

FAVERSHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

21 Feb – 2 March 2025



www.favershamliteraryfestival.org



Tickets available via the website:
www.favershamliteraryfestival.org



Welcome to Faversham Literary Festival 2025

I am delighted to welcome you to the eighth year of Faversham Literary Festival, held across ten days in our ancient port and market town on the north Kent coast.



Since the festival began in 2018 we have welcomed an incredible variety of writers and thinkers to our small town, and for 2025 we have another rich and diverse programme of events for all ages and persuasions. Every year so many people get in touch to say how much they enjoyed the festival and hope that it will be back next year, so I hope you will all find the same joy and inspiration in the events we have planned for 2025.

As always, I hope we've invited some of your favourite authors – in fiction Sebastian Faulks, Sarah Perry and Kate Mosse alongside more recent literary stars Eliza Clark and Ferdia Lennon; in poetry, Jackie Kay, Linton Kwesi Johnson and national treasure Pam Ayres. You will find a few celebrity faces from the worlds of fashion and stage, including Zandra Rhodes, Wayne Sleep and Dame Harriet Walters. Plus so much more... politics, nature, a great line-up of music writers, local writers, and events for all the family.

Come and meet some of your favourite authors, and why not take a few risks and discover some of the exciting but less known writers who are coming to Faversham to share their stories and insights.

There are more than 70 events for you to choose from. I hope you enjoy the festival.

Amanda Dackombe
Festival Director

Thanks to our sponsors

Thanks to this year's sponsors, whose support is vital in helping us to create such a big and exciting festival in the small town of Faversham.

With special thanks to Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewer, for their ongoing support since the festival began in 2018; our education partner Canterbury Christ Church University; Rochester Independent College as a new sponsor for 2025; and continued support from Tassells.

Thank you also to all the Friends of the Festival, whose support is very much appreciated.

Principal sponsor



Supported by:



**Canterbury
Christ Church
University**



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Harriet Constable

**Assembly Rooms, 2–3pm
£8**

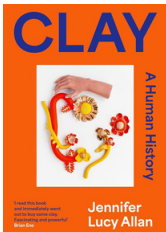
What better way to open the festival than with one of the best debut novels of 2024, a historical retelling of a Venetian orphan and one of Vivaldi's most promising music students. With host Sarah Lonsdale.

**Polly Toynbee &
David Walker**

**Alexander Centre, 4–5pm
£12**

In their book *The Only Way Is Up* the Guardian's Polly Toynbee and co-author David Walker dig into 14 years of Conservative rule to ask how the incompetence and austerity measures inflicted on the British public might be put right by the new Labour government in the years ahead.

**Jennifer
Lucy
Allan
Assembly
Rooms,
4–5pm £8**



Archeology, history and the lived experience of an amateur potter combine in this love letter to clay. Lucy Rutter hosts.

**The Meaning of Beer
Assembly Rooms**

5.30–6.30pm £8

Beer just might be our most important invention! Our love of beer has shaped everything from religious ceremonies to advertising, architecture to bioengineering. As Jonny Garrett will reveal, this is not a book about how we made beer, but how beer made us...



Harry Baker

**Alexander Centre £12
7–9.30pm (with interval)**

Poet Harry Baker brings his signature playfulness, poignancy and quick-fire rhymes to a brand new show celebrating the wonder that is being alive.

Scarlett Thomas

**Assembly Rooms, 7–8pm
£8**

Well known for bestsellers including *The End of Mr Y*, Scarlett Thomas's latest novel, *The Sleepwalkers*, is a wickedly funny and sublimely creepy tale of a couple's demise while holidaying on a Greek island. Playful and political... Daphne du Maurier meets Patricia Highsmith.

Saturday 22 February



Derek Gow

Assembly Rooms

11am–12noon £10

Renowned for his work in rewilding and species reintroduction, Derek Gow's new book looks at the history of the wolf's demise and the possibility of a future return to Britain for this majestic species. With host Carol Donaldson.

Working in the Industry

Guildhall, 11am–12 Free



**Canterbury
Christ Church
University**

A panel of specialists working in writing and publishing talk about ways into the industry, how things work, the difficulties of getting published, and answer your questions on the A-Z of the books trade.

Meike Ziervogel

Almshouses

11.30am–12.30pm £8

Meike Ziervogel is co-founder of an NGO for refugees in the Middle East. Her novel, *Shams*, is an unflinching exploration of life in a refugee camp and a story of female resilience in the face of exploitation, war and poverty. Meike talks to Daniel Hahn about how her writing draws on her work with displaced persons, and her own past.



Tasneem Abdur-Rashid

Guildhall, 12.30–1.30pm

£5

British Bengali-born writer Tasneem Abdur-Rashid talks to author Maggie Brookes about her uplifting, laugh-out-loud story, *The Thirty Before Thirty List*, which confronts the choices that a young woman has to make between forging an exciting, independent life or accepting a life defined by family and tradition.



