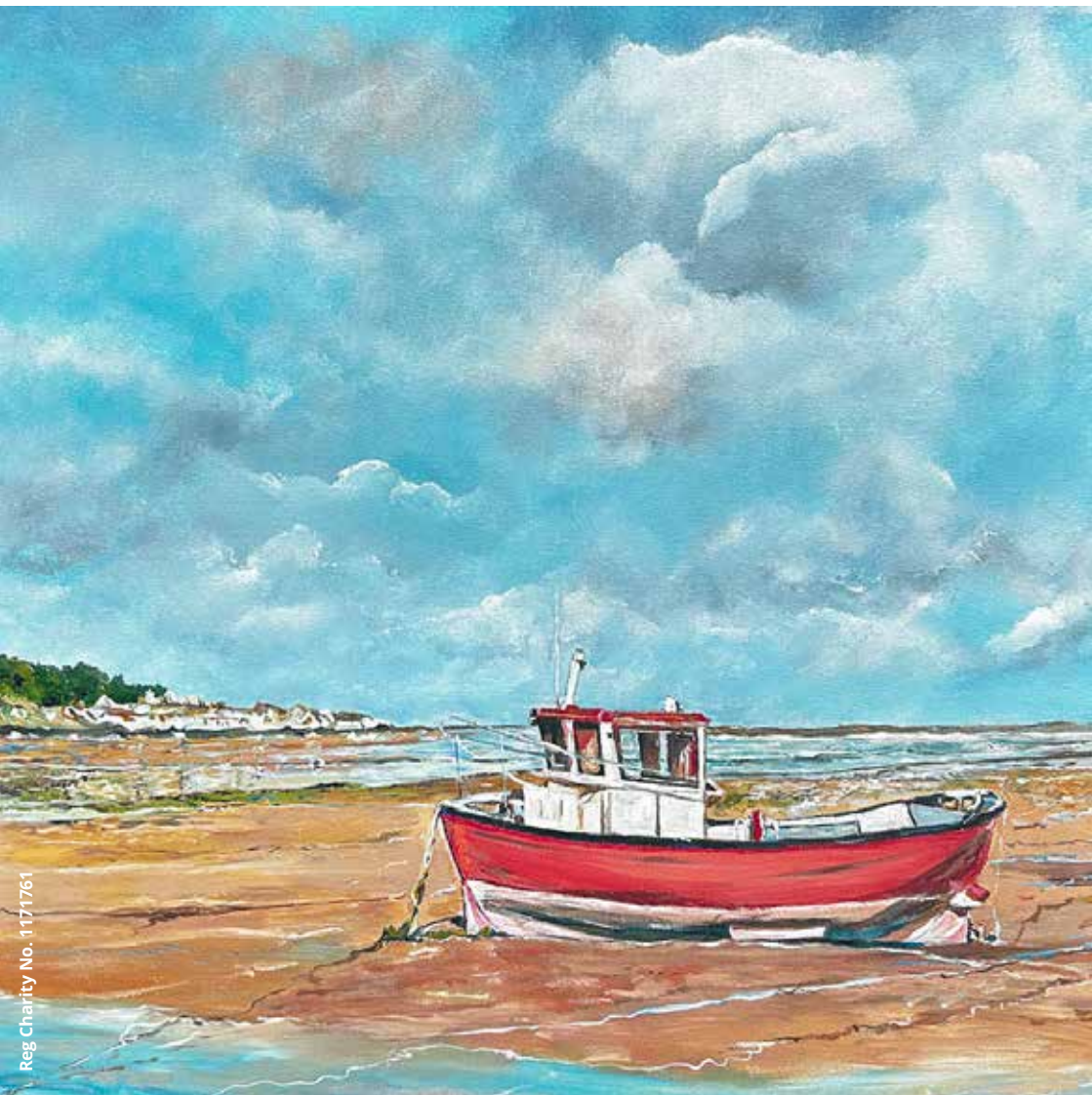


APPLEDORE

BOOK FESTIVAL

12-21 SEPTEMBER 2025

CELEBRATING LITERATURE & THE ARTS BY THE SEA



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WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL!



Photo by Terry Mathews

Welcome to the 2025 Appledore Book Festival – what a vibrant line up there is in store for us all, where stories are told, imagination runs wild, and the written word becomes an experience.

Join us at a Festival where literature knows no bounds – a lively gathering of book lovers and storytellers who come together to celebrate the power of words. Whether you are an avid reader, a passionate writer or simply curious, this Festival offers something for everyone. From engaging author talks and incisive interviewing to exclusive book signings, each moment is an opportunity to dive deeper into the literary universe.

This unique Festival is more than an event, it is a shared journey through pages that transport us, words that challenge us and narratives that unite us. We look forward to welcoming you and encourage you to get involved in all the experiences – not only literary, but also walks, local history and seafaring talks, wine tasting and many others, including our fabulous free Family Fun Day.

This Festival would not happen without your valuable support and that of the patrons, the trustees, the committee, the sponsors, all the dedicated volunteers and the goodwill of the people and businesses in Appledore and at Skern.

Please don't forget that the week after the Festival is Schools Week. The schools team will be transporting 25 authors, visiting 70 schools with a total of 226 events. Ensuring that the children will be the future attendees at the Festival and have the same love of books that we all have.

As the new Chair of Trustees, I look forward to meeting you.

Sara Mendosa

Chair of Trustees

Follow us on: @appledorebookfestival @appledorebookfestival



Tickets will be on sale from the following dates:

Friends priority booking from Saturday 19 July

General public booking from Saturday 26 July





THE CHARLOTTE AITKEN TRUST SCHOOLS WEEK

Winners of The Flourishing Culture
Award for Literature 2025

Inspiring the next generation of readers and writers

Schools across North Devon and Torridge will be welcoming authors from across the country this autumn as part of our extensive Schools Programme. More than 200 separate events will be taking place in primary and secondary schools and, for the first time, nurseries will be included in the visits recognizing the importance of introducing young children to the joy of books. We will be donating thousands of free books for primary school age children to take home and keep as part of our Books at Home scheme.

We are immensely grateful to The Charlotte Aitken Trust and to our many other local donors who help make this all possible. A huge thank you to all those who donate and to the volunteers who continue to make this amazing outreach work possible.



For information about the authors
taking part please go to our website.



MARTIN CLUNES: REMARKABLE ANIMALS In Conversation

7.30pm-8.30pm Kingsley School Theatre £20

Martin Clunes has been a familiar face on our TV screens since the 1990s with starring roles in *Men Behaving Badly* and the much-loved *Doc Martin*. He has presented travel documentaries including most recently, *Islands of the Atlantic*, and programmes celebrating remarkable animal heroes. Tonight, he will talk about his extraordinary career and his lifelong love of animals, recounting stories of rescue dogs, and mine-sniffing rats, life-saving dolphins and therapy horses, medal-winning cats and pigeons, and more. Alongside his own life-changing encounters with animals around the world, Martin celebrates the intelligence, loyalty and companionship of some truly amazing creatures.

Kindly sponsored by Blueyonder Balconies

Photo credit: Nicky Johnston



VIP RECEPTION

6.30pm-7.15pm Kingsley School Library £28
includes wine, canapés & ticket for Martin Clunes

Join us for a glass of wine, canapés and music prior to Martin Clunes's talk in this exclusive event for Friends and AppleFactors.

Glasses kindly sponsored by Dartington Crystal



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FAMILY FUN DAY

With thanks to all the local businesses & charities taking part:

- Adore
- Appledore Bakery
- Appledore Bookshop
- Appledore Chocolate Shop
 - Appledore Gallery
 - Appledore Library
- Bideford Model Railway Club
 - Burton Art Box
- Devon Wildlife Trust
 - Earth Nurse Press
 - Fire Service
 - Hocking's
- Johns of Appledore
- Market Street Kitchen
 - Maritime Museum
- Number Twenty
 - RNLI
- SS Freshspring
 - The Champ
 - The Royal
 - The Seagate
 - The Yard
- Uncle Wainwright's
- Watermouth Castle

Photos by Dave Green, reproduced with parental permission



FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE

10.30am-3pm Registration at ABF Gazebo in Churchfields Car Park

Join us for a Family Trail Blaze through Appledore Village

Pick up your free Trail Sheet from the Registration Tent and see how many activities you can do!

Choose from a range of fun activities including:

- Potato Printing
- Face Painting
- Storytelling
- Book Hunts
- Biscuit Decorating
- Lego Workshop
- Model Making
- Steam Train

and much more ...

FREE BOOK & ICE-CREAM FOR EACH CHILD WHO COMPLETES THE TRAIL*

FULL DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE

In association with
i am a bookworm



Hocking's

*While Stocks Last

Did you know? Bus Route 21 from Barnstaple and Bideford stops in the heart of Appledore

STORYTIME – drop-in sessions in the Baptist Church



11am-12noon: CLAIRE BARKER
The award-winning children's author reads from her latest book, *Hettie Nettle's Handbook for Hedgewitches*.

12noon-1pm: SOPHIE COBB
Make bug badges in this interactive storytelling workshop on *Alma and the Holly Blue Butterfly*.

Kindly sponsored by Little Wolf's Reading Den



The Burton at Bideford will be bringing along their Art Box to our Family Fun Day, which provides free arts and crafts activities to children and families.

DAVID CARTER: RNLI WALK & LIFEBOAT STATION TOUR**10am-11.15am**Meet at entrance to the Churchyard **£9**
includes **£1 donation to RNLI**

Join local historian **David Carter** as he presents an Appledore walk commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of the RNLI and the arrival of Appledore's first lifeboat in 1825. Starting in the Churchyard, this history walk will pass along Irsha Street and end up in the lifeboat house where a representative from the RNLI will give you a tour of the lifeboat station and an explanation of how they undertake rescues in the 21st century. *Sorry, no dogs.*

**LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE****From 11am - Also on Sun 14 Sept from 1pm**St Mary's Hall **FREE**

A chance to meet some of the talented local authors who are part of the Barnstaple Writers' *Work in Progress Group*, based at Barnstaple Library. On Saturday and Sunday, the published authors in the group will be showcasing their latest books and will be happy to talk to, and encourage, new writers. So, whether you are an aspiring children's author, a fantasy writer, or you want to find a wider audience for your life story, they can help steer you on the right path. You will also have a chance to purchase some of their books.

