APPLEDORE 20 BOOK FESTIVAL

18-27 SEPTEMBER 2026

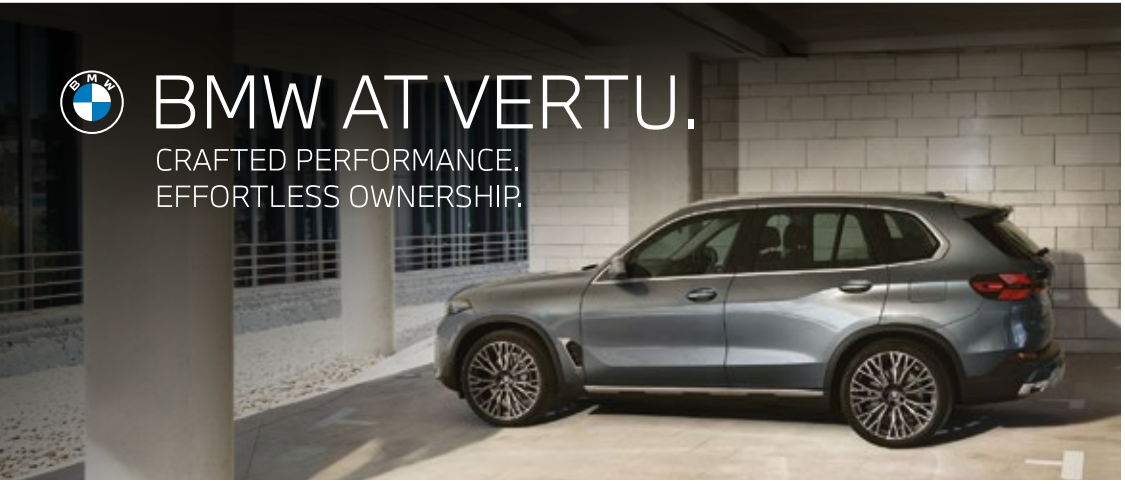
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LITERATURE BY THE SEA



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WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL



Photo by Terry Mathews

Welcome to the 20th Appledore Book Festival – a milestone year for us all on the Board of Trustees and the committee, a festival that has always been a remarkable community event. What began as Nick Arnold's dream to save Appledore library from closure, has grown into one of the South West's most vibrant literary festivals. This is a testament to the passion, generosity and commitment of everyone who contributes and takes part, from the AppleFactors and Friends of the Festival to the volunteers, sponsors and, of course, the authors.

This year ties in perfectly with the National Year of Reading celebrating the power of books to spark change and inspire action. Nowhere is that energy more alive than in our Schools Week, which has grown busier and more ambitious than ever. Seeing young readers at the Festival or in schools across North Devon reminds us why this annual event exists and why its future is so bright. This year also saw the first Appledore Book Festival bursary awarded to a student at Plymouth University, extending our support for young writers.

The hugely popular free Family Fun Day in the village returns on the first Saturday, and further weekend events for children and families have been added this year at our Skern site. There is an extra tent to accommodate all the fabulous events that are planned.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years. Whether you are a long-time friend or joining us for the first time, I hope this anniversary year brings you joy, discovery and a continued love of reading.

We look forward to welcoming you to Appledore in September.

Sara Mendosa

Chair of Trustees

Follow us on: @appledorebookfestival @appledorebookfestival

Tickets will be on sale from the following dates:

Friends priority booking from **Friday 24 July**

General public booking from **Saturday 1 Aug**

APPLEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL

THE CHARLOTTE AITKEN TRUST SCHOOLS WEEK

"The author visit made me believe that my stories mattered too!"
Year 6 Pupil



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Winner of
NORTHERN DEVON FLOURISHING CULTURE AWARDS 2025

20 YEARS OF:

UNFORGETTABLE AUTHORS - BRINGING LITERATURE TO LIFE
SPARKING CREATIVITY - DISCOVERING THE POWER OF STORY

In **2026**, the Schools Team will:
Take **27** authors to **74** schools - that's **234** events in one week!
AND give **10,000** books to children to take home

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

Our thanks go to all our sponsors and donors for making this happen

CAT CHARLOTTE AITKEN TRUST
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BEN MILLER AND ROBERT THOROGOOD:
PARADISE REVISITED
In Conversation with Susan Sandon

7.30pm-8.30pm Kingsley School Theatre **£20**

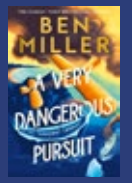


Photo credit: Arved Colvin-Smith



Actor, comedian and author **Ben Miller**, joins *Death in Paradise* creator and writer, **Robert Thorogood**, to look back at the success of the series. Since DI Richard Poole, played by **Ben Miller**, solved his first case on the Caribbean island in 2011, *Death in Paradise* has captivated audiences around the world, and produced two spin-off series, including *Beyond Paradise*, set in Devon. **Ben** and **Robert** will discuss the appeal of the murder/mystery story, and the lasting legacy of Agatha Christie, as well as her influence on their own work.

They will also talk about their latest novels, **Ben's** *A Very Dangerous Pursuit*, his hilarious debut novel for adults, and the first in the Richard Hannay adventures, while **Robert** will discuss *The Mysterious Affair of Judith Potts*, the fifth Marlow Murder Club novel, also now a successful television series.





Kindly sponsored by Blueyonder Balconies & Balustrades Ltd

VIP RECEPTION

6.30pm-7.15pm Kingsley School Library **£28**
includes wine, canapés & ticket for Ben Miller & Robert Thorogood



Join us for a glass of wine, canapés and music prior to Ben and Robert's talk in this **exclusive event for Friends and AppleFactors.**
Kindly sponsored by Errazuriz - Glasses kindly sponsored by Dartington Crystal











FAMILY FUN DAY

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

- A'dore
- Appledore Bakery
- Appledore Bookshop
- Appledore Chocolate Shop
- Appledore Gallery
- Appledore Library
- Bideford Model Railway Club
- Book Relief
- Burton Art Box
- Coffee Cabin
- Devon & Cornwall Police
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Fire Service
- Flame Factory
- Hocking's
- Jack Sprats
- Johns of Appledore
- Market Street Kitchen
- Maritime Museum
- Mrs Recycle
- Number Twenty
- RNLI
- SS Freshspring
- The Biosphere
- The Champ
- The Royal
- The Seagate
- Uncle Wainwright's
- Watermouth Castle

Photos by Dave Green, reproduced with parental permission

CRABBING COMPETITION: APPLEDORE PIRATES

11am-12noon **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!



FAMILY FUN DAY

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

FREE

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:

- Gluing & Sticking
- 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

LITTLE WOLF'S READING DEN

Hocking's

*While Stocks Last

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

Get creative with Joseph Witchall 11am-1pm in the Baptist Church.

Drop in sessions by local author and illustrator of *Verdy - A Seed for Change in the City*

Kindly sponsored by Little Wolf's Reading Den



BURTON AT BIDEFORD

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.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT NAVANTIA SHIPYARD

Navantia UK

6.30pm-7.45pm Navantia Shipyard, Appledore **£10 includes refreshments**

Join us for a visit to Navantia UK's Appledore yard, featuring a guided tour with a behind-the-scenes look at the working shipyard and its facilities. Please note that visitors must wear their own sensible, fully enclosed shoes; high-visibility jackets and hard hats will be provided. Afterwards, enjoy some light refreshments and a talk on the rich history of Appledore Shipyard.

MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS

- See page 21 for details

10am-12noon Meet at Appledore Bridge on the entrance road to Northam Burrows **£8**

HARRIET LOFFLER: RELATIVE TIES – THREE GENERATIONS OF NICHOLSON WOMEN



11am-12noon Kingsley Room, The Burton at Bideford **£12**

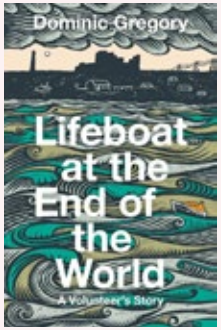
A celebration of the legacy of three generations of women artists from the illustrious Nicholson family - Mabel, her daughter Nancy, daughter-in-law EQ, and EQ's daughter, Louisa Creed. Together they form a celebrated line of artists working from the late nineteenth century to the present day, across a multiplicity of spaces, contexts and mediums. **Harriet Loffler** explores what women inherit from their mothers, what can be passed down matrilineal lines and the importance of siblings to a creative practice. It brings together designs, painting, textiles and wallpaper, offering new insights into the tools and techniques the artists used.

This event is a collaboration between The Burton at Bideford & Appledore Book Festival.

BURTON AT BIDEFORD

DOMINIC GREGORY: LIFEBOAT AT THE END OF THE WORLD – A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

In Conversation with Mike Bligh



4pm-5pm St Mary's Church **£12 (includes £2 donation to RNLI)**

'This is a truly unforgettable memoir of courage and the moral imperative to save lives at sea' **Independent**

For 200 years, the Dungeness lifeboat in Kent has launched in storms and heavy seas. Like all lifeboat stations in the British Isles, including Appledore's, it is led by a coxswain and staffed by volunteers. **Dominic Gregory** is one such volunteer. In this remarkable book he explains what it's like to be a volunteer when the call to 'a shout' is made, knowing that a life may be at stake. He describes the training and the teamwork, and the ethos of the service. But, it's when the inflatable dinghies, overloaded with people, start arriving on their shores that the crew face their greatest challenges.

IAIN DALE & GUESTS:

THE GENERALS – LESSONS IN HISTORY

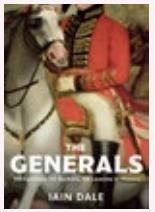


Photo credit: Steve Ullathorne

5.45pm-6.45pm St Mary's Church **£15**

'No man is fit to command another that cannot command himself.' **Robert E. Lee**

With the planet in turmoil there is global interest in the record of military commanders in various combat zones throughout the ages. What made them successful? How much is it to do with their strategic abilities, leadership qualities or force of personality? In his latest book, author and broadcaster, **Iain Dale** brings together an array of experts to share valuable insights into 69 key military leaders who've shaped our world, from Attila the Hun to Sir Mike Jackson. **Iain** will discuss what lessons can be learnt from the past with contributors, former MP and soldier, **Tobias Ellwood**, former Defence Secretary, **Lord John Hutton**, and **Major General Timothy Cross** (retired).

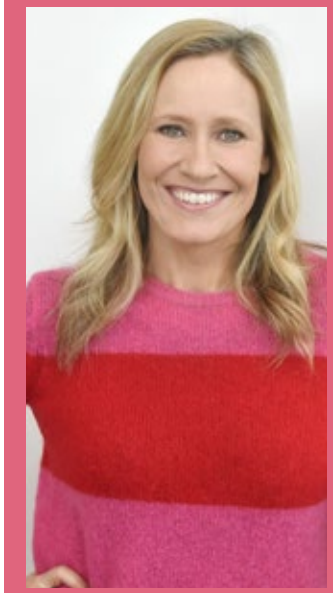


Kindly sponsored by D Scott Financial Ltd

SOPHIE RAWORTH:

RUNNING ON AIR – FROM BBC HEADLINES TO LIFE-CHANGING FINISH LINES

In Conversation



7.30pm-8.30pm St Mary's Church **£15**

'A generous, joyful book. deeply moving at points, very funny at others. Generally - and genuinely - life-affirming.' **The Times Magazine**

Sophie Raworth is one of Britain's best-known broadcasters, covering some of the most significant world events and interviewing many global figures. But there is another side to Sophie. At the age of 40, she took up marathon running, despite having done little exercise for decades. Her first one was a disaster – she collapsed two miles from the finish line - but she has now run all seven world Marathon Majors and completed more than 20 marathons and 10 ultra-marathons. **Sophie** discusses her inspiring story and reveals how running has helped her deal with some of the toughest challenges, both at work and in life.



