



Bury St. Edmunds

Literature Festival

Celebrating books and writing in the heart of East Anglia

Friday 11th October
Saturday 12th October
Sunday 13th October

Festival Programme

Friday 11th October

6.30pm **POETRY** **Martin Figura** and *Open Mic*

Saturday 12th October

10.30am **FICTION FOR CHILDREN 2-8YRS**

Catherine Emmett

12.00pm **FICTION FOR CHILDREN 5-13YRS**

Kiran Milwood Hargrave and **Tom de Freston**

1.30pm **NON-FICTION**

The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading **Sam Leith**

3.00pm **NON-FICTION**

The Swimmer: The Wild Life of Roger Deakin **Patrick Barkham**

4.30pm **HISTORICAL FICTION** *A Sign of Her Own*

Sarah Marsh in conversation with **Megan Reynard**

>>>>>*BSL interpreted and captioned event*



6.00pm **CONTEMPORARY FICTION** *It's a Family Affair*

Georgina Moore and **Bobby Palmer**

in conversation with **Kate Sawyer**

7.30pm **NON FICTION & LITERARY FICTION** *A Working Relationship*

Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Tom De Freston in conversation

Sunday 13th October

10.30am **FICTION & CREATIVE WRITING FOR CHILDREN 8-12 YEARS**

Witchspark: Create Your Own Fantasy Fiction

Dominique Valente

12.00pm **NATURE WRITING** *In All Weathers* **Matt Gaw**

1.30pm **THRILLER FICTION** *The Suspense Is Killing Us* **Phoebe Morgan**

and **JM Hewitt** in conversation with **Georgie Jamieson**

3.00pm **CRIME/MYSTERY FICTION**

Janice Hallett in conversation with **Nicola Upson**

>>>>>*at The Guildhall*

This event
is in The
Guildhall

4.30pm **LITERARY FICTION** **Jill Dawson** in

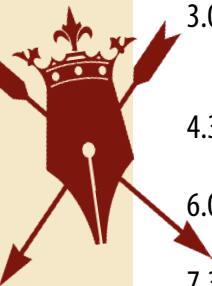
conversation with **Margaret Meyer**

6.00pm **LITERARY FICTION** *Ascending Stars:* **Kirsty Capes** and

Jessica Moor in conversation with **Kate Sawyer**

7.30pm **LITERARY FICTION** **Clare Chambers** in conversation with

Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival founder **Julia Wakelam**



Welcome to the 2024 Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival – we have a host of delights for you

For children, we have award winning authors who will engage, inspire and entrance. Tickets for these events are offered on a **PAY WHAT YOU CAN** basis.

For the rest of us, there is something for everyone:

- poetry, and the chance to read your own work,
- nature writing and biography,
- crime fiction and historical fiction,
- writers who explore the human heart and the dynamics of family and human relationships.



There are new exciting authors to discover and long established writers who continue to fascinate and enthrall.

What unites them all, and draws us in, is the enduring fascination of story telling. We look forward to sharing all this with you!

Without our Patrons and Sponsors, there would be no Festival so we want to thank our Honorary Patrons, Nicola Upson and Margaret Meyer and our Founding Patrons, Mike & Judy Spenser-Morris who have been with us since the very first year.

We also want to express our gratitude to our principal Sponsors, the Trustees of the Unitarian Meeting House and Greene & Greene, Solicitors. Thank you to the Bury St Edmunds Town Council for its grant support and to West Suffolk College for providing support with the sound systems. We are also grateful to Bedfords Estate Agents who are sponsoring Janice Hallett at the Guildhall.



BURY ST EDMUNDS
TOWN COUNCIL



BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE FROM WWW.BURLITFEST.CO.UK
Purchase on the door may be possible but is not guaranteed

Standard **£12/10/8**

Students, Under 25s and those in receipt of benefits .. **£10/8/6**

Under 18s **FREE**

Events for children **PAY WHAT YOU CAN**

Children under 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult

Read full terms and conditions: <https://www.burylitfest.co.uk/terms-and-conditions>

POETRY

6.30
pm

Friday 11th October

Martin Figura and Open Mic

in association with *Poetry Aloud*

We open the festival, as always, with an evening of poetry. This year our Festival Poet is **Martin Figura** reading from his collection ***The Remaining Men***.

Following Martin's performance both the Bar and the Mic will be open for our annual **Open-Mic** where the audience will be able to read their own poetry and share their spoken word and works in progress. Please book your slot for the Open Mic *before* Martin's performance.



Martin Figura's collection ***The Remaining Men*** was published in February:

"not only Martin's finest book
but one of the best you are
likely to read this year"
(George Szirtes)

The book and show ***Whistle*** were shortlisted for the *Ted Hughes Award* and won the *Saboteur Award for Best Spoken Word Show*, an award his second show ***Dr Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine*** was shortlisted for. Martin lives in Norwich with Helen Ivory and sciatica.