JUDITH MACKRELL: ARTISTS, SIBLINGS, VISIONARIES - THE LIVES & LOVES OF GWEN & AUGUSTUS JOHN**11am-12noon**Kingsley Room, The Burton at Bideford **£12**

Acclaimed biographer **Judith Mackrell** presents a powerful portrait of brother and sister artists, Augustus and Gwen John, whose experiments with form and colour created some of the most memorable work of the early 20th century. Augustus was celebrated as one of the great British talents of his generation. As a woman, Gwen's place in the art world was much smaller, and it was only after her death that her gifts were fully acknowledged. But as **Judith** shows both siblings led turbulent lives, forming multiple passionate attachments, and in Gwen's case, with both men and women, and including a long affair with the sculptor Rodin.

**SAMUEL ALEXANDER: THE GREEN-WOOD CARVER**
In Conversation with Pete Yeo**2pm-3pm**Kingsley Room, The Burton at Bideford **£12**

Discover the healing power of whittling as **Samuel Alexander** shares his own compelling story. **Samuel** first started whittling as a way to help him recover from depression, discovering that it not only lifted his mood but also yielded beautiful keepsakes like spoons, bowls, and ornaments. With his thoughtful reflections on the joy of small movements and personal creativity charmingly woven throughout this how-to guide, **Samuel's** aim is not only to teach you how to create a beautiful object but to find the beauty in the process itself.

The above two events are a collaboration between **The Burton at Bideford & Appledore Book Festival****TRISTAN GOOLEY: THE HIDDEN SEASONS – A CALENDAR OF NATURE'S CLUES AND SIGNS****4pm-5pm**St Mary's Church **£12**

Tristan Gooley shows how to read the clues that nature gives us - but that we continually miss, because we don't know how and where to look. Spring is the time of wildflower signs, unique cloud shapes and curious animal behaviour. Summer is a time of coastal clues, astronomical extremes and secret grass patterns. Autumn is a time for reading leaves, deciphering scents and investigating fungi. In winter, we learn to read snow, deepen our star knowledge and find clues in overlooked places, including indoors. The author of *How to Read Water* and *How to Read a Tree*, inspires us to explore the signs for ourselves, giving us many rich insights into our turning year.

Photo credit: Jim Holden

**IAIN DALE: MEMORIES OF MARGARET THATCHER**
In Conversation with Selaine Saxby**5.45pm-6.45pm**St Mary's Church **£12**

In this centenary year of Margaret Thatcher's birth, author and broadcaster, **Iain Dale**, provides a fascinating portrait of the iconic British Prime Minister, one of the defining figures of the twentieth century. In a new short biography of *Thatcher*, he introduces her to a new generation. In a second book **Iain** brings together 250 personal reminiscences and anecdotes from those who knew her best, from Ronald Reagan to Sebastian Coe. **Iain** will discuss her lasting legacy with former MP for North Devon, **Selaine Saxby**.

Kindly sponsored by D Scott Financial

Photo credit: Steve Ullathorne

**DAMIEN LEWIS: SAS GREAT ESCAPES****7.30pm-8.30pm**St Mary's Church **£12**'Damien Lewis is both a meticulous historian and a born storyteller' **Lee Child**

Sunday Times bestselling author and filmmaker **Damien Lewis** recounts previously untold stories of SAS soldiers who evaded capture and made their way to safety during World War II. From the harsh deserts of North Africa to the forests of the Vosges mountains, these thrilling accounts highlight the resilience and determination of the SAS soldiers who refused to remain captured. Through first-hand testimonies, wartime records, and newly uncovered documents, the inspirational true stories offer an insight into the challenges faced by those on the run.

Kindly sponsored by Wildsea



MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE**9.30am-11.30am**Meet outside the Lifeboat Station **£8**

Local wildlife expert **Martin Unwin** will be your guide as he takes you on a delightful walk to discover the exciting bird life that can be found along the Appledore coastline. It is recommended that you bring along a pair of binoculars and dress accordingly. *Sorry, no dogs.*

**CRABBING COMPETITION: APPLIEDORE PIRATES****10.30am-11.30am**

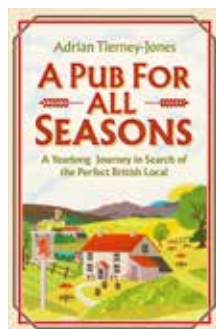
Meet opposite Johns of Appledore
£4 per team (not ticketed, pay on the day)

Join us for the annual Festival crabbing competition. Using only line and bait, your team has one hour to catch its three largest crabs. All proceeds raised support local community initiatives. You can register and pay for your team on the morning of the competition on the Quay. Happy crabbing!

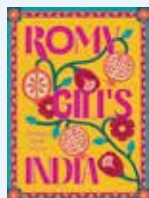
**ADRIAN TIERNEY-JONES: A PUB FOR ALL SEASONS – IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT BRITISH LOCAL****11am-12noon**Community Hall **£12***

Join award-winning journalist, beer expert and Exeter resident, **Adrian Tierney-Jones** as he celebrates the very best of the British pub. From mellow, gentle pubs in autumn and dim, cosy corners in winter, to bright, lively bars in spring and colourful, buzzing gardens in summer, **Adrian** visited far-flung corners of the land. He spoke to locals and landlords, soaked up the atmosphere, sampled the food, and enjoyed quite a few beers, to find what makes the perfect pub across the four seasons.

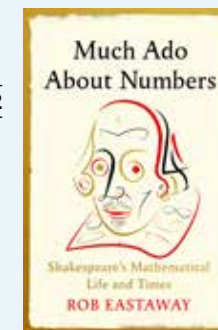
**You are welcome to join Adrian for a drink at The Champ in Meeting Street after the event and try the award-winning Clearwater ales. Ticket entitles you to £1 discount on a beer or a free soft drink. Single use only.*

**ROMY GILL'S INDIA: RECIPES FROM HOME****In Conversation with Jo Rees****12.30pm-1.30pm**Community Hall **£12 (includes Indian treats)**

Savour the authentic tastes, aromas and traditions that define the soul of Indian home cooking as celebrity chef **Romy Gill** takes you on a journey through her ancestral kitchens in the Bengal and Punjab regions. Sharing stories and recipes of the food that defined her childhood including the iconic Butter Chicken, a beloved staple in every Indian home, and the delicious simplicity of Masala Omelette, **Romy** invites you to step into the heart of India's vibrant culinary heritage. Warm and engaging, **Romy** will impart her culinary wisdom and invaluable tips to help you craft curries with confidence in your own kitchen. **Romy** will be bringing with her some delicious Indian treats to taste.

**ROB EASTAWAY: MUCH ADO ABOUT NUMBERS – SHAKESPEARE'S MATHEMATICAL LIFE AND TIMES****1.30pm-2.30pm**St Mary's Church **£12**

What's the connection between Shakespeare and maths? A lot, as it turns out! The playwright grew up in a time of remarkable mathematical innovation. From astronomy to probability, music to multiplication, new mathematical ideas were taking off – and much of this was reflected in The Bard's work. Why was it hazardous to play with dice? Why was 'nothing' so significant to the Tudors? How did Elizabethan audiences tell the time? What could Falstaff buy with a groat? In this highly engaging and entertaining talk award-winning author and broadcaster, **Rob Eastaway**, explores the surprising ways that maths and numbers shaped Shakespeare's plays.

**JANE CASEY AND WILLIAM SHAW: WRITING THE DETECTIVES****In Conversation with Orlando Murrin****3.15pm-4.15pm**St Mary's Church **£12**

Join leading crime writers, **Jane Casey** and **William Shaw**, as they discuss what makes a good detective series. *Sunday Times* bestselling author **Jane Casey** has written 12 books featuring DS Maeve Kerrigan. Her latest, *The Secret Room*, is another nail-biter that begins with a dead body in a hotel room and no sign of the murderer. **William Shaw's** *The Red Shore* is the first in a brand-new series of Devon-set crime thrillers featuring DS Eden Driscoll. When his sister goes missing Eden is left to look after his nephew but, when he goes missing too, and his sister's body is found, he knows something is dreadfully wrong.

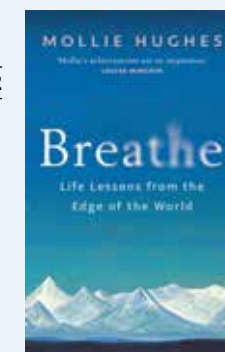
Kindly sponsored by Kelly Finance

**MOLLIE HUGHES: BREATHE – LIFE LESSONS FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD****5pm-6pm**St Mary's Church **£12**

'Mollie's achievements are an inspiration' Louise Minchin

Record-breaking adventurer and motivational speaker **Mollie Hughes**, who was born in Devon, has explored some of the wildest environments on earth. In 2017 she broke the world record for becoming the youngest woman to climb both sides of Mount Everest, aged 26, and in 2020 became the youngest woman to ski solo to the South Pole, a journey of over 700 miles. In *Breathe*, **Mollie** uses her extreme experiences to give valuable lessons that can be applied to more everyday challenges. She will show you how to unlock your potential, regulate emotion, overcome fear, cope with psychological pressure, and understand the importance of silence and headspace in our mental wellbeing.

Kindly sponsored by OCR Architecture



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Visit appledorebookfestival.co.uk/friends-membership for full details.

ITALIAN FEAST

7pm-9pm Community Hall **£40**
Four courses, welcome drink & entertainment

Join us for an evening of fine Italian hospitality with a delicious four course feast prepared by local caterers, Campania Kitchen. Featuring a range of classic dishes inspired by the Campania region of Italy, and using the very best ingredients from the West Country and South West, you'll enjoy your meal in a fun and sociable atmosphere, with musical entertainment and a few surprises to add to your enjoyment.

On arrival you will be welcomed with a Bellini cocktail before sitting down to some tasty antipasti. Next comes a choice of pasta dishes, and a meat course with a selection of sides. There are vegetarian options too. Finally, there's dolce to end your feast on a sweet note. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale at the venue.

Photo credit:
Campania Kitchen

CAMPANIA
KITCHEN
 — DEVON —



PAULA SIDES:
A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

7.30pm-9.30pm St Mary's Church **£20**

Tennessee-born soprano, **Paula Sides**, has performed at opera houses across the UK and Europe. Recently seen starring as Hanna Glawari in **Lehár's The Merry Widow** in a joint production with Scottish Opera and OHP, and in **Bernstein's Candide**, again with Scottish Opera, other roles have included Mimi in *La Bohème*, Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*. Concert highlights include: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Mahler's Eight Symphony with Orchestra of Opera North. Tonight she will sing a selection of classic opera arias from Puccini, Verdi, **Lehár**, **Mozart** and others, as well as favourite songs from the shows including **Bernstein's West Side Story**. She will be accompanied by pianist, **Serge Rybin**.

