

LAVENHAM LITERARY festival

1 - 3 November 2024

lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk Sponsored by Mattioli Woods Tickets: whatsonwestsuffolk.co.uk



LAVENHAM LITERARY *festival* Dinner Friday 1 November 2024

The historic Swan at Lavenham Hotel and Spa is delighted to host this year's Lavenham Literary Festival Dinner with guest speaker CRAIG BROWN. Craig will be speaking about his two most recent books *One, Two, Three, Four, The Beatles in Time* and *A Voyage Around the Queen*.

The evening starts at 6.45 pm when you can enjoy an aperitif and canapés. A delicious three-course dinner will follow, with coffee and petit fours in the Gallery Restaurant at the heart of the Swan in superb medieval surroundings. The perfect setting for a fabulous evening.

Tickets cost £80 and will be available from midday on Monday 9 September 2024.

To book tickets please email functions@theswanatlavenham.co.uk and include your telephone number where possible.

Please note that tickets are restricted to 2 per booking and emails sent before 12 noon will not be valid. It will be possible to call in at The Swan after 12 to ask Reception for help, though we strongly recommend the email option if possible.

The Swan will respond to your emails in strict order of receipt with an indication of whether or not your application has been successful.

We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a wonderful evening.

Why not make a night of it?

We are offering preferential room rates for guests of the Literary Festival

Book your ticket

Email **functions@theswanatlavenham.co.uk** from midday on Monday 9 September 2024 Telephone 01787 247477 www.theswanatlavenham.co.uk



The Eighth Lavenham Literary Festival

We are delighted to invite you to join us for the weekend of 1st - 3rd November 2024 in the beautiful setting of Lavenham in Suffolk, this country's finest medieval village.

We have an exciting programme to suit all literary tastes. We very much look forward to welcoming you to a range of events from author presentations and 'inconversation' interviews to creative writing and poetry workshops.

There are distinguished writers and debut authors from the world of history and literary fiction, theatre and politics - do book early to avoid disappointment. With an eye to affordability we have maintained our ticket prices this year, full details of which can be found on page 4. Booking for the Festival Dinner at the Swan Hotel, which opens on Monday 9 September 2024 is different from all the other events, so please check the details carefully.

All other tickets are available from Friday 30 August 2024 at What's On in West Suffolk: www.whatsonwestsuffolk.co.uk, in person at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds, or by phone at their Box Office: 01284 758000. Please check on our website for details www.lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

Our sincere thanks go to our principal sponsors Mattioli Woods and all our corporate supporters. Also to our accommodation partner and festival dinner hosts, the Swan Hotel in Lavenham for their invaluable support during the Festival itself and throughout the year. We are hugely grateful to our wonderful volunteers without whom the Festival simply could not take place, to the Friends of Lavenham Library, Historic Suffolk, our committee members and to everyone who works so hard to make the Festival such a success, including of course our authors and interviewers who provide such stimulating and thought-provoking sessions. Last but certainly not least, thank you, our audiences for your participation. We look forward to welcoming you and wish you a happy and stimulating 2024 Festival weekend.

Christopher Garibaldi

Chair Lavenham Literary Festival Committee www.lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

Ticket Prices and How to Book

Festival Dinner £80 only through The Swan Hotel at Lavenham. *(see page 2)*

Creative Writing Course £45 The Swan.

Dr Annie Gray £15 including glass of wine Village Hall

Writing Modern Love Sonnets £10 Student discount £7.50 Little Hall

All other sessions £12.50 Student discount £8.50 The Guildhall and Village Hall

Through

whatsonwestsuffolk.co.uk (Click the 'what's on' button) By phone: 01284 758000 In person at Apex Box Office, Bury St Edmunds.

Notes

Teas, coffees and light refreshments provided by the Friends of Lavenham Library will be available at the Village Hall between sessions. All proceeds will be used to support Lavenham Library.

Books by the authors appearing at the Festival will be available to purchase from the Waterstones' stall and there will be opportunities for book-signing.

www.lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

LAVENHAM LITERARY festival 2024

LLF 2024 Programme AT A GLANCE

Each of the listings for the Festival weekend is covered in more detail in the following pages of this programme. Events are held in Lavenham Village Hall, Church Street CO10 9QT unless stated otherwise.