Kindly sponsored by The Accounting Company

Photo credit: BBC

FOOD & DRINK AT ST MARY'S HALL

Drop by St Mary's Hall where the Riverside Support Group will be running a café in aid of the North Devon Hospice. Delicious cakes, sandwiches, teas, coffees and more.

Open Sat 19 Sept and Mon 21/Tues 22 Sept 10am-4.30pm; 1pm start Sun 20 Sept.

Wine, beer & soft drinks on sale from 5pm to 9pm on Sat 19 Sept, and in St Mary's Church from 7pm on Sun 20 Sept.

RUPERT KIRKWOOD: A KAYAK SAFARI AROUND DEVON AND CORNWALL

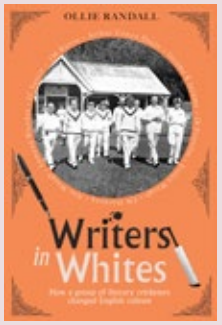
10.45am-11.45am Community Hall **£8**



Rupert Kirkwood, aka The Lone Kayaker, takes us on a kayak safari around Devon and Cornwall, introducing us to some of the remarkable creatures he has encountered. Otters, beavers, seals, sharks, puffins, dolphins, giant tuna, whales...and a swimming squirrel to name just a few. Over the years **Rupert** has paddled every inch of the coast of SW England, including out to every island, up every creek and into every sea cave. The talk will be illustrated with stunning photography of wildlife as seen from the kayak as he paddles silently and unobtrusively around the coast.

OLLIE RANDALL: WRITERS IN WHITES – HOW A GROUP OF LITERARY CRICKETERS CHANGED ENGLISH CULTURE
In Conversation with Vic Marks

12.15pm-1.15pm Community Hall **£12**

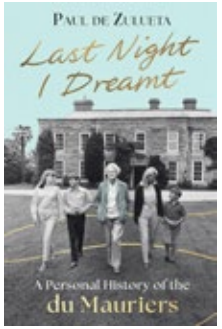


'This book reminds us how writing and cricket and reading belong together, as do the people who love them. And I'm one of them!' **Michael Morpurgo**

PG Wodehouse used his cricket-playing to launch his writing career. JM Barrie modelled the pirates in Peter Pan after his cricket teammates. Arthur Conan Doyle named Sherlock Holmes after a cricketer he'd played against. They all belonged to a network of cricket-playing writers, who collectively left a permanent legacy on English culture. Their teams went by various names, but most often they called themselves the Authors. Based on a wealth of new research, author **Ollie Randall** tells the story of the players and how cricket influenced their careers and their writings.

PAUL DE ZULUETA: LAST NIGHT I DREAMT – A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE DU MAURIERS
In Conversation with Susan Sandon

1.30pm-2.30pm St Mary's Church **£12**



Daphne du Maurier is one of our best-known writers, famed for novels such as *Rebecca*, *My Cousin Rachel* and *Jamaica Inn*. Born into an artistic dynasty, she defied convention and moved to Cornwall to pursue her ambition of becoming a writer. This revelatory book by **Paul de Zulueta**, Daphne du Maurier's grandson, explores how the turbulence and contradictions of du Maurier's own life - spanning war, affairs, marriage, and unrequited love - inspired her writing. Drawing on private family archives, including previously unseen photos, and his own recollections of his grandmother, the author gives an extraordinary and moving portrait of du Maurier's life.

Become a Friend of the Festival and get priority notification of new events, up-to-date Festival news & more!
Visit **appledorebookfestival.co.uk/friends-membership** for full details.

SUNDAY **20 SEPTEMBER**

DAVID CARTER: 20 LOST INNS OF APPLEDORE

2.30pm-4pm Meet outside the Royal George in Irsha Street **£8**



"Every other building used to be a pub". These words can often be heard about old Appledore. But how true is it? In this brand new walk for the 20th anniversary local historian **David Carter** takes you on a historic "pub-crawl" walk. You will discover the locations of the old inns, hear their stories, and pass one or two that have survived the years. *Sorry no dogs.*

NB: The walk will finish in New Quay Street at the Bell Inn slipway.

DAMIEN LEWIS: THE GREAT TRAIN RAID - THE MOST DARING SAS MISSION OF WWII

3.15pm-4.15pm St Mary's Church **£12**

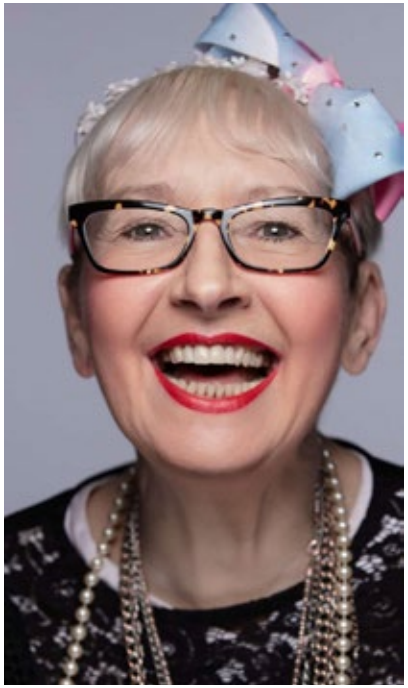


Autumn 1943: the SAS hijack a train, raid deep into enemy territory, and liberate a concentration camp. A mission so extraordinary, yet so secret, that barely any record exists. Following on from his sell-out event at last year's Festival, bestselling author **Damien Lewis** returns to bring this remarkable story to life. Via first-hand testimonies and long-hidden files, he recounts how, with audacity and daring, the SAS succeeded in taking a train through hostile territory to raid the camp and rescue those held there. He will also relate stories from his fifth volume of *SAS Great Escapes*.

Kindly sponsored by Wildsea

SU POLLARD: FULLY CHARGED – UNIQUE, UNADULTURATED AND UTTERLY UNSTOPPABLE
In Conversation with Laura James

5pm-6pm St Mary's Church **£15**



Su Pollard began acting aged six. As a teen, she paid her dues singing in working men's clubs before a life-changing appearance on *Opportunity Knocks*, during which she was famously beaten by a singing Jack Russell. Her first major TV show was 1970s sitcom *Two Up, Two Down*, and she's barely stopped since; with starring roles in *Hi-de-Hi!* and *You Rang, M'Lord?* Known for her wacky sense of fashion and cheeky humour Su is a stalwart of British pantomimes, and has continued to work in theatre, TV comedy and reality shows such as *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Celebrity MasterChef*. Here she shares hilarious stories from an action-packed half-century of sheer entertainment.



Kindly sponsored by Clearcut Campervan Design

Photo credit: British Music Hall Society Home of Music Hall & Variety

EMYR WYN JONES: AN EVENING OF SONG

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



Acclaimed Welsh baritone **Emyr Wyn Jones** joins us for an evening of popular opera arias, songs from the shows and traditional Welsh melodies, all introduced with his trademark humour. Fresh from appearing at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, in Britten's *Billy Budd*, and starring as Figaro in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, for both Scottish Opera and Opera North, 2026 saw Emyr appearing in *Fires of the Moon (Tanau'r Lloer)* the first opera in the Welsh language, broadcast on Channel 4. His other roles include Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, also for Opera North, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* and Colline in *La Bohème*.

Emyr will sing a selection of classic opera arias from Mozart, Puccini and Donizetti, as well as favourite songs from the shows. The evening will include a number of traditional Welsh songs. He will be accompanied by pianist Toby Stafford.

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

SPANISH FESTIVAL FEAST

7.30pm-9.30pm Market Street Kitchen **£42**
includes three courses & welcome drink



Join us for a special evening of fine Spanish cuisine hosted and cooked by Market Street Kitchen.

Featuring a range of classic Spanish dishes including *Gambas al Ajillo* (sizzling garlic prawns), *Chicken Pintxo* (grilled on skewers - a popular Basque dish) and *Patatas Bravas* (crispy potatoes in a spicy, smoky tomato sauce) you'll enjoy a variety of foods, served tapas style, in a fun and sociable atmosphere. On arrival you will be welcomed with a white wine sangria, before sitting down to your first course. A selection of delicious main dishes follows before finishing with the ever-popular *Churros con Chocolate* and a cortado coffee. Vegetarian alternatives available. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale at the venue.

TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE

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

To celebrate the 20th Book Festival, local ghost raconteur **Terry Bailey** will take you on a guided walk around Appledore, telling you about his favourite 20 ghosts. Which ones will he pick? *Sorry, no dogs.*

DAVID CARTER: 20 MONUMENTS INSIDE THE CHURCH

11am-12noon St Mary's Church **£10**



Following the success of **David Carter's** 'Discover the Churchyard' talk last year, he now turns his attention to the inside of Appledore Church and its monuments. These wall plaques don't shout their stories, but they are equally as fascinating as those people commemorated outside. Let **David** tell you who these people were and why they are celebrated here. An illustrated presentation.

SANDY BROWN: PLAY WITH CLAY WORKSHOP

12noon-5pm Sandy Brown's Studio **£75**



Immerse yourself in a full afternoon workshop with world-leading ceramic artists 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 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.

NICK ARNOLD: A PLACE TO DREAM

12.45pm-1.30pm St Mary's Church **FREE**



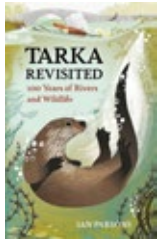
In 2010, Festival founder **Nick Arnold** wrote and produced *A Place to Dream*, a very special film about how the beauty of our North Devon coast inspired famous authors, Charles Kingsley, Rudyard Kipling and Henry Williamson. The film was widely praised but only shown once. To celebrate the 20th Festival we are pleased to be showing this enchanting film once more. The film will be personally introduced by **Nick Arnold**.



IAN PARSONS: TARKA REVISITED – 100 YEARS OF RIVERS AND WILDLIFE

2.15pm-3.15pm St Mary's Church **£10**

As we approach 100 years since the publication of Henry Williamson's captivating book, *Tarka the Otter*, set along the Rivers Taw and Torridge, author and former forest ranger, **Ian Parsons**, looks at the state of otters in Britain today. He reflects on what has happened to the otter during the last century, from near extinction to thriving in modern-day urban living and a common sight in waterways across most of the country, including North Devon. He considers the outlook for the species and asks, is their future secure?



After the event, you are welcome to join Ian for a drink at The Beaver Inn in Irsha Street, the setting for the final chapter of his book. Ticket entitles you to £1 discount on a draught beer or soft drink. Single use only.

Kindly sponsored by The Beaver Inn

THE BEAVER INN IS PROUD TO SPONSOR APPLEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL

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WE HAVE A RANGE OF ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK FROM JAZZ NIGHTS ON A MONDAY, OPEN MIC NIGHTS TO END THE WEEKEND ON A SUNDAY, ALONG WITH LIVE MUSIC ON SATURDAY NIGHTS & A FORTNIGHTLY QUIZ TO TEST YOUR GENEREAL KNOWLEDGE!






COME AND VIST OUR TRADITIONAL NORTH DEVON COASTAL PUB AND LOOK AT THE STUNNING PANORAMIC VIEWS IT WON'T DISAPPOINT!

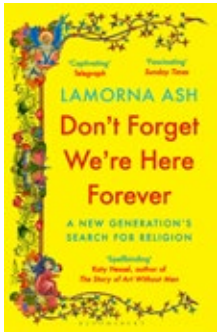


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BOOKINGS TAKEN ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE
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LAMORNA ASH:
DON'T FORGET WE'RE HERE FOREVER – A NEW GENERATION'S SEARCH FOR RELIGION
In Conversation with Pete Yeo

4pm-5pm St Mary's Church **£10**



'Captivating' **Telegraph** *'Fascinating'* **Sunday Times**
A rare and arresting book' **New Statesman** *'A book for our moment'* **Irish Times**

When several of her friends turned to faith in their twenties, **Lamorna Ash** sensed the start of a new phenomenon. In our fractured age, a new generation was rediscovering Christianity for itself. **Lamorna** embarked on a journey across Britain to meet young people wrestling with faith today. From ancient abbeys to modern meeting houses, silent retreats to garrulous Bible classes, she explores our need for community and nourishment of the soul.