There will be an interval of 30 minutes. Refreshments will be available to buy from 7pm and during the interval.

In association with Connaught Artists.



MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

See page 10 for details

9.30am-11.30am

Meet outside the Lifeboat Station **£8**

DAVID CARTER: DISCOVER THE CHURCHYARD

10.45am-11.45am

St Mary's Church **£10**

Ship-owners and shipwrights, merchants and mariners, sailors and lifeboatmen – they are all buried in St Mary's churchyard. But who were the people behind these monuments? Local historian **David Carter** presents their extraordinary stories whilst sitting in comfort inside the church.



SANDY BROWN: PLAY WITH CLAY WORKSHOP

12noon-5pm

Sandy Brown's Studio **£75**

Immerse yourself in a full afternoon workshop with world-leading ceramic artist and local resident, **Sandy Brown**. Through play and being free, you will find that anyone can be creative without really trying – it's as natural as breathing. All materials will be supplied, and you can take your clay creation away at the end of the day. There will be a break and you are welcome to bring a packed lunch or take advantage of the local coffee shops.



LESLEY PEARSE:

THE GIRL WITH THE SUITCASE

In Conversation with Veronica Henry

12.30pm-1.30pm

St Mary's Church **£12**

Bestselling author **Lesley Pearse** published her first novel when she was 49 and has since sold over 10 million copies. Her latest novel is *The Girl with the Suitcase* set in 1940s London. When an air raid forces Mary to take shelter, she wakes up in hospital and is mistakenly given a suitcase belonging to another woman. It contains money and tickets to Ireland providing Mary with an escape and a chance to start afresh. What could go wrong? As well as her novels **Lesley** will be talking about *The Long and Winding Road*, her heartwarming, and at times, heartbreaking, memoir, as her real story turns out to be more incredible than her fiction.



Please check the website for any updates on events and additions to the Festival programme.
appledorebookfestival.co.uk

PETE YEO: A SUB-TROPICAL TURN?**2pm-3.30pm**

Meet at Docton Court £8

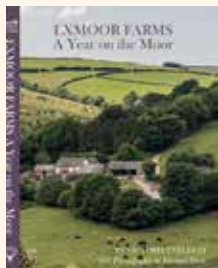
Join gardener and plant writer **Pete Yeo** on a guided walk through Old Appledore's sheltered spaces and secret gardens. Along the way we'll contemplate how climate change could influence our gardening in the coming decades. Local evidence suggests increasingly luxuriant planting as one possible gain amidst the complexity of the big picture. *Sorry, no dogs.*

**VICTORIA EVELEIGH: EXMOOR FARMS – A YEAR ON THE MOOR In Conversation with Kate O'Sullivan****2.15pm-3.15pm**

St Mary's Church £10

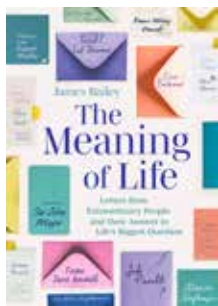
Published to recognise the tenth anniversary of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network and 70 years of Exmoor National Park this is a celebration, in words and pictures, of a farming year on Exmoor. It includes stories of the people who work its farms and highlights the ways in which farming continues to shape the landscape and culture of the National Park: a way of life that has recently come under immense pressure. The author lives on a hill farm near Lynton, Exmoor, where she breeds Devon cattle, Exmoor horn sheep and Exmoor ponies.

Kindly sponsored by Philip J Milton plc

**JAMES BAILEY: THE MEANING OF LIFE – LETTERS FROM EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE & THEIR ANSWER TO LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTION****4.15pm-5.15pm**

The Baptist Church £10

James Bailey was unemployed, heartbroken, and questioning his purpose on the planet. In search of an answer, he wrote to luminaries from all fields and asked one simple question: What is the meaning of life? To his surprise he received more than 100 responses with a kaleidoscope of perspectives on what it means to be human. From entrepreneurs and environmentalists, artists, authors and adventurers, including **Hilary Mantel**, **John Major**, **Tim Smit**, **Ranulph Fiennes**, **Rowan Williams** and **Jane Goodall**, this revelatory and inspiring book gathers together their replies. With readings from some of the most profound, witty and enlightening letters.

**VERONICA HENRY: ONE NIGHT AT THE CHÂTEAU****5.30pm-7pm**

The Yard £17.50

includes a glass of wine, a selection of charcuterie & cheese

'A delight from start to finish, like sipping wine on lazy summer days' Carol Kirkwood
Escape to Provence with bestselling author, and Festival patron, **Veronica Henry**, as she introduces her latest feel-good romantic story set at the beautiful Château Villette. When Connie's husband runs off with an older woman, and her world falls apart, she is offered a lifeline by her godmother who begs for help to run her dilapidated château. Could it be the fresh start Connie didn't even know she needed - and will she find a way to save the château, before it's too late?

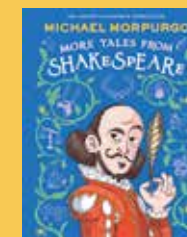
**MICHAEL MORPURGO: SPRING – THE STORY OF A SEASON In Conversation****5.45pm-6.45pm**

St Mary's Church £15, aged 12 or under £10

One of the nation's best-loved authors **Michael Morpurgo** has lived on Nethercott farm, deep in rural Devon, for more than forty years. In *Spring*, he observes the changing season around him, as new shoots emerge, seeds are sown and blossom flowers overhead. We accompany **Michael** as he watches the lambing, walks through bluebell woods, and feeds the birds in his garden. As well as describing the magic of spring he shares new poems and reminiscences about childhood and springs gone by. **Michael** will also be talking about his love of Shakespeare and *More Tales from Shakespeare*, his follow-up volume to the acclaimed *Tales from Shakespeare* featuring re-tellings of eight more Shakespeare's plays. Beautifully written with **Michael's** warm, accessible and inimitable style, this illustrated collection provides a new generation of readers with the perfect introduction to the magic of The Bard.

*Kindly sponsored by
Brewer Harding & Rowe*

Photo credit: Steven Hatton

**KADIATU KANNEH-MASON: YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK In Conversation with Margaret Casely-Hayford****7.30pm-8.30pm**

St Mary's Church £14

Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason is the mother of seven supremely talented young classical musicians including **Sheku**, the *BBC Young Musician of the Year* in 2016, who played at the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle, and eldest daughter, **Isata**, who made her solo debut at the BBC Proms in 2023. But despite all their achievements her family has suffered shocking online abuse because of their race. How do you prepare your child for the fact that no matter their talent or dedication, they will be told they do not belong? In her new book **Kadiatu** opens up about raising her extraordinary family and explores what it's like to grow up a Black artist today – and offers a hopeful, powerful way through.

Kindly sponsored by Viva Violins

In association with The Miranda Foundation

Photo credit: Jake Turney



Visit appledorebookfestival.co.uk, to check for any updates to events

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE FISH DOCK

9.45am-10.30am Appledore Fish Dock **£10**

Hear from **Tony Rutherford** about the thriving North Devon fishing industry. In the shop on site, you will see the array of seafood available in and around North Devon, while in the impressive production room, you'll see what has been landed that day. Appledore is the oldest fishing port in England and boasts a thriving mussel farming industry alongside the regular small fishing fleet keeping this port very much alive and in the 21st century.



MIKE BLIGH AND VERA GREEN:
200 YEARS OF THE RNLI AND THE APPLEDORE LIFEBOAT

10am-11am St Mary's Church **£10 includes £2 Donation to RNLI**

This year Appledore celebrates the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the first ever RNLI lifeboat. At last year's Festival, the Appledore RNLI team looked back at the first 100 years of the RNLI up to the arrival of Appledore's first motorised lifeboat in 1922. Today's talk takes a small step back to look at how the service responded across the two World Wars, and then explores, through photos and stories, how the RNLI has evolved over its second centenary.



JOHN PUDDY:
MS OLDENBURG – THE FERRY TO LUNDY

11.30am-12.30pm St Mary's Church **£8**

Discover the history of the MS Oldenburg, built in Germany in 1958, and now ferrying passengers and supplies to and from Lundy Island. **John Puddy** talks about the ship's early days as a Friesian Island ferry and her acquisition by Lundy, how she came to the UK, her extensive conversion in Bideford, and the first years of operation up to the present day. **John Puddy** was awarded the Victory Medal by the society for Nautical Research. The award recognises exceptional dedication to preserving maritime heritage, specifically for saving SS Freshspring.



Hospice Café: St Mary's Hall – Sat 13 to Tues 17 Sept

While exploring Appledore Book Festival, why not head into the town and discover all Appledore has to offer!

Find places to eat and things to do as well as the **full programme of festival events** on the Discover App! Download the **FREE app** now and make the most of your time at Appledore Book Festival!

SHOP

EAT

DO

Discover

KEITH DENBY: THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

1pm-2pm St Mary's Church **£8**

The clipper *South Australian* was built in Sunderland in 1868. For nearly two decades she voyaged annually between London and South Australia, but on 14 February 1889 she was lost off the shores of Lundy. In 1986 members of the Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub-Aqua Club found and identified the wreck, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Diver **Keith Denby** tells the story of this historic discovery.



ROB WELLS:
THE SEALS AROUND LUNDY

2.30pm-3.30pm St Mary's Church **£8**

The waters surrounding Lundy are rich with marine life and have enjoyed protected status since 1973. One of the most common sights is the resident population of Atlantic grey seal. But how much do we really know about these endearing aquatic mammals? **Rob Wells** of the Seal Research Trust dispels the myths and misunderstandings about the lives of seals and explains some of the many problems faced by our marine animals.