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER

10.30am-4pm Creative Writing Course with **Tom Henry** Swan Hotel, High Street, CO10 9QA

5pm-6pm Three Suffolk Poets: **Rebecca Goss, Emily Hasler & Joanna Ingham** Lavenham Guildhall, Market Place CO10 9QZ

6.45pm onwards Festival Dinner with **Craig Brown** Swan Hotel, High Street, CO10 9QA Please see page 2 for how to book

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

10am-11am Alan Johnson with Lesley Dolphin

11.45am-12.45pm Jyoti Patel, Hilary Taylor with Janet Ellis

2pm-3pm Patrick Barkham

3.45pm-4.45pm Sheila Hancock with Janet Ellis

5.30pm-6.30pm Dr Annie Gray

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

10.30-11.30am Tracy Borman

12.15pm-1.15pm Ashley Hickson-Lovence with Simon Edge

2.30pm-3.30pm Louis de Bernières with Martha Kearney

2.30pm-4.30pm Poetry Workshop with Ashley Hickson-Lovence Little Hall, Market Place CO10 9QZ

4.15pm-5.15pm Bill Alexander and Janet Suzman with Paul Venables



meet the authors



Tom Henry



Craig Brown



Patrick Barkham



Bill Alexander



Rebecca Goss



Alan Johnson



Sheila Hancock



Ashley Hickson-Lovence



Emily Hasler



Jyoti Patel



Dr Annie Gray



Louis De Bernières



Joanna Ingham



Hilary Taylor



Tracy Borman



Janet Suzman

meet the interviewers



Lesley Dolphin



Janet Ellis



Simon Edge



Martha Kearney



Paul Venables

Friday 1 November 10.30am - 4pm Swan Hotel Lavenham

Tom Henry

Creative Writing Workshop FACT INTO FICTION turning your life experience into short stories

Have you read a news item which you think would make a good short story? Have you had an experience which you're inspired to turn into fiction? Tom Henry is returning to run another of his very popular oneday Writers' Workshops at The Swan Hotel. The theme is *Fact into Fiction*, *turning your life experiences into short stories* and is aimed at beginners and also those who have written and even been published in the past. The workshop will introduce you to techniques from fiction and non-fiction and by the end of the day you will have a framework which gives you clarity, direction and inspiration to write a short story.

Tom has worked as a journalist for twenty years and is an author and ghostwriter, co-writing over 25 books, many of them best-sellers, for national and international publishers.

All levels of writing experience are welcome to participate in this inspiring workshop.

The number of participants will be limited.

The cost (£45) includes tea/coffee and a light lunch.

Friday 1 November 5pm - 6pm Lavenham Guildhall

THREE SUFFOLK POETS LANDSCAPE LANGUAGE AND LINEAGE

Rebecca Goss

Rebecca is a poet, tutor and mentor and the author of four full-length collections. Her second, *Her Birth*, was shortlisted for the 2013 Forward Prize for Best Collections. She was the winner of the Syliva Plath Prize 2022. Her latest collection, *Latch*, is about reconnecting to Suffolk and understanding what it held once, and does now for a woman and her family.

Emily Hasler

Emily is a Hawthornden Fellow. *The Built Environment* was her critically-acclaimed first collection, published in 2018. Her latest publication *Local Interest* maps the friable landscapes of Suffolk and Essex to expose the constantly shifting courses of rivers and lives.

Joanna Ingham

Joanna writes poetry and fiction. Her second pamphlet *Ovarium* was shortlisted for the East Anglian Book Awards. Her work has appeared in the Sunday Times and been published widely in journals, anthologies and online. She has a poem included in *Ten Poems about Daughters* from Candlestick Press.









Friday 1 November 6.45pm Swan Hotel Lavenham

FESTIVAL DINNER

Bookings made through The Swan Hotel (see page 2)



Craig Brown

Lavenham Literary Festival is delighted to welcome satirist, reviewer and former Times political sketch writer CRAIG BROWN as our Festival Dinner Speaker. Craig has written for *Private Eye* since 1989 and is the author of over 20 books including the award winning *Ma'am Darling*, 99 *Glimpses of Princess Margaret* a New York Times bestseller, and *The Beatles in Time* which won the Baillie Gifford Award and was the No.1 Times bestseller. He has won the Sony Gold Award for Radio Comedy.

Craig will be talking about *One, Two, Three, Four The Beatles in Time* and also introducing his latest book *A Voyage Around the Queen*. She first appeared on the cover of Time magazine at the age of three. Nowadays only those over the age of 100 would have any chance of recalling a time when she was not a fixture of British identity. Craig will bring his unique kaleidoscopic approach to the most famous woman on earth, examining Queen Elizabeth II in her time through a succession of interlocking prisms.