ESTHER GHEY: UNDER A PINK SKY – TURNING TRAGEDY INTO A FIGHT FOR A SAFER FUTURE
In Conversation with Natasha Harding

5.45pm-6.45pm St Mary's Church **£12**

'A remarkable cry of hope' **Guardian**

When 16-year-old Brianna Ghey went out to meet a friend, her mother, Esther, was relieved – a positive step after years of isolation. But Brianna never came home. As the devastating circumstances of Brianna's murder came to light, Esther somehow found the strength to turn her grief into a lasting legacy for her lost child. With unflinching courage **Esther Ghey** tells Brianna's story and explains how she has turned tragedy into a movement for change, fighting for a safer online world and better mental health support for young people.





VERONICA HENRY: THE INVITATION
In Conversation with Jo Rees

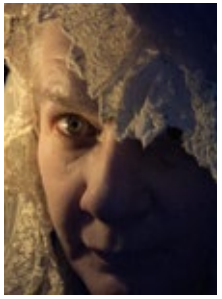


6pm-7.30pm The Crowbar, Northam **£20**
includes a Somerset cocktail and a selection of canapés

'Romance, heartbreak and secrets. I loved it!' **Fern Britton**

Festival favourite *Sunday Times* bestselling author and patron **Veronica Henry**, returns to talk about her sweeping new novel, set between post-war London and the enchanting Foxwood Manor in the rolling Somerset countryside. As invitations are sent out to a glamorous ball, designed to bring light to the house after the sorrows of war, the lives of three women – Clementine, Stella and Elizabeth – collide with unimaginable consequences. Will secrets of the past break the family apart, or bring them back together?

TANYA LANDMAN:
CATHY'S GHOST – WUTHERING HEIGHTS RETOLD



7.30pm-8.30pm St Mary's Church **£10**

Award-winning author, actress and Festival patron, **Tanya Landman**, presents her one-woman show retelling the story of Emily Brontë's much-loved classic through the eyes of Cathy's ghost. It is a chance for Cathy to tell her own story of her doomed affair with Heathcliff, giving a more sympathetic view than that presented by the book's narrator. Sharing her enthusiasm for Brontë's masterpiece, Tanya hopes that fans will enjoy this new take on the story. And for those who have yet to read it, it will provide an intriguing introduction to the brilliance of *Wuthering Heights*.



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GILLY McARTHUR: THE BEAUTY OF COLD – THE RESTORATIVE POWER OF COLD WATER
In Conversation with Veronica Henry

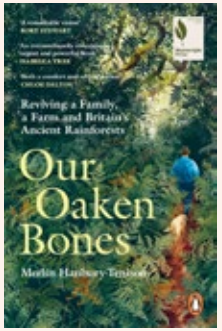
Plus, chance to win a **dryrobe®** *on the day*



10.45am-11.45am St Mary's Church **£10**

Cold water swimming is one of nature's most powerful resets - a plunge into the wild that clears the mind and awakens the body. From reducing stress to improving sleep, the mental and physical health benefits of cold-water swimming are well-known. But beyond the science, there's something more profound: a chance to silence the noise of everyday life and rediscover ourselves through the healing power of cold and the calming embrace of blue spaces. Cold water coach **Gilly McArthur** shares her passion for icy water and wild places.

MERLIN HANBURY-TENISON:
OUR OAKEN BONES – REVIVING A FAMILY, A FARM AND BRITAIN'S ANCIENT RAINFORESTS



12.30pm-1.30pm St Mary's Church **£10**

An astonishing true story of one couple's discovery of the healing power of nature and their dedication to protect one of the UK's last remaining fragments of Atlantic temperate rainforest. Reeling from the pain of miscarriages and suffering from PTSD after military adventures in Afghanistan, **Merlin** and his wife Lizzie leave London and return to **Merlin's** childhood farm on Bodmin Moor. The challenges are many, but they are determined to save not only themselves and their farm, but also their beloved area of rainforest, one of the world's most endangered habitats.

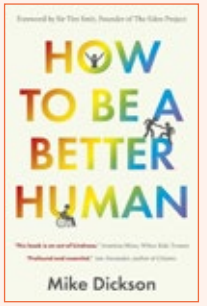
SARAH HOWELLS: DELICIOUS GLUTEN FREE MEALS
In Conversation



2.15pm-3.15pm St Mary's Church **£10**

More and more people are turning to a gluten-free diet whether for health reasons or as a lifestyle choice. But it's not always easy knowing what to cook for dinner. In this informative talk award-winning gluten-free blogger, **Sarah Howells**, who lives in North Devon, explains that creating delicious gluten-free meals doesn't have to be difficult - or cost a fortune.

MIKE DICKSON: HOW TO BE A BETTER HUMAN
In Conversation with Pete Yeo



4pm-5pm St Mary's Church **£10**

What if becoming a better human wasn't about grand gestures, but about small, meaningful actions done with care? In this inspirational talk **Mike Dickson**, the founder of children's charity Whizz Kidz, draws on a lifetime of listening, learning and showing up, to demonstrate how we all have the power to make a positive difference in our lives. He reminds us that in a complex world kindness still counts, and that sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is sit beside someone and truly care.

Kindly sponsored by Discover Your Bounce

STORYTIME FOR TODDLERS

10am-10.30am Appledore Library **FREE**

Bring your toddler along for a special story time session run by Dominique at the Appledore Library. There will be plenty of fun for you and your child as you share the joy of books together. Also on Thurs 24 Sept 10am-10.30am.

DAVID CARTER: 20 LOST INNS OF APPLEDORE - See page 11 for details

10.30am-12noon Meet outside the Royal George in Irsha Street **£8**

MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS

See page 21 for details

2.30pm-4.30pm Meet at Appledore Bridge on the entrance road to Northam Burrows **£8**

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOURDOUGH

4.30pm-6.30pm Community Hall **£30**



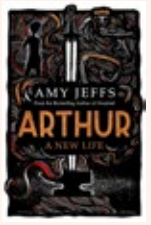
Joe Riley, co-founder and lead baker of The Appledore Bakery, teaches you how to make artisan sourdough bread. He will cover every aspect of sourdough, including the history, baking techniques, flour, equipment, recipes and health benefits – ending with a chance to taste some of the bakery's produce. 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.



AMY JEFFS: ARTHUR – THE MYTH AND THE REALITY
In Conversation

5.45pm-6.45pm St Mary's Church **£12**

A fresh look at the legend of King Arthur from author, artist and medievalist, **Dr Amy Jeffs**. In this lively and erudite book, **Amy** examines the sources of many elements of a story we think we all know, from the sword in the stone to the round table, from Queen Guinevere and Merlin to the magical island of Avalon. By taking us back to the earliest medieval sources, she brings us a new Arthur, in contrast to the courtly ruler of the romances. He's still a brave warrior, but is violent and vengeful, a slayer of monsters, an ambitious empire-builder. Is this the true story of King Arthur? As **Amy** says, *'...the seam between myth and reality is full of moth-holes.'*



The evening will end with an original song sung by **Amy**, inspired by her research.

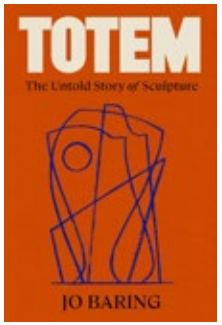
Photo credit: Rachael Humphrey

TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE - See page 12 for details

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

JO BARING:
TOTEM – THE UNTOLD STORY OF SCULPTURE

6pm-7pm Baptist Church **£12**

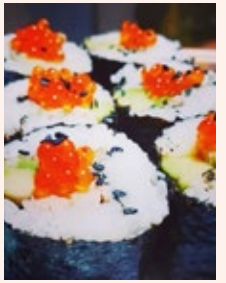


For forty thousand years, we have been carving and moulding, shaping and chiselling, feeling our way and sensing our place in the world through sculpture. In this accessible, story-led journey into the heart of sculpture, renowned art historian and curator **Jo Baring** explores creativity, memory and why we have been driven to make art in this medium since the very beginning of humanity. She examines sculptures from pre-historic figures to Renaissance masterpieces, as well as bringing fresh light to work by more contemporary giants including **Alberto Giacometti**, **Barbara Hepworth**, **Henry Moore**, **Louise Bourgeois**, and **Antony Gormley**.

Kindly sponsored by London House Studio & Gallery

AN INTRODUCTION TO SUSHI

7pm-9pm Market Street Kitchen **£28**



Join **Chui** from *Fusion.212* to learn the basics of sushi making in this hands-on, flavour-packed course designed for beginners and food lovers alike. You'll master essential techniques to make three different types of sushi, using smoked salmon, chicken and avocado. Along the way, you'll gain insight into the traditions behind sushi, ingredient selection, and presentation skills that make each piece a work of art. Whether you're looking to impress guests or simply elevate your home cooking, this session will leave you confident, creative, and ready to roll. All participants will be given a sushi mat, chopsticks and a box of three different sushi to take home.



NEW FOR 2026: THE BIG SUMMER READ
CLARE LESLIE HALL: BROKEN COUNTRY
In Conversation with Veronica Henry

7.30pm-8.30pm St Mary's Church **£10**
includes a glass of wine

READ THE BOOK * MEET THE AUTHOR

To coincide with this year's National Year of Reading join us for The Big Summer Read. We are encouraging everyone to read the same book over the summer months, and to come along and meet the author during the Festival over a glass of wine.

The chosen book, *Broken Country* by **Clare Leslie Hall**, has been a global bestseller with more than one million copies sold worldwide. Set in a West Country village this beautifully written love story, with the pulse of a thriller, is a novel of impossible choices and devastating consequences.



The book is on sale at a reduced price at selected outlets in Appledore and nearby, and available at local libraries. Perfect for book clubs and reading groups, or for anyone who likes a good read.

Kindly sponsored by Errazuriz

Photo credit: Oli Green

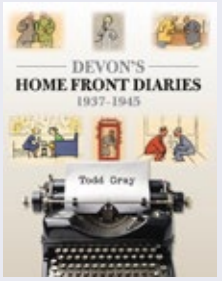
ALISON MILLS: NORTH DEVON IN 20 OBJECTS



10am-11am Community Hall **£8**

The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon holds over 75,000 objects and **Alison Mills** has worked there for over 30 years. The book, *North Devon in 100 Objects*, celebrates highlights of the collections, including oddities, recent finds and personal possessions. For this talk **Alison** will select just 20 objects, each one being the starting point for some surprising stories about places in North Devon and inspirational people.

TODD GRAY: DEVON'S HOME FRONT DIARIES, 1937-1945



11.30am-12.30pm Community Hall **£8**

We often hear the views of soldiers fighting during WWII, but what were the inner thoughts of people left at home? Amazingly an official project encouraged the keeping of diaries and records, but these have never been made public - until now. Devon historian **Dr Todd Gray MBE** has edited these Home Front Diaries in his new book revealing what was really on the minds of Devonians during that traumatic period in history.

Kindly sponsored by Philip J Milton & Company plc

SIMON WEST: SECRET WARTIME EXPERIMENTS IN APPLEDORE



1pm-2pm Community Hall **£8**

In the years ahead of D-Day, the War Office was making plans for amphibious operations that would need development of specialist equipment and techniques for getting forces safely across to the beaches of France. Lieutenant Colonel **Simon West OBE**, a retired Royal Artillery officer and former Appledore resident, will explore the fascinating activities of Appledore's secret Combined Operations Experimental Establishment (COXE) and its contribution to *Operation Overlord*.