Don't miss Helen Scales on the future of the ocean at 4pm - see over for details

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Brewer Harding & Rowe
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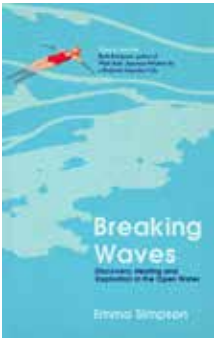
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COFFEE MORNING WITH EMMA SIMPSON:
BREAKING WAVES – DISCOVERY, HEALING &
INSPIRATION IN THE OPEN WATER

10.30am-12noon Upstairs at The Royal George £12.50
includes coffee/tea & cake

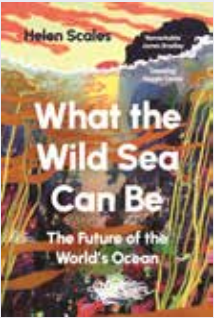
Emma Simpson discovered wild swimming after a period of immense pain. Lost in grief, disillusioned with life, and feeling increasingly untethered from the world, she instinctively felt the pull of the water. There, she found an unexpected source of hope and strength, a profound sense of connection, and a glorious sisterhood of women - each with their own remarkable story to tell. Interweaving tales of these inspirational women with reflections on her own experiences, *Breaking Waves* is both a love letter to womanhood and the open water, and a joyous celebration of going with the flow. *Sorry no disabled access.*



HELEN SCALES: WHAT THE WILD SEA CAN BE –
THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN

4pm-5pm St Mary's Church £12

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction
In her bracing yet hopeful exploration of the future of the ocean, marine biologist, Dr Helen Scales, links past to present to show how prehistoric ocean ecology holds lessons for the ocean of today. She considers the drastic challenges currently faced by marine environmentalists as well as offering innovative solutions for better protecting our coastlines and cleaning the toxic seas. Inspiring us all to maintain a sense of awe and wonder at the majesty beneath the waves, she urges us to fight for the better future that still exists for the ocean.



AN INTRODUCTION TO SOURDOUGH

4.30pm-6.30pm Community Hall £30

Joe Riley, co-founder and lead baker of The Appledore Bakery, now based in Appledore, teaches you how to make handmade artisan sourdough bread. He will cover every aspect of sourdough, including the history, baking techniques, flour, equipment, recipes and health benefits – finished off with tasting the bakery's wonderful output. Flour, water, salt, sea air and time are the only ingredients you'll find in the Appledore Bakery's legendary loaves, bagels and rock cakes. Participants will be able to take home their own sourdough starter.



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ANNE SEBBA: THE WOMEN'S ORCHESTRA OF
AUSCHWITZ – A STORY OF SURVIVAL

5.45pm-6.45pm St Mary's Church £14

'Superb and timely...Rigorously researched and elegantly written...Magnificent'
Kate Mosse
Award-winning historian and biographer Anne Sebba tells the extraordinary story of the women's orchestra of Auschwitz. In 1943, German SS officers in charge of Auschwitz-Birkenau ordered that an orchestra be formed among the female prisoners to play marching music to other inmates and give concerts for Nazi officers. It was the only all-female orchestra in any of the Nazi prison camps and, for almost all of the musicians chosen to take part, being in the orchestra was to save their lives. Published to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps this is an extraordinary account of female solidarity, the power of music and survival against the odds.



Photo credit: Serena Bolton



TRACY BORMAN: THE STOLEN CROWN – TREACHERY,
DECEIT & THE DEATH OF THE TUDOR DYNASTY

7.30pm-8.30pm St Mary's Church £14

'Compelling and brilliant' Alison Weir
In March 1603, Queen Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, lies dying at Richmond Palace. Ministers cluster round her bedside, and almost with her last breath she whispers that James VI of Scotland should succeed her. She dies shortly afterwards, and the throne of England passes peacefully from Tudor to Stuart. Or so we've been led to believe. Now historian Tracy Borman explores new evidence that explodes this myth and shows that Elizabeth went to her grave without formally naming an heir. History had been re-written on the orders of James VI to hide the truth, a lie that had devastating consequences for England. The Stuart regime rapidly descended into turbulence and less than 50 years later it culminated in the destruction of the monarchy in the English Civil War.



A GIN EVENING WITH WICKED WOLF

7.30pm-9.30pm The Club Rooms £30 includes gin & nibbles

The multi-award-winning gin distillery based on Exmoor, Wicked Wolf, will host this taster evening. On arrival you will be offered a blood orange gin and tonic, followed by an informative talk about the distillation process and how the gins are developed. There will be an opportunity to sample a number of handcrafted gins, each made from botanicals blended on the banks of the River Lyn. At the end of the evening each guest can choose their favourite gin to be served with tonic and garnish.

Kindly sponsored by Wicked Wolf Gin



TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK - See page 21 for details

8.30pm-10pm Meet outside the Flame Factory £8

DAVID CARTER: DOCTON COURT - APPLIEDORE'S OLDEST BUILDING**10am-11am** Community Hall **£8**

Docton Court is claimed to be Appledore's oldest building, but exactly how old is it? Why did the Docton family erect this building with its impressive granite archways and fine plasterwork? After 20 years of research, local historian **David Carter** is finally able to dispel many of the myths surrounding this building and reveal its secrets.

**LIZ SHAKESPEARE: SICKNESS & SUPERSTITION IN NORTH DEVON****11.30am-12.30pm** Community Hall **£8**

In this entertaining talk, local author **Liz Shakespeare** reflects on the welfare of our ancestors before the existence of health and safety regulations, and the sometimes bizarre remedies – drinking cowslip wine, eating a fried mouse, and even driving a flock of sheep upstairs and down to cure diphtheria – used when doctors had few effective medicines.

**ANDY GABRIEL-POWELL: HOW THE MEN OF NORTH DEVON FOUNDED AMERICA****1pm-2pm** Community Hall **£8**

In 1587 settlers from North Devon founded the first English colony in America, but they disappeared. What became of them is known today as the 'Lost Colony of Roanoke', one of America's greatest mysteries. In this intriguing talk renowned historian and author, **Andy Gabriel-Powell**, former Mayor of Bideford, recounts the attempt by Sir Richard Grenville, and his cousin Sir Walter Raleigh, to settle America 33 years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Cape Cod.

**NICK ARNOLD: THE ROLLICKING ADVENTURES OF JOHN FONTAINE****2.30pm-3.30pm** Community Hall **£8**

Pirates, storms, snakes and diseases – the adventures of John Fontaine are a real-life *Treasure Island*. In the 18th century this young soldier sailed from Appledore to America, explored the wilderness and met Native American tribes – and he kept a diary. Believed lost for centuries the diary has recently been found. Festival Founder **Nick Arnold** reveals John Fontaine's incredible story.

**TERESA TINSLEY: BUCCANEERS, SMUGGLERS & SHIPWRECKED SAILORS****4pm-5pm** Community Hall **£8**

After the Spanish Armada, the war with Spain dragged on for another fifteen years. Though legitimate trade was not possible, many Devonians continued to have contact with Spain through smuggling, privateering and naval warfare. **Dr Teresa Tinsley** returns to the Festival to recount more adventures of local men who sailed out over the bar during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and into the hands of the Spanish Inquisition.

**PETE YEO: SEE THE WORLD UPON GRAINS OF SAND WALK****10am-11.30am** Meet at The Glorious Oyster, Instow **£8**

Instow sandhills are home to exotic flora from around the world and this guided walk will explore their stories, both cultural and ecological. Where are they from, how did they get here, and what are their future prospects? Some plants may be familiar, others surprising; all have deep wisdom to convey. Led by reconciliation ecologist and plant writer Pete Yeo. Stout footwear recommended. *Sorry, no dogs.*

**ALAN DAVIES: WHITE MALE STAND-UP In Conversation with Laura James****7.30pm-8.30pm** Main Tent at Skern **£20**

'Davies has done it again, damn him. Irritatingly good. Maddeningly funny. Annoyingly fine.' Stephen Fry

Alan Davies is one of the country's best-loved comedians, the star of TV crime mystery, *Jonathan Creek*, and the only permanent panellist on the panel show *QI*. Following *Just Ignore Him*, the bestselling memoir of his traumatic childhood, Alan returns with the next instalment of his life story in *White Male Stand-Up*. From throwing himself into the joyous and idealistic world of stand-up comedy, to his successful, and life-changing, television career, he reveals how insecurities and doubts saw him repeatedly dismantle everything around him. Filled with a cast of well-known comedians, actors and agents, and written with brutal honesty, it's a story of uplifting highs and painful lows, of success and excess, and the dangers of both. Funny and poignant.

Kindly sponsored by Chichester Developments
Photo credit: Tony Briggs

**TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK****8.30pm-10pm** Meet outside the Flame Factory **£8**

Appledore is full of ghosts if you know where to look. Listen for the fishermen's footsteps in Appledore's backstreets. Who is the curly-haired young girl seen in Market Street? As darkness falls, let **Terry Bailey** guide you through Appledore's winding lanes, alleys and churchyards with their stories of haunting and unexplained happenings. *Sorry, no dogs.*

MORE FESTIVAL EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

Please check our website for details:
appledorebookfestival.co.uk





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WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
FRIDAY 12 SEPT	6.30PM	VIP RECEPTION (INCLUDES TICKET FOR MARTIN CLUNES)	KINGSLEY SCHOOL LIBRARY	£28
	7.30PM	MARTIN CLUNES: REMARKABLE ANIMALS	KINGSLEY SCHOOL THEATRE	£20
SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER	10AM	DAVID CARTER: RNLI WALK & LIFEBOAT STATION TOUR	ENTRANCE TO CHURCHYARD	£9
	10.30AM	FAMILY FUN DAY	APPLEDORE VILLAGE	FREE
	11AM	LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE	ST MARY'S HALL	FREE
	11AM	JUDITH MACKRELL: ARTISTS, SIBLINGS, VISIONARIES - THE LIVES & LOVES OF GWEN & AUGUSTUS JOHN	KINGSLEY ROOM, THE BURTON	£12
	2PM	SAMUEL ALEXANDER: THE GREEN-WOOD CARVER	KINGSLEY ROOM, THE BURTON	£12
	4PM	TRISTAN GOOLEY: THE HIDDEN SEASONS - A CALENDAR OF NATURE'S CLUES AND SIGNS	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	5.45PM	IAIN DALE: MEMORIES OF MARGARET THATCHER	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER	7.30PM	DAMIEN LEWIS: SAS GREAT ESCAPES	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	9.30AM	MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE	OUTSIDE LIFEBOAT STATION	£8
	10.30AM	CRABBING COMPETITION	OPPOSITE JOHNS OF APPLEDORE	£4 PER TEAM
	11AM	ADRIAN TIERNEY-JONES: A PUB FOR ALL SEASONS - IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT BRITISH LOCAL	COMMUNITY HALL	£12
	12.30PM	ROMY GILL'S INDIA: RECIPES FROM HOME	COMMUNITY HALL	£12
	1.30PM	ROB EASTAWAY: MUCH ADO ABOUT NUMBERS - SHAKESPEARE'S MATHEMATICAL LIFE AND TIMES	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	3.15PM	JANE CASEY & WILLIAM SHAW: WRITING THE DETECTIVES	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	5PM	MOLLIE HUGHES: BREATHE - LIFE LESSONS FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	7PM	ITALIAN FEAST	COMMUNITY HALL	£40
	7.30PM	PAULA SIDES: A NIGHT AT THE OPERA	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£20
MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER	9.30AM	MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE	OUTSIDE LIFEBOAT STATION	£8
	10.45AM	DAVID CARTER: DISCOVER THE CHURCHYARD	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	12 NOON	SANDY BROWN: PLAY WITH CLAY	SANDY BROWN'S STUDIO	£75
	12.30PM	LESLEY PEARSE: THE GIRL WITH THE SUITCASE	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	2PM	PETE YEO: A SUB-TROPICAL TURN?	MEET AT DOCTON COURT	£8
	2.15PM	VICTORIA EVELEIGH: EXMOOR FARMS - A YEAR ON THE MOOR	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	4 PM	ROBERT HARDMAN: CHARLES III - NEW KING. NEW COURT. THE INSIDE STORY	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	4.15PM	JAMES BAILEY: THE MEANING OF LIFE	THE BAPTIST CHURCH	£10
	5.30PM	VERONICA HENRY: ONE NIGHT AT THE CHATEAU	THE YARD	£17.50
	5.45PM	MICHAEL MORPURGO: SPRING - THE STORY OF A SEASON	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£15, UNDER 12'S £10
	7.30PM	KADIATU KANNEH-MASON: YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£14

