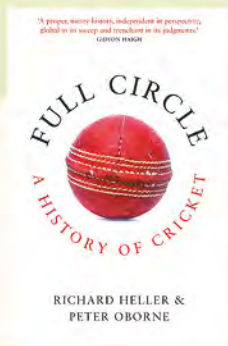


8pm: Kate Mosse: From Orange to Autumn

Thirty years after founding the Orange Prize for Fiction (now the Women's Prize for Fiction), best-selling novelist **Kate Mosse** talks to writer and journalist **Natasha Poliszczuk** about championing women's creativity, her career as a bestselling author and her forthcoming book *Autumn*, a 'love letter to Sussex' and part of a series with Michael Morpurgo's *Spring*, Bernardine Evaristo's *Summer* and Val McDermid's *Winter*.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

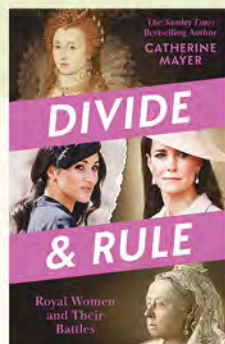
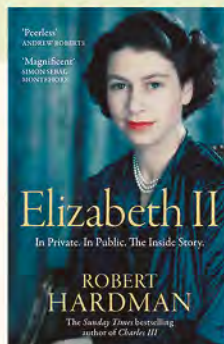
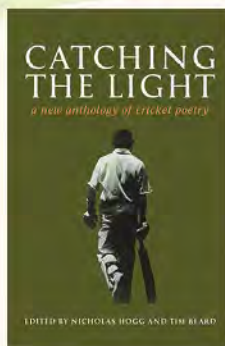
Saturday 12 September



10.30am: Cricket: History, Politics and Poetry

"What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?" asked CLR James. Cricket historians, players and fans **Richard Heller** and **Peter Osborne** trace the origins and forces which have shaped the global game, for good or ill, in *Full Circle: A History of Cricket*. They discuss the most literary of games with **Tim Beard**, co-editor of *Catching the Light: A New Anthology of Cricket Poetry*, which raises CLR James's famous question in its poems.

Theatre at the Tabard, £10



11am: Robert Hardman & Catherine Mayer: Elizabeth II and Battles Royal

Marking the centenary of Queen Elizabeth II, royal biographer **Robert Hardman** assesses her long and eventful reign in his book *Elizabeth II*. He is joined by journalist **Catherine Mayer**, author of *Charles, The Heart of a King*, whose forthcoming book *Divide and Rule: Royal Women and their Battles* examines the rivalries and relationships that shaped the monarchy. Chaired by **Julian Worrick**, BBC presenter and one of its royal events commentary team.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12



11am: Rough Justice: Wendy Joseph KC

Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC was a judge at the Old Bailey until 2022, sitting on criminal cases – only the third woman to hold a permanent post there. She explores justice

past and present and asks if the law in Britain is fit for purpose. Her compelling best-seller, *Rough Justice: Do we have the law we deserve?*, draws vivid parallels between historical trials at the Old Bailey and the cases shaping our legal landscape today, revealing how little – and how much – has changed. She talks to human rights lawyer and author of *The Ten Types of Human* **Dexter Dias KC**.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



12pm: Helping Children to Read in The National Year of Reading

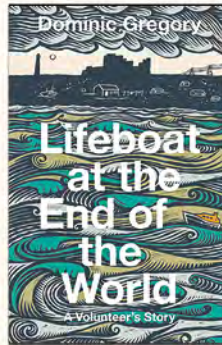
Encouraging children to enjoy reading instead of scrolling through their phones is The National Year of Reading's big challenge. The Reading Agency's Head of Research & Evaluation **Dr Carina Spaulding** and author **Nigel Twusami** join a panel curated by the Children's Media Foundation to suggest possible solutions.