NICK ARNOLD: THE DARK SECRETS OF BLOODY CORNER



2.30pm-3.30pm Community Hall **£8**

It's hard to visit Appledore without passing 'Bloody Corner' at Northam – but why the ominous name? Join **Nick Arnold** for a 4000-year journey into ghostly sightings, terrifying superstitions and battles, real and invented, to reveal an astounding secret unknown to historians and local people. On the way we'll meet baffled antiquarians, arrogant lawyers, eccentric poets, a drunken TV star and the maddest Victorian scientist ever!

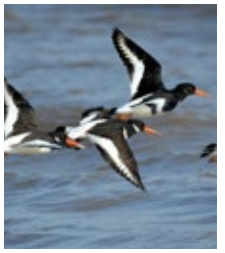
DAVID CARTER: WAS AN ENGLISH KING BURIED IN DEVON?



4pm-5pm Community Hall **£8**

In 2024, Philippa Langley presented her new book at the Festival explaining how the mystery of the Princes in the Tower had been solved. But what happened to the two princes, Edward and Richard after they left the Tower, it is still being debated. Local historian **David Carter** explains his part in this continuing research, piecing together the new life of the missing elder brother, along with the suggestion that Edward V, as he became, may have ended his days in a remote Devon village.

MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS

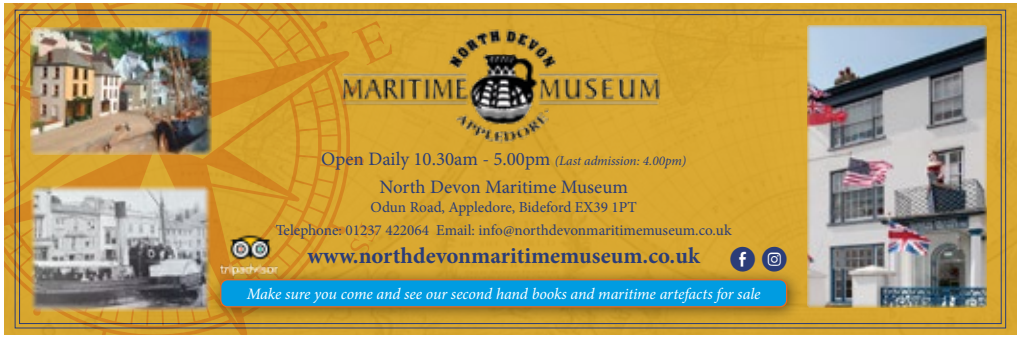


3pm-5pm **£8**

Meet at Appledore Bridge on the entrance road to Northam Burrows

Join local wildlife expert **Martin Unwin** in search of the 20 most popular bird species to be found along our coastline. On this delightful walk he will help you look for birdlife along the high tide roost, the Taw/Torridge Estuary and Northam Burrows. *Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and, if possible, bring binoculars. Sorry, no dogs.*

Refreshments available in the Community Hall on Local History Day





COFFEE MORNING WITH KATE STRASDIN: DRESSING THE QUEEN – TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF MAKERS AND MONARCHY



10.30am-12noon Upstairs at The Royal George **£13**
includes coffee & cake

'A truly wonderful and fascinating book!' **Lady Anne Glenconner**

Royal laundresses, corset makers and feather curlers: these are just some of the women and men who designed, sewed, stitched and steamed the clothes of Britain's queens, from Queen Victoria to the present day. Dress historian **Kate Strasdin** celebrates the incredible craftsmanship and painstaking effort that goes into creating, and caring for, the Royal Wardrobe. *Sorry no wheelchair access.*

DAWN O'PORTER: HUNGRY EYES - A MEMOIR OF APPETITE, AMBITION AND THE ODD BAG OF WOTSITS FOR DINNER
In Conversation with Laura James



5.45pm-6.45pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16**

What if the thing you've been chasing your whole life was already sitting at your kitchen table?

For years, bestselling author and presenter **Dawn O'Porter** thought that fulfilment lived somewhere glamorous: in success, recognition and a life turned up to full volume. Somewhere between grieving loss, learning to cook something vaguely nutritious, Hollywood dreams, raising children, writing fiction and eating Wotsits for dinner, **Dawn** discovered that the real spotlight wasn't out there. It was actually at the kitchen table. In this witty and inspiring memoir, she reflects on the moments and the meals that quietly shape who we become, and the ingredients we use to gradually build a life. Warm, sharp and wise, this is Nigella meets Nora Ephron with a side of therapy and served with a little bit of bite; this will definitely make you want to cook for the ones you love.



Photo credit: Toby Madden

North Devon Meditation Courses

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For more info or to book contact Simon on simonjohnssea@gmail.com

www.simonmeditation.co.uk

IAN BUXTON: WHISKIES GALORE – A TOUR OF SCOTLAND'S ISLAND DISTILLERIES
In Conversation with Nick Cooper



5.45pm-6.45pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£14**
includes a dram of whisky and a free whisky glass

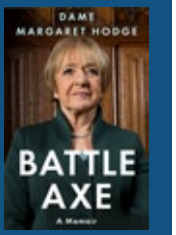
Join whisky expert **Ian Buxton** on a personal journey across Scotland's islands. Island whiskies have long held a fascination and a powerful emotional draw on whisky drinkers the world over. Their special combination of heritage, mystique and remote location captures the imagination; their highly distinctive flavours are often imitated but seldom bettered. Combining an expert's knowledge of whisky, with a travel writer's fondness for anecdote and with a keen description of place, **Ian** provides a special treat for all who love the islands' magical drams.

DAME MARGARET HODGE: BATTLE AXE – A LIFE IN POLITICS
In Conversation



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

Dame Margaret Hodge has been called a champagne socialist, a national treasure, a loony leftie, a radical reformer, a traitor, and yes – a battle axe. She has never much minded. What has always mattered is the fight itself, and the conviction that politics, done properly, can make the world a better place. In this forthright book, she does not spare herself. She reflects on mistakes made and lessons learned, and is honest about the grief she felt at the loss of her beloved husband Henry. It captures the joy of the battles won - crushing Nick Griffin of the BNP in Barking, forcing transparency on tax havens, calling Jeremy Corbyn an antisemitic racist to his face – and the frustration of watching hard-won gains undone by those who came after. With governments in turmoil and the world at a crossroads, **Dame Margaret** looks back at over 50 years in politics, and explains why she is still passionate about making a difference.



MORETON HOUSE DEVON

MORETON HOUSE

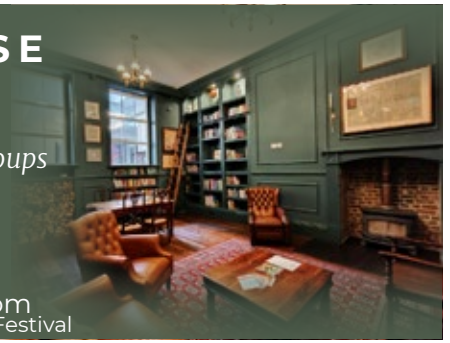
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BRIN PIRATHAPAN: ELEVATE – EVERYDAY INGREDIENTS, INCREDIBLE FLAVOURS
In Conversation with Jo Rees

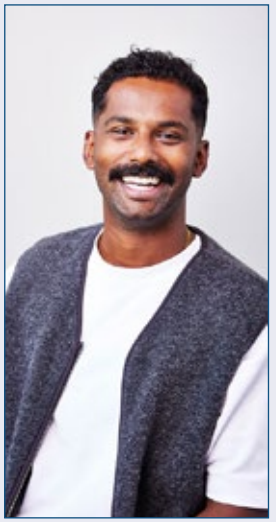
7.30pm-8.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£12**

'If ever there was a cookbook to fill you with joy and happiness, this is the one.' **Michel Roux Jr**

'Food bursting with flavour.' **Paul Ainsworth**

In this entertaining and informative talk MasterChef winner **Brin Pirathapan** will explain how to elevate everyday cooking with recipes that are big on flavour and low on budget. Each recipe starts with a simple, accessible ingredient instantly upgraded by **Brin's** signature flair for flavour and a touch of inspiration from his Tamil Sri Lankan heritage. Expect global mash-ups, banging quick wins and moreish comfort food with a twist. Whether you're coming home after a long day, cooking up a weekend feast, or simply trying to escape a midweek rut, **Brin's** recipes deliver big flavour with ease.





TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE - See page 12 for details

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



	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
17 SEPT	6.30PM	BEHIND THE SCENES AT NAVANTIA SHIPYARD	NAVANTIA SHIPYARD, APPLEDORE	£10
FRIDAY 18 SEPT	6.30PM	VIP PARTY (INCLUDES TICKET FOR BEN MILLER & ROBERT THOROGOOD)	KINGSLEY SCHOOL LIBRARY	£28
	7.30PM	BEN MILLER & ROBERT THOROGOOD: PARADISE REVISITED	KINGSLEY SCHOOL THEATRE	£20
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER	10AM	ART EXHIBITION	ST. MARY'S HALL	FREE
	10AM	MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS	MEET AT APPLEDORE BRIDGE, ENTRANCE TO THE BURROWS	£8
	10.30AM	FAMILY FUN DAY	APPLEDORE VILLAGE	FREE
	11AM	CRABBING COMPETITION	OPPOSITE JOHNS OF APPLEDORE	£4 PER TEAM
	11AM	HARRIET LOFFLER: RELATIVE TIES	KINGSLEY ROOM, THE BURTON	£12
	4PM	DOMINIC GREGORY: LIFEBOAT AT THE END OF THE WORLD	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	5.45PM	IAIN DALE: THE GENERALS - LESSONS IN HISTORY WITH TOBIAS ELLWOOD, JOHN HUTTON & TIMOTHY CROSS	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£15
	7.30PM	SOPHIE RAWORTH: RUNNING ON AIR	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£15
SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER	10.45AM	RUPERT KIRKWOOD: A KAYAK SAFARI AROUND DEVON AND CORNWALL	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	12.15PM	OLLIE RANDALL: WRITERS IN WHITES - HOW A GROUP OF LITERARY CRICKETERS CHANGED ENGLISH CULTURE	COMMUNITY HALL	£12
	1.30PM	PAUL DE ZULUETA: LAST NIGHT I DREAMT - A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE DU MAURIERS	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	2.30PM	DAVID CARTER: 20 LOST INNS OF APPLEDORE	MEET AT OUTSIDE THE ROYAL GEORGE IN IRSHA ST	£8
	3.15PM	DAMIEN LEWIS: THE GREAT TRAIN RAID - THE MOST DARING SAS MISSION OF WWII	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	5PM	SU POLLARD: FULLY CHARGED - UNIQUE, UNADULTERATED AND UTTERLY UNSTOPPABLE	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£15
	7.30PM	SPANISH FESTIVAL FEAST	MARKET STREET KITCHEN	£42
	7.30PM	EMYR WYN JONES: AN EVENING OF SONG	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£20
	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE	OUTSIDE THE FLAME FACTORY	£8
MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER	11AM	DAVID CARTER: 20 MONUMENTS INSIDE THE CHURCH	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	12 NOON	SANDY BROWN: PLAY WITH CLAY WORKSHOP	SANDY BROWN'S STUDIO	£75
	12.45PM	NICK ARNOLD: FILM - A PLACE TO DREAM	ST MARY'S CHURCH	FREE
	2.15PM	IAN PARSONS: TARKA REVISITED - 100 YEARS OF RIVERS AND WILDLIFE	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	4PM	LAMORNA ASH: DON'T FORGET WE'RE HERE FOREVER - A NEW GENERATION'S SEARCH FOR RELIGION	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	5.45PM	ESTHER GHEY: UNDER A PINK SKY - TURNING TRAGEDY INTO A FIGHT FOR A SAFER FUTURE	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	6PM	VERONICA HENRY: THE INVITATION	THE CROWBAR, NORTHAM	£20
	7.30PM	TANYA LANDMAN: CATHY'S GHOST - WUTHERING HEIGHTS RETOLD	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10