Next year's **Appledore Book Festival** will be **18-27 September 2026**

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER	9.45AM	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE FISH DOCK	APPLEDORE FISH DOCK	£10
	10.30AM	COFFEE MORNING WITH EMMA SIMPSON: BREAKING WAVES	UPSTAIRS AT THE ROYAL GEORGE	£12.50
	10AM	MIKE BLIGH & VERA GREEN: 200 YEARS OF THE RNLI & THE APPLEDORE LIFEBOAT	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	11.30AM	JOHN PUDDY: MS OLDENBURG - THE FERRY TO LUNDY	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£8
	1PM	KEITH DENBY: THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£8
	2.30PM	ROB WELLS: THE SEALS AROUND LUNDY	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£8
	4PM	HELEN SCALES: WHAT THE WILD SEA CAN BE - THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	4.30PM	INTRODUCTION TO SOURDOUGH WORKSHOP	COMMUNITY HALL	£30
	5.45PM	ANNE SEBBA: THE WOMEN'S ORCHESTRA OF AUSCHWITZ - A STORY OF SURVIVAL	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£14
	7.30PM	A GIN EVENING WITH WICKED WOLF	THE CLUB ROOMS	£30
	7.30PM	TRACY BORMAN: THE STOLEN CROWN - TREACHERY, DECEIT & THE DEATH OF THE TUDOR DYNASTY	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£14
WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK	OUTSIDE FLAME FACTORY	£8
	10AM	PETE YEO: SEE THE WORLD UPON GRAINS OF SAND WALK	GLORIOUS OYSTER, INSTOW	£8
	10AM	DAVID CARTER: DOCTON COURT - APPLEDORE'S OLDEST BUILDING	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	11.30AM	LIZ SHAKESPEARE: SICKNESS & SUPERSTITION IN NORTH DEVON	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	1PM	ANDY GABRIEL-POWELL: HOW THE MEN OF NORTH DEVON FOUNDED AMERICA	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	2.30PM	NICK ARNOLD: THE ROLLICKING ADVENTURES OF JOHN FONTAINE	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	4PM	TERESA TINSLEY: BUCCANEERS, SMUGGLERS & SHIPWRECKED SAILORS	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	7.30PM	ALAN DAVIES: WHITE MALE STAND-UP	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£20
THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK	OUTSIDE FLAME FACTORY	£8
	9.45AM	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE FISH DOCK	APPLEDORE FISH DOCK	£10
	10.30AM	PAULA BYRNE: SIX WEEKS BY THE SEA - THE SUMMER JANE AUSTEN FELL IN LOVE	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	11AM	LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE	WATERSTONES TENT	FREE
	12.30PM	FERN BRITTON: A CORNISH LEGACY	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	2.15PM	IAN LESLIE: JOHN AND PAUL - A LOVE STORY IN SONGS	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	4PM	AFTERNOON TEA WITH REBECCA ALEXANDER: MEMORIES OF HEATHER HOUSE	MARKET STREET KITCHEN	£10
	4PM	DUNCAN HARDING: THE CRIMINAL MIND	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	5.45PM	WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS: A ROAD TRIP AROUND IBERIA	WATERSTONES TENT AT SKERN	£30
	5.45PM	MICHAEL SHERIDAN: THE RED EMPEROR - XI JINPING AND HIS NEW CHINA	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	6PM	CLARE WILLCOCKS: SIP 'N' PAINT	ST MARY'S HALL	£28
	7.30PM	HELEN LEDERER: NOT THAT I'M BITTER	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER	10AM	GARETH P JONES: MURDER MYSTERY & MUSIC (FOR SCHOOL BOOKINGS ONLY)	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	FREE
	10AM	CLARE WILLCOCKS: APPLEDORE SKETCH WALK	OUTSIDE ST MARY'S CHURCH	£20
	10.30AM	LOUISE BUTCHER: GOING TOPLESS	ST MARY'S HALL	£10
	12NOON	FIONA BENSON: MIDDEN WITCH	ST MARY'S HALL	£8
	12.30PM	PAULA HAWKINS: THE BLUE HOUR	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	3PM	MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE	OUTSIDE LIFEBOAT STATION	£8
	3.30PM	WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS: CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG WINE REGIONS OF EUROPE	WATERSTONES TENT AT SKERN	£30
	4PM	S J PARRIS & KATE SUMMERSCALE: MURDER MOST FOUL	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£14
	5.45PM	ROGER TAYLOR: THE MAN WHO SAVED WIMBLEDON	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	7.30PM	GABRIEL GATEHOUSE: THE COMING STORM - INSIDE AMERICA'S RADICAL NEW POLITICS OF PARANOIA	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£16
	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK	OUTSIDE FLAME FACTORY	£8
SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER	10.45AM	JEREMY VINE: MURDER ON LINE ONE	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	12.30PM	KATE HUMBLE: HOME MADE - RECIPES FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	2PM	MASTERCLASS: HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH	ST MARY'S HALL	£10
	2.15PM	ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG: EVENFALL - THE GOLDEN LINNET	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15, UNDER 12'S £10
	4PM	TIGGY WALKER: JOHNNIE WALKER - BOTH SIDES NOW	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£12
	5.45PM	MARK BILLINGHAM: WHAT THE NIGHT BRINGS	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	6.45PM	VIP RECEPTION (INCLUDES TICKET FOR FRANK GARDNER)	WATERSTONES TENT AT SKERN	£28
	7.45PM	FRANK GARDNER: INVASION	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£20
SUN 21 SEPT	10AM	SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH THE AUTHORS INCLUDES BRUNCH & A GOODY BAG	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£26
	10.45AM	DAVID CARTER: RNLI WALK & LIFEBOAT STATION TOUR	ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCHYARD	£9
	1.30PM	LARRY LAMB: ALL WRAPPED UP	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£15
	3.15PM	PETROC TRELAWNY: TRELAWNY'S CORNWALL - A JOURNEY THROUGH WESTERN LANDS	MAIN TENT AT SKERN	£14
	7PM	APPLEDORE CEILIDH BAND	ST MARY'S HALL	£12.50

**MORE FESTIVAL EVENTS
TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY**

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appledorebookfestival.co.uk





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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE FISH DOCK - See page 16 for details

9.45am-10.30am

Appledore Fish Dock **£10**

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF JANE AUSTEN!

PAULA BYRNE: SIX WEEKS BY THE SEA -
THE SUMMER JANE AUSTEN FELL IN LOVE
In Conversation with Susan Sandon

10.30am-11.45am Main Tent at Skern **£15 includes coffee & cake on arrival**

In the summer of 1801, the Austen Family arrived at the fashionable Georgian seaside resort of Sidmouth for a six-week holiday. Jane's brother, Frank, was on leave from the Royal Navy, with hopes of uniting his sister with his friend Captain Peter Parker. But another holidaymaker, a handsome stranger, catches sight of Jane and is determined to make her acquaintance. As the weeks pass, Jane's relationship with both men brings about unexpected surprises. By the end of the summer, the course of her life will have changed forever. Set against the backdrop of Austen's family, the tensions of the war against France, and naval and colonial politics, this is the fascinating story of how the most famous romance writer of all time fell in love for the first time.



LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE

From 11am - Also on Sat 20 Sept

Waterstones Tent **FREE**

Come and meet some of the talented local authors in North Devon, represented by *Literary Fusion*. They represent a variety of genres from crime to children's fiction, fact to fantasy. It's a chance for you to chat through the writing process and ask questions about self-publishing, as well as talk through some of the pitfalls to avoid. On both days authors will be showcasing their latest books, some of which will be available to buy.



FERN BRITTON: A CORNISH LEGACY In Conversation with Veronica Henry

12.30pm-1.30pm

Main Tent at Skern **£12**

Much-loved TV presenter and bestselling author Fern Britton makes a welcome to Appledore to talk about her latest heart-warming novel. Cordelia Jago has lost everything. Her mother, her father, her career, her husband and her best friend, her trust. All she has left is a legacy she never expected – and never wanted. Wilder Hoo, The Wild House, is a crumbling Cornish Manor House full of unhappy memories. She is determined to sell-up and forget the past, but with the help of locals, Cordelia breathes new life into the home and is drawn back to happier times. But, will she also find a way to heal her heart too? An emotional and uplifting read about finding home in the most unlikely of places.

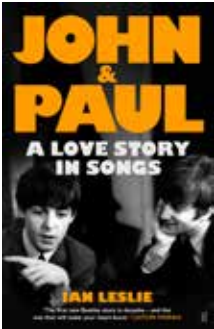
Kindly sponsored by Mitchell & Dickinson



IAN LESLIE:
JOHN AND PAUL – A LOVE STORY IN SONGS

2.15pm-3.15pm Main Tent at Skern £12

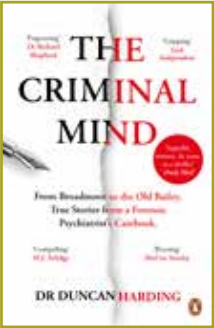
'A triumph' New Statesman *'Tremendous' The Times*
'The gold standard of Beatles books' Observer *'A masterpiece' Evening Standard*
The story begins in 1957 when two teenagers in suburban Liverpool meet and decide to play rock 'n' roll together. It ends 23 years later when one of them is murdered. In between, we see them become global stars, create countless indelible songs, and play a central role in shaping the modern world. In his acclaimed bestselling book author **Ian Leslie** traces the twists and turns of the relationship between **John Lennon** and **Paul McCartney** through the music it produced. Drawing on recently released footage and recordings, **Ian** offers rich insights into the nature of their creativity and collaboration, to provide a startlingly fresh take on two of the greatest icons in music history.