**Producing the sitcom
Father Ted**

Alexander Centre, 1–2pm

£10

A nostalgic, warm-hearted memoir by Lissa Evans, one of the producers of the cult-hit TV show *Father Ted*, *Picnic on Craggy Island* reveals the challenges of the job and those special Fr Ted moments, from clerics crashing through windows to runaway milk floats. Lissa is in conversation with author Clare Chambers.

Saturday 22 February

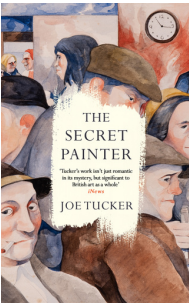


Xiaolu Guo

Assembly Rooms 1–2pm

£10

The Chinese-born writer and film-maker chronicles her life in Hastings, asking how an immigrant, an outsider and a woman can embrace local and national history.



Joe Tucker

Almshouses, 1–2pm £8

Scriptwriter and producer Joe Tucker shares the real-life tale of his Uncle Eric, who turned to painting portraits of working-class life as a way of trying to make sense of his own. Told with real heart and humour. With host Steven Gale.

Canterbury Christ Church University – Writers' Showcase

Guildhall, 2–3pm, Free

Students and staff from the university's creative writing faculty showcase their work and offer inspiration for budding writers.

Event in partnership with:



**Canterbury
Christ Church
University**



Iain Sinclair with Horatio Clare

Alexander Centre, 3–4pm

£10

Iain Sinclair's latest book, *Pariah Genius*, follows the life of photographer John Deakin, whose chronicles of Soho life – and the world of Francis Bacon and his friends – have so influenced our perception of that generation's work. He talks to Horatio Clare about why Deakin remains such a compelling figure.

Poetry Hub

Guildhall, 3.30–8.30pm

Free entry to all events

Invited local poets read their work, 3.30–6.20pm.

Followed by Words in Faversham, a poetry Open Mic hosted by Jane O'Brien, 6.30–8.30pm.

Saturday 22 February



Helen Charman

Assembly Rooms, 3–4pm

£10

Helen Charman makes a radical case for what liberated mothering could be, and tells the story of what motherhood has been, from the 1970s to the 2010s – from Women's Liberation to austerity – following mothers' fights for an alternative future.

Cosy Crime

Almshouses 3–4pm £8

Greg Mosse, Jamie West and Julie Wassmer talk about their latest novels and take a wry, amusing look at the foibles of some of their best cosy crime characters.



Nicolas Padamsee

Alexander Centre

3–4pm £8

The lives of two east London teenage boys become fatally entwined in this assured debut addressing themes of masculinity and marginalisation, Britishness, and the pernicious pull of extremist politics. Darkly humorous and highly topical.



Helen Heckety

Almshouses, 4.30–5.30pm

£8

A sharp, funny, heartbreaking debut novel that explores the journey of self-discovery of a young woman who as a child was diagnosed with a condition that would set the course of her life. With author and disability campaigner Chloe Timms.

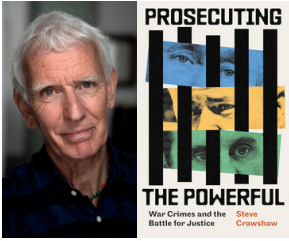


The Bowie Odyssey

Assembly Rooms 5–6pm

£10

Music journalist Simon Goddard's book-by-book, year-by-year literary trip through David Bowie's greatest decade reaches 1974, the year in which one man is trying to find his soul in a world that's gone to the devil. Wickedly funny and shockingly tragic. With author Mark Stay.

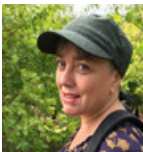


Steve Crowshaw

Alexander Centre

5–6pm £10

Putting a country's leader on trial once seemed unimaginable. But as journalist Steve Crowshaw makes clear in his new book – a blend of eyewitness reporting and history, including recent stories from the front lines of justice in Ukraine and Palestine – the possibilities of what can happen have been transformed. With host Daniel Hahn.



Hemingway revisited

Almshouses 6.30–7.30pm

£8

Rethinking Hemingway, with translator Daniel Hahn and author Sonia Overall, whose novel *Eden* melds the persona of Hemingway himself with characters from his last book, written while he was living in Cuba.



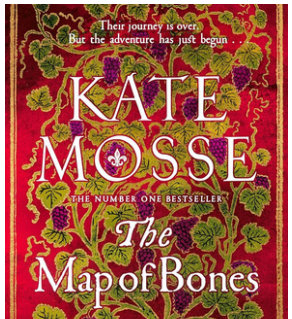
Andy Capon,

The Spire

Assembly Rooms, 7–8pm

£10

Andy Capon, chief writer and editor of *The Spire*, is back on stage for a rematch with host Simon Tyler. Expect political satire, anecdotes, interjections and lots of drinking as they explore a cast of characters from Andy's 'semi-imaginary' home town of Faversham.



Kate Mosse

Alexander Centre, 7–8pm

£14

Kate Mosse returns to Faversham to share more tales of adventure, intrigue and courage set in southern Africa across the 17th to the 19th centuries. She talks to Steven Gale about *The Map of Bones*, the final part in her sweeping historical tale about the Huguenot Joubert clan.