Please visit **appledorebookfestival.co.uk** for more information

	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	10AM	STORYTIME FOR TODDLERS	APPLEDORE LIBRARY	FREE
	10.30AM	DAVID CARTER: 20 LOST INNS OF APPLEDORE	MEET AT OUTSIDE THE ROYAL GEORGE IN IRSHA ST	£8
	10.45AM	GILLY McARTHUR: THE BEAUTY OF COLD	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	12.30PM	MERLIN HANBURY-TENISON: OUR OAKEN BONES	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	2.15PM	SARAH HOWELLS: DELICIOUS GLUTEN FREE MEALS	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	2.30PM	MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS	MEET AT APPLEDORE BRIDGE, ENTRANCE TO THE BURROWS	£8
	4PM	MIKE DICKSON: HOW TO BE A BETTER HUMAN	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	4.30PM	AN INTRODUCTION TO SOURDOUGH	COMMUNITY HALL	£30
	5.45PM	AMY JEFFS: ARTHUR - THE MYTH AND THE REALITY	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£12
	6PM	JO BARING: TOTEM - THE UNTOLD STORY OF SCULPTURE	BAPTIST CHURCH	£12
	7PM	AN INTRODUCTION TO SUSHI	MARKET STREET KITCHEN	£28
	7.30PM	THE BIG SUMMER READ - CLARE LESLIE HALL: BROKEN COUNTRY	ST MARY'S CHURCH	£10
	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE	OUTSIDE THE FLAME FACTORY	£8
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER	10.30AM	COFFEE MORNING WITH KATE STRASDIN: DRESSING THE QUEEN	UPSTAIRS AT THE ROYAL GEORGE	£13
	10AM	ALISON MILLS: NORTH DEVON IN 20 OBJECTS	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	11.30AM	TODD GRAY: DEVON'S HOME FRONT DIARIES, 1937-1945	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	1PM	SIMON WEST: THE SECRET WARTIME EXPERIMENTS IN APPLEDORE	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	2.30PM	NICK ARNOLD: THE DARK SECRETS OF BLOODY CORNER	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	4PM	DAVID CARTER: WAS AN ENGLISH KING BURIED IN DEVON?	COMMUNITY HALL	£8
	3PM	MARTIN UNWIN: 20 BIRDS TO TWITCH ON THE BURROWS	MEET AT APPLEDORE BRIDGE, ENTRANCE TO THE BURROWS	£8
	5.45PM	DAWN O'PORTER: HUNGRY EYES - A MEMOIR OF APPETITE, AMBITION AND THE ODD BAG OF WOTSITS FOR DINNER	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
	5.45PM	IAN BUXTON: WHISKIES GALORE	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£14
	7.30PM	DAME MARGARET HODGE: BATTLE AXE - A LIFE IN POLITICS	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
	7.30PM	BRIN PIRATHAPAN: ELEVATE - EVERYDAY INGREDIENTS, INCREDIBLE FLAVOURS	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£12
	8.30PM	TERRY BAILEY: 20 GHOSTS OF APPLEDORE	OUTSIDE THE FLAME FACTORY	£8
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER	10AM	STORYTIME FOR TODDLERS	APPLEDORE LIBRARY	FREE
	10AM	LOCAL AUTHORS DAY	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	FREE
	10.45AM	FRANCES TOPHILL: A WILDFLOWER YEAR	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	12.30PM	PETE YEO: 20 PLANTS, 20 STORIES, 20 BOOKS	MEET AT DOCTON COURT	£8
	12.30PM	JULES HUDSON: WILD AT HEART - MY JOURNEY TO A COUNTRY LIFE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	2.15PM	LIZ EARLE: HOW TO AGE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	4PM	SHEHAN HETTIARATCHY: THE CAREFUL SURGEON	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	4PM	AFTERNOON TEA WITH HELEN BAIN: THE DAFFODIL DAYS	MARKET STREET KITCHEN	£10
	5.45PM	PAM AYRES: DOGGEDLY ONWARD - A LIFE IN POEMS	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
	5.45PM	WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS: THE WINES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£30
	6PM	CLARE WILLCOCKS: SIP 'N' PAINT	ST. MARY'S HALL	£28
	7.30PM	TIM MARSHALL: THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHY	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16, Students £10

	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER	10AM	CLARE WILLCOCKS: APPLEDORE SKETCH WALK	MEET OUTSIDE ST MARY'S HALL	£20
	10.30AM	LOUIE STOWELL: LOKI (SCHOOLS ONLY EVENT)	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	Schools Only Event
	11AM	WALTER FOWLER: A BOY'S LIFE IN APPLEDORE	ST. MARY'S HALL	£10
	12.30PM	ANDREW WILSON: I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU - MARILYN MONROE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	12.30PM	JANE LOVELL AND MARK HAWORTH-BOOTH: EARTH NOTES - POETRY ON WONDER AND LOSS	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£10
	2.15PM	CLAUDIA HAMMOND: OVERWHELMED - WAYS TO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£12
	4PM	WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS: WINES WITH ALTITUDE	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£30
	4PM	RACHAEL STIRLING: ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
	5.45PM	MARY PORTAS: I SHOP, THEREFORE I AM - THE '90S, HARVEY NICKS, AND ME	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
	7.45PM	PETER RICKETTS: PEACE MAKERS - BRITISH DIPLOMACY PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£16
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER	9.30AM	SUZIE LAVERTY: BETTY BINOCULARS AND SKERN ADVENTURE: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (AGES 4-7)	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£5
	9.30AM	ASSAULT COURSE & ARCHERY AND ADAM DOWNTON: FANTASY MAP MAKING (AGES 8-12)	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£5
	10.45AM	JEREMY VINE: THE BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15
	12.30PM	NICK ARNOLD: HORRIBLE SCIENCE QUIZ SHOW (AGES 7+)	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£3
	12.30PM	CAROLINE QUENTIN: DRAWN TO NATURE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15
	2.15PM	GRAEME HALL: DOES MY DOG LOVE ME?	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15, aged 18 & under £10
	4PM	MINETTE BATTERS: HARVEST - A FARMER'S STORY OF HERITAGE, HOME AND HOPE	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15
	5.45PM	EVENT TO BE CONFIRMED see website	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£TBC
	6.45PM	VIP PARTY (INCLUDES TICKET FOR FRANK GARDNER)	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£28
	7.45PM	FRANK GARDNER: BALLISTIC	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£20
SUNDAY 27 SEPT	10AM	PETE YEO: 20 PLANTS, 20 STORIES, 20 BOOKS	MEET AT DOCTON COURT	£8
	10.30AM	BEACH SCAVENGER HUNT (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)	MEET AT APPLEDORE BRIDGE, ENTRANCE TO THE BURROWS	FREE
	10AM	SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH THE AUTHORS	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£26
	1.30PM	TOM MCLAUGHLIN: COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP (AGES 7+)	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£3
	1.30PM	ANN CLEEVES: THE DYING LIGHT	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15
	3.15PM	OLIVER BULLOUGH: EVERYBODY LOVES OUR DOLLARS	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15
	3.15PM	AMANDA BARRIE: I'M STILL HERE – MY 90 YEARS	OSPREY TENT AT SKERN	£12
	5PM	JEREMY WADE: RIVER MONSTERS	FESTIVAL TENT AT SKERN	£15, aged 18 & under £10

APPLEDORE INSTOW FERRY



Visit www.appledoreinstowferry.com for timetable

LOCAL AUTHORS' DAY

10am-4.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **FREE**

So, you want to write a book? Got a great idea for a manuscript but don't know where to start, or you've got stuck along the process? Scheduled throughout the day there will be talks on the key aspects of how to publish your own novel, hosted by a number of authors from local author groups **Literary Fusion** and **Barnstaple Writers' Group**. From structure to research, editing to marketing, they will be happy to answer your questions.

With award-winning duo **Tracey and Mark Norman**, crime novelist **Denise Smith**, and Bideford Witch expert **N. Joy**, among the local authors in attendance, the tent will be buzzing with inspiration and creative excitement.

There will be four sessions during the day, and you are welcome to come along at any time, whether to attend sessions, pop in for a chat, or browse the books on sale.

- 10am-10.30am: Writing a novel
- 11.50am-12.20pm: Researching for your book
- 1.40pm-2.10pm: A guide to self-publishing
- 3.20pm-3.50pm: Marketing your book

For further details see the website.

Kindly sponsored by The Devonshire Association Literature & Art Section

FRANCES TOPHILL: A WILDFLOWER YEAR In Conversation

10.45am-11.45am Festival Tent at Skern **£12**



Gardening expert and broadcaster **Frances Tophill** guides you through a year of wildflowers. For each species, she eloquently describes its importance and unique features, as well as their habitat, when they can be found, and what other species you might expect to find nearby. She also explains whether they are edible and their possible medicinal uses. **Frances** explains how wildflowers have a crucial role to play in the fight to preserve our vital biodiversity, combat climate change and support pollinators. *A Wildflower Year* is both a month-by-month ode to wildflowers, and a useful tool for identifying and growing your own.



PETE YEO: 20 PLANTS, 20 STORIES, 20 BOOKS

12.30pm-2pm Meet at Docton Court, Appledore **£8**

In celebration of the 20th Book Festival, join local plant writer **Pete Yeo** for a special guided walk around old Appledore's sheltered spaces and secret gardens. Along the way you'll learn about 20 remarkable plants, hear their stories, and listen to **Pete** read inspiring prose and poetry extracted from 20 books, one per plant, as you walk.



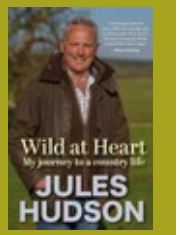


JULES HUDSON: WILD AT HEART - MY JOURNEY TO A COUNTRY LIFE In Conversation

12.30pm-1.30pm Festival Tent at Skern **£12**

A household name to millions, **Jules Hudson** has been a familiar face on TV for decades. As the frontman for popular shows such as *Escape to the Country*, *Springtime on the Farm* and *Countryfile*, he portrays an idyllic life in the rural landscapes of Britain. However, his own journey to a rural idyll has not always been straightforward and there have been moments of triumph, and tragedy. From humble beginnings in urban Essex to the mountains, fields and woods of his new home in the countryside, **Jules** provides an evocative portrait not only of his own life, but of the countryside and people with whom he has found his true home.

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LIZ EARLE:
HOW TO AGE - SUPERCHARGE YOUR HEALTH AND FEEL BETTER THAN EVER
In Conversation

2.15pm-3.15pm Festival Tent at Skern **£12**

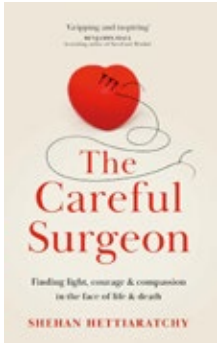


Wellbeing expert and bestselling author Liz Earle returns to Appledore to discuss how to take control of your health, and feel stronger and happier in later years. By combing the scientific papers and cutting-edge reports on cellular renewal and longevity, Liz has come up with practical daily plans to improve and boost your energy as you age. She will help you understand the primary power of sunlight and water, explain how to become more resilient to chronic disease and modern viruses and look and feel more youthful in both appearance and outlook. This is your chance to grab the reins and add abundant health to your years. This is how to age.



SHEHAN HETTIARATCHY: THE CAREFUL SURGEON – FINDING LIGHT, COURAGE & COMPASSION IN THE FACE OF LIFE AND DEATH
In Conversation with Susan Sandon

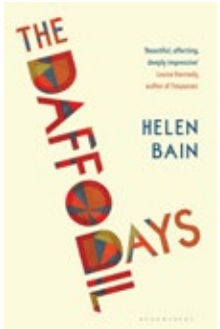
4pm-5pm Festival Tent at Skern **£12**



A powerful insight into the life of one of the UK's leading trauma surgeons. Consultant surgeon **Shehan Hettiaratchy** takes us into the heart of what it takes to train, practice, perform and perfect surgical skills. With unflinching honesty, he explains how things can go wrong in a heartbeat and how, when the darkness sets in, he is able to get up and do it all over again. He talks about how it is his patients who show him the light - coping with the very worst life can throw at them - and allowing him to do the job he so loves. From a teenage victim of a knife attack to a survivor of the Westminster Bridge terrorist attack, he speaks frankly of how it feels to hold the life of another in your hands.