His new Spoken-Word show ***Shed*** will be touring in 2025 after successful performances at *Ink Festival* and *The Cockpit Theatre*, London as part of the *Poetry Plays Festival*.

W: www.martinfigura.co.uk **IG:** @martinfigura1



PHOTO: DAVE GUTTRIDGE

TIME: Friday 11th October 2024 6.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £8.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £6.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Children under 12y must be accompanied by a paying adult.

**Be confident.
Be ambitious.
Be curious.
Be you.**



**DISCOVER WHO
YOU COULD BE
AT AN OPEN DAY!**

10.30
am

Saturday 12th October

Catherine Emmett

This year's stellar programme for children kicks off with some picture book storytelling for little ones with local author **Catherine Emmett**.

Catherine will be reading and engaging young readers with her books *The Rainbow Flamingo* and *Trick or Treat*, two charming picture books told in rhyme that celebrate difference and ingenuity.

Catherine Emmett grew up in Newcastle Upon Tyne and spent her childhood reading books.

Then she grew up and spent 15 years making spreadsheets and not reading any books at all.

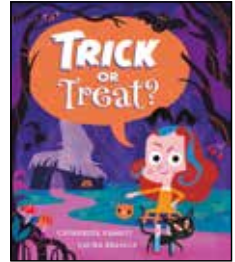
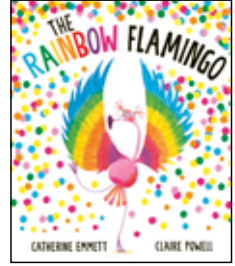
After advising a group of young girls to find a career that they loved, she decided to take her own advice. She packed up her husband and her three young boys, moved to rural Essex and started to write picture books. She now spends her days surrounded by words, animals and noisy boys.

Catherine's books include *The Pet*, *The King of The Swamp*, *Sammy The Striker And The Football Cup* and *The Dodo Who Dreamed She Could Fly*. Her books have won awards, been on the *BBC News* and appeared on *CBeebies Bedtime Stories*.

W: catherineemmett.co.uk

IG: @catherine_emmett_author

X: @emmett_cath



TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 10.30am

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, IP33 1RH

TICKETS: PAY WHAT YOU CAN

AGE SUITABILITY: Children 2-8 years & their grown-ups.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.

FICTION FOR CHILDREN 5-13YRS

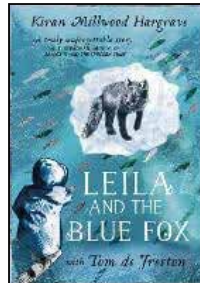
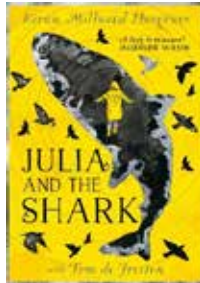
Kiran Milwood-Hargrave and Tom De Freston

12.00
noon

Readers old and young will be delighted to hear that award winning husband and wife, author and illustrator team **Kiran Millwood-Hargrave** and **Tom de Freston** will be appearing at this year's Bury Lit Fest!

With books that are rich in storytelling, adventure and timeless themes this will be a session suitable for all ages with a focus on their beautiful collaboration novels for middle-grade (8-12), ***Julia and the Shark*** (shortlisted for the *Waterstones Book of the Year*) and ***Leila and the Blue Fox*** (Winner of *The Wainwright Prize*) – books that inspire young people to engage with the natural world in the face of climate change.

Undoubtedly Kiran will talk a bit about books in her new *Geomancer* trilogy ***In the Shadow of The Wolf Queen*** and ***The Storm and The Sea Hawk***, and her novels for children and young people, including the award winning ***The Girl of Ink and Stars***.



Kiran Millwood Hargrave was born in Surrey in 1990, and her earliest ambition was to be a cat – closely followed by a cat-owner, or the first woman on Mars. She has achieved only one of these things, but discovered that being a writer lets you imagine whatever you want.

W: www.kiranmillwoodhargrave.com **IG:** @kiran_mh **X:** @Kiran_MH

Tom de Freston is an artist and writer based in Oxford. **IG:** @tomdefrestonart

TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 12 noon

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: PAY WHAT YOU CAN

AGE SUITABILITY: Children 5-13 years & their grown-ups.

Saturday 12th October



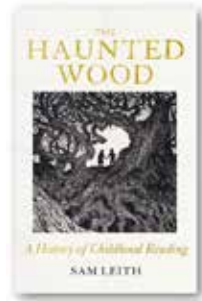
7

NON-FICTION

1.30
pm

Saturday 12th October

The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading



In a pioneering history of children's literature, from the ancient world to the present day, **Sam Leith** reveals the magic of our most cherished stories, and the ways in which they have shaped and consoled entire generations.