Theatre at the Tabard, £10



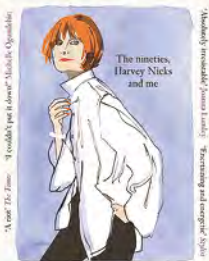
12.30pm: John Yorke & Matt Baker: Why strong stories matter, on screen and off
Former Head of Drama at the BBC, Channel 4 and Company Pictures, **John Yorke** presided over groundbreaking series from *EastEnders* to *Shameless* and *Life on Mars* to *Wolf Hall*. He is now a narrative consultant and author of *Into The Woods: How Stories Work And Why We Tell Them*. He joins former Channel 4 colleague, novelist and screenwriter **Matt Baker** (*Patience, A Taste For Murder*) to discuss how stories and crime can make compelling TV. Chaired by *Radio Times* columnist **Caroline Frost**.
St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10

I Shop: Therefore I Am, exploring the deeply personal story woven through her professional journey – from her own complex relationship with shopping and identity to her vision for transforming the future of retail.
St Michael & All Angels Church, £12



1.30pm: Saving Lives from the Sea: Dominic Gregory and Jeevan Vasagar
Dominic Gregory is a volunteer RNLI crew member at Dungeness, one of Europe's busiest stretches of sea, now at the heart of a political storm. His debut memoir, *Lifeboat at the End of the World*, has been hailed as 'unforgettable' and a 'hymn to human decency'. *The Surge by the Observer's* **Jeevan Vasagar** tells how floods have changed our relationship with each other, as sea levels rise and storms become more intense. They discuss climate change, migration and other challenges with environmental journalist **Lucy Siegle**.
Theatre at the Tabard, £10

MARY PORTAS



I SHOP, THEREFORE I AM



12.30pm: Mary Portas: I Shop: Therefore I Am
In the 1990s, **Mary Portas** turned Harvey Nichols into 'Harvey Nicks' and changed the way we shop. She shared her experiences on TV as the BBC's 'Mary Queen of Shops' and partnered with Save the Children to reinvent charity shops. Mary joins **Helen Brocklebank**, CEO of Walpole, which speaks for the UK luxury industry, for a wide-ranging conversation about her acclaimed memoir-cum-business manual,

Reminder

Scan the QR code to book tickets for festival events, or visit the festival website at chiswickbookfestival.net

18th Chiswick Book Festival

Saturday 12 September

Venue	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3
Tabard		Cricket: History, Politics and Poetry	Helping Children to Read for Pleasure in the Digital Age		Saving Lives from the Sea: Dominic Gregory & Jeevan Vasagar
Parish Hall		Rough Justice: Wendy Joseph KC		John Yorke & Matt Baker: Why Stories Matter, On Screen and Off	On Memoir: Blake Morrison & Louise Doughty
Church		Robert Hardman & Catherine Mayer; Elizabeth II and other Battles Royal		Mary Portas: I Shop, Therefore I am	
Gabriel Room					

Sunday 13 September

Venue	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3
Festival Walk		Festival Walk 3: Writers of Repute from Chiswick Park to Bedford Park			
Tabard		James Reed: Karma Capitalism	Tom Hodgkinson: How to Live like a Stoic		Essie Fox: Catherine: a Retelling of Wuthering Heights
Parish Hall			Tony Parsons: Man & Dog, a Love Story	Sipsmith Gin Talk and Tasting	Follow Your the Kitchen and the tell about
Church				Lord Alf Dubs: The Boy with the Knapsack	Jacqueline Wilson: Esme Pepper
Chiswick Cinema					

The weekend at a glance



3 - 4		4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9
Peter Fiennes: Literary Travelogues						
	Vera, Rasputin and Putin: People in Power in Russia		Natasha Walter: Feminism in a Troubled World		Adele Parks: Secrets and Lies	Big Tech: How it took Control and How we can Fight Back
Anthony Seldon: The Brexit Effect on Downing Street			Spies Double Bill 1: Fiction - Jane Thynne & Charles Cumming		Spies Double Bill 2: Ben Macintyre: Redwood - The Cold War's Most Extraordinary Spy	Fergal Keane: War, Fear... and the BBC
				Festival Drinks		