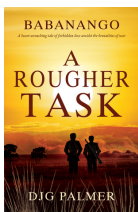
Sunday 23 February

Horatio Clare

Assembly Rooms,

11am–12 noon £8

Anxiety, depression, burnout, insomnia – or any one of many conditions of the mind that can be hell to endure, or support someone through – award-winning writer and broadcaster Horatio Clare offers a map through the mental health system and how it can provide the help we need, when we most need it.



DJG Palmer

Alexander Centre

12noon–1pm Free

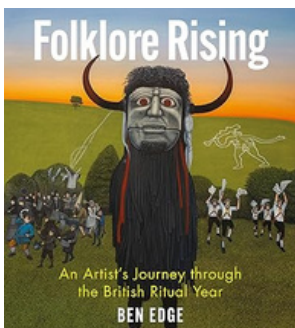
A well-researched, carefully crafted and lovingly told LGBTQ+ tale of the brutalities of love and war, about two men's fight for survival against the backdrop of the emotive Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. With host Graeme Bosley.

Andrew Chatterton

Alexander Centre, 1–2pm

£8

Britain's position in 1940 was often described as 'alone' and 'weak'. Yet the reality was very different. Not only did Britain have powerful navy and RAF forces, they were backed by the nation's incredible Home Guard. In his new book *Fortress Britain 1940*, historian Andrew Chatterton shares some of the incredible stories of derring-do.



Ben Edge

Assembly Rooms, 1–2pm

£10

Artist Ben Edge has travelled Britain recording weird and wonderful folk customs that come alive in communities all over the country. He talks stories, anecdotes and legends with host Caroline Millar, and how connecting with living folklore can dispel depression.

Neil Alexander

Alexander Centre, 2–3pm

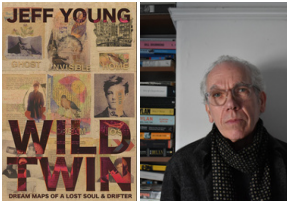
£5

Nostalgic coming-of-age tale *The Lost Past of Billy McQueen* follows a young man drawn back to his native Ireland, on a quest to find out about the unexplained disappearance 30 years earlier of his secret schoolboy sweetheart. With host Graeme Bosley.

Writing workshop: The Apothecary's Prescription

Guildhall, 2–4pm £10

Inspired by Derek Jarman's garden at Dungeness, come and explore creative writing experiments on themes of the botanical, hope and illness, with Alexandra Le Rossignon.



Jeff Young with Horatio Clare

Assembly Rooms 3–4pm
£10

Psychogeographer Jeff Young's hallucinatory dream of lost youth and a deeply felt love song to the city he calls home. Literary journeying of the finest order, with Horatio Clare.

Wendy Joseph

Alexander Centre 3–4pm
£14

Hot on the heels of her best-seller *Unlawful Killings*, Wendy Joseph KC skilfully reconstructs 4 courtroom dramas, drawing on her many years' experience as a murder judge to ask if our justice system works.

This event is sponsored by Tassells

GD Harper

Alexander Centre
3.30–4.30pm Free event

A tale of corruption and conspiracy, GD Harper's novel, *Arden*, delves into the life of William Shakespeare and the infamous murder of Thomas Arden by his wife Alice.

Local author showcase

Alexander Centre
5–6pm Free event

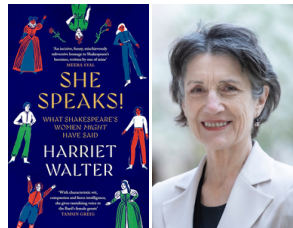
Local writers introduce their work in a dynamic quick-fire presentation against the clock.



Oliver Smith & Rod Edmond

Assembly Rooms 5–6pm
£10

Walking through histories, taking in the East Kent coast and an epic adventure across sacred British landscapes.



Dame Harriet Walter

Alexander Centre, 5–6pm
£16

Dame Harriet Walter, known for her roles in *The Crown* and *Downton Abbey*, and one of Britain's most esteemed Shakespearean actors, imagines new parts for 30 of Shakespeare's women, letting them speak their minds...

Jonathan Coe

Assembly Rooms 7–8pm
£12

Darkly funny and razor-sharp, Jonathan Coe's latest novel, *The Proof of My Innocence*, blends murder mystery and political critique in a blisteringly funny playing out of Britain's right-ward political drift, culminating in Liz Truss.

