

18 - 20 SEPTEMBER


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 DARTMOUTH
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BOOKSHOP



DARTMOUTH
BOOK FESTIVAL
2026

The Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth

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A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are delighted to bring you Dartmouth Book Festival 2026.

The Book Festival Committee has been working hard to create a varied programme for you to enjoy, and we are very pleased that the festival is building on the success of previous years and is developing a good reputation.

Our dedicated committee is made up entirely of volunteers, and they have given countless hours of their time and have been working alongside Flavel staff on the programme, marketing, organisation of volunteers, fringe events and our pop-up **Festival Bookshop**.

The Festival Bookshop is new this year; you will find it in the Flavel Studio on the top floor, for the duration of the festival – a place to browse - and where the authors will be signing books following their sessions.

The children's programme has expanded this year, and events will be taking place at Dartmouth Academy to enable the maximum number of students possible to benefit from activities.

We are very grateful to our partners: Browser Books, Dartmouth Community Bookshop, Dartmouth Library and the Flavel Church for their input and support and to all our amazing supporters, in particular Alec and Sue Smith and Colwinston Charitable Trust.

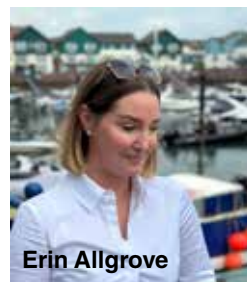
We hope that you enjoy this year's line-up, which is full of interesting speakers and events, and we hope to see you again next time!



Lindsay Ellwood



Julia Churchley



Erin Allgrove



Ann Green

With grateful thanks to everyone on the festival committee, including Rhiannon James. Also Browser Books, Dartmouth Community Bookshop, Dartmouth Library, Karl & Deborah Stone at the Flavel Church, Michael Sells, Alison Seldon, Donna Watson, Mick Jones, Janette Geddes, Morag Fowler, Jess Westerman and all the wonderful volunteers who support us in so many ways.

GEOPOLITICS

**ARTHUR SNELL: ELEMENTAL**

In **Elemental**, Arthur describes how the climate crisis is already affecting the lives of millions of people. As natural disasters and increased scarcity shake the established world order to its core, he reveals that an alternative future is still possible. In this groundbreaking study he visits rapidly changing societies to show how we can live on a warming planet. He presents a vision in which Africa powers Europe with solar energy, autocratic oil states are no more, and new shipping routes across the melting Arctic bring Asia, Europe and North America closer than ever.

'An extraordinary mastery of geopolitics, combining years on the ground in the most challenging places, a raw instinct for politics and a deep ethical concern for the world in the face of climate catastrophe. A masterpiece.' RORY STEWART

Arthur Snell will be in conversation with Mary Nightingale

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Fri 18 Sep 10am-11am Auditorium £12

WRITER'S WALK

**DARTMOUTH WRITER'S WALK: JONATHAN TURNER**

A guided walk visiting places where Dartmouth writers lived and worked. Hear stories of a non-conformist preacher, banned from Dartmouth, whose sermons are still in print today; of a Victorian politician and inventor who wrote a gothic ghost story, about Dartmouth's Gomerock Tower. Listen to poems about the River Dart, and Townstal Church, by a Dartmouth artist and see his painting of the Governor of Dartmouth Castle in the Guildhall. See Flora Thomson's house with its stunning harbour views, where she wrote her trilogy Larkrise to Candleford, and Christopher Milne's (aka Robin) bookshop, a Dartmouth landmark for over 30 years. Visit the grave of a Medieval merchant and privateer, the inspiration for Chaucer's Shipman's Tale and more.....

The walk is 1.25 miles long and will involve two short climbs up to wonderful viewpoints, and some steep steps down again!

Fri 18 & Sat 19 Sep 11.30-1pm Meet in Foyer £5



DANIEL STABLES: FIESTA

Daniel Stables is a travel writer and guidebook author based in the UK, specializing in regions such as Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Southern Europe. He has authored or contributed to over 30 travel books for various publishers, including Rough Guides and DK Eyewitness, and writes for outlets like BBC Travel and National Geographic Traveller.

Fiesta explores the vibrant tapestry of human festivity, delving into the extraordinary lengths to which we go to express our cultures and commemorate life's milestones. From drunken pilgrimages to sacrificial funerals, national days to neo-pagan necromancy, festivals represent human culture at its most vivid and varied.

Daniel Stables will be in conversation with Martin Hesp

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Fri 18 Sep 11.30am-12.30pm Auditorium £12



JEREMY HUNT: CAN WE BE RICH AGAIN?