3 - 4		4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9
Georgina Moore: River of Stars						
Appetite: as a Mirror Stories we Ourselves		Agatha Christie's Enduring Appeal: Cathy Rentzinbrink & Sophie Hannah				
		Sarah Vine & Iain Dale: Politics and the Media				
Cinema Screening: Quartermaine's Terms						

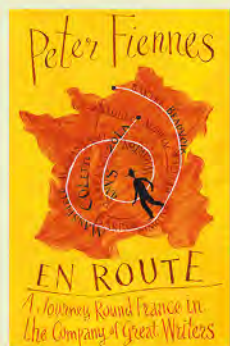


discusses the book and, as the acclaimed biographer of recent Prime Ministers, their roles in the saga and its impact on them.
St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

2pm: On Memoir: Blake Morrison and Louise Doughty

Blake Morrison's *On Memoir: An A-Z of Life Writing* is a delightful compendium of musings from the master of life writing, 'the critic every literary editor turns to' (*The Spectator*). He is joined by novelist and screen writer **Louise Doughty** who's written her first work of memoir, *On This Spot Fell One Tear of Love*. They will be in conversation with Chiswick Book Festival chair **Jacks Thomas**.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



3pm: Peter Fiennes: Literary Travelogues

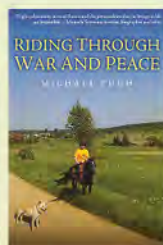
In *En Route: A Journey Round France in the Company of Great Writers*, acclaimed travel writer (and *Time Out* guidebook editor) **Peter Fiennes** explores France's people and places, from Normandy to the Cote d'Azur,

through its greatest writers. He talks to fellow travel journalist and photographer **Frances Linzee Gordon**.

Theatre at the Tabard, £10

3.15pm: Anthony Seldon: The Brexit Effect on Downing Street

On the tenth anniversary of the Brexit referendum, historian **Anthony Seldon** has assembled writers from all sides of the debate in *The Brexit Effect 2016-2026* to assess its impact on every corner of British life. He



3.30pm: Vera, Rasputin and Putin: People and Power in Russia

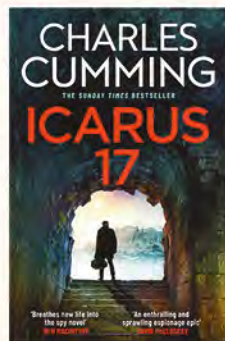
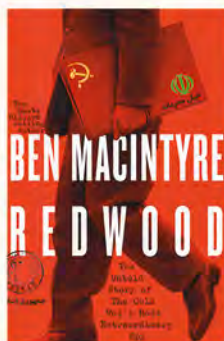
Miranda Seymour's book *I, Vera: The Many Lives of Vera Gedroits, a Radical Princess*, tells the astonishing story of a pioneering woman surgeon in imperial Russia who worked in battlefields and ordered Rasputin out of her operating theatre. In *The Return of Russia*, historian **James Rodgers** examines its recent relationship with the West, from the collapse of the Soviet Union to the present day. They talk to **Michael Pugh** (*Riding Through War and Peace*), who left his job in Moscow to ride through rural Russia on horseback.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10

5pm: Natasha Walter & Tahmima Anam: Feminism in a Troubled World

The global challenges faced by women today, from online misogyny and authoritarian states to economic equality and climate change, are addressed by writer and human rights activist **Natasha Walter** in her new book for Virago, *Feminism for a World on Fire*. She joins **Tahmima Anam**, whose novel *Uprising* is a story of female defiance and survival, to discuss how to build a future where women can thrive on a flourishing planet. Chaired by **Lucia**

Natasha Walter
**Feminism
for a
World
on Fire**



Osborne Crowley, award-winning writer and investigative journalist at The Nerve.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



Double Cross, Double Bill: Spies in Fact & Fiction

5pm: Spies 1 - Fiction:

Charles Cumming & Jane Thynne

Charles Cumming has been hailed as 'the rightful inheritor of John le Carré's crown'. *Icarus 17* is his latest novel featuring Lachlan Kite.