FRIDAY 21 FEB

ALEXANDER
CENTRE

ASSEMBLY
ROOMS

2–3pm
Olaf Falafel

4–5pm
Polly Toynbee

7–9.30pm
Harry Baker

2–3pm
Harriet Constable

4–5pm
Jennifer Lucy Allan
5.30–6.30pm
Jonny Garrett

7–8pm
Scarlett Thomas

SAT 22 FEB

ALEXANDER
CENTRE

11am–12noon
Olaf Falafel

1–2pm
Polly Toynbee

3–4pm
Iain Sinclair

5–6pm
Steve Crawshaw

7–8pm
Kate Mosse

SUNDAY 23 FEB

ALEXANDER
CENTRE

ASSEMBLY
ROOMS

MAYOR'S
PARLOUR

GUILDHALL

10.15–11am
Nicola Lewis. Age 3+

11am–12noon
Horatio Clare

1–2pm
Ben Edge

12.30–1.30pm
DJG Palmer

2–3pm
Neil Alexander

2–4pm
Workshop:
The
Apothecary's
Prescription

3–4pm
Wendy Joseph

3–4pm
Jeff Young

3.30–4.30pm
GD Harper

5–6pm
Dame Harriet Walter

5–6pm
Oliver Smith &
Rod Edmond

5–6pm
Local Author Showcase

7–8pm
Jonathan Coe

SAT 22 FEB continued

ASSEMBLY ROOMS

11am–12noon
Derek Gow

1–2pm
Xialou Guo

3–4pm
Helen Charman

5–6pm
Simon Goddard

7–8pm
Andy Capon

ALMSHOUSES

9–9.45am
School Prizes

10–11am

Onjali Raúf

11.30am–12.30pm
Meike Ziervogel

1–2pm
Joe Tucker

3–4pm
Cosy Crime

4.30–5.30pm
Helen Heckety

6.30–7.30pm
Hemingway: Sonia Overall

7–8pm
Kate Mosse

GUILDHALL

11am–12noon
Working in the Industry
12.30–1.30pm
Tasneem Abdur-Rashid

2–3pm CCCU
Writers' Showcase

3.30–8.30pm
iPoetry Hub

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

11am–12noon
Emily Davison

1–2pm
Sewing for
Children 7+

3–4pm
Nicolas
Padamsee

MONDAY 24 FEB

ASSEMBLY ROOMS

1.30–2.30pm
Barney Campbell

3–4pm
Carol Donaldson

5–6pm
Frances Beaumont

7–8pm
iBig Book Club

TUESDAY 25 FEB

FAVERSHAM VISITOR CENTRE

12–2pm
Poetry Open Mic

ST MARY OF CHARITY

4–5pm
Pam Ayres
7–8pm
Dr Rachel Clarke

WEDNESDAY 26 FEB

ST MARY OF CHARITY

5.30–6.30pm
Michael Rosen
8–9.30pm
Roger McGough

THURSDAY 27 FEB

ST MARY OF CHARITY

3–4pm
Bettany Hughes
7–8pm
Sebastian Faulks

FRIDAY 28 FEB

OLD BREWERY STORE

1–2pm
Clare Mulley
6–7pm
Jon Spurling
7.30–11pm
Poetry Slam

ST MARY OF CHARITY

5–6pm
Will Self – Live Link-Up
7–8pm
Alison Steadman

SATURDAY 1 MARCH

ST MARY OF CHARITY

11am–12noon
Caroline Lucas

1–2pm
Wayne Sleep

3–4pm
Jackie Kay

5–6pm
Zandra Rhodes

7–8pm
Linton Kwesi Johnson

OLD BREWERY STORE

11am–12noon
Clare Chambers

1–2pm
Eimear McBride

3–4pm
Steve Diggle

5–6pm
Leeroy Thornhill

7–8pm
Miranda Sawyer

QE THEATRE

11am–12noon
The Big Debate: AI

1–2pm
Nick Harkaway

3–4pm
Frank Gardner

5–6pm
Led By Donkeys

6.30–7.30pm
Eliza Clark

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

ST MARY OF CHARITY

1–2pm
Lara Maiklem

3–4pm
Tim Shipman &
Gavin Esler

5–6pm
Danny Robins

7–8pm
Sarah Perry

ARDEN THEATRE

12.30–1.30pm
Simon Cole

2–3pm
David Sheppard

3.30–4.30pm
Ferdia Lennon

5–6pm
Sarah Lonsdale

SATURDAY 1 MARCH continued

ARDEN THEATRE

QE ASSEMBLY HALL

GUILDHALL

10–11am

Rob Biddulph Age 3+

11am–12noon

Stuart Heritage Age 6–10

12.30–2.30pm

Poetry: Page to Stage
+ Open Mic

1–2pm

Katie Kirby Age 7–12

1–3pm

Workshop:
Monique Roffey:
Story vs Plot –
What's
the difference

3–4pm

Helen Jukes

3–4pm

Andy Stanton. Age 7–10

4.30–5.30pm

Monique Roffey

5–6pm

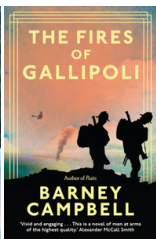
Jonnie Peacock Age 8–12

7–8.15pm

Death and the Carpenter

Midweek events

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY



Barney Campbell

Assembly Rooms

1.30–2.30pm £8

A heartbreaking portrayal of friendship forged in the trenches of the First World War, telling the story of a quietly courageous soldier and a shy former lawyer.