Is Britain stuck in a doom loop of higher debt and higher taxes? Or can we fix the British economy? In **Can We Be Rich Again?** Jeremy Hunt argues that getting out of Britain's low growth is a solvable problem, and that we should approach the country's economic future with optimism.

Hunt asks the key questions: How deliverable are the changes we need by a Labour, Conservative or Reform government? How do we get the economy growing despite dangerous levels of debt? How do we sell long term reforms when our leaders have so little political capital? But countering pessimism needs realistic plans that politicians can actually deliver, and that the majority of the electorate can get behind.

Jeremy Hunt will be in conversation with John Suchet.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Fri 18 Sep 2pm-3pm Auditorium £15

POETRY



THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE

In this session, members of Dartmouth Poetry Group invite you to share their love of poetry.

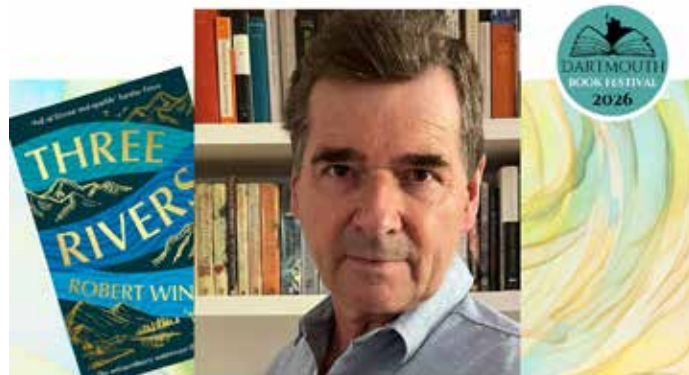
They will be giving readings from **The Owl and the Nightingale**, a lively medieval poem, translated by Simon Armitage. The poem features a humorous debate between an owl and a nightingale, discussing topics such as identity and culture.

Dartmouth Poetry Group are poetry enthusiasts who meet monthly at The Flavel. New members are always welcome to come and share in their love of poetry.

This event takes place in the Library on the ground floor

Fri 18 Sep 2pm-3pm Library FREE

CULTURE / HISTORY



ROBERT WINDER: THREE RIVERS

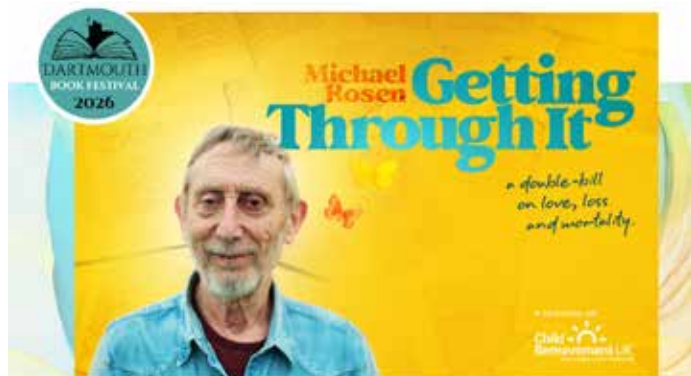
Robert was Literary Editor of the Independent (where he ran the Foreign Fiction Award for translated novels) and Deputy Editor of Granta. He is the author of many titles (fiction and non-fiction).

Three Rivers: the Rhine, the Rhone and the Po. Each one coursing down from a single patch of Alpine ice in the jagged heights of Switzerland. Together they gave birth to three different European cultures – German, French and Italian. The very heart of Western Europe – its languages, religion and agriculture, its science, politics and art – has been nourished by these waters. This book traces the rivers' journeys, revealing in shimmering detail their impact on Europe's rich history as they flow towards the sea.

'Full of flavour and sparkle.' The Sunday Times

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Fri 18 Sep 3.45pm-4.45pm Auditorium £12



MICHAEL ROSEN: GETTING THROUGH IT

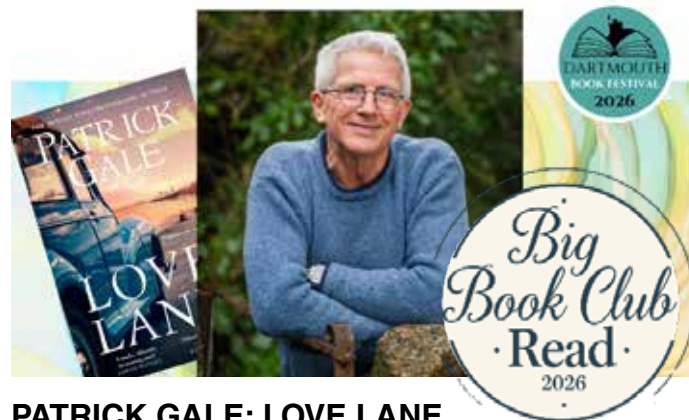
Getting Through It is a powerful, deeply personal yet universally relatable, double bill of monologues and poetry. In the first part, **The Death of Eddie**, Michael explores his experience after losing his 18-year-old son to meningitis, recalling the strange and contradictory mix of emotions felt after the unexpected loss. This story, memorably captured in Michael's children's book *The Sad Book*, is told in vivid and poetic detail.