AFTERNOON TEA WITH HELEN BAIN:
THE DAFFODIL DAYS

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



'Stunning' **Good Housekeeping**

A chance to hear from an exciting new literary voice, **Helen Bain**, while enjoying a delicious afternoon tea. Set in North Tawton, Helen's debut novel, *The Daffodil Days*, is a richly atmospheric portrait of Devon village life in the early 1960s, woven around a pivotal year in the marriage of 20th-century literature's most infamous couple, **Sylvia Plath** and **Ted Hughes**. It is a kaleidoscopic portrait of this enigmatic pair, refracted through the rich inner lives of a rural community caught - if only for a moment - in their light.



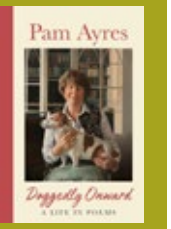
PAM AYRES: DOGGEDLY ONWARD – A LIFE IN POEMS

5.45pm-6.45pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16**

'When I look over the poems in this book, I can trace the course of my life. The various stages are all here: the young woman juggling various boyfriends, the wife adrift amid the joy and terror of new motherhood and the astounded, adoring granny. Here is the cavalcade of much-loved dogs, the fascination with wildlife, the travel, mistakes, regrets, the heartbreaking leaving of the family home and the sober business of ageing.' **Pam Ayres**

As Britain's most read and adored poet, **Pam Ayres** has spent a lifetime bringing joy to us all, providing wise and hilarious insights into the delights and tribulations of daily life. Assembled for the first time in a single volume, **Pam's** life in poems is beautifully illustrated and annotated throughout with her own reflections on six decades of making the nation laugh and cry.

Kindly sponsored by Brewer, Harding & Rowe



WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS:
THE WINES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

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



Award-winning wine and drinks writer and broadcaster, **Susy Atkins**, returns to Appledore to host an evening of wine tasting exploring the wines of southern France, from the Rhône to Gascony, via Languedoc-Roussillon. Long overshadowed by France's more famous wine regions, the south is now one of the country's most exciting areas, producing distinctive wines that continue to offer remarkable value compared with many of the country's more famous names. The wines have been selected by **Wickhams Wine Merchant** from independent family wineries and will include a range of white, rosé and red wines. www.susyatkins.co.uk

Kindly sponsored by Wollens

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.

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.

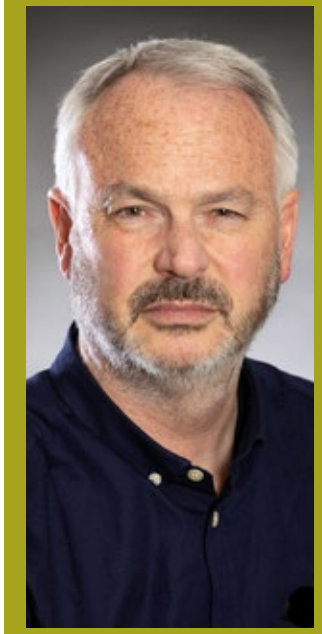


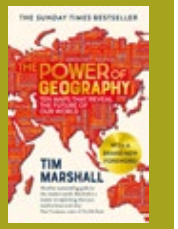
Photo credit: Nick Gregan

TIM MARSHALL: THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHY – TEN MAPS THAT REVEAL THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD

7.30pm-8.30pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16, Students £10**

'Another outstanding guide to the modern world. Marshall is a master at explaining what you need to know and why.' **Peter Frankopan**

Tim Marshall's global bestseller Prisoners of Geography showed how every nation's choices are limited by mountains, rivers, seas and concrete. Since then, the geography hasn't changed, but the world has. In his second book, *The Power of Geography*, now with a new extended foreword, the *Sunday Times* bestselling author, covers the cracks in NATO, the new Cold War between the USA and China, and the shifting nature of alliances in a world where the old certainties have fallen away. He explores how countries such as the UK and Saudi Arabia must make crucial decisions in this new era of great-power rivalry, how the Strait of Hormuz makes Iran a key global player, and how climate change will produce the next refugee crisis. **Tim** also looks to the Earth's atmosphere and explores why it is set to become the world's next battleground. Delivered with his trademark wit and insight, this is a lucid and gripping exploration of the power of geography to shape humanity's past, present – and future.



Kindly sponsored by Kingsley School, Bideford

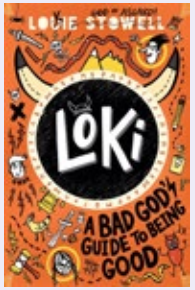


LOUIE STOWELL: LOKI

10.30am-11.30am Festival Tent at Skern **SCHOOLS ONLY EVENT**

Join acclaimed author **Louie Stowell**, as she introduces her hilarious, doodle-packed, best-selling series about the Norse god, Loki! Loki is the God of Mischief and after one trick too far, he is banished by Odin to go and live on Earth as an eleven-year-old boy. The only way he is able to return home is to do good deeds, behave himself at school and not reveal his incredible godly powers. But when other residents of Asgard keep visiting Earth, all of Loki's good intentions are tested – leaving more than a little chaos in his wake.

This event is not open to the general public.



CLARE WILLCOCKS: APPLEDORE 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.



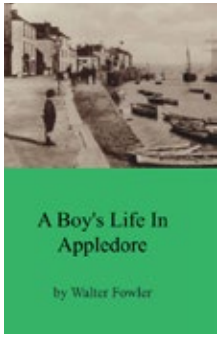
WALTER FOWLER: A BOY'S LIFE IN APPLEDORE

Includes Appledorian Language and Food

In Conversation with Ian 'Lammy' Lamb

11am-12.15pm St Mary's Hall **£10 includes tea/coffee & Nubbies**

Walter Fowler is a lifelong and well-known Appledore resident. He will talk about his life growing up in the village, sharing his memories of days spent combing the beach, fishing with the Old Hands, his school days, and potato picking with his mother. **Walter** will be interviewed by local raconteur Ian "Lammy" Lamb. There will be a brief discussion of the words and food that are uniquely Appledorian and a chance to sample Nubbies, a small hard cake.

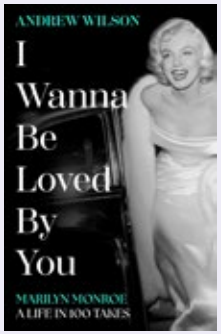


ANDREW WILSON: I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU – MARILYN MONROE, A LIFE IN 100 TAKES

In Conversation with Martin Kemp

12.30pm-1.30pm Festival Tent at Skern **£12**

Marilyn Monroe is one of the most recognisable faces of the 20th century. From an uncertain childhood she transformed herself into the ultimate goddess of the silver screen. Men lusted after her, women wanted to be her, but all she wanted was to be loved. In the 100th year of her birth, acclaimed biographer **Andrew Wilson**, takes a fresh look at Marilyn's life through 100 captivating snapshots. Featuring a wealth of previously unpublished material, **Andrew** presents the actress in a startling new light, portraying a highly intelligent and well-read woman, desperate to forge her own path and dismantle the perception that she was a dumb blonde. He concludes with a chapter investigating the rash of conspiracy theories that surround the star's final moments.



JANE LOVELL AND MARK HAWORTH-BOOTH:
EARTH NOTES – POETRY ON WONDER AND LOSS

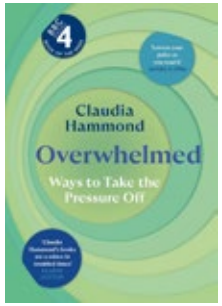
12.30pm-1.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£10**



How can poetry both celebrate and lament our relationship with the natural world? Join award-winning North Devon poets **Jane Lovell** and **Mark Haworth-Booth** for readings from their latest collections—poems that reveal a deep attentiveness to place, wildlife, and the shifting balance between wonder and loss. Through poetry and conversation, they explore what endures and what is slipping away, and celebrate resilience and wildness in a changing world. It's a chance to reflect on all that is at risk, and what might still be saved.

CLAUDIA HAMMOND: OVERWHELMED – WAYS TO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF

2.15pm-3.15pm Festival Tent at Skern **£12**



We are all familiar with the unsettling sensation of overwhelm - it's as if there's ever more to do and ever less time in which to do it. The good news is, even if you can't see it yet, there is a way out. In this liberating new book, award-winning writer and presenter of Radio 4's *All in the Mind* **Claudia Hammond** helps us to take the pressure off with a psychological toolkit that is both practical and evidence based. Each chapter addresses a particular problem that can trap us into feeling overwhelmed - from procrastination to the fear of regret, imposter syndrome, perfectionism and a seemingly never-ending to-do list - and offers science-backed solutions. Calm, clear and convincing, *Overwhelmed* will give you the tools to take on everything life throws at you.

Kindly sponsored by Discover Your Bounce

WINE TASTING WITH SUSY ATKINS:
WINES WITH ALTITUDE

4pm-5.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£30 includes wine & nibbles**

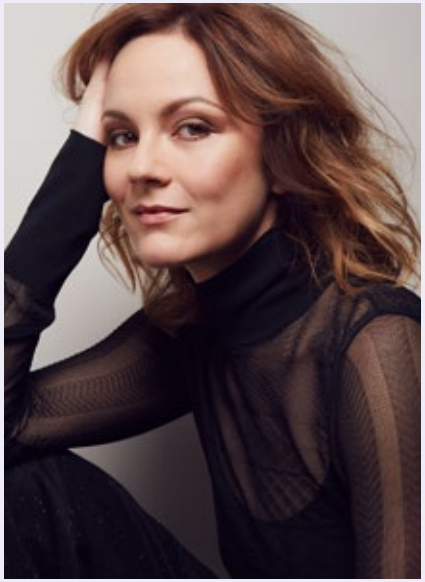


Discover some new wines from the mountain regions of Europe as award-winning wine and drinks writer and broadcaster, **Susy Atkins**, hosts an afternoon of wine tasting. From the Alpine vineyards of northern Italy and Austria to the Jura Mountains, the foothills of the Pyrenees and the volcanic slopes of Mount Etna, these are wines from vineyards carved into steep hillsides and mountain terraces. Here, altitude, cooler temperatures and thinner soils help produce wines of freshness, character and individuality. www.susyatkins.co.uk

Wines kindly selected by Wickhams Wine Merchant

LIVE MUSIC & BAR AT SKERN

See website for details of performers and timings.



RACHAEL STIRLING:
ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER
In Conversation with Susan Sandon

4pm-5pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16**

An icon at 27 and voted sexiest woman of all time 40 years later, **Diana Rigg** was Emma Peel, the cat-suited Avenger and 007's only wife. She was equally unforgettable as Medea, Mother Courage, Mrs Danvers and *Game of Thrones'* Queen of Thorns. Stephen Sondheim wrote a song for her; Ted Hughes translated a play; Laurence Olivier called her Tits Rigg. She fearlessly fought for equal pay, and won.



Offstage, she was a gloriously naughty, and deeply loving, mother to her only child, **Rachael Stirling**, also an actress. **Diana Rigg** never wrote her autobiography but in this raw, vibrant and tender book, written by the person who knew her best, she lives again on the page.