Excavating the complex lives of beloved writers, Leith offers a humane portrait of a genre – one acutely sensitive to its authors' distinct contexts.

Sam Leith is the literary editor of the *Spectator* and the author of several books including *You Talkin' To Me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Trump and Beyond...* and *Write To The Point: How to Be Clear, Correct and Persuasive on the Page*.

X: @questingvole



TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 1.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

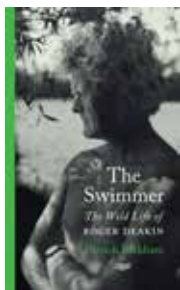
AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ although younger children are welcome.

Some colouring will be provided for children and babes in arms are encouraged

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.

NON-FICTION



The Swimmer: The Wild Life of Roger Deakin

3.00
pm

Saturday 12th October

We are delighted to welcome the brilliant **Patrick Barkham** back to the festival. This time Patrick will be talking about his most recent book, *The Swimmer*, which recounts the wild life of Suffolk-based Roger Deakin.



PHOTO: MARCUS GARRETT

Roger Deakin wrote the nature writing classics *Waterlog* and *Wildwood*. But before he painstakingly restored his ancient farmhouse on the edge of Mellis common in Suffolk, he was also a maverick ad-man and seller of stripped-pine furniture. Later he became an inspirational teacher, filmmaker, music promoter and eco-warrior. Today, he lives on as the patron saint of wild swimming.

In this original, captivating biography, Patrick conjures up Roger's voice to tell the romantic and sometimes troubled story of his life.

Patrick Barkham is an award-winning author and natural history writer for the *Guardian*. He is the author of eight books including *The Butterfly Isles*, *Badgerlands*, *Wild Child* and *The Swimmer*. He is President of Norfolk Wildlife Trust and lives in Norfolk with his family.

TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 3pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 16+

Some content might be sensitive for younger audience members.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylifefest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.



9

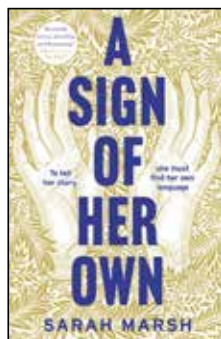
HISTORICAL FICTION

4.30
pm

Saturday 12th October

A Sign of Her Own

Sarah Marsh in conversation
with Megan Reynard



We are very excited to introduce debut author **Sarah Marsh**, author of the acclaimed novel *A Sign of Her Own*; a mesmerising tale of historical fiction that follows a deaf former student of Alexander Graham Bell as she learns to reclaim her own authentic voice.

Ellen Lark is on the verge of marriage when she and her fiancé receive an unexpected visit from Alexander Graham Bell. Ellen knows immediately what Bell really wants from her. Ellen is deaf, and for a time was Bell's student in a technique called *Visible Speech*. As he instructed her in speaking, Bell also confided in her about his dream of producing a device which would transmit the human voice along a wire: the telephone. Now, on the cusp of wealth and renown, Bell wants Ellen to speak up in support of his claim to the patent to the telephone, which is being challenged by rivals. But Ellen has a different story to tell: that of how Bell betrayed her, and other deaf pupils, in pursuit of ambition and personal gain, and cut Ellen off from a community in which she had come to feel truly at home. It is a story no one around Ellen seems to want to hear, but there may never be a more important time for her to tell it.

TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 4.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children are welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.

10

**BSL
INTERPRETED
AND CAPTIONED
EVENT**



Megan Reynard is a secondary school English teacher and lover of literature. She has recently started learning BSL to better support her deaf and hard of hearing students, so promoting deaf voices in literature is something she feels is important.



Sarah Marsh was shortlisted for the *Lucy Cavendish* prize in 2019 and selected for the *London Library Emerging Writers* programme in 2020. ***A Sign of Her Own*** is her first novel, inspired by her experiences of growing up deaf and her family's history of deafness. She lives in London.

X: @SarahCMarsh

IG: @SarahMarshWrites

Saturday 12th October



Bury St. Edmunds
Literature Festival



11

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

6.00
pm

Saturday 12th October

It's A Family Affair

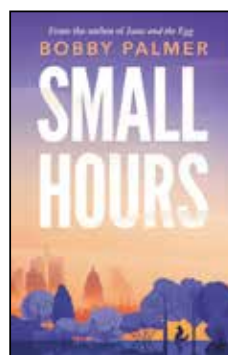
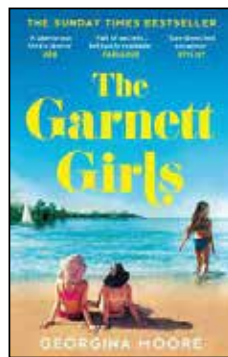
Georgina Moore & Bobby Palmer
in conversation with Kate Sawyer

Leo Tolstoy is often quoted for the famous line from *Anna Karenina*:

**“Happy families are all alike;
every unhappy family
is unhappy in its own way.”**

Why do so many authors love to explore the difficult dynamics of families?