In the second part, **Many Kinds of Love**, Michael recounts his 48-day period in intensive care, after contracting COVID-19 early in the pandemic, and having to face his own mortality. Both stories are told with Michael's signature positivity, humour and poetry. Together, the two pieces are a testimony to the spirit of recovery.

"Simple yet powerfully affecting, it is a remarkable event"
West End Best Friend

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Fri 18 Sep 7pm-8.40pm Auditorium £25



PATRICK GALE: LOVE LANE

From beloved, bestselling author Patrick Gale comes a searing portrayal of escape and the power of love, home and a family.

Love Lane is a brilliant new stand-alone novel featuring characters from Patrick's Costa-shortlisted novel *A Place Called Winter*.

1950s Northern England. Three generations of men, two of women. When veteran Canadian wheat farmer, Harry Cane is brutally obliged to sell up and sail home to an England transformed by two world wars, his arrival triggers unwelcome self-examination for the family he abandoned, and for whom he has never been more than a distant myth. The book takes us from the rural plains of Canada to 1950s Liverpool and Yorkshire.

Join in with this year's Big Book Club Read - Love Lane.

Patrick Gale will be in conversation with Sophie Pierce.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 10am-11am Auditorium £15



ERIN ALLGROVE: BOSUN BOB

Bob and his feline friend have escaped shipwreck and are off on a nautical treasure hunt. They meet many friendly animals along the way who guide them to an oceanic volcano where the treasure is hidden and guarded by a mysterious creature. Will the friends find the treasure, will they escape the volcano?!

"This beautifully written tale is the perfect sequel to Bosun Bob The Salty Old Sea Dog. Created by Erin Allgrove and beautifully illustrated by Emily Langstaff Ellis this book and the creatures inside will really capture the imagination of children and adults alike, perfect for reading together."

Yachting Monthly Magazine.

From 10.30am to 12.30 there will also be a FREE parent-led crafting session in the library, all children must be accompanied.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 10.30am-11.30am Library FREE



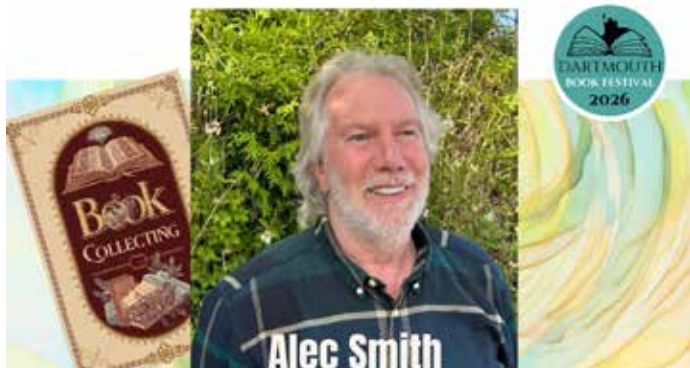
FAMILY HISTORY AS INSPIRATION FOR WRITING

Alison is an only child, of two only children and so has always felt a distinct lack of family. This inspired her to research her family history and led her to write her debut novel 'The Glass Bulldog' based on the true story of one of her ancestors, which was nominated for the Walter Scott prize for Historical Fiction in 2019. '**Dance A Fearful Jig**', her third historical novel, was published in January 2024.

Alison has a degree in Humanities with Literature and has always enjoyed reading. In September 2021 she set up the South Hams Authors Network—an organisation which supports and promotes the work of Devon writers: a free, informal group which meets on a monthly basis and has a devoted and loyal following. The group have been involved in book readings at libraries and shops, stalls at local fayres, radio interviews and local newspaper articles.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 11.30am-12.30pm Library FREE



ACQUISITION OF AN AFFORDABLE COLLECTION - ALEC SMITH

Alec has a passion for books. He collects rare books, first editions, as well as letters and original documents. He has amassed an amazing collection of books over the years including some unique Tolkien and JK Rowling editions. A recent acquisition is a letter written by Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson a week before the Battle of Trafalgar eerily predicting his own death.

Alec will discuss how to put together a book collection without necessarily draining monetary resources, with newscaster, presenter and author **John Suchet**. He will also talk about what first inspired him, his successes and failures, joys and disappointments

Sat 19 Sep 11.30am-12.30 Flavel Church £7.50



ROSIE NIXON: BAD INFLUENCE

Rosie is a visionary leader, author and coach, with 16 years as the award-winning Editor-in-Chief of HELLO! plus five published books, Rosie brings a rich media expertise to her work.