Carol Donaldson

Assembly Rooms, 3–4pm

£8

A story of woods and wildlife, conservation and community, by the Kent author of *On the Marshes*, exploring how a ragtag team of conservation volunteers became a vital force for good – for each other as well as the landscapes they are caring for. Carol will be in conversation with local poet and artist Clair Meyrick.



Frances Beaumont

Assembly Rooms, 5–6pm

£8

Join us for this evening's book launch showcasing Faversham writer Frances Beaumont's long-awaited, *A Life Without Hands – John Oliver and Me*.

Big Book Club

Assembly Rooms

7–9pm Free

(only available to book clubs who have reserved a place in advance of the event)

Organised in collaboration with Faversham Library, book clubs from around Faversham are coming together in the Assembly Rooms to talk about Joanna Biggs's *A Life of One's Own*, a personal account of what women readers and writers mean to each other, explored through individual chapters on eight women writers from the literary canon. Four volunteers from different book groups will be taking to the stage to lead the chat.

Have you joined your local library?

Tickets available via the website:
www.favershamliteraryfestival.org

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY



Pam Ayres

St Mary of Charity, 4–5pm

1 Ticket + 1 copy of Doggedly Onward (rrp £25) £32

2 Tickets + 1 copy of Doggedly Onward £45

Britain's treasured poet Pam Ayres has been making the nation laugh for 50 years. She rose to fame after winning Opportunity Knocks in 1975 and is still one of the country's favourite performance poets. Pam will be performing from her new collection, Doggedly Onward: A Life in Poems. Not to be missed!

Dr Rachel Clarke

St Mary of Charity

7–8pm £13

A riveting and inspiring true story of two families linked by one heart, written by bestselling author and palliative care doctor, Rachel Clarke. The story interweaves the history of medical innovations behind transplant surgery with the plight of two children, one of whom desperately needs a new heart. The event will be chaired by Marg Mayne

POETRY EXHIBITION with Open Mic, 12–2pm today

Faversham Tourist Information Centre

An exhibition by a group at Faversham's Abbey Physic Community Garden – in support of mental well-being, promoting confidence and an interest in poetry as a cathartic medium – is on display at the Tourist Information Centre from Monday 17 Feb to Tuesday 2 March. Free Entry – All Welcome. OPEN MIC today only.

Midweek events

WEDNESDAY 26 FEB

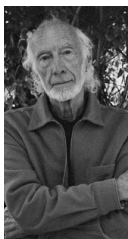
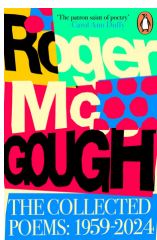


Michael Rosen

St Mary of Charity

5.30–6.30pm £12

One of Britain's best loved writers and performance poets for children and adults, Michael Rosen returns to Faversham to perform some of his favourite poems and share with readers a barrage of fun and wisdom from his new collections... get ready for some of the weirdest poems of all time!



Roger McGough

St Mary of Charity

8–9.30pm £16

A lifetime of poetry collected in one volume, plus stories, anecdotes and lots of laughs as one of the nation's most revered poets makes a very welcome return to Faversham to read from his triumphant new anthology. Includes a 20-minute interval.

THURSDAY 27 FEB



Bettany Hughes

St Mary of Charity

3–4pm £16

In a feat of magnificent storytelling, award-winning historian and broadcaster Bettany Hughes reveals secrets from the ancient world told through its seven greatest monuments: The Great Pyramid of Giza, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Temple of Artemis, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia, The Lighthouse of Alexandria; The Colossus at Rhodes, and The Mausoleum of Halikarnassos.



Sebastian Faulks

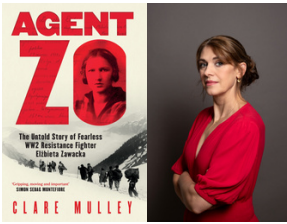
St Mary of Charity

7–8pm £16

Sebastian Faulks, the author of bestsellers including *Birdsong* and *Charlotte Gray*, talks to Alex Preston about his latest work, *The Seventh Son*, the story of a young academic as she agrees to carry another woman's child, which leads to life-changing consequences.

Midweek events

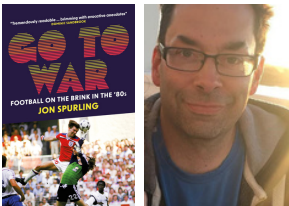
FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY



Clare Mulley

**Old Brewery Store, 1–2pm
£10**

Clare Mulley talks to Julia Wheeler about the incredible story of the courageous resistance fighter Elżbieta Zawacka, also known as 'Elizabeth Watson' but more often as 'Zo' – the only woman to parachute from Britain to Nazi-German occupied Poland during the Second World War and the sole female member of the Polish special forces.



Jon Spurling

**Old Brewery Store
6–7pm £10**

Set against a backdrop of economic recession, rampant hooliganism and suspect fashion, *Go To War* tells the story of how triumph and tragedy shaped English football during the 1980s. Jon will be talking to host Graham Symon.