DUNCAN HARDING: THE CRIMINAL MIND

4pm-5pm Main Tent at Skern £12

'Superbly written...as tense as a thriller' Daily Mail
A likeable young girl who's burnt her family home to the ground. A man with no memory of the night he killed his wife. What drives a person to commit seemingly inexplicable crimes? Britain's leading forensic psychiatrist **Dr Duncan Harding** is the person the police and the courts turn to for answers. An expert witness, he must try to establish a defendant's mental state, motivation, and their fitness to stand trial. From Broadmoor to the Old Bailey, **Duncan** reveals true crime stories from his casebook. He also opens up about his own troubled background and what drove him to become a doctor that has brought him face to face with psychopaths and to the limits of his compassion.




AFTERNOON TEA WITH REBECCA ALEXANDER:
MEMORIES OF HEATHER HOUSE

4pm-5.30pm Market Street Kitchen £10 includes tea and cake


Enjoy tea and cake in the company of local author **Rebecca Alexander** as she talks about her latest book, *Memories of Heather House*. Ruby blinks back tears and gazes across the violet-studded moors from the doorstep of Heather House before she turns and lifts the key. What heart-wrenching secret will she discover in her childhood home? An absolutely stunning and unforgettable read about family, loss and new beginnings that will sweep you away to rugged moors and cosy villages.





LIVE MUSIC & BAR AT SKERN

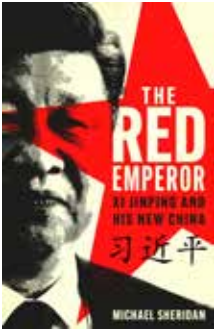
See website for details of performers and timings.



MICHAEL SHERIDAN: THE RED EMPEROR –
XI JINPING AND HIS NEW CHINA
In Conversation with Professor John Heathershaw

5.45pm-6.45pm Main Tent at Skern £15

An eye-opening portrait of Xi Jinping, the man who presides over 1.4 billion people and the second largest economy on earth. In a compulsively readable narrative, veteran foreign correspondent **Michael Sheridan** sheds new light on the history and politics of modern China. He explains why no one is safe in Xi's techno-security state and reveals why we must not underestimate his ruthlessness and drive to dominate world trade, to defeat Western democracy and to make China the supreme power in the East.



WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS:
A ROAD TRIP AROUND IBERIA

5.45pm-7.15pm Waterstones Tent at Skern £30 includes wine & nibbles

Award-winning wine and drinks writer and broadcaster, **Susy Atkins**, makes a welcome return to Appledore to host an evening of wine tasting dedicated to some lesser-known wines of Spain and Portugal. **Susy** is the wine columnist for telegraph.co.uk and is well-known for her many appearances on TV and radio www.susyatkins.co.uk
Kindly sponsored by Wollens Wine kindly sponsored by Wickhams Wine Merchant



CLARE WILLCOCKS: SIP 'N' PAINT

6pm-8.15pm St Mary's Hall £28

Join artist and illustrator, **Clare Willcocks**, as you paint a local scene in watercolour, with a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. A fun and creative social evening with a lovely piece of art to take home. This is a tutored session and all abilities are welcome, even beginners. Materials provided.



HELEN LEDERER: NOT THAT I'M BITTER
In Conversation

7.30pm-8.30pm Main Tent at Skern £15

'Dizzy, dippy and divinely funny' Stephen Fry
A regular of the stand-up circuit and the new wave sketch shows in the 1980s **Helen Lederer** shared stages with Ben Elton and John Hegley, and TV screens with Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Harry Enfield, and many others. From the iconic *Absolutely Fabulous*, to *Bottom*, *Happy Families*, *French and Saunders* and *Girls on Top*, it is difficult to think of a comedy show that **Helen** wasn't a part of. So, plain sailing then? Well, not really. In her frank and funny memoir, **Helen** reveals exactly how choppy the waters could be in a world of comedy where she struggled to be seen and heard. Brilliantly written and moving, *Not That I'm Bitter* is sweet, sour, laugh out loud, and addictive.

Photo credit: Steve Ullathorne



GARETH P JONES: MURDER MYSTERY & MUSIC**10am-11am**Main Tent at Skern **SCHOOLS EVENT**

Award winning author/performer **Gareth P Jones** presents a unique event of songs, jokes and frenetic story telling as he embarks on a musical journey through his books, including *The Thornthwaite Inheritance*, *Death or Ice Cream?*, *Dragon Detective* and *Solve Your Own Mystery*. Expect fast rapping, funky ukulele and plenty of audience interaction.

NB This is a free event for Y5 and Y6 pupils only. Register your school at schools@appledorebookfestival.co.uk.

We regret this event is not open to the general public.

Kindly sponsored by Clearcut Campervan Design

In association with The Miranda Foundation

**CLARE WILLCOCKS: APPLIEDORE SKETCH WALK****10am-12.30pm**Meet outside St Mary's Hall **£20**

Explore Appledore with artist and illustrator, **Clare Willcocks**. This tutored session will see you stroll gently through the streets stopping en route to be expertly guided through a number of watercolour sketches. All abilities are welcome. Materials provided.

**LOUISE BUTCHER: GOING TOPLESS****10.30am-11.30am**St Mary's Hall **£10**

Braunton-resident **Louise Butcher** grew up as an anxious hypochondriac, haunted by fears of illness and mortality. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer, her worst nightmare became a reality. Determined to reclaim her life, **Louise** found strength in running. What began as an escape soon became her passion. Despite a double mastectomy she began running marathons and, in her boldest act, ran the London Marathon topless, proudly baring her scars to raise awareness for breast cancer. In her inspiring memoir she encourages others to confront their fears and embrace life's scars.

**FIONA BENSON: MIDDEN WITCH****12noon-1pm**St Mary's Hall **£8**

Award-winning Devon poet **Fiona Benson** joins us to read from her new collection dedicated to the lives of the healers, artists and prodigies persecuted as witches. Through **Fiona's** remarkable poems these women speak back to us with dark humour and insight. They tell tales of imagined transformations and spellcasting, and how these gifted, sometimes troubled, individuals became scapegoats, victims of societal paranoia and persecution, and were hounded for centuries, often to their death.

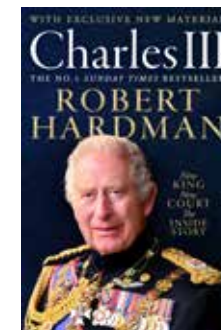
**NEW EVENT! PAULA HAWKINS: THE BLUE HOUR****12.30-1.30pm**In Conversation with **Orlando Murrin**Main Tent at Skern **£12**

Paula Hawkins' first thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, was a global phenomenon, a number-one bestseller around the world. She will be talking about her extraordinary success and her latest psychological thriller, *The Blue Hour*, a twisty, dark and chilling tale set on a remote Scottish Island.

THIS EVENT IS NOW MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER AT 4PM**ROBERT HARDMAN: CHARLES III – NEW KING.****NEW COURT. THE INSIDE STORY****2.15pm-3.15pm**Main Tent at Skern **£12**

'Scoops aplenty. . . An irresistible insider account of momentous royal events' **The Times**

An insider's portrait of **Charles III** by the bestselling biographer and royal commentator, **Robert Hardman**. Faced with family dramas, health issues, political crises and questions about the future of the monarchy, the new King has no shortage of challenges. **Robert** charts a story of transition at the very top from the days following the death of Elizabeth II to the Coronation, and of a sovereign resolute in making his mark. He describes the vital role played by Queen Camilla, and the King's relationships with his sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. With his unrivalled access to the Royal Family, their close friends, staff past and present plus previously unseen papers in the Royal Archives, the author reveals Charles the man as well as the monarch.

**MARTIN UNWIN: WALK ON THE WILD SIDE - See page 10 for details****3pm-5pm**Meet outside the Lifeboat Station **£8****WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS:****AUTUMN GOLD – CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG WINE REGIONS OF EUROPE****3.30pm-5pm** Waterstones Tent at Skern **£30 includes wines & nibbles**

Discover some new favourites as award-winning wine and drinks writer, and Devon-resident, **Susy Atkins**, hosts an afternoon of wine tasting dedicated to wines from across Europe that are perfect for the autumn months. **Susy** is the wine columnist for telegraph.co.uk as well as contributing to many other publications. www.susyatkins.co.uk

Wine kindly sponsored by Wickhams Wine Merchant

**S J PARRIS & KATE SUMMERSCALE:****MURDER MOST FOUL****4pm-5pm**Main Tent at Skern **£14**

Sunday Times bestselling authors **S J Parris** and **Kate Summerscale** discuss the nuances of writing fictional thrillers versus true crime stories. **S J Parris's** latest historical novel, *Traitor's Legacy*, the first in a new series, sees former spy Sophia de Wolfe investigate the murder of a young heiress. Although a work of fiction the descriptions of Tudor London are real, and many of her characters did exist. **Kate Summerscale's** *The Peepshow* is a gripping account of the murders of at least eight women at 10 Rillington Place, a notorious crime of the 1950s, committed by Reg Christie. Written in her award-winning novelistic style, **Kate** has mined the archives to uncover the lives of the victims, the tabloid frenzy that their deaths inspired, and the truth about what happened inside the house. **Kate** is the author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, adapted into a major ITV drama.

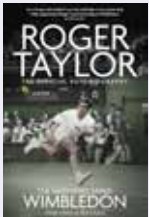


ROGER TAYLOR:
THE MAN WHO SAVED WIMBLEDON
In Conversation with Marcus Buckland

5.45pm-6.45pm Main Tent at Skern **£15**

Former number one British tennis player **Roger Taylor** lived through some of the most turbulent times in tennis as the sport transitioned from amateur to professional status. He reached three Wimbledon semi-finals and was twice US doubles champion. In 1973 he defied the Wimbledon boycott to play in the Championships, saving the day for the tournament, but at great personal cost. In this revealing account **Roger** shares the highs and lows of his career, what it was like to play alongside **Rod Laver**, **John Newcombe**, **Ken Rosewall**, and others, and even a young **Bjorn Borg**. He also talks about what came next, including being in the running to replace Sean Connery as James Bond!