Jane Thynne's memorable characters include Clara Vine and, in her latest book *Appointment in Paris*, Harry Fox and Stella Vine. She's also been watching the filming of the Berlin Noir novels by her late husband Philip Kerr, starring Colin Firth. They discuss the appeal of espionage on the page and the screen with another best-selling spy novelist, **Alex Gerlis**.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

6.30pm: Spies 2 - Fact: Ben Macintyre on The Cold War's Most Extraordinary Spy

The Cold War has generated a wealth of espionage stories. **Ben Macintyre**, the multimillion-copy bestselling author of *Colditz*,

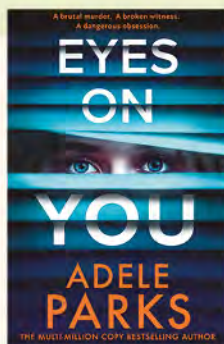
SAS: Rogue Heroes, *Agent Zigzag* and *Operation Mincemeat* talks to fellow spy writer **Charles Cumming** (*Icarus 17*) about his latest gripping true life story, *Redwood* - how at the height of the Cold War a mysterious double agent revealed a Kremlin secret plot and prevented Armageddon.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

6pm: Festival Drinks for our Charities

Join us for Festival drinks and meet representatives of our 2026 charities.

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

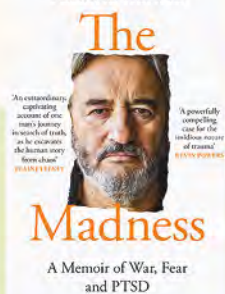


6.30pm: Adele Parks: Secrets & Lies

Adele Parks has written 25 best-selling novels in 25 years, translated into 31 languages. Reflecting on her remarkable career, she talks to **Jacks Thomas** about creating tales of dysfunctional families, intrigue and secrets, such as those in her latest psychological thriller *Our Beautiful Mess* and the next - her soon-to-be-published crime novel, *Eyes On You*.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10

FERGAL KEANE



8pm:

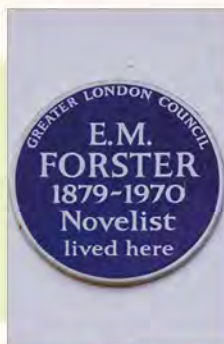
Fergal Keane: War, Fear... and the BBC

Fergal Keane is a best-selling author and one of the BBC's most recognisable and respected voices in world affairs. As he leaves the organisation after 37 years, he talks

frankly about his career covering crucial global events, as revealed in his memoir *The Madness: A Memoir of War, Fear and PTSD*, and also about his future plans.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

Sunday 13 September



10.45am-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 two-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 tube station, £15**



10.30am: James Reed: Karma Capitalism

James Reed, CEO of Reed, is a leading authority on effective, strategic philanthropy. In his book *Karma Capitalism: why being a good business is good business*, he makes the case for PhilCos – philanthropy companies – where a percentage of shares are owned by a charity or foundation. He says it's a way to share wealth and discusses how to do business differently with **Kamal Ahmed**, editorial director, *Fortune*. **Theatre at the Tabard, £10**

BEEBAN KIDRON



8pm: Big Tech and AI: Bebban Kidron and Jamie Bartlett

Legislator and campaigner **Baroness Bebban Kidron** spoke to specialist police officers, bereaved parents, lobbyists and tech bros for her book *USERS: How Big Tech Took Control and How To Fight Back*. She examines how they avoid rules and regulations, and capture governments that are meant to protect us. With author and technology journalist **Jamie Bartlett** (*How to Talk to AI*) she addresses ways to stay in control of AI, even as it changes the way we live, feel and think. Chaired by the BBC's **Marianna Spring**.