In **Bad Influence**, following an eventful stint styling Manhattan's elite, Amber Green is back in London ready to style her biggest client yet. Superstar influencer Mandy Sykes is all-American and all-wrong for her new Surrey surroundings. Desperate to endear herself to the British upper crust, and win a new fanbase, the brash celebrity tasks Amber with providing all the smoke and mirrors she might need. With only twelve weeks to prove her worth – and to earn the bonus which will secure her dream flat – Amber's biggest challenge is to keep her flats firmly on the ground. But when your new boss has a private life as colourful as her designer wardrobe, and a brother-in-law whose ridiculously good looks can't help but catch your eye, it becomes hard to tell who's a genuine influencer, and who is simply a bad influence.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 11.45am-12.45 Auditorium £12

POETRY SLAM

**POETRY SLAM - JACKIE JUNO**

Jackie is a multiple Poetry Slam champion (& the only person to have won the coveted Glastonbury Festival Poetry Slam twice-2017 & 2024)! She has created several multi-media one-woman shows, including 'CANCER DANCER-My Quirky Quest for a Cure', a comedic extravaganza written during her chemotherapy treatment in 2022. Her material is hilarious, but also tender, confessional and occasionally ranting against the injustices of the world.

Jackie, along with the inimitable Ed Tripp, will be hosting Dartmouth's first ever **Poetry Slam** to find the best Performance Poet 2026! There will be a cash prize of £100 for the winner, who will have to battle through several rounds of exciting, nail-biting performances to prove worthy of the title. The audience gets to judge who they want to win. Open to anyone over 16.

Poets need to contact jackiejuno63@gmail.com to apply.

Sat 19 Sep 2pm-4pm Auditorium £5

ENVIRONMENT

**JULIAN CARNELL: BECOMING THE OCEAN**

Julian has been Director of The Sharpham Trust for over 10 years. The Trust owns a historic estate on the banks of the river, downstream from Totnes offering mindfulness retreats with a focus on reconnecting people to the natural world. Three years ago he helped create the Wild Dart Partnership to bring together over twenty organisations, landowners and community groups with the aim of restoring the health of the river.

Julian will talk about his new book **Becoming the Ocean** – a River Dart Journey Through the Wild, the Ancient and the Sacred which follows the Dart from its source high in the peatlands of Dartmoor through valleys of temperate rainforest, the farming lowlands and the estuary before reaching the sea at Dartmouth. Along the way discovering the amazing history, people and wildlife associated with the river and what we can do to try and reverse its decline and the decline of all our rivers.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 2pm-3pm Flavel Church £12



THE STORYTELLERS JOURNEY

Join writers Jonathan Posner and Keith Rossiter on an adventure into the world of imagination.

Jonathan is a full-time author and publisher based in Exeter. He has written and published six action-adventure novels set in Tudor England, as well as two anthologies; one of short stories and the other of 'old bloke having a rant' articles. Jonathan gets a thrill from seeing his books in print, which is why he is so keen to share what he has learned about the craft of writing with others.

Keith is a former journalist turned full-time novelist. He has published one thriller set in Greece, *The Chaos Game*, a young adult novel *White Raven*, and a novel for middle-grade readers, *Shadow Lands: The Poacher's Trap*. He is also a screenwriter and filmmaker. He admits that in the years since leaving journalism he has been on a steep learning curve—and he is eager to share that adventure with new and improving writers.

Sat 19 Sep 2pm-4pm Library £20



DARTMOUTH HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP

Come along to this session if you are interested in our fascinating local history. Members of the group will be available to talk about their work, and their locally published books will be available to buy.

Their most recent publication is: *When War Came to the Dart*, by Gail Ham and Hilary Sunman, which combines the memories of local people with official records and other contemporary accounts to chart the impact as the communities of the Dart were immersed in war.

Dartmouth History Research Group has published 40 books and booklets on the area's history. Books have been written on local figures including Thomas Newcomen, John Davis, John Flavel and William Veale; and on local places including Hawley's Fortalice, The Castle Hotel, Bayards Cove and Slapton Sands.

Sat 19 Sep 3.30pm-4.30pm Flavel Church FREE



SOPHIE PIERCE & ALEX MURDIN: ROCK IDOLS

From devils and druids to timeless tors, join artist Alex Murdin and writer Sophie Pierce for an illustrated talk exploring the magic and mystery of Dartmoor.