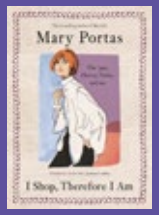
Photo credit: Mike Blackett

MARY PORTAS:
I SHOP, THEREFORE I AM - THE '90S, HARVEY NICKS, AND ME
In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

5.45pm-6.45pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16**

'A riot' **The Times** *'Absolutely irresistible'* **Joanna Lumley**

Join *Queen of Shops* **Mary Portas** as she looks back at her life and long career in the retail world and on TV. Entertaining and insightful, and suffused with the heady glamour and excess of '90s Cool Britannia, **Mary** takes us behind the shop window to explain how she transformed Harvey Nichols in London from a fusty, old-fashioned store to a thriving, cutting-edge fashion brand. Told with her trademark wit, grit and candour, **Mary** reveals how she created a business empire through creativity and drive that has stood the test of time. Part memoir, part business manifesto this is an event not to be missed.



Kindly sponsored by Affinity Devon

Photo credit: Linda Nylind



PETER RICKETTS:
PEACE MAKERS - BRITISH DIPLOMACY PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
In Conversation with Jeremy Vine

7.45pm-8.45pm Festival Tent at Skern **£16**



Former Head of the Diplomatic Service and the UK's first National Security Advisor, **Lord Peter Ricketts** talks to Festival patron **Jeremy Vine** about the role of the British diplomatic service as peace makers. He reveals how the men and women of the Foreign Office in WWII forged alliances, supported resistance movements, managed refugees and laid the groundwork for post-war international order. Figures such as Archibald Clark Kerr in Moscow and Sir Alexander Cadogan in London steered critical alliances and helped shape the world to come. He explores how the war transformed the Foreign Office itself, sweeping away barriers and allowing women to rise to senior diplomatic ranks. He will also discuss whether Britain still has a role to play in global diplomacy, and where our future lies in a world dominated by a few superpowers.

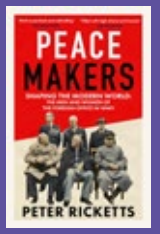


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As part of **Skern Adventure's 50th celebrations** we are delighted to offer events at Skern, Appledore alongside our family events in the Osprey Tent.

SKERN ADVENTURE APPLEDORE — CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

TWO GREAT EVENTS FOR CHILDREN, AGES 4-7, FOR JUST £5!

SUZIE LAVERTY: BETTY BINOCULARS

9.30am-10.30am Osprey Tent at Skern



Join local author and teacher, **Suzie Laverty** as she reads from her magical book, *Betty Binoculars*. This is an interactive session including stories, craft and lots of fun!

At the end of the event young explorers will be invited to take part in a range of activities at Skern Adventure:

SKERN ADVENTURE: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

10.45am-12.15pm Meet at Osprey Tent at Skern



Discover the joy of exploration, imagination, freedom and outdoor fun as you step into the world of Max and the Wild Things, bringing to life Maurice Sendak's beloved story. You'll journey through the assault course, crawl through tunnels, test your bravery in the dark and your strength on the mini-climbing wall, as well as taking part in problem-solving activities to help you work as a team.

TWO GREAT EVENTS FOR CHILDREN, AGES 8-12, FOR JUST £5!

SKERN ADVENTURE: ASSAULT COURSE & ARCHERY

9.30am-10.30am Meet at Osprey Tent at Skern



Enjoy a taste of the great outdoor adventures to be found at Skern Adventure. You will have a chance to try out the assault course and test your skills with a bow and arrow on the archery field.

The activity session will be followed by a hands-on workshop for young map makers.

A.D. DOWNTON: FANTASY MAP MAKING

10.45am-11.45am Osprey Tent at Skern



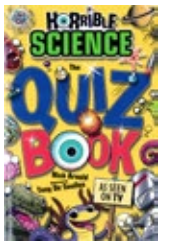
A.D. Downton is an exciting young author from Exeter who writes exploration books about maps and cartography. In this hands-on workshop you can learn the techniques of map-drawing, design a fantasy world and even weave in a little creative storytelling. It's a brilliant opportunity to let imaginations roam free.

All Skern Adventure events will be fully supervised, but children must be accompanied by an adult on site. There is no charge for adults accompanying children.

YOU CAN ORDER YOUR CHILDREN'S LUNCH BOX FOR £6 WHEN BUYING TICKETS

NICK ARNOLD: HORRIBLE SCIENCE QUIZ SHOW (AGES 7+)

12.30pm-1.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£3**



Welcome to the World's wackiest interactive Quiz! Based on the best-selling *Horrible Science Quiz Book* join author **Nick Arnold** as he brings his award-winning Horrible Science series to loathsome life – as a Quiz Show! With queasy questions, awesome answers, jaw-dropping jokes and crazy challenges, Quiz shows have never been so Squishy! Oodles of horrible prizes to be won!

JEREMY VINE:
THE BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE
Jeremy shares his favourite book of all time. What's yours?

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



Having a wisdom tooth removed led **Jeremy Vine** to a book which changed his life. *The Last Enemy* was written by a young Spitfire pilot called, **Richard Hillary** - whose face had been rebuilt in the same hospital where Jeremy had his extraction. *'Richard brought an incredible intelligence and writing ability to his book about fighting in the air in WWII',* says **Jeremy**, *'and it made me see the whole of life differently'*. He badgered his publishers to let him read it for Audible. **Jeremy** explains why Richard so inspired him and gives audience members a chance to talk about the book that changed their life. So come prepared if you want to contribute!



Jeremy will be signing copies of his new book, *Turn the Dial for Death*, after the talk.

Kindly sponsored by Phillips, Smith & Dunn

Photo credit: Sophia Spring

GRAEME HALL: DOES MY DOG LOVE ME? UNDERSTANDING HOW YOUR DOG SEES THE WORLD
In Conversation with Veronica Henry

2.15pm-3.15pm Festival Tent at Skern **£15, 18 and under £10**



Have you ever wondered what your dog is really thinking? Top dog trainer and star of Channel 5's *Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly*, **Graeme Hall**, aka 'The Dogfather', reveals the secrets to understanding what your four-legged companion is trying to say and how they see the world. Drawing on 15 years of experience training over 5,000 dogs, and backed up with scientific evidence, he tackles all the tricky questions you've ever wanted to ask such as 'how do I tell my dog he's been naughty?' and 'how long does a dog remember?'. Sharing his own personal stories and practical tips, he reveals how to interpret your dog's body language and use that knowledge to build a stronger, more rewarding relationship.



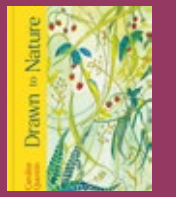
Kindly sponsored by Harding & Co



CAROLINE QUENTIN:
DRAWN TO NATURE
In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

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

Actress and presenter **Caroline Quentin** is well-known for her lead roles in the award-winning sitcom *Men Behaving Badly* and crime drama *Jonathan Creek*. She is also a passionate gardener. Here she will interweave stories from her life as an actor, with memories of places, people and gardens that have shaped her love of the outdoors. **Caroline** will talk about her delightful new book, *Drawn to Nature*, set around her own farmhouse garden in rural Devon, and illustrated by **Caroline** herself. With practical ideas for staying connected to nature, even when life changes, it is perfect for anyone who wants to nurture a greener, calmer life.



Kindly sponsored by Mitchell & Dickinson

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Supporting Homes, Families and Four Legged Friends

We're delighted to sponsor the event with Graeme Hall, The Dog Father, at this year's Appledore Book Festival.

From seaside cottages to family homes with room to roam, we help people – and their four legged friends – settle in North Devon.

We hope you enjoy a fantastic festival, and an unforgettable event, with one of the UK's best-loved dog behaviourists.

See you there!



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01237 477250 / 01237 476544

Bideford Office
Invicta House, The Pill, Kingsley Road, Bideford, Devon EX39 2PF
01237 476544

www.hardingresidential.com

MINETTE BATTERS:
HARVEST - A FARMER'S STORY OF HERITAGE, HOME AND HOPE

4pm-5pm Festival Tent at Skern **£15**



A journey through 50 years of British farming by life-long farmer and former head of The National Farmers' Union, **Minette Batters**. During her time as president, the first woman to hold the post, she fought for the interests of farmers, becoming the most visible agriculture expert in the UK at a time when Brexit, Covid and international conflict were pushing farms and food production to a state of crisis. Born and raised on a farm, she built her own farming business on the land where she grew up. **Baroness Batters** blends memoir and manifesto to provide a powerful insight into the real life of farmers, a love letter to rural life, and a rallying cry to save it.



FESTIVAL EVENT TO BE ANNOUNCED
Please check our website for details **appledorebookfestival.co.uk**

VIP RECEPTION
6.45pm-7.30pm Osprey 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**.

Kindly sponsored by Errazuriz - Glasses kindly sponsored by Dartington Crystal



FRANK GARDNER: BALLISTIC
In Conversation with Jeremy Vine

7.45pm-8.45pm Festival Tent at Skern **£20**

Following his sell-out event at the Festival last year, BBC Security Correspondent, **Frank Gardner**, returns to talk about his latest explosive novel, *Ballistic*. In the dying light of an Arctic afternoon a Russian submarine slips beneath the waters of Murmansk bay. Acting on information received from a high-ranking mole deep inside Russia's FSB, Britain's security services are convinced that the submarine is about to deploy a terrifying, game-changing device. As Europe goes into a state of high alert, MI6 operative Luke Carlton is sent to the Finnish-Russian border. His mission to secure the safe extraction of this valuable MI6 asset and the intel he possesses - because it seems the West could be staring Armageddon in the face. Drawing on his years of experience and in-depth knowledge of the security services, **Frank** once again proves he has his finger on the pulse of today's tumultuous geo-political map.



Kindly sponsored by Samuels Solicitors

Photo credit: Kin Ho

SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH THE AUTHORS
Hosted by Veronica Henry

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



- **Four authors, one event**
- **Share the joy of reading with like-minded people**
- **Ticket includes a delicious brunch and a Goody Bag with a FREE book**

LORI INGLIS HALL: THE SHOCK OF THE LIGHT



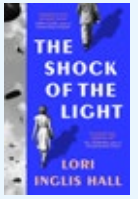


Photo credit: Sophie Davidson

Cambridge, 1942. Twins Tessa and Theo had always shared everything – until the summer Tessa spent studying in France. She hasn't been the same since. But before Theo can find out why, he is recruited by the RAF and disappears into the skies. Tessa joins the clandestine Special Operations Executive, slipping into the shadows of occupied France, home of her greatest love – and her darkest secret. Two years later, only one of them comes home. A dazzling debut that brings to life the shattering impact of World War II.

EMMA GARMAN:
THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS





Photo credit: Hannah Judah

London, 1953. One foggy night a stranger arrives at a boarding house in Chelsea. Self-styled Bohemian, Mrs Honor Wilson, who runs a minor literary journal, and the lodgings, introduces him as a family friend – yet, something is amiss, and the other occupants are suspicious. As each tries to disprove his story, the household's delicate allegiances become fractured, setting in motion a tale of perilous self-invention, complicated love and murderous revenge. A compelling and intriguing debut and deliciously entertaining.

JESS KIDD: MURDER AT GULLS NEST



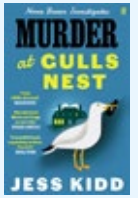


Photo credit: Cordula Treml

The first in a sparkling new 1950s seaside mystery series, featuring sharp-eyed former nun **Nora Breen**. Throwing off her habit after 30 years, Nora heads for a life by the sea. But Nora's choice of new home isn't down to the lure of bracing sea air. Her friend Frieda has gone missing and was last seen at Gulls Nest, the very boarding house where Nora now resides. When one of the lodgers is found dead, Nora is determined to find who killed them. Not least because she suspects the victim knew Frieda... Jess will also talk about the second book in the series, *Murder at the Spirit Lounge*.

SALLY PAGE: A CURIOUS ENDING





The *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Keeper of Stories* returns with a warm-hearted and witty mystery set in Dorset. All Lara wanted was a quiet life. No drama. No danger. Then Lady Porter's death changed everything. Lara suspects her friend was murdered – she just can't prove it. That is, until The Hon. Abigail Rossmore arrives in the form of a ghost and a witness to 190 years of suspicious deaths, to help. Can they uncover the truth about what really happened to Lady Porter?