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Saturday 2 November 10am - 11am Lavenham Village Hall

Alan Johnson

talks about his latest book DEATH ON THE THAMES with Lesley Dolphin



ALAN JOHNSON makes a welcome return to the Festival and opens the Village Hall events with his latest Detective Constable Louise Mangan murder mystery *Death on the Thames*. Evil is at play in the quiet suburb near Hampton Court Palace, and this young detective constable's questions only scratch the surface. The Thames runs deep and the tide is rising. Will the truth rise with it?

ALAN JOHNSON, politician turned author, was a Labour MP for 20 years, serving in five cabinet positions. He retired from politics ahead of the 2017 general election.

His childhood memoir *This Boy* was published in 2013 and won the Ondaatje Prize and the Orwell Prize, Britain's top political writing award. Two further award-winning volumes of memoirs followed, then Alan turned to writing novels. *Death on the Thames* is his third mystery thriller. He is currently writing a biography of Harold Wilson. Alan was appointed Chancellor of the University of Hull in 2023.

LESLEY DOLPHIN presented her popular afternoon show on BBC Radio Suffolk for many years. She regularly included features about books and authors, and finds that one of the big positives of being retired is being able to read more!



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Saturday 2 November 11.45am - 12.45pm Lavenham Village Hall

Two debut authors Jyoti Patel and Hilary Taylor talk with Janet Ellis

What are the challenges when writing your first book? Should you seek a mentor or editor? How do you find a publisher? Is self-publishing the right road? Jyoti Patel and Hilary Taylor share their experiences as debut authors with Janet Ellis.

JYOTI PATEL is a graduate of the University of East Anglia's Prose Fiction MA and winner of the 2021 Merky Books New Writers' Prize. Her writing has previously been published as part of *We Present's 'Literally*' series and in the anthology for the 2022 Bristol Short Story Prize, for which she was shortlisted. Jyoti was named as one of The Observer's 10 best new novelists for 2023. *the things that we lost* is her debut novel.

HILARY TAYLOR is a graduate of Edinburgh University and lives in Suffolk where she taught for almost twenty years. Her short fiction has been published in magazines and anthologies and she was the winner of the Bridport Prize for Flash Fiction in 2022. *Sea Defences* her debut novel began life as a prize-winning short story, placed third in the Bath Short Story Award. She is working on a second novel.

JANET ELLIS is an actress and novelist, best known for presenting *Blue Peter*. She has starred in numerous radio and TV programmes and in 2016 was awarded an MBE for services to charities and theatre. Her debut novel, *The Butcher's Hook* was longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize.

Saturday 2 November 2pm - 3pm Lavenham Village Hall

Patrick Barkham

introduces his biography THE SWIMMER The Wild Life of Roger Deakin



Roger Deakin the naturalist and author of *Waterlog* and *Wildwood*, was variously a maverick adman, stallholder on the Portobello Road, teacher, environmentalist, music promoter, filmmaker and above all restorer of the ancient Walnut Tree Farmhouse in Suffolk, sharing it with visitors, both human and animal, and writing about them with precision and poetry. PATRICK BARKHAM draws from his friend's notebooks, diaries and other writings to bring him back to glorious life in these pages. Roger was unique, as is this joyful, creative biography which is primarily told through the words of the subject himself with support from a chorus of friends, family, colleagues, lovers and neighbours.

PATRICK BARKHAM is an award-winning author and natural history writer for *The Guardian*. His book *The Butterfly Isles* centred on his quest to see all 59 British butterfly breeds in one summer and won the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize. *Badgerlands* was shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize and the Wainwright Prize for Nature and Travel Writing. His other books include *Islander* and *Wild Child* and he has edited an anthology of British and Irish nature writing *The Wild Isles*. He is President of Norfolk Wildlife Trust.



Saturday 2 November 3.45pm - 4.45pm Lavenham Village Hall

Sheila Hancock DBE

talks about her memoir OLD RAGE to Janet Ellis

SHEILA HANCOCK is funny, feisty and honest in *Old Rage* as she opens her 10th decade. The distinguished actor makes for brilliant company while she talks about her life and takes an uncompromising look at a world very different from her wartime childhood. She reflects on our changing world from the passing of Queen Elizabeth II to the rise and fall of Liz Truss. And yet – despite age, despite rage - she finds there are always reasons for joy.