Their new book, **Rock Idols: a guide to Dartmoor in 28 Tors**, is thought to be the first illustrated guide to Dartmoor in many years, with new, original drawings of these mysterious monoliths. Sophie and Alex will share their adventures exploring the tors, as well as some of the fascinating folklore, geology and history of Dartmoor. They will show Alex's new drawings of the tors, as well as intriguing Victorian etchings of some of Dartmoor's most famous features including Scorhill Stone Circle and the Dewerstone.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 5pm-6pm Flavel Church £12



ROGER & JAMES DEAKINS REFLECTIONS: ON CINEMATOGRAPHY

Roger and James Deakins are joining us this year to talk about Roger's fascinating career in cinematography, as described in his new book, **Reflections: On Cinematography**. Sir Roger Deakins is widely regarded as the greatest cinematographer of all time - telling his life's story by way of his iconic, beloved films, including *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Skyfall*, *Fargo*, *Blade Runner 2049*, *The Big Lebowski*, *1917*, and *No Country for Old Men*, among others. The book is filled with never-before-seen storyboards, sketches, and diagrams, Deakins shows readers how he created some of the most iconic scenes in the most beloved films of all time. Through candid, lyrical prose, Deakins reflects on his life and each of his projects; how he helped shape them, and how they shaped him.

Roger & James will be in conversation with Monty Halls

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sat 19 Sep 7pm Auditorium £20



VALERIE BELSEY: ALONG A GREEN LANE SOMETIME SOMEWHERE

Valerie Belsey invites you to join her to learn about the extraordinary network of green lanes that wind around South Devon and the stories that they tell. After a short introduction, in the Library, she will lead a walk from The Flavel to discover the green lanes that we can access locally.

Valerie Belsey is the author of “ Exploring Green Lanes in the South Hams and the stories they tell.” Published in 2023 and in its 3rd edition since 2001. She worked for SHDC in the coast and countryside dept and in the Highways dept of DCC always on green lanes and road history.

Valerie's new book “Along a Green Lane Sometime Somewhere” will be out at the end of the year and tells how by studying one lane-the one which runs through the Green Lanes Centre-you can find out about many more.

Sun 20 Sep 10am-12pm Starting from Library £5



MEG CLOTHIER: WE MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA

There's a sea lover in every Brit – and writer and sailor Meg Clothier is hopelessly smitten. Author of *The Shipping Forecast*, the centenary celebration of the world's most beloved and idiosyncratic weather forecast, and *Sea Fever*, a joyous miscellany packed with seafaring know-how, Meg gets to the heart of our abiding love of the sea. An event for seasoned seadogs and leisurely landlubbers alike: expect salty tales, stormy history and bracing poetry, anchored by Meg's infectious passion for all things maritime. Meg is the Sunday Times bestselling author of seven books. After studying Classics, she sailed from England to Alaska and worked as a journalist in London and Moscow. Her fiction is inspired by bold women in myth and history; her non-fiction by Britain's coast and countryside. She now lives and writes in Somerset.

Meg Clothier will be in conversation with Georgina Wiltshire.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sun 20 Sep 10.30am-11.30am Auditorium £12



ALAN HARPER: MASTER & CARTOGRAPHER

Alan is an RYA Yacht Master, maritime journalist & magazine editor, and has contributed articles on yachting, aviation, seamanship, navigation and travel to publications throughout the English-speaking world. Alan will talk about his latest book: **Master & Cartographer**, which follows the adventurous life of Captain Greenville Collins (1643-94). His seafaring voyages took him from Patagonia to the Arctic, into battles against Dutch men of war and Barbary corsairs, and to the slave markets and Silk Road ports. A scientific navigator, his professional drive drew him to Shetland, the Scilly Isles and all points in between, as he undertook the most ambitious survey of the British coastline yet attempted, and which helped change the course of history. This fascinating story is a must for those interested in adventures at sea and all things maritime.

Alan Harper will be in conversation with Tim Wiltshire.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sun 20 Sep 12pm-1pm Auditorium £12



SOPHIE DAVIES: HEAD OVER SKIS

Sophie is a romance author based in West Sussex, who studied English literature at the University of Exeter, and has been working in the publishing industry ever since.

She began posting about her writing journey on TikTok in 2023, which has led to her meeting so many other amazing writers, some of whom have become her closest friends.

Head Over Skis is Sophie's debut novel - a spicy rom com for fans of Hannah Grace, Catherine Walsh and Lindsey Kelk.

One ex

One ski-instructor

And one holiday that's about to go off-piste...

The trip finally made it out of the group chat! Lottie and her friends have been planning—and saving—for their ski trip for ages and everything is going to be perfect. Until it isn't.....