We are delighted to be ruminating on this conundrum with two of the most exciting voices writing family drama in the UK today. Best-selling authors **Georgina Moore**, author of *The Garnett Girls* and **Bobby Palmer**, author of *Small Hours* and *Isaac and The Egg* will be in conversation with **Kate Sawyer**, author of *This Family* discussing family dynamics, sibling rivalry, parents who have quite simply had enough and why we can't seem to get enough of reading about the trials and tribulations of other people's families!



TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 6pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children are welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

12

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.



Bobby Palmer is an author and journalist. His critically acclaimed debut novel, *Isaac and the Egg*, was published in 2022 and was a *Waterstones Paperback of the Year*. He co-hosted the literary podcast *Book Chat* with Pandora Sykes, and his writing has appeared in *GQ*, *Esquire*, *Men's Health*, *Cosmopolitan* and more. His second novel, *Small Hours*, is out now.

W: <https://www.bobbypalmer.co.uk>
IG: @thebobpalmer **X:** @thebobpalmer



Georgina Moore is an award-winning book publicist who has worked in the publishing industry for twenty years. She has worked with a huge variety of authors across all genres and at all stages of their careers – from debuts to household names. Her most recent PR campaign for Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* has won the *FutureBook* and *PPC awards* for campaign of the year and is *Nibbies* nominated. *The Garnett Girls* is Georgina's first novel and is set on the Isle of Wight where Georgina and her family have a holiday houseboat called *Sturdy*.

W: www.georginamoore.co.uk
IG: @georginamooreauthor **X:** @PublicityBooks



Kate Sawyer worked as an actor and producer, and wrote several short films before turning her hand to fiction. She is the author of *This Family* (*Waterstones Book Of The Month*) and *The Stranding* (shortlisted for the *Costa First Novel Award*, winner *East Anglian fiction prize*, *BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime*, *BBC2 Between The Covers*). Her third novel, *Getting Away*, will be published in July 2025. When Kate isn't writing, or talking to other authors about their writing practices for her podcast *Novel Experience* and as a chair for author events, she works as the Programme Curator for the annual Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival.

W: www.mskatesawyer.com
IG: @mskatesawyer **X:** @katesawyer



7.30
pm

Saturday 12th October

A Working Relationship

Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Tom De Freston
in conversation with Bury St Edmunds Literature
Festival Chair and Founder Julia Wakelam

In 2020, artist **Tom de Freston** and his award-winning poet and novelist wife **Kiran Millwood Hargrave** (author of *Sunday Times* bestselling *The Mercies* and *The Dance Tree*) discovered they were expecting twins. But Kiran miscarried, and thus began a long journey to parenthood that saw the loss of six more pregnancies.

Addressed directly to Kiran, Tom's latest book *Strange Bodies* is an intimate, authentic, and powerfully moving account of a loving relationship that is part memoir and part exploration of the work of artists from Titian and Francis Bacon to Braca Ettinger and Gerhard Richter.

Kiran's most recent novel for adults, *The Dance Tree*, though exploring a real-life event the Strasbourg dancing plague of 1518 is also woven through with her response to their losses. And together, during those difficult years of trying to grow their family, they collaborated as author and illustrator on two hugely popular books for children.

Join us for an intimate discussion with two renowned artists as we explore their work, they open-up about how their relationship intersects with their writing and what it really means to be in a working relationship.

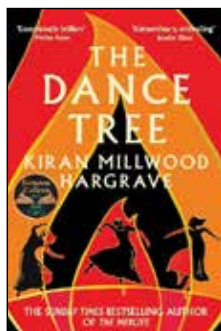




PHOTO: KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE



Kiran Millwood Hargrave is an award-winning poet, playwright, and novelist. An author, playwright and poet, she is best known for her award-winning children's fiction, including her bestselling debut, *The Girl of Ink and Stars*, (Waterstones Children's Book Prize), *Julia and the Shark* (Waterstones Children's Gift of The Year) and *Leila and the Blue Fox* (The Wainwright Prize for Children's Fiction). Her historical adult fiction *The Mercies* (The Sunday Times Bestseller, Betty Trask Award 2021, Le Prix Rive Gauche à Paris Finalist for the Prix Femina, shortlisted for the Prix des Lecteurs, Longlisted for Not the Booker Prize) and *The Dance Tree* (HWA Gold Crown Award and picked for the BBC2 Between The Covers) have brought her vivid storytelling to older readers, bringing true historical events to life with women's experiences at the forefront.