Poetry Slam

**Old Brewery Store, 7.30–
11pm £10**



A 40-min set from unmissable Scots spoken word poet Len Pennie. Followed by 10 poets battling it out with word play and top-notch performance to win the cash prize. With host Angela Dye. Not to be missed!

Will Self

**St Mary of Charity
5–6pm £14**

A live link-up with Will Self at his home in south London as he talks to on-stage host Alex Preston about Elaine, a brilliant, scathing work of auto-oedipal fiction based on the intimate diaries Will Self's mother kept for over forty years.



Alison Steadman

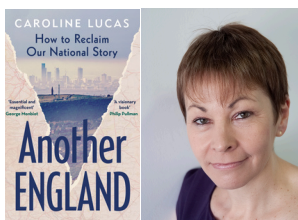
**St Mary of Charity
7–8pm £20 / £25**

The much-loved Gavin and Stacey star talks to Julia Wheeler about her post-war working-class roots, varied acting career – from *Abigail's Party* to *Pride and Prejudice* – and her marriage to Mike Leigh.

Tickets available via the website:

www.favershamliteraryfestival.org

Saturday 1 March



Caroline Lucas

St Mary of Charity

11am–12 noon £15

With the UK more divided than ever, the idea of Englishness has re-emerged as a potent force in our culture and politics. In this timely book Caroline Lucas, former leader of the Green Party, delves into our literary heritage to explore what it can teach us about the most pressing issues of our time.



Clare Chambers

Old Brewery Store

11am–12 noon £10

The bestselling author of Small Pleasures discusses her new novel, about a talented artist incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital in the 1960s – and the female art therapist who sets out to discover his story.

Poetry: From Page to Stage & Open Mic

Arden, 12.30–2.30pm £10

Four poets talk about writing versus performing poetry. Followed by an Open Mic.

The Big Debate: Artificial Intelligence

QE Drama Theatre

11am–12 noon £10

AI promises to transform everything, from work to transport to war, and to solve all our problems, but at what cost? Tech philosopher Tom Chatfield (*Wise Animals: How Technology Has Made Us What We Are*) and James Muldoon (*Feeding the Machine*) discuss the real impact of AI. Chaired by Julia Wheeler.

Wayne Sleep

St Mary of Charity, 1–2pm



1 Ticket £15

1 Ticket + 1 copy of Just Different (rrp £25) £35

2 Tickets + 1 copy of Just Different (rrp £25) £48

Dancer Wayne Sleep talks about his extraordinary life on and off stage. Expect laughter, tears, and plenty of gossip.



Nick Harkaway

QE Drama Theatre

1–2pm £12

Nick Harkaway talks to Alex Preston about his latest fiction, which returns readers to the shadowy world of George Smiley created by Nick's father.



Eimear McBride

Old Brewery Store

1–2pm £10

Trailblazing Irish author Eimear McBride, winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction for her instant classic, *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*, talks to Claire Armitstead about her new novel set in London, in which a passionate love affair is tested to its limits.

Workshop: Monique Roffey: Story vs Plot – What's the Difference

Guildhall, 1–3pm £20

Creative writing workshop with Monique Roffey, author of *The Mermaid of Black Conch*, and *Passiontide*.



Helen Jukes

Arden, 3–4pm £10

The author of *A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings* talks to Alex Preston about her new book, which investigates motherhood in the animal world, combining personal memoir with scientific insight.

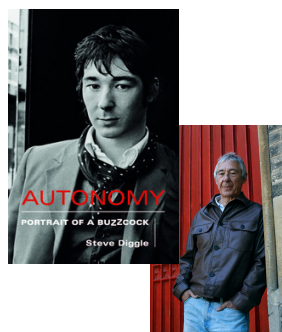


Jackie Kay

St Mary of Charity

3–4pm £15

Scots poet and novelist Jackie Kay reads from her new collection and shares stories from decades of involvement in political activism, from *Reclaim the Streets* to *Pride* to *Black Lives Matter*. Woven through the collection are poems reflecting on grief, love and celebration. Jackie will be in conversation with prize-winning poet and author Joelle Taylor.



Steve Diggle

Old Brewery Store

3–4pm £15

The Buzzcocks bass player/lead guitarist / lead vocalist talks to music journalist Siân Pattenden about his book *Autonomy*, a definitive inside account of the band's musical legacy; its rise, fall, and rise again; and his complex friendship with Pete Shelley.

Saturday 1 March



Frank Gardner OBE

QE Drama Theatre

3–4pm £12

BBC Security Correspondent Frank Gardner talks to Julia Wheeler about *Invasion*, the latest of his bestselling Luke Carlton thrillers, which traces an ominous gathering of Chinese armed forces and the threat of unpredictable global conflict.



Leeroy Thornhill

Old Brewery Store

5–6pm £15

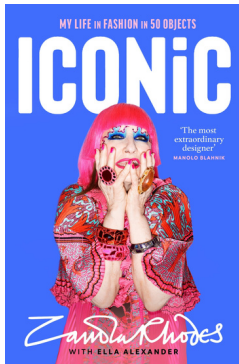
Leeroy Thornhill, former member of The Prodigy, shares stories about the first decade of the band, from the earliest raves to Japan and the United States in the late 1990s. Hosted by journalist, broadcaster and author Miranda Sawyer.