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sun 20 Sep 1pm-2pm Flavel Church £10



CRIME WRITER'S PANEL

These three crime writers have very different approaches to their writing, and it will be interesting to hear how they go about their craft and debate key issues.

Jane Corry: queen of domestic suspense, now an eight-time Sunday Times bestseller. Her latest book, *My Sister's Secret*, is a gripping and emotional suspense about two sisters and the dark past that binds them.

Stephanie Austin has created her heroine Juno Browne, a self-proclaimed domestic goddess and reluctant antique shop owner, whose adventures are set in Ashburton on the edge of Dartmoor

Martin Hesp's new series begins with *The Cornish Snapper: The Granite Mystery*, in which Martin introduces Lammoran and Hamilton —a dynamic duo reminiscent of Holmes and Watson. Drawing on his own experiences in the newsroom, he explores the intersection of investigative grit and the art of photography.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sun 20 Sep 2pm-3.30pm Auditorium £12



ANDREW WILSON:

I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU

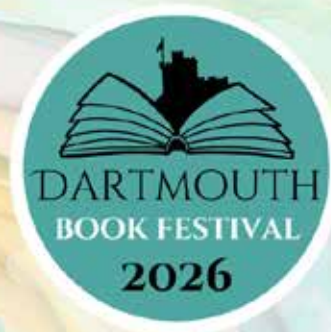
This year Marilyn Monroe turns 100. As a centennial tribute, award-winning biographer, Andrew Wilson, will talk about his biography: *I Wanna Be Loved By You*.

Featuring a wealth of unpublished material, Andrew Wilson's biography of Marilyn Monroe presents the actress in a startling new light. She had a difficult upbringing, and she would dream about Hollywood. She transformed herself into the ultimate goddess of the silver screen; her image has been branded into the collective consciousness. All her life, she just wanted to be loved. But Marilyn Monroe was more than just a goddess of the screen. She was highly intelligent and well-read, and formed long-term friendships with poets, philosophers, playwrights and political activists.

Followed by book-signing in Festival Bookshop on top floor.

Sun 20 Sep 4pm-5pm Auditorium £12

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR BOOK FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS



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Peter and Camilla Beloe

Garden Time



**Headline Sponsors:
Alec & Sue Smith**



JOHN SUCHET

John Suchet is a well-known TV news reporter, newscaster and regular presenter on Classic FM. He is also patron of the Flavel Arts Centre.

He is an authority on Beethoven, and has written multiple acclaimed composer biographies. John has received numerous broadcasting honours, including an OBE in 2023 for services to journalism and charity.

John is in conversation with Jeremy Hunt on Fri 18 Sep at 2pm in the Auditorium.



MARY NIGHTINGALE

Mary Nightingale is a well-known journalist and broadcaster; she has presented ITV evening news since 2001. Mary has also worked for Reuters and BBC World.

In 2004, she won her second TV and Radio Industries Club Award for Newscaster of the Year. She has strong ties with Dartmouth, having lived in the town for several years when her family moved here, and she still visits regularly.

Mary is in conversation with Arthur Snell on Fri 18 Sep at 10am in the Auditorium.



TIM WILTSHIRE

Tim Wiltshire is currently Commodore of the Royal Dart Yacht Club. He has a strong sailing background and is a qualified Yachtmaster Instructor. He has relatives who were early cartographers and so has a connection and interest in the subject. Tim is regarded as one of the senior figures in the superyacht sector, and as Managing Partner of Burgess, he has helped expand the company's presence in North America and Asia.

Tim is in conversation with Alan Harper on Sun 20 Sep at 12pm in the Auditorium.



MARTIN HESP

Martin spent over 50 years at the sharp end of British journalism, starting as a junior reporter at 17. His career has taken him from local flower shows to filing copy for *The Guardian* and the BBC World Service. A deep-rooted connection to the English West Country and decades spent scrutinising the details of rural life provide the authentic backdrop for his fiction. He is the author of the historical bestseller *The Last Broomsquire*, which has sold over 5,000 copies, and the children's novel *The Deer Park*. With his latest series, beginning with *The Cornish Snapper: The Granite Mystery*, Martin introduces Lammoran and Hamilton—a dynamic duo reminiscent of Holmes and Watson. Drawing on his own experiences in the newsroom, he explores the intersection of investigative grit and the art of photography. Martin is in conversation with Daniel Stables on Fri 18 Sep at 11.30am in the Auditorium.



GEORGINA WILTSHIRE

Georgina grew up messing around on boats big and small on the south coast of England. Her father was in the Royal Marines, so they moved every few years to another coastal base, and boats were the common factor. At university, she turned her attention to rowing and eventually made her way into the GB Team, where she won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, and silver in the 2007 World Cup. Georgina is a partner at Burgess Yachts and Head of Sustainability, running DE&I projects designed to improve the environmental and social impact of yachting. Georgina is also a Parish Councillor for Kingswear Ward, focussed on families with school-age children.