W: www.kiranmillwoodhargrave.com

IG: @kiran_mh **X:** @Kiran_MH

Tom de Freston is an artist and writer based in Oxford. He is the author of *Wreck: Géricault's Raft* and the *Art of Being Lost at Sea* and *Strange Bodies: A Story of Loss and Desire* and the illustrator of *Julia and the Shark* (Waterstones Children's Gift of The Year) and *Leila and the Blue Fox* (The Wainwright Prize for Children's Fiction) and *Skellig: the 25th Anniversary Illustrated Edition*.

IG: @tomdefrestonart

TIME: Saturday 12th October 2024 7.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £12.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £10.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 16+

Some content might be sensitive for younger audience members.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.

Saturday 12th October



15

10.30
am

Sunday 13th October

Witchspark: Create Your Own Fantasy Fiction

Join **Dominique Valente**, Suffolk-based author of the magical *Starfell* series in this fun and completely interactive event to inspire budding writers to create their own fantasy worlds.



Step into the magical Isles of Britain, an alternative pre-Victorian Britain where bathing huts move, hats are enchanted, and some houses are alive! Hear how fun it was to imagine an alternative historical magical Britain and how the fashion, technology and curious practices of the times were given a magical tilt for Dominique's new series, ***Witchspark***.

Inspired partially by the real one-armed Admiral Nelson, ***Witchspark*** features a main character with a limb difference like Dominique. Dominique will explain how being born with one hand is a kind of unexpected superpower before inviting children to create their own magical power with a built-in challenge to make for a more interesting story. Dominique will then help children create a portal into a fantasy world of their own imagination. For a fantastic finale, children will vote for their favourite magical power, portal and world!



Dominique Valente is the author of the bestselling *Starfell* series. She was born in South Africa, and has one hand. Her disability has inspired her latest magical series ***Witchspark*** which is set in Suffolk where she lives.

W: dominiquevalente.com **IG:** @dominiquevalente **X:** @domrosevalente

TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 10.30am

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmund

TICKETS: PAY WHAT YOU CAN

AGE SUITABILITY: Children 8-12 years & their grown-ups.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Harris & Harris Books



- New and old books for readers of all ages
- Free gift wrapping
- Books posted
- Gift certificates available
- 1000s of new titles
- Fast book-ordering service
- Bookshop lock-ins
- Bookish gifts
- Cards



01787 277267

www.harrisharris.co.uk

3a High Street, Clare, Suffolk CO10 8NY

12.00
noon

Sunday 13th October

In All Weathers

We are delighted to welcome back local author **Matt Gaw**, to talk about his new book *In All Weathers*, in which Matt embarks on a series of walks across Britain – through rain, fog, wind, ice and snow – to look again at our most widely accessed experience of the natural world, exploring where our weather comes from, the ways it is changing, and how we can embrace it as a positive presence in our lives.



All too often our weather is simply deemed as good (sunny) or bad (anything else), and our likelihood of venturing outside is governed by that simplistic judgement. But inclement weather can be beautiful, sublime, even fun. It transforms the light, textures and colours of a landscape and influences our mood and behaviour. It has inspired poets and artists, seeped into our language and folklore, and fundamentally shaped our way of life on these isles. It allows new worlds to emerge, shrouded in fog, splintered by ice and refreshed by rain.

Matt Gaw is a writer, journalist and secondary school English teacher, who lives in Suffolk, and is the author of the acclaimed *The Pull of the River; A Journey into the Wild and Watery Heart of Britain* and *Under the Stars; A Journey into Light*. His journalism has been published in the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph*, the *Times* and *Countryfile* magazine.



PHOTO: JEN LEAVY

TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 12pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children are welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.

The Suspense is Killing Us

Join Suffolk authors **Phoebe Morgan** and **JM Hewitt** as they talk with **Georgie Jamieson** about their most recent novels, *The Trip* and *The Perfect Village*, why they write in the genre they do and what it takes to ramp up the ordinary to the extraordinary (and often bloody!) with a series of twists and turns that keep readers on the edge of their seat.



1.30
pm

Sunday 13th October



PHOTO: MARK GUEST

Phoebe Morgan is a bestselling author and award-winning editor. Her five thrillers *The Doll House*, *The Girl Next Door*, *The Babysitter*, *The Wild Girls* and *The Trip* can be read in any order, and one of her short stories is currently being adapted into a short film. Her books have sold over 250,000 copies worldwide and been translated into 10 languages. She is also the Commercial Fiction Publishing Director at *Hodder & Stoughton* and has worked with a range of *Sunday Times* and *Kindle* bestsellers including Sophie Hannah, Abigail Dean, Cara Hunter, Stephanie Garber, Lucy Score, CL

Taylor, Alan Titchmarsh and Catherine Cooper, and is passionate about finding new voices. In 2022 she was shortlisted for *Editor of the Year* at the *British Book Awards*; in 2021 she was awarded the *Bookseller Shooting Star* award; and in 2018 she won a *Trailblazer Award* in association with the *London Book Fair*.