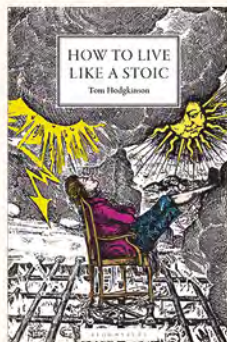
St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



11.30am: Tony Parsons: Man & Dog: A Love Story

Dog lovers will warm to **Tony Parsons'** forthcoming memoir about his special relationship with his dog Stan, chronicling their daily walks across Hampstead Heath, with its cast of star-studded, dog-walking neighbours. The *Sunday Times* best-selling author talks to columnist and fellow dog-lover **Sophia Money-Coutts** (*The Year of the Dog* - 'Absolute heaven', Jilly Cooper.)

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



12pm: Tom Hodgkinson: How to Live Like a Stoic

The Stoics were celebrated by the Romans, influenced Christianity and admired by Shakespeare. In this 'Handbook for Happiness', **Tom**

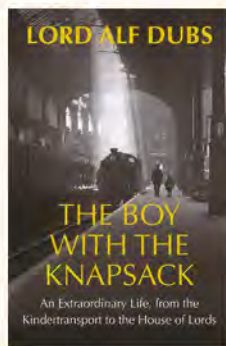
Hodgkinson, author of the bestselling *How to Be Idle*, looks at the greatest Stoics in history – including Seneca, Cicero and St Augustine – to see if they can help us find fulfilment. He talks to **Fr Kevin Morris**, vicar of St Michael & All Angels.

Theatre at the Tabard, £10

12.30pm:

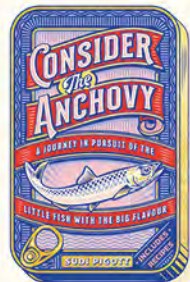
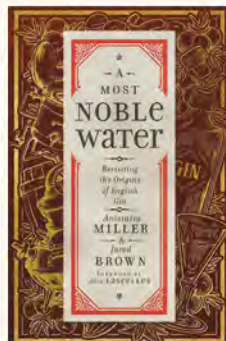
Lord Alf Dubs: The Boy with the Knapsack

Lord Dubs was one of the Czech children rescued from the Nazis in the Kindertransport and former MP for Battersea. Today he is one



of the UK's leading campaigners for human rights and justice and for the plight of refugees. He will talk to **Janet Ellis** about his new memoir, *The Boy with the Knapsack*, a fascinating first-hand account of Britain over the last eight decades, and a timely reminder of the values of decency and humanity that unite us.

St Michael & All Angels Church, £12

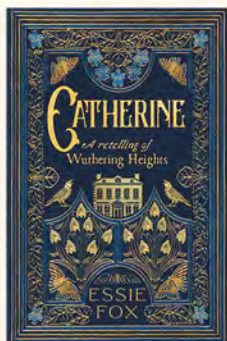


1pm:

Consider the Anchovy - and A Most Noble Water: Sipsmith talk, tasting and canapes!

In 2009, Chiswick's Sipsmith became the first new copper-pot distillery to open in London for nearly 200 years. In *A Most Noble Water: Revisiting the Origins of English Gin*, co-founder **Jared Brown** and his wife, historian **Anistatia Miller**, debunk the myth that William III, Prince of Holland, brought gin to England. Join them for a fascinating talk - and tasting – paired with **Sudi Pigott**, author of *Consider the Anchovy: a journey in pursuit of the little fish with the big flavour*. Chaired by food author and broadcaster **Jo Pratt**.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



1.30pm: **Essie Fox: Catherine, A Retelling of Wuthering Heights**

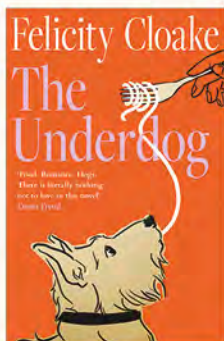
Best-selling historical novelist **Essie Fox**, 'Queen of the gothic', has retold *Wuthering Heights* from Catherine's point of view, eighteen years later. She describes the challenges and delights of rewriting a much-loved classic novel, in conversation with a super-fan of the book, crime novelist **Emma Curtis** (*The Psychiatrist*).
Theatre at the Tabard, £10



2pm: **Jacqueline Wilson: Esme Pepper**

Beloved and best-selling children's author **Jacqueline Wilson** returns to Chiswick and talks to former BBC arts correspondent **Rebecca Jones** about her latest novel, *Esme Pepper*. It's a funny, touching and hopeful story of one girl's resilience when her world is turned upside down and she has to go into foster care. New home, new school, Esme's life is full of surprises. Ages 9+.