Georgina is in conversation with Meg Clothier on Sun 20 Sep at 10.30am in the Auditorium.



SOPHIE PIERCE

Sophie is a writer with a passionate interest in the human relationship with wild places. Her latest book, *Rock Idols*, explores the charismatic nature of Dartmoor where she lives. For many years Sophie was a reporter for BBC South West, covering all manner of stories for the radio and TV. She left in 2020 and now writes full time. Her memoir, *Green Hill: Letters to a son* was published in 2023 after the sudden and unexpected death of her son Felix in 2017. She has published 5 wild swimming guides with her friend Matt Newbury; the latest, *Wild Swimming Walks Exmoor and North Devon* came out in 2024.
<http://www.sophiepierce.co.uk>

Sophie Pierce is in conversation with Patrick Gale on Sat 19 Sep at 10am in the Auditorium.



MONTY HALLS

A successful explorer, marine biologist and writer, Monty Halls has led numerous expeditions and projects throughout the world, including three circumnavigations of the earth seeking out the greatest encounters in the oceans. His television credits include presenting Channel 4's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (the science behind Jules Verne's novel), Discovery's *Rebuilding the Past* (an attempt to recreate an Iron Age settlement) and Five's *Great Ocean Adventures*, for which he was also the author of the accompanying book. Monty operates the adventure travel company, Full Circle Expeditions, and is also a leading motivational speaker.

Monty is in conversation with Roger and James Deakin on Sat 19 Sep at 7pm in the Auditorium.

Reflections: A Roger Deakins Retrospective

Leading up to Roger Deakins' talk at the Dartmouth Book Festival 2026, The Flavel is screening a series of films celebrating the cinematography of our local Academy Award Winner.



THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

Wed 2 Sep 7.30pm

Roger Deakins' cinematography for "The Shawshank Redemption" is renowned for its subtlety and restraint.



THE GOLDFINCH

Wed 9 Sep 7.30pm

A boy is taken in by a wealthy family after his mother's death. In a rush of panic, he steals 'The Goldfinch', a painting that draws him into a world of crime.



THE BIG LEBOWSKI

Thu 17 Sep 7.30pm

A case of mistaken identity escalates when Jeffrey Lebowski - alias The Dude - attempts to seek recompense and then finds himself entangled in a kidnapping caper as a bagman

The Flavel Arts Centre
Where entertainment happens



CAFE OPENING HOURS

Coffee, cakes, light lunches, paninis, soup & more.

Fri 18 Sep	9.30 am to 4pm
Sat 19 Sep	9 am to 2pm
Sun 20 Sep	Cafe Closed

BAR OPENING HOURS

Fully licensed, selling wine, spirits, beer, cider, soft drinks, crisps, sweets & popcorn.

Fri 18 Sep	6pm to 8pm
Sat 19 Sep	1.30pm to 8pm
Sun 20 Sep	12 noon to 5pm
<i>Bar open for Tea/Coffee & Cakes from 9.30am</i>	



Margaret Bateson-Hill: Lao Lao of Dragon Mountain



Erin Allgrove: The Adventures of Seagull Scruff



Chris McGuire: Children's TV Producer



**Seas the Day with Horrible Histories Star
and author Emma Swan!
(AKA The Children's Book Event That Goes Wrong!)**

THE VENUE: THE FLAVEL ARTS CENTRE

Dartmouth Book Festival talks happen in 3 different locations, they are all very close to each other but please check before each event that you are arriving at the right location.

The Flavel **Auditorium** (upstairs on 1st floor)

The **Library** (on the ground floor to the left of The Box Office)

& The **Flavel Church** - just opposite the Flavel Arts Centre

ACCESSIBILITY

There is a lift to all floors in The Flavel and disabled access at the rear of the Flavel Church. There are ladies and gents toilets on the 2nd floor of The Flavel Arts Centre, and we have two accessible and inclusive toilets on the first floor - you can find these through the double doors on the right at the end of the bar area. One of them includes a baby-changing facility. If you think you will need any special assistance or additional space please call the Box Office and let us know on 01803 839530

EARLY BIRD TICKET DISCOUNT

For each event there is a **limited number** of Early Bird Tickets available at a discount. When they're gone, they're gone! After you select your seat, look for the 'Early Bird' option on the pop-up menu. These will **only** be on sale up until Monday 10 August.