W: www.phoebemorganauthor.com

X: @Phoebe_A_Morgan **IG:** @phoebeanmorgan

FB: @PhoebeMorganAuthor

J.M. Hewitt is a crime and psychological thriller author. Her work has also been published in three short story anthologies. Her writing combines the complexity of human behaviour with often enchanting settings. In contrast to the sometimes dark content of her books, she lives a very nice life in a seaside town in Suffolk with her dog, Marley.

IG: @j.mhewitt **X:** @jmhewitt



PHOTO: VICTORIA HILL

TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 1.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 16+ Some content may be sensitive for younger audience members.

CRIME/MYSTERY FICTION

This event is in **The Guildhall**

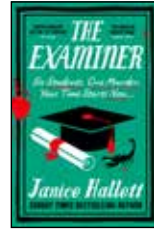
3.00
pm

Sunday 13th October

Janice Hallett

in conversation with Nicola Upson

We are so excited to welcome best-selling author **Janice Hallett** in conversation with BLF Patron **Nicola Upson**, talking about her most recent novel ***The Examiner***, writing crime and mystery, and the journey to achieving four best-sellers, multiple award wins and a world-wide fandom in only five short years!



This event is generously sponsored by **Bedfords Estate Agents**

ESTABLISHED 1966

Janice Hallett is the author of four best-selling novels. Her debut, ***The Appeal***, was awarded the *CWA Debut Dagger* of 2021 and was a *Sunday Times* Best-seller, *Waterstones* Thriller of the Month and *Sunday Times* Crime Book of the Month. Her second novel ***The Twyford Code*** was *Crime & Thriller Book of the Year* in the *British Book Awards* 2023. ***The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels*** was an instant *Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller on its launch, as was her novella ***The Christmas Appeal***. Her latest novel ***The Examiner*** was published in August.

IG: @janice.hallett **X:** @janicehallett

PHOTO: GAIA BANKS



Nicola Upson was born in Suffolk and read English at Downing College, Cambridge. She has worked in theatre and as a freelance journalist, and is the author of two non-fiction works and the recipient of an *Escalator Award* from the *Arts Council England*. Her debut novel, ***An Expert in Murder***, was the first in a series of crime novels whose main character is Josephine Tey, who – along with Agatha Christie – was one of the masters of Britain's golden age of crime writing. Nicola was shortlisted for the *CWA Historical Dagger* in 2018 for ***Nine Lessons***, and was longlisted in 2021 for ***The Dead of Winter***. She is also the author of ***Stanley and Elsie*** inspired by the life of artist Stanley Spencer

IG: @nicolaupson **X:** @nicolaupsonbook



TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 3pm

VENUE: The Guildhall, Guildhall St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1PR

TICKETS: Standard £12.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £10.00, Under 18s FREE

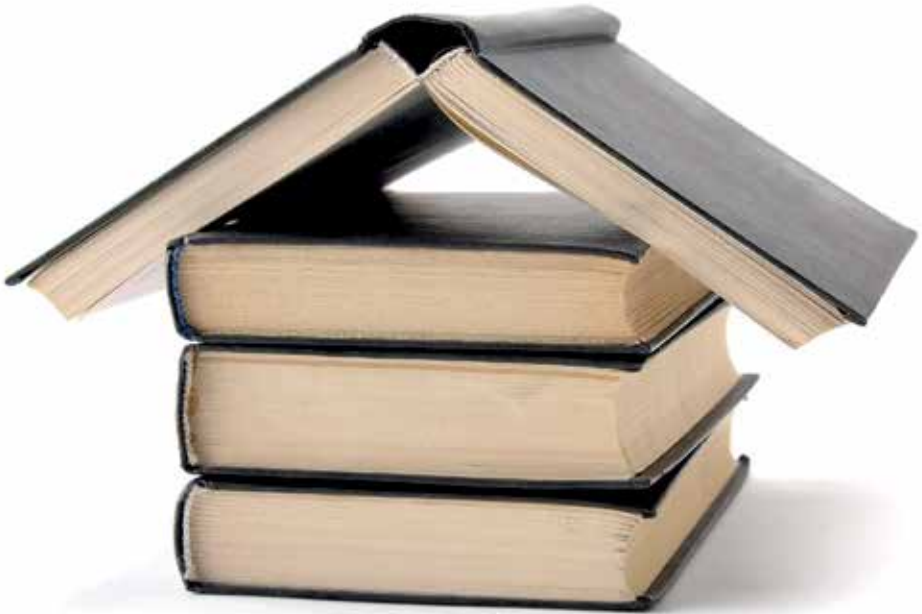
AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

20

*"A house without books is like
a room without windows."*

Horace Mann



Whether you are looking for a bigger library or a country
retreat to write a masterpiece, call us on 01284 769 999.