Monique Roffey

Arden, 4.30–5.30pm £10

Trailblazing writer, lecturer, environmental activist, and winner of the Costa Book of the Year for *The Mermaid of Black Conch*, Monique Roffey talks to author Jacqueline Crooks about her new novel *Passiontide*, set on a fictional Caribbean island. A young female steel-pan player is found dead after the island's carnival, leading four women to ignite revolution and fearlessly challenge the dangers and impossibilities of being a woman in a rigged system.



Zandra Rhodes

St Mary of Charity

5–6pm £15

One of the most significant figures in British fashion, Zandra Rhodes talks to Julia Wheeler about her life spent among rockstars and royalty, life-changing friendships and the highs and lows that come with being an era-defining designer.

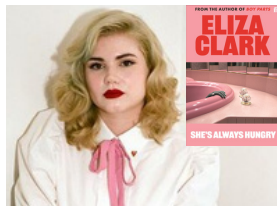
Led By Donkeys

QE Drama Theatre, 5–6pm

1 Ticket + 1 copy of Adventures in Art (rrp £18.99) £26

2 Tickets + 1 copy of Adventures in Art (rrp £18.99) £43

Led By Donkeys discuss their new book, Adventures in Art, Activism and Accountability, a showcase of their artistic acts of resistance against years of inept, corrupt Conservative rule in Britain and which demonstrates how they continue to hold the powerful to account. Chaired by artist and journalist Siân Pattenden.



Eliza Clark

QE Theatre, 6.30–7.30pm
£10

A chance to meet Eliza Clark, author of Boy Parts and Penance, who will be talking about her first collection of short stories, She's Always Hungry, with author Anna Bogutskaya. Expect the unsettling and revelatory, laced with dark humour.



Miranda Sawyer

Old Brewery Store

7–8pm £12

Miranda Sawyer's fantastic assemblage of key music artists of the 1990s – Oasis, Blur, The Prodigy, PJ Harvey and more. She talks to music journalist Siân Pattenden about being right in the thick of it.



Linton Kwesi Johnson

St Mary of Charity

7–8.30pm £15

Jamaican reggae poet, activist and critic Linton Kwesi Johnson performs a selection of his poetry and talks about his latest book, Time Come, in conversation with author Jacqueline Crooks.



Arden Theatre, 7–8.15pm
£10

Parrot Theatre Company presents a folk tale about death and love that combines performance, puppetry, live music and storytelling. From a story by Sonia Overall.

Sunday 2 March

Simon Cole

Arden, 12.30–1.30pm Free

In this one-man show Simon Cole acts out his response to today's world – the war in Ukraine and increasing refugee crisis. His story begins when, on a whim, he set out to retrace the footsteps of cultural icon Walter Benjamin across the Pyrenees while fleeing Nazi persecution in 1940. En route, Simon discovered the story of Lisa Fittko, a young Resistance fighter whose bravery would inspire his own transformational journey to work with refugees in Calais and Ukraine. This is a story of how we can respond to things seemingly out of our control and how past voices call us to action.

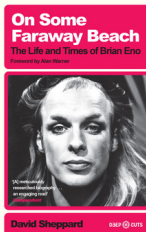


Lara Maiklem

St Mary of Charity

1–2pm £8

Forgotten stories come to life in Lara Maiklem's new book, *A Mudlarking Year* – an ode to nature, history and the simple art of looking and finding treasure in every season. With warmth and wisdom, the London Mudlark will be talking to Julia Wheeler about discovering hidden objects in the most overlooked part of the city, the secrets they reveal and the stories that are patiently waiting to be told.



David Sheppard

Arden, 2–3pm £8

A sonic alchemist to the stars, Brian Eno's address book is a veritable who's who of rock and pop. *On Some Faraway Beach* is the first serious, critical examination of his life and music. With Whitstable music journalist Michael O'Connell.



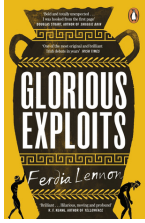
Tim Shipman & Gavin Esler

St Mary of Charity

3–4pm £13

Sunday Times chief political commentator Tim Shipman talks to Gavin Esler about *Out!*, the rollicking, unrestrained latest instalment in Tim's account of modern British political history, covering the Johnson years to our shortest serving PM ever.



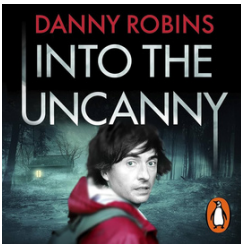


Ferdia Lennor

Arden Theatre

3.30–4.30pm £8

Winner of this year's Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize, a tragicomic tale of two unemployed potters in ancient Syracuse who decide to stage two of Euripides' greatest tragedies in a quarry, using Athenian prisoners of war. A tale of brotherhood, war, art, and what happens when contemporary Irish dialect meets the ancients. With host Alex Preston.