Note: Early Bird Tickets are not available for the £5 events which are: Dartmouth Writers Walk, Poetry Slam & Valerie Belsey Walk

STUDENT PASSES £5 - Age verification required

A Student Pass for Under 25's gives access to all Festival Events **except Michael Rosen, The Creative Writing Workshop, and the two £5 walks**. The Pass is only available from Flavel Box Office. We reserve the right to refuse admission on a Student Pass for SOLD-OUT events - this is for safety & evacuation purposes as we have maximum permissible numbers for each room. With a Student Pass there is no need to pre-book events, just turn up on the day.

REFRESHMENTS

Our on-site cafe and bar will be open in the daytime during the Festival - please check opening times on the previous page. The cafe serves delicious coffee and cake, plus light lunches.

For **evening meals** there are a host of wonderful restaurants in Dartmouth. We also have a special arrangement with these restaurants: *The Royal Castle, YARN, The Crafty Mussel, Kendricks and Zephyr at Dart Marina*, which all offer a Supper-and-Show deal. Each restaurant varies, they may offer a % discount, or a special pre-show set menu. Please book with each restaurant directly, to find out what their offer is. Let them know in advance that you are going to a show at The Flavel to get the special deal. Each restaurant which you support makes a donation back to The Flavel.

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The Flavel has a small team of paid staff, but a lot of the people you meet during The Book Festival will be our amazing Volunteers. They will be stewarding the events, working on the bar and in the cafe, and will be on hand to help you navigate the Festival.

FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

We are thrilled to be opening a **Pop-Up Festival Bookshop** this year; find it in the Flavel Studio on the top floor, for the duration of the festival – a place to browse - and where authors will sign books following their sessions. Special thanks to our Bookshop Partners.

BOOKING

Please book tickets in advance if you can. This helps us so much with planning and managing each event. Book online at: www.theflavel.org.uk or call the Box Office 01803 839530

Please follow us on **Facebook and Instagram** to make sure you get all the latest news and updates leading up to the Festival.

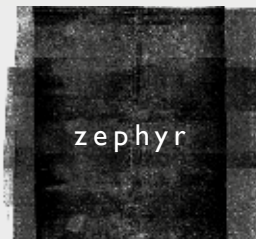
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheFlavel

And www.facebook.com/DartmouthBookFestival

Instagram www.instagram.com/flavelartscentre



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dinner, everybody's
welcome.



at Dart Marina

Book your table www.zephyr-dartmarina.com
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DARTMOUTH BOOK FESTIVAL

18-20 SEPT 2026

Friday 18 September

10.00am	ARTHUR SNELL: ELEMENTAL	Auditorium
11.30am	DARTMOUTH WRITERS WALK	Meet in Flavel Foyer
11.30am	DANIEL STABLES: FIESTA	Auditorium
2.00pm	JEREMY HUNT: CAN WE BE RICH AGAIN?	Auditorium
2.00pm	DARTMOUTH POETRY GROUP	Library
3.45pm	ROBERT WINDER: THREE RIVERS	Auditorium
7.00pm	MICHAEL ROSEN: GETTING THROUGH IT	Auditorium

Saturday 19 September

10.00am	PATRICK GALE: LOVE LANE	Auditorium
10.30am	ERIN ALGROVE: BOSUN BOB	Library
10.30am	CHILDREN'S CRAFT - PARENT-LED	Library
11.30am	DARTMOUTH WRITERS WALK	Meet in Flavel Foyer
11.30am	ALISON HUNTINGFORD: FAMILY HISTORY AS INSPIRATION FOR WRITING	Library
11.30am	ALEC SMITH: ACQUISITION OF AN AFFORDABLE COLLECTION	Flavel Church
11.45am	ROSIE NIXON: BAD INFLUENCE	Auditorium
2.00pm	POETRY SLAM: JACKIE JUNO	Auditorium
2.00pm	JULIAN CARNELL: BECOMING THE OCEAN	Flavel Church
2.00pm	THE STORYTELLERS JOURNEY	Library
3.30pm	DARTMOUTH HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP	Flavel Church
5.00pm	SOPHIE PIERCE & ALEX MURDIN: ROCK IDOLS	Flavel Church
7.00pm	ROGER & JAMES DEAKINS: REFLECTIONS ON CINEMATGRAPHY	Auditorium



Sunday 20 September

10.00am	VALERIE BELSEY: ALONG A GREEN LANE SOMETIME SOMEWHERE	Start at Library
10.30am	MEG CLOTHIER: WE MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA	Auditorium
12.00pm	ALAN HARPER: MASTER & CARTOGRAPHER	Auditorium
1.00pm	SOPHIE DAVIES: HEAD OVER SKIS	Flavel Church
2.00pm	CRIME WRITER'S PANEL	Auditorium
4.00pm	ANDREW WILSON: I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU	Auditorium



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