Bedfords

ESTABLISHED 1966

'UNSURPASSED IN EAST ANGLIA'

LEGAL 500 (UK)



Discover our exceptional team at
www.greene-greene.com

01284 762 211 | mail@greene-greene.com | [@greeneandgreene](https://www.instagram.com/greeneandgreene)
80 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QB

**GREENE
& GREENE**
SOLICITORS

Jill Dawson in conversation with Margaret Meyer

We are delighted to welcome local author **Jill Dawson** to Bury St Edmunds Festival. Jill is the author of eleven novels, one poetry collection and the editor of six anthologies of poetry and stories. She is a Fellow of the *Royal Society of Literature* and has been a *Costa* Judge, and taught creative writing in many different settings. Join us as we talk to Jill about the scope of her career, her work and her most recent novel. ***The Bewitching*** tells the 16th century true story of a nine year old girl who playfully accuses a neighbour in her fenland village of being a witch and sets in motion a shocking train of events.



4:30
pm

Sunday 13th October



PHOTO: ANDI SAPEY

Jill Dawson is the award-winning author of eleven novels, all published by *Sceptre*. They include ***The Bewitching***, ***Fred and Edie*** (shortlisted for the *Costa and Orange Prize*) and ***The Great Lover***, which was a best-seller and *Richard and Judy* pick. Her novel ***The Crime Writer***, about the novelist Patricia Highsmith, won the *East Anglian Book of the Year* in 2016 and is in development as a mini series. Jill founded and runs *Gold Dust*, a mentoring scheme for writers. Her new novel, ***Pixie***, about a psychic and tarot artist of the early twentieth century, will be published by *Bloomsbury* in 2025.

W: jilldawson.co.uk **IG:** [@jilldawsonauthor](https://www.instagram.com/jilldawsonauthor) **X:** [@jdawsonwriter](https://twitter.com/jdawsonwriter)



PHOTO: JOANNE COATES

Margaret Meyer has an MA in prose fiction from the University of East Anglia and her work has appeared in a variety of literary publications. Her best selling debut novel, ***The Witching Tide***, was inspired by England's deadliest witch hunt, which swept across East Anglia in 1644-6 and claimed the lives of many innocent women. Margaret was born in New Zealand and now lives in Norwich with her family.

W: margaretmeyer.co.uk **IG** [@margaretmeyer_author](https://www.instagram.com/margaretmeyer_author)

TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 4.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children are welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.



6.00
pm

Sunday 13th October

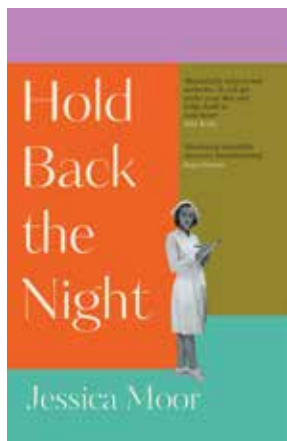
Ascending Stars

in conversation with Kate Sawyer

As well as celebrating well-known names, it is one of the Bury Lit Fest's aims to introduce new authors. Last year we gave the stage to four authors with East Anglia connections at the very start of their careers.

This year we are excited to profile two authors, **Kirsty Capes** and **Jessica Moor**, who have recently released their third novels ***Girls*** and ***Hold Back The Night*** which are being hailed as 'breakthrough novels' and look set to give both authors a bright future on the literary stage.

This event is a great opportunity to see two authors on the brink of stardom, hear about their craft, publication journey and, of course, as we delve into the meat of their new novels, discover two really good reads!



TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 6pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £10.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £8.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 16+

Some content might be sensitive for younger audience members

We advise booking all tickets, including those free of charge in advance from www.burylitfest.co.uk. Tickets may be available to purchase on the door for some events, but is not guaranteed.



PHOTO: SOPHIE DAVIDSON

Kirsty Capes works in marketing and lives in Slough with her golden retriever, Doug. She holds a PhD from Brunel University London; her thesis investigates representations of the care experience in contemporary British fiction. Her first novel, *Careless*, was longlisted for the *Women's Prize* 2022. *Girls* is her third novel.

IG: @kirstycapes.author **X:** @kirstycapes



Jessica Moor studied English at Cambridge before completing a Creative Writing MA at Manchester University. She was selected as one of the *Observer's* debut novelists of 2020, and her debut, *Keeper* was chosen by the *Sunday Times*, *Independent* and *Cosmopolitan* as one of their top debuts of the year. *Keeper* was nominated for the *Desmond Elliott Prize* and an *Edgar Award*. *Young Women* was her acclaimed second novel, her third novel *Hold Back The Night* was published in May 2024. Jessica is based in Brixton, South London.