Kindly supported by Orion Books

PETE YEO: 20 PLANTS, 20 STORIES, 20 BOOKS - See page 28 for details

10am-11.30am Meet at Docton Court, Appledore **£8**

FAMILY EVENT: BEACH SCAVENGER HUNT

10.30am-12.30pm **FREE (but booking essential)**

Meet at Appledore Bridge, entrance to Northam Burrows



Each day the high tide leaves behind curious objects on the strand line. The Rangers will challenge you to find a variety of treasures from shells and rocks to man-made items such as sea glass and pottery. Can you find all the items on the list?

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for all weathers.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

TOM MCLAUGHLIN: COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP (AGES 7+)

1.30pm-2.30pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£3**



Crazy about comics? Then don't miss this chance to create a group story and comic characters with amazing Devon author and illustrator Tom McLaughlin.

All materials will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

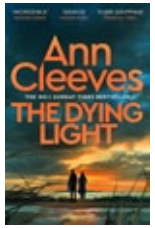


ANN CLEEVES: THE DYING LIGHT In Conversation with Stephanie Merritt

1.30pm-2.30pm Festival Tent at Skern **£15**

'Everything Ann Cleeves writes is incredible' **Richard Osman**

Sunday Times bestselling author, creator of *Vera* and *Shetland,* makes a welcome return to the Festival to talk about her captivating new novel, set in North Devon, and featuring **Detective Matthew Venn**. The page-turning mystery will see the detective investigate the body of a young woman found dead in the pool of a luxury holiday home. The woman's best friend has disappeared and the property belongs to a rising political star, leading to intense media scrutiny. As further tragedy strikes, and community tensions rise, **Venn** must navigate a treacherous path to uncover the truth.



Ann will also discuss *The Killing Stones*, the latest novel to feature **Detective Jimmy Perez**, his first appearance since the beloved Shetland series. Gripping and atmospheric, it sees **Perez** living in the wilds of Orkney and investigating the death of one of his childhood friends, slain by a Neolithic stone.

OLIVER BULLOUGH: EVERYBODY LOVES OUR DOLLARS – HOW MONEY LAUNDERING WON

3.15pm-4.15pm Festival Tent at Skern **£15**

'Jaw-dropping' **Guardian** *'His reporting is second to none'* **Sunday Times**



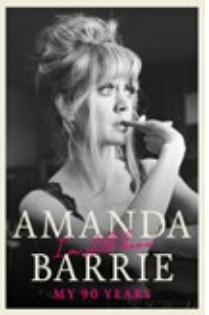
The world's criminals earn trillions every year. They keep almost all of it. Every effort to confiscate their wealth has failed. Why? Join investigative journalist, **Oliver Bullough**, on a voyage of discovery as he explains the dark side of the world economy where cash is still king – indeed, crime is arguably the only reason cash still exists. Vast exchanges of dirty banknotes, designer handbags and even baby eels prop up a trade in illegal goods stretching from Miami to Shanghai, via, strangely, north Oxfordshire. And it all works brilliantly. **Oliver Bullough** will explore what we can do to fight back.



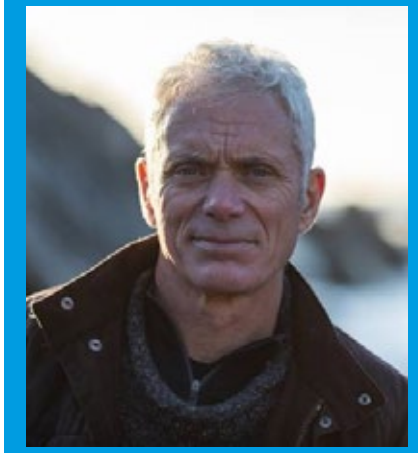
Photo credit: Paul Musso

AMANDA BARRIE: I'M STILL HERE – MY 90 YEARS In Conversation with Hilary Bonner

3.15pm-4.15pm Osprey Tent at Skern **£12**



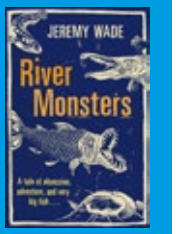
Amanda Barrie, the iconic Cleo in *Carry on Cleo* and much-loved Alma in *Coronation Street,* has had a roller-coaster journey through life. Expelled from two schools, she ran away at 13 to go on the stage. She ended up starring in West End plays and revues, before appearing in two *Carry On* films and landing the role in *Corrie*. More recently she has been seen in *Bad Girls* as well as a number of celebrity reality shows. She shares the moments that came to define her life, including the struggles she faced as a young gay woman in the 1950s/60s, and how she found happiness with novelist wife, Hilary Bonner.



JEREMY WADE: RIVER MONSTERS In Conversation with Martin Kemp

5pm-6pm Festival Tent at Skern **£15, 18 or under £10**

Extreme angler and presenter of ITV's *River Monsters*, **Jeremy Wade** has spent nearly 40 years travelling to the world's remoter rivers tracking down and documenting elusive underwater creatures. Here he recalls some of his closest encounters with giant freshwater predators including devil catfish (goonch) from India, goliath tigerfish from the Congo, and the elusive alligator gar of the Americas, as well as Nile crocodiles and a 20ft anaconda in Brazil. It's a jaw-dropping blend of adventure, natural history, legend and detective work.



ART MAKERS

ART EXHIBITION

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

From Sat 19 September

Exhibition closed: Wed 23 September for rehang and addition of new work

Exhibition open again: 24-27 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 fifth year and to join in the 20th Festival celebrations. Share in the extraordinary talent of the New Atlantic Wave of North Devon artists. Explore works by over 30 local artists and makers, working across mediums from acrylic and oil paint to traditional print methods, sculpture, textiles, glass and jewellery, PLUS from **Thurs 24 September** a unique display of hand-made artbooks.

All work is for sale and all sales contribute to the Festival charity fund. Costs of more expensive artworks can be spread over 10 months at no extra cost through 'Own Art'. All works in the exhibition are also available to view and for sale online from **Fri 18 September** at www.artmakers.uk/exhibition



'Summer Glow' by Artist, Caroline Lumb

** 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.

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. Sandy Brown is also one of the UK's leaders in making functional pots which are works of art, ie dinner plates, mugs and bowls. Open both Fridays. *Please note: we regret that the Gallery does not have disabled access. Sorry, no dogs.*



2026 APPLEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL ART PRIZE WINNER



Rosie Burns, 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. A box for bids will be on the Information Desk during the Festival**. Profits will be shared between the artist and the Festival charity.

Rosie is a painter printmaker, she is one half of Rosie and Red Art and Leather, working from studios in Bideford, North Devon. Her work is a vibrant exploration of light, life, and the interplay between humanity and the environment.

To find out more visit www.rosieburnsartist.com

Rosie's winning art, named *The Netted Sunbeam Dance*, is inspired by a famous line from the poem *The Brook* by **Alfred, Lord Tennyson.**



"I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,
Among my skimming swallows;
I make the netted sunbeam dance
Against my sandy shallows."

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BOOKING YOUR TICKETS & USEFUL INFO

BOOKING YOUR TICKET

Book your tickets easily online at

appledorebookfestival.co.uk

Or

Visit our box office & information desk at:
St Mary's Church Hall, Churchfields,
Appledore, Devon EX39 1RL
(see opening times below)

For further information you can call

01237 734 730

(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

BOX OFFICE & INFORMATION DESK OPENING DATES (10AM-12.30PM)

Fri 24 & Sat 25 July (Friends only) and every Saturday from 1 Aug to 12 Sept for all

During the Festival there will be a box office & information desk in St Mary's Hall (19-22 Sept) and at Skern (23-27 Sept).

WATERSTONES FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

Waterstones Barnstaple will have a pop-up bookshop in St Mary's Hall (Sat 19-Tues 22 Sept) and in the Gulls Nest at Skern (Wed 23 pm-Sun 27 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.
Everyone is welcome to use the bookshop – no ticket needed.

Waterstones

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please note visitors to the Appledore Book Festival may be filmed and/or photographed for future promotions. If you do not wish to be photographed or recorded, please speak to event staff or the photographer on-site.

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 **17-26 September 2027**

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.

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
- 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.

PLATINUM FRIENDS

Our warm thanks go to the 20th anniversary Platinum Friends for supporting the book Festival and helping celebrate this landmark year.

Ali Norris, Amanda Millard, Andrea Tucker, Carol McNiel, Catherine Miller, Catherine Sharman, Christine Ker, David Cripps, Debbie Hudson, Janice Went, John Wade, Judith Law, Julie Bruce, Lynda Armstrong, Maggie Murray, Malcolm Gingell, Melinda Firth, Michael Bligh, Charles Stanbury, Dale Hall, Nicola Poulier, Peter Folwell, Sarah Hocking, Sheena Natt, Yvonne Woodward.

APPLEFACTORS

We thank our AppleFactors including Paula & Rod Littlewood, Peter Smith and Mrs Graham Fuller for their continued generosity and support.

VOLUNTEERS

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



The work of creating and delivering our fabulous Festival goes on year-round. No sooner does one end, then the planning for the next begins.

There are significant costs associated with putting on such a successful event, and as a charity we rely so much on our wonderful sponsors. This year we have been incredibly fortunate to receive funding awarded by Postcode Community Trust and raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery, The Charlotte Aitken Trust and Hawthornden Foundation. This, alongside event sponsorship from many local businesses, enables us to hold this year's Festival and award-winning annual Schools Week in addition to supporting local charities.

Finally, we'd like to thank the team at Vertu Motors Exeter for driving our authors and Dave Green and Terry Mathews (www.terrymathews.photography) for their wonderful photographs.

Further details of all our supporters can be found on our website.



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 Cleeves - 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.

TRUSTEES: Sara Mendosa (Chair) - Jan Thompson (Company Secretary) - Stephen Taylor (Treasurer)
Richard Cable - Susan Sandon - Pat Hadley-Smith - Mark Britton - Sean Kearney
David Stevenson (Technology)

COMMITTEE: Jane Beaton (Festival Director)
David Carter (Historical Advisor) - Moirag Clarke (Hospitality)
Pat Hadley-Smith (Assistant Volunteers Coordinator) - Sara Mendosa - Dianne Miller (Finance)
Patricia Morris (Health & Safety) - Caroline Price (Logistics)
Penny Reardon-Morgan (Friends' Coordinator) - Joy Smart (Community Liaison)
Judi Unwin (Volunteers Coordinator)
Grayson Fuller (Festival Administrator) - SLK Marketing (Marketing)

SCHOOLS TEAM: Sib Avery - Pat Glover - Pat Hadley-Smith - Marilyn Young - Judi Unwin
Lucy Warner - Sue Philp - Trish Dean

Kingsley
SCHOOL DEVON



Autumn Open Days

- Year 7 Interactive Open Morning - 22nd September
- Whole School Open Morning - 12th October
- Sixth Form Open Evening - 15th October

We'd love to meet you - book your place

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WED 17 – SUN 21 SEPTEMBER

FOOD & DRINK

Add to your festival experience by enjoying the delicious food and drink available at Skern prepared and served by:

Skern Catering
Croyde Coffee
The Garden Box
Hocking's Ice-Cream
Simply Sri Lankan Cooking
Wickhams Wine Merchant

Please note not all catering outlets on site each day. Check website for details. **EVERYONE WELCOME!**



FESTIVAL SITE MAP AT SKERN



1 **Catering Outlets**
2 **Festival Tent**
Author Events

3 **Gulls' Nest**
Box Office
Info Desk
Waterstones
Barista Coffee Cart

4 **Osprey Tent**
Author Events
Receptions/Brunch
Wine Tastings & More

MAP OF APPLEDORE