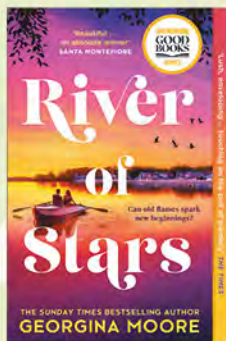
St Michael & All Angels Church, £6



2.30pm: **Bee Wilson and Felicity Cloake: Follow your Appetite**

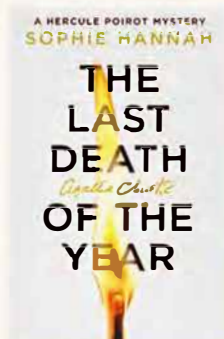
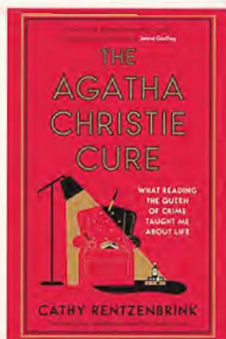
What does food - and the world around it - reveal about who we are and who we want to become? **Bee Wilson**'s memoir *The Heart-Shaped Tin* explores how everyday kitchen objects become vessels for memory, grief, love and identity. **Felicity Cloake**'s warm and witty first novel, *The Underdog*, follows a lawyer who abandons her career to pursue her dream of becoming a chef. Together they use the kitchen as a lens through which to examine identity, reinvention and the courage to pursue what you want from life.

St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10

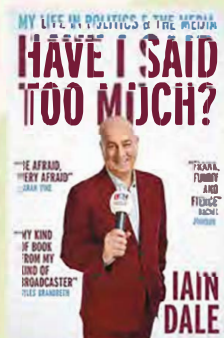
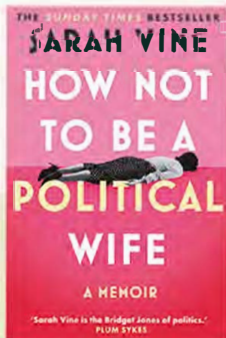


3pm: **Georgina Moore: River of Stars**

When **Georgina Moore** moved to a floating home at Taggs Island she fell in love with life on the river. Her new novel, *River of Stars*, draws on the island's rich rock 'n' roll heritage and that of nearby Eel Pie Island, the legendary venue for the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Pink Floyd, David Bowie and more. She'll discuss her enchanting tale of second-chance romance, music and memory with **Natasha Poliszczuk**.
Theatre at the Tabard, £10



4pm: Agatha Christie's Enduring Appeal: Cathy Rentzenbrink and Sophie Hannah
Fifty years on from her death, Agatha Christie remains the Queen of Crime. Why do we still adore her? Cathy Rentzenbrink (*The Agatha Christie Cure: What Reading the Queen of Crime Taught Me About Life*) and Sophie Hannah (*The Last Death of the Year: A Hercule Poirot Mystery*) discuss her never-ending popularity with award-winning crime writer and Christie superfan Vaseem Khan (*The Edge of Darkness*)
St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, £10