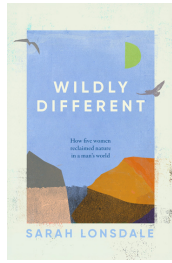
Danny Robins

St Mary of Charity, 5–6pm

1 Ticket £17

1 Ticket + 1 copy of Into the Uncanny (rrp £10.99) £22

Terrifying, fascinating and hilarious – Danny Robins is coming to Faversham to share experiences from his book, Into The Uncanny, a real-life adventure into the paranormal.



Sarah Lonsdale

Arden Theatre

5–6pm £8

Historian Sarah Lonsdale brings to life the globe-trotting tales of five women who fought for the right to work in, enjoy and help to save the wild places of the earth – a journey from sub-Saharan Africa to the Peak District. With host Caroline Millar.



Sarah Perry

St Mary of Charity

7–8pm £14

Author of The Essex Serpent, Sarah Perry talks to Alex Preston about her latest novel Enlightenment, longlisted for the Booker Prize 2024 – a story of love and astronomy told over the course of 20 years through the lives of two unlikely best friends. Described by the Guardian as 'luxuriously – defiantly – old-fashioned' it is full of heartfelt wisdom about the stars, faith, friendship and unrequited love. A gem.

CHILDREN'S

Olaf Falafel

Alexander Centre
Friday 21 Feb
2–3pm
£8



Comedian Olaf Falafel's laugh-out-loud character Trixie Pickle, in a show that uses funny facts to introduce children to the work of real artists. Age 7–10

Emily Davison

Faversham Library, Fri 21 Feb, 12–1pm; and Alexander Centre, Sat 22 Feb, 11am–12 Free events
Lovely tales for age 3+



Onjali Raúf OBE

Almshouses
Saturday 22 Feb, 10–11am £8
Meet the characters from three heartwarming tales by bestselling children's author Onjali Raúf. Age 7–11.

Sewing Machine Projects for Children

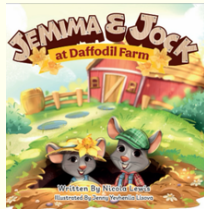
A FUN AND CREATIVE GUIDE TO MAKING 30 TOYS, DECORATIONS, BAGS, AND MORE

cico kids

for children aged 7+ years

Angela Pressley

Alexander Centre
Sat 22 Feb, 1–2pm Free
Star of Sewing Street TV, Angela Pressley shows children how to machine sew with 30 fun, creative projects that youngsters will love to make!



Nicola Lewis

Alexander Centre
Sun 23 Feb, 10.15–11am Free
A heartwarming adventure set on a daffodil farm... and other tales. Age 3+



Charlie Higson

Alexander Centre
Sat 22 Feb, 11am–12 £10
The hilarious sequel to 'Worst. Holiday. Ever', with comedy writer Charlie Higson continuing the antics of Stan, who lands a part in a TV show as a brainy superhero... but is he up to it?



Michael Rosen

St Mary of Charity £12
Wed 26 Feb, 5.30–6.30pm
Some favourite poems and a barrage of fun and wisdom from Michael's new collections... get ready for some of the weirdest poems of all time! Suitable for all ages

EVENTS

Stuart Heritage

Arden Theatre
Saturday 1 March
11am–12 noon
£8



The O.D.D. Squad are BACK ... and this time they're even more amazingly dumb than ever! Age 6–10

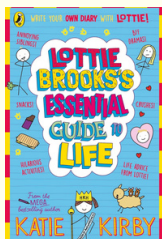


Rob Biddulph

QE Assembly Hall

Sat 1 March, 10–11am £8

Toot toot! All aboard as superstar Rob Biddulph creates never-before-seen cars, trucks, trains, boats, planes, diggers... and other wacky creations from the world of transport. Age 3–8



Katie Kirby

QE Assembly Hall

Sat 1 March, 1–2pm £8

Come and hear the latest adventures from the fantastically funny and relatable Lottie Brooks series. Meet the author and get your books signed! Age 7–12

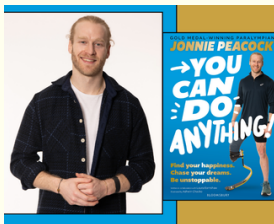


Andy Stanton

QE Assembly Hall

Sat 1 March, 3–4pm £8

Come and enjoy an hour of energetic, interactive fun, jokes, props, silly voices and horrible, horrible singing with the author of the incredible Mr Gum series. Don't worry... Andy also fits some inspirational and serious stuff in there too, and aims to light a fire of enthusiasm beneath even the most reluctant reader! Age 7–10



Jonnie Peacock

QE Assembly Hall

Sat 1 March, 5–6pm £8

Join Paralympic champion, Strictly Come Dancing star and You Can Do Anything! author, Jonnie Peacock, for an empowering and inspirational discussion about finding your happiness, chasing your dreams and being unstoppable. Suitable for age 8–12



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