Kindly sponsored by Kingsley School



GABRIEL GATEHOUSE: THE COMING STORM – INSIDE AMERICA’S RADICAL NEW POLITICS OF PARANOIA
In Conversation with Jeremy Vine

7.30pm-8.30pm Main Tent at Skern **£16**

‘His reporting is meticulous, his storytelling is as compelling as it is chilling’ New Statesman

What is going on in the United States of America? Is democracy dying? Based on his smash hit podcast, *The Coming Storm*, journalist Gabriel Gatehouse’s brilliantly explores the roots of QAnon and the rise of the extreme right in the US. It’s a story that reaches back decades, showing how a dark fantasy embedded itself in the American consciousness, threatening to derail its democracy - and it continues to unfold today. **Gabriel’s** riveting book unpacks an epochal shift in political culture that starts in the earliest years of the Clinton administration and reaches a crescendo on 6 January 2021 with the storming of the US Capitol. But, as we now know, that event wasn’t the wild finale of a chaotic Trump presidency many hoped for - it was only the beginning.



TERRY BAILEY: GHOST WALK - See page 21 for details

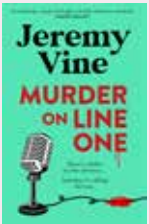
8.30pm-10pm Meet outside the Flame Factory **£8**

JEREMY VINE: MURDER ON LINE ONE
In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

10.45am-11.45am Main Tent at Skern **£15**

BBC broadcaster and festival favourite **Jeremy Vine** talks about his new book, the first in a brand-new murder mystery series. Darkness looms over sunny Sidmouth, when an unsolved murder comes to the attention of late-night radio talk show host, Edward Temmis. Recently sacked from his beloved job after a devastating tragedy, Edward is cast adrift – until he meets Stevie, whose grandmother, a devoted listener, died in a suspicious fire. Will helping Stevie uncover the truth give Edward the purpose he needs? Joined by his old fling, Kim, they discover Stevie’s grandmother wasn’t the only one of his listeners targeted. But who is pursuing his ageing audience and why? And can they get to the bottom of this mystery before it’s too late? Funny, poignant and hugely enjoyable.

Kindly sponsored by Harding & Co
Photo credit: Sophia Spring



KATE HUMBLE: HOME MADE – RECIPES FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE
In Conversation with Jo Rees

12.30pm-1.30pm Main Tent at Skern **£15**

Much-loved TV presenter **Kate Humble** returns to Appledore to celebrate the farm-to-table journey and the people who make it possible in this love letter to home cooking. Along with over 60 sustainable recipes from her own kitchen table **Kate** offers inspiring stories from individuals who play a role in bringing food to the table. From fishermen and cheesemakers, farmers and chocolatiers, distillers and salters, to the people who make the tools we need to cook and serve in a sustainable way such as basket-weavers and potters. *Home Made* is perfect for anyone who cherishes good, sustainable food and wants to connect with what they are eating, celebrate local producers, and create delicious meals in the comfort of their own kitchen.

Kindly sponsored by bunnyhomes
Photo credit: Kate Hudson Vernon



Please visit appledorebookfestival.co.uk for more information

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MASTERCLASS: HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH

2pm-3.30pm

St Mary's Hall £10

A panel discussion exploring all aspects of starting to publish yourself, and the pitfalls to avoid. Chaired by Phil Parker from ArtMakers the panel will consist of Olli Tooley from Blue Poppy Publishing; Lesley Anne Cornish, artist and children's book publisher; and Denise Smith, a self-published crime writer.

ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG: EVENFALL – THE GOLDEN LINNET

2.15pm-3.15pm

Main Tent at Skern £15;
£10 aged 12 or under



Go on an interactive adventure with writer, presenter, comedian, and actor Alexander Armstrong as he introduces *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet*, his epic debut children's book bursting with ancient magic, secret societies, and fearsome foes! In this event, audience members will discover Alexander's top tips for writing stories, create their own villain and hear about what goes into writing a thrilling adventure. The event includes a Q&A with Alexander and a chance to ask him about his extraordinary career.

Kindly sponsored by Affinity Devon
Photo credit: David Sheinmann



TIGGY WALKER:

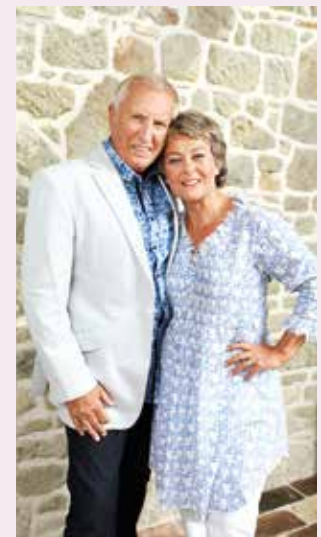
JOHNNIE WALKER: BOTH SIDES NOW -
Laughter, Grief & Everything in Between
In Conversation with Jeremy Vine

4pm-5pm

Main Tent at Skern £12

An intimate and moving account of Radio 2 legend Johnnie Walker's life and passing. The story of a national treasure we won't soon forget, told by the woman who knew him best. In conversation with fellow Radio 2 journalist and friend Jeremy Vine, Johnnie's devoted wife Tiggy explores the final stages of his illness, while reflecting on the stories of their life together. She remembers the best times in their life and the highs of Johnnie's career, which underpins their final and precious moments together. This heartfelt, and life-affirming tribute remembers a life well-lived, while exploring the profound challenge of saying goodbye to someone so adored, with love, dignity and grace.

Photo credit: James McMillan





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APPLEDORE INSTOW FERRY



Visit www.appledoreinstowferry.com for timetable

MARK BILLINGHAM: WHAT THE NIGHT BRINGS In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

5.45pm-6.45pm

Main Tent at Skern £15

'The very best in the business' Richard Osman

Sunday Times bestselling crime writer **Mark Billingham** returns to Appledore with his 25th novel, and the 19th featuring Detective Inspector Tom Thorne in his most shocking case ever. The targeted murder of four officers is only the first in a series of attacks that leaves police scared, angry and, most disturbingly of all, vengeful. As Tom Thorne and Nicola Tanner dig into the reasons for the violence, a deeper darkness begins to emerge: the possibility that these murders are payback. The price paid for an unspeakable betrayal. To uncover the truth, Thorne will be forced to question everything he stands for. He can trust nobody, and the secrets revealed by one terrible night will fracture his entire world. Tense, thrilling and compulsive.

Photo credit: Steve Best



VIP RECEPTION 6.45pm-7.30pm Waterstones Tent at Skern £28 includes a glass of wine, canapés and a ticket for Frank Gardner

Join us for a glass of wine, canapés and music prior to Frank Gardner's talk in this **exclusive event for Friends and AppleFactors**.

Glasses kindly sponsored by Dartington Crystal



FRANK GARDNER: INVASION In Conversation with Jeremy Vine

7.45pm-8.45pm

Main Tent at Skern £20

'Everything is impressive in this masterly account...exhilarating (if alarming) topicality.' Sunday Times

Frank Gardner has been the BBC's Security Correspondent since 2002. One of the most respected journalists around, he has reported extensively on security stories from across the globe, especially in the Middle East. Drawing on his years of experience and in-depth knowledge of the security services, Frank has written four spy thrillers featuring MI6 operative, Luke Carlton, all of which have been Sunday Times bestsellers. In his latest explosive novel, *Invasion*, Carlton is racing against time to prevent the next geo-political cataclysm: China's invasion of Taiwan. Tense, fast-paced and genuinely unnerving.

Kindly Sponsored by Samuels Solicitors

Photo credit: Kin Ho



SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH THE AUTHORS

Hosted by Veronica Henry

10am-1pm Main Tent at Skern £26 includes Brunch & a Goody Bag

- Meet your favourite authors
- Hear about their latest books
- Share the joy of reading with like-minded people
- Ticket includes a delicious brunch, and a Goody Bag with TWO free books!

RACHEL JOYCE: THE HOMEMADE GOD

'A masterly and deeply satisfying exploration of art, grief and familial bonds.' Observer

Piedmont, Italy. Goose and his three sisters gather at the family's house by Lake Orta. Their father, a famous artist, has recently remarried a much younger woman and decamped to Italy to finish his masterpiece. Now he is dead and there is no sign of a painting. As the siblings search for answers, the things they learn - about themselves, their father and their new stepmother - will drive them apart before they can come to an understanding of what their father's legacy truly is. A compelling family drama from the multi award-winning bestselling author. Rachel is the author of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* which was adapted for film in 2023.



Photo credit: Pal Hansen



KATE KEMP: THE GRAPEVINE

Australia, 1979. It's the height of summer, and on a quiet suburban street a housewife is scrubbing the floor. But it's 3am, and it's not dirt she is removing. It's blood. Her husband has just murdered their neighbour. As news spreads of the death twelve-year-old Tammy launches her own investigation but her well-meaning efforts uncover more mysteries than they solve - and the identity of the murderer is only one of them. Richly atmospheric and simmering with tension, this is an unforgettable debut novel.



Photo credit: Anthony Bothe



JOANNA MILLER: THE EIGHTS

Oxford, 1920. Four young women arrive at Oxford University, the first female students in its 1000 year history. Giddy with dreams of equality, education and emancipation, they move into neighbouring rooms and form an unlikely, and life-affirming friendship. They knew they were changing history. They didn't know they would change each other. This absorbing debut is a 'Book of 2025' pick for *Good Housekeeping* and *Prima*.

In association with The Miranda Foundation

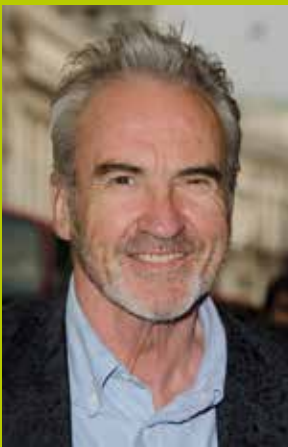


Photo credit: Lucy Noble



DAVID CARTER: RNLI WALK - See page 8 for details

10.45am-12noon Meet at entrance to the Churchyard £9 includes £1 donation to RNLI



LARRY LAMB: ALL WRAPPED UP In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

1.30pm-2.30pm Main Tent at Skern £15

'Speedy, sexy and amusingly truthful. I loved it.' Celia Imrie

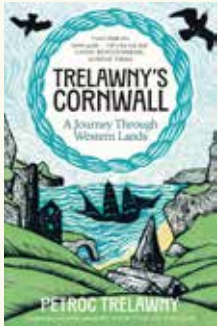
Actor Larry Lamb, best known through his starring roles in *Gavin & Stacey* and *Eastenders*, joins us to talk about his entertaining debut novel set in the world of film. Amidst political turmoil on a Caribbean Island, the first assistant director is determined to see his film through - if the chaos doesn't consume them first. Between managing an impossible lead actor, navigating power struggles on and off set, and a crew member vanishing, the production is at risk of falling apart. Blending sharp dialogue and rich behind-the-scenes detail, *All Wrapped Up* is a compelling portrait of non-blockbuster filmmaking under fire.