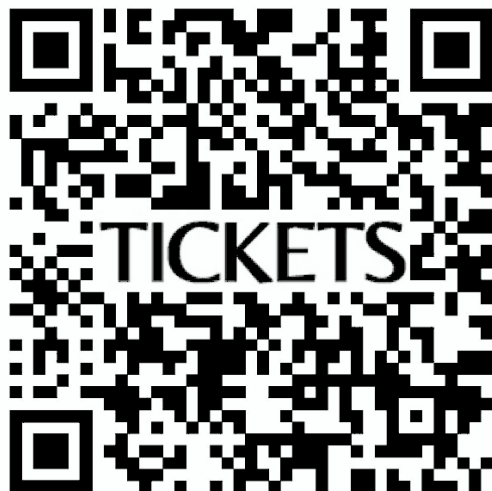
4pm: Sarah Vine and Iain Dale: Politics and the Media
Author and columnist Sarah Vine (*How Not to be a Politician's Wife*) and broadcaster and podcaster Iain Dale (*Have I Said Too Much? My Life in Politics and the Media*) talk frankly about their memoirs, including Sarah's marriage and divorce from former MP Michael Gove and surviving the Westminster culture. Chaired by broadcaster and columnist Caroline Frost.
St. Michael & All Angels Church, £12



4.30pm: Screening: *Quartermaine's Terms* by Simon Gray

In partnership with the Chiswick Book Festival, The Chiswick Cinema is screening a season of films written by Simon Gray. *Quartermaine's Terms* stars John Gielgud, Eleanor Bron and Edward Fox, reprising his stage role as the lonely, quietly devoted St. John Quartermaine, who watches colleagues marry, separate, and pursue ambitions, while his own life stands poignantly still. Wry, humane, and deeply moving, it is a subtle study of time, disappointment, and endurance.
Chiswick Cinema, Screen 2, £12 - booking via the Cinema website:

www.chiswickcinema.co.uk/gray-matters-simon-gray



TICKETS

Festival Team & Partners

Festival Chair: Jacks Thomas
Festival Director: Torin Douglas
Author Programme Co-ordinator: Orna O'Brien

Programme Group:
Torin Douglas, Orna O'Brien, Patsy Irwin, Lisa O'Kelly Reed

Events Group:
Production Manager: Sue Ellis
Events Co-ordinator: Annie Hamilton Baxter
Volunteers Co-ordinator: Jenny de Montfort
Venues Co-ordinator: Lisa Read
Chiswick House Co-ordinators: Shona Scott, Lou O'Sullivan
Local Authors Co-ordinator: Rebecca Winfield

Box Office Manager: Shelley Hasseldine
Box Office Assistant: Olivia Pearce

Festival Treasurer: Alyson Mitchell
Partnership Co-ordinator: Torin Douglas
Charities Co-ordinator: Ros Lister

Publicity Group:
Website Manager & Photographer: Roger Green
Press & Newsletters: Torin Douglas
Marketing & PR: Jeannie Shapiro, Alexis Lungu, Lou O'Sullivan
Copy: Judith Baker
Photographer: Jim Cox

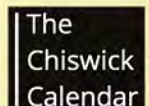
Education & Libraries group:
Children's Books Liaison: Jenny Griffiths
Education Co-ordinator: Rhian Williams
Young Poets Competition:
Head Judge: James Priestman
Administrator: Charmaine Stone
Libraries Co-ordinator: Olivia Freeman

Many thanks to the local firms who sponsor events or give their services free in support of the Chiswick Book Festival. We are particularly grateful to St Michael & All Angels Church, which runs and hosts the Festival, and to our **Diamond Partners**: Savills; Chiswick House & Gardens Trust; The Chiswick Cinema; Theatre at the Tabard; The Chiswick Calendar; Waterstones Chiswick, who sell the authors' books on site; and our new Diamond partners BookBrunch and St Benedict's School.

We are also very grateful to our **Gold and Silver partners**: The Arts Society Chiswick, the University of West London, Bown Design & Build, Chiswickbuzz.net, ChiswickW4.com, Home Instead, Hubbard Pegman & Whitney, Orchard House School, Trotters, Young Veterinary Partnership, George IV, Paul Vick Architects, Think Jeannie and other companies who sponsor individual sessions. Thanks too to Fosters Bookshop, Bookcase London, Everybody Reads, The Small Library Company and Oxfam Books for their support; 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; Jenny 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 is correct at time of going to press on 3 July 2026.
Programme and other details subject to change. See posters,
notice boards and Festival website for updates:
www.chiswickbookfestival.net*





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