W: www.jessicamoore.com

IG: @ms_jessica_moor **X:** @jessicamoore



PHOTO: SOPHIE DAVIDSON

Kate Sawyer worked as an actor and producer, and wrote several short films before turning her hand to fiction. She is the author of *This Family* (*Waterstones Book Of The Month*) and *The Stranding* (shortlisted for the *Costa First Novel Award*, winner *East Anglian fiction prize*, *BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime*, *BBC2 Between The Covers*). Her third novel, *Getting Away*, will be published in July 2025. When Kate isn't writing, or talking to other authors about their writing practices for her podcast *Novel Experience* and as a chair for author events, she works at the Programme Curator for the annual Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival.

W: www.mskatesawyer.com

IG: @mskatesawyer **X:** @katesawyer



7.30
pm

Sunday 13th October

Clare Chambers

in conversation with Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival Chair and Founder Julia Wakelam

It had been ten years since **Clare Chambers** last novel when *Small Pleasures* was published in 2021. It was long-listed for the Women's Prize, being selected for *BBC Two's 'Between the Covers' Book Club*, *BBC Radio 4's Book at Bedtime*, being named *Book of the Year* by *Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Red*, *Prima*, *Evening Standard*, *Spectator* and *Daily Express* and led to the re-edition of her wonderful backlist.



Now, Clare returns with *Shy Creatures*, a life-affirming novel about all the different ways we can be confined, how ordinary lives are built of delicate layers of experience, the joy of freedom and the transformative power of kindness.

Clare Chambers was born in Croydon in 1966 and studied English at Hertford College, Oxford. After graduating she lived for a year in New Zealand where she wrote her first novel *Uncertain Terms* at the age of 22. On her return to the UK she started her first job in publishing at *Andre Deutsch Ltd*, while Diana Athill was still at the helm. It took her a year to work up the courage to show them *Uncertain Terms* and they published it in 1992 when she was 25. In due course she became an editor there. The unconventional working practices are described in *The Editor's Wife*. Her 2021 novel *Small Pleasures* was longlisted for the *Women's Prize for Fiction*. She has three grown-up children and lives in South London with her husband.



ANNA MCCARTHY PHOTOGRAPHY

X: @ClareDChambers

TIME: Sunday 13th October 2024 7.30pm

VENUE: Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

TICKETS: Standard £12.00, Concessions (Student, Benefits) £10.00, Under 18s FREE

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+ Younger children are welcome if accompanied.

Children under the age of 12 years must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Support Us

Year on year, our festival is made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and donors. We are very grateful for any financial support to help us organise a full programme of events and community outreach.

Our supporters scheme has three levels:

FRIEND, SUPPORTER and SPONSOR

which are suitable for both individual and corporate giving and boast excellent benefits in return for your donation.

Friend of Bury Lit Fest £30 donation

Become a **Friend of Bury Lit Fest** and your contributions will allow us to continue offering discounted tickets to under 25s and those on benefits, as well as free events for children and young people under 18.

Benefits:

- Dedicated friends-only e-newsletters with advance news
- An advance copy of the printed programme by post
- Priority booking in advance of general sales
- 5% off tickets during priority booking period
- Invitations to celebration events

Supporter of Bury Lit Fest £50 donation

Become a **Supporter of Bury Lit Fest** and your contributions will go towards helping to ensure we can continue to bring exciting writers from near and far to Bury St Edmunds.

- Dedicated friends-only e-newsletters with advance news
- An advance copy of the printed programme by post
- Priority booking in advance of general sales
- 10% discount off during priority booking period
- Complimentary drink & slice of cake during festival
- Invitations to celebration events

Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities

Sponsors & Advertisers enable the festival to pursue growth and build foundations for a future for the festival. Please contact us to discuss possibilities for sponsorship and advertising.

To find out more visit: burylitfest.co.uk/supporters-scheme

W: burylitfest.co.uk **IG:** @burylitfestival **F:** @BuryLitFest **X:** @BuryLit



Bury St. Edmunds *Literature Festival*



BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE FROM WWW.BURLITFEST.CO.UK
Purchase on the door may be possible but is not guaranteed

- Standard £12/10/8
- Students, Under 25s and those in receipt of benefits ... £10/8/6
- Under 18s **FREE**
- Events for children **PAY WHAT YOU CAN**

Children under 14 years must be accompanied by a paying adult

Read full terms and conditions: <https://www.burylitfest.co.uk/terms-and-conditions>

The Trustees of the Unitarian Meeting House are proud to sponsor Bury St. Edmunds Literature Festival

There's always
pressure to conform...
Unitarians offer a
thoughtful alternative

We meet at 3pm on the 1st and 3rd
Sundays of each month.

**Experience the unique
atmosphere of our
Meeting House on
Churchgate Street as a
special place to stretch the
mind, and warm the heart & soul.**

www.umhburystedmunds.com

Unitarian Meeting House

Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RH