PETROC TRELAWNY: TRELAWNY'S CORNWALL - A JOURNEY THROUGH WESTERN LANDS

3.15pm-4.15pm Main Tent at Skern £14

Much-loved broadcaster **Petroc Trelawny** travels to the county of his birth to rediscover the place where he grew up. Part history, part memoir, this is a deeply felt exploration of Cornwall - past, present and future. Travelling by road, rail and foot, **Petroc** embarks on a slow journey that sees him visit old mine workings, ancient churches, sites where new technology was forged, and places where poets, musicians, architects and film makers have worked to shape Cornwall's cultural identity.



FINAL FESTIVAL TALK TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY
Please check our website for details: appledorebookfestival.co.uk



APPLEDORE CEILIDH BAND

7pm doors open; dancing 7.30pm-10pm St Mary's Hall £12.50

Come and join us for a Festival Fling Finale! The Festival ceilidh will be a hooley and a half as we join local favourites the **Appledore Ceilidh Band** for an evening of dancing and merriment. No previous ceilidh experience required as their expert caller will guide the dancing, accompanied by foot-stomping traditional live music. Raise a glass, shake a leg, and get set for a great night of music and fun. Bar open from 7pm.





ART EXHIBITION

10am onwards*
St Mary's Hall **FREE**

From Saturday 13 September

Exhibition Closed: Wednesday 17 September for rehang and addition of new work

Exhibition Open again: 18-21 September
(Additional artwork viewable on the ArtMakers & Festival websites)

The New Atlantic Wave Art Exhibition, by not-for-profit BCre8ive Art Makers CIC returns to the Festival for a fourth great year. Experience the extraordinary talent of the New Atlantic Wave of North Devon artists. Explore works by over 30 local artists and makers, working across media from acrylic and oil paint to printing, sculpture, glass and jewellery PLUS from Thursday 18 September the unique hand-made art books of Somerset based Art Book Collective ABCD who have made this exhibition possible.

All work is for sale and all sales contribute to the Festival charity fund. Cost of original artwork can be spread over 10 months at no extra cost through 'Own Art'. Exhibition also available online in our virtual gallery from Friday 12 September at www.artmakers.uk/exhibition



'Lynmouth' by Artist, Claire Coker

**Closing times will vary throughout the Festival depending on the events at St Mary's Church or Hall. The exhibition will close at 4.30pm or approx. 30 minutes after the last event in St Mary's Church or Hall. ArtMakers thanks all sponsors who have made this exhibition possible.*

2025 APPLEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL ART PRIZE WINNER



Sarah Lockett, a North Devon-based artist, has won this year's Art Prize. Her beautiful artwork, shown in full alongside, will be on display at this year's Festival and **will be auctioned at the end of the 10 days**. Profits will be shared between the artist and the Festival's charity.

Sarah's impressionist-style paintings capture the beauty and character of the coastline and countryside. Working in a loose, expressive style, her work reflects a deep connection to the landscapes that inspire her.

After a career in magazine journalism in London, Sarah began painting in the US, channelling homesickness for the North Devon coast into her first abstract seascape. Since moving to Devon in 2010, she has continued to evolve her self-taught



practice, exhibiting in both the UK and the US, and undertaking commissions that celebrate personal and local stories.

To find out more visit sarahlockett.net

SANDY BROWN GALLERY TOUR

11am-5pm - Open Fridays

Sandy Brown Studio **FREE**

You are welcome to visit Sandy Brown's studio near the Community Hall. There you will see a range of Sandy's work including *Temple*, a large-scale installation originally commissioned for an exhibition held in the grounds of Chatsworth House. Envisioned as a non-denominational space for quiet contemplation, the piece consists of over 5,200 hand-painted ceramic tiles and stands over 6 metres tall. Open both Fridays. *Please note: we regret that the Gallery does not have disabled access. Sorry, no dogs.*



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BOOKING YOUR TICKETS & USEFUL INFO

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Book your tickets easily online at appledorebookfestival.co.uk

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Visit our information office at:
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Appledore, Devon EX39 1RY
(see opening times below)



For further information you can call
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(please note ticket bookings cannot be made
over the phone)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Scan the QR code to view our website for:

- Booking tickets
- Updates to events
- FAQs
- Details of parking
- How to get to venues
- Disability access
- Conditions of booking
- More information



INFORMATION OFFICE OPENING DATES/TIMES

Sat 19 July (10am – 12noon)	Wed 23 July (5pm-7pm)	
Sat 26 July (10am – 12noon)	Wed 30 July (5pm-7pm)	Mon 25 Aug (10am-12noon)
Then every Saturday until 6 Sept (except 23 Aug) (10am-12noon)		

During the Festival there will be a Box Office/Information Desk in St Mary's Hall and at Skern

WATERSTONES FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

Waterstones Barnstaple will have a pop-up bookshop in St Mary's Hall (Sat 13-Tues 16 Sept) and at Skern (Wed 17-Sun 21 Sept) offering a selection of books from Festival authors and bestselling titles. For most events there will be an opportunity to have a book signed by the author after their talk. Anyone is welcome to use the bookshop – no ticket needed.



DOGS

We regret that no dogs are allowed in the venues, except guide dogs. Thank you for your understanding.

SKERN SITE

New and improved facilities and access on site! The field at Skern can be slippery and uneven in places. Please make sure you wear appropriate footwear and come dressed for the weather conditions. It can get chilly, especially in the evenings. Blue Badge parking is available close to the Main Tent entrance. Skern is a no smoking site.

Next year's Appledore Book Festival will be **18-27 September 2026**

The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and do not reflect those of the Appledore Book Festival. All information is correct at the time of going to press. The Appledore Book Festival reserves the right to change event details at any time. Any updates will be shown on our website appledorebookfestival.co.uk

FESTIVAL SPONSORS

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of this year's Festival sponsors ...

For Schools Sponsors please see our website.



Thanks also to: Bruce Wake Charitable Trust for improving disabled access at Skern.

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

Being a Friend of the Appledore Book Festival has some great benefits:

- An advance digital copy of the Festival programme and notifications of upcoming events
- Priority advance booking - one week ahead of general public sales
- Invitations to exclusive Friends' events
- Discounts on books bought at the Waterstones Festival Book Shop
- Discount on 'Book of the Month' in person at Waterstones, Barnstaple
- Discount on food at The Yard, Appledore, during the Festival (Mon-Thurs) excludes drinks
- Discount on annual subscription to Coast Magazine
- Regular newsletters
- 10% off all orders from Wickhams Wine Merchant, with free delivery on 6 or more bottles.

Like so many literary Festivals, the past few years have been difficult. As a charity, we need your support to help secure the Festival for future generations to enjoy and being a Friend is a great way to support us.

Annual membership is £28.



GIFT VOUCHERS

Another way to support the Festival is to buy gift vouchers. Gift vouchers can be redeemed against event tickets and have an 18-month expiry date. Alternatively, they can be used to purchase Friends membership.



Please visit appledorebookfestival.co.uk for more information

OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS

The work of creating and delivering our fabulous book Festival goes on year round: no sooner does one end, than the planning for the next begins! There are significant costs associated with putting on such an event, and as a charity we rely so much each year on our wonderful supporters. Thanks to everyone who came last year, our event sponsors, and all who took out Friends membership and made other contributions, 2024 was a great success. Because of you we are able to not only hold this year's Festival but also support local causes and hold our annual Schools Week. We'd like to thank the team at Vertu Motors plc for driving our authors. Thanks also to Dave Green and Terry Mathews (www.terrymathews.photography) for their wonderful collections of photography & special recognition for the grant-makers who support the Festival and in particular to The Charlotte Aitken Trust. And finally, we thank our AppleFactors including Paula & Rod Littlewood and Mrs Graham Fuller for their incredible generosity and support. Further details of all our supporters are on our website.



VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all the many volunteers who help to set up and steward the events. They give their time free of charge and their help and support is invaluable to the Festival's success.

OUR PATRONS

We are so grateful to our Patrons who give their time to advise and support the Festival. Their input is greatly appreciated and we are delighted that many of them will be joining us in person this year.

OUR THANKS GO TO: Nick Arnold - Ann Cleaves - Andy Cooper - Veronica Henry - Tanya Landman - Judi Spiers - Sarah Stein - Jeremy Vine - Richard Wolfenden-Brown.

TRUSTEES & THE FESTIVAL TEAM

The Festival wouldn't happen without the amazing Trustees and Festival Team who work throughout the year to plan and deliver our events for our community and visitors.

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KINGSLEY OPEN DAYS

EXPLORE WHAT MAKES KINGSLEY DIFFERENT

- ⇒ Year 7 Open Morning: Thursday 18th September
- ⇒ Sixth form Open Evening: Thursday 16th October
- ⇒ Whole School Open Day: Thursday 20th November

Kingsley
SCHOOL DEVON



FOOD & DRINK AT THE FESTIVAL



ALL WELCOME! ENJOY DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY 13 - TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Drop by at St Mary's Hall where the **RIVERSIDE SUPPORT GROUP** will be running a **café**. Refreshments will be available in The Club Rooms on Wednesday 17 September (Local History Day)

WEDNESDAY 17 - SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

At Skern, a wide variety of Food & Drinks will be prepared and served by: Skern Catering Van
Beatz Cookin Kitchen - Croyde Coffee - The Garden Box
Hocking's Ice Cream - Wickhams Wine Merchant & More ...

(Please note not all outlets on site each day)

As well as these concessions there are many wonderful places to eat & drink in Appledore including:

The Appledore Bakery - Flame Factory - Johns of Appledore
Market Street Café - Sylvester's Fish & Chips - The Beaver Inn
The Champ - The Coffee Cabin - The Royal - The Royal George
The Royal Plaice - The Seagate - The Yard

Check the website for details, including opening times
appledorebookfestival.co.uk/festival-food-and-drink