Since the 1950s Sheila Hancock has enjoyed a career across film, television, theatre and radio. Her first big role was in the BBC sitcom *The Rag Trade*, and most recently she appeared in the BBC series *The Sixth Commandment*, ITV's *Unforgotten* and in the title role in the feature film *Edie*. She was the first woman artistic director with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the first woman to direct in the National's Olivier Theatre. Still writing regularly beyond her 90th birthday Sheila is a monthly columnist for *Prospect* magazine. She was made a Dame in 2021 for services to drama and charity.

JANET ELLIS is an author also known as a presenter on *Blue Peter*. She has appeared in numerous radio and television programmes. Her debut novel *The Butcher's Hook* was longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize.



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Saturday 2 November 5.30pm - 6.30pm Lavenham Village Hall

Dr Annie Gray

introduces us to

THE BOOKSHOP, THE DRAPER, AND THE CANDLESTICK MAKER

A History of the British High Street

ANNIE GRAY'S new book is a colourful social history. She walks us down the road and through the ages from the dawn of the high street in medieval times to today's familiar scene. Bustling with historical details and colourful vignettes, *The Bookshop, the Draper and the Candlestick Maker* visits everything from apothecaries and penny bazaars to the birth of Marks and Spencer and the original toyshops with curiosities sold to entertain adults rather than children.

Annie is an historian, cook, broadcaster and writer specialising in the history of food and dining in Britain from 1600 to the present day. She is the author of *Victory in the Kitchen* and *The Greedy Queen* among a number of other titles. An honorary research associate at the University of York and a Fellow of the Royal History Society, she has presented TV history documentaries including *Victorian Bakers* and *The Sweetmakers*, and is the resident food historian on BBC Radio 4's *The Kitchen Cabinet*.



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Sunday 3 November 10.30am - 11.30am Lavenham Village Hall

Tracy Borman



takes us

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN THE ROYAL PALACES

TRACY BORMAN is a Lavenham Festival favourite, and we're delighted to welcome her back. As Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces she enjoys unparalleled access to some of the world's most iconic sites including the Tower of London, Hampton Court and Kensington Palace. For almost 1,000 years they have played host to countless events that changed the course of British history, from the execution of Anne Boleyn to the interrogation of the Gunpowder Plotters. Tracy takes us behind closed doors to explore the hidden history of the palaces, including the secret rooms where Elizabeth I dabbled in the dark arts and some recently unearthed skeletons at the Tower of London.

Tracy is a best-selling author, historian and broadcaster specialising in the Tudor period. Her latest non-fiction book is *Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I: the Mother and Daughter who changed History*. She is Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust and Chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University Lincoln. She has presented a number of history programmes for Channel 5 and the Smithsonian Channel, is a regular contributor to *BBC History Magazine* and gives talks on her books across the country and abroad.



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Sunday 3 November 12.15pm - 1.15pm Lavenham Village Hall

Ashley Hickson-Lovence

talks about

THE POWER OF WORDS THROUGH POETRY AND PROSE

in conversation with Simon Edge

Diversity is the theme of Ashley Hickson-Lovence's published works to date. Diversity in themes, styles and the readers and age groups he aims at. His debut novel *The 392* takes place entirely on a London bus travelling from Hoxton to Highbury over the space of 36 minutes. The events unfold through a cast of charismatic characters coming from very different worlds. His second novel *Your Show* is a fictionalised life of Uriah Rennie, the first black referee in the Premier League. Written in freestyle poetry teamed with kick-by-kick match reports, it was shortlisted for the East Anglian Book Awards. His third publication *Wild East*, a young adult novel-in-verse, is aimed, says the author, at 'everyone who during the toughest of times still believes in the power of words.'

ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE is a novelist, poet and university lecturer with a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. He is a passionate believer in making poetry accessible to all young adult readers. He was inspired by his own experiences including five years teaching English in a secondary school and tutoring a group of asylum seekers and refugees. He is currently editing his latest novel *About to Fall Apart* and his debut poetry collection *Why I am Not a Bus Driver*.

SIMON EDGE is the author of six satirical novels including *Anyone for Edmund?* which was the theme of his talk at the Lavenham Literary Festival 2022. *The End of the World is Flat* is described by *The Times* as 'A satire of Swiftian ferocity'. He is also a publisher of fiction and non-fiction at the award-winning independent publisher Eye Books. He has lived in Suffolk for nearly twenty years.





Sunday 3 November 2.30pm - 3.30pm Lavenham Village Hall

Louis De Bernières



reflects on LIGHT OVER LISKEARD in conversation with Martha Kearney

Light over Liskeard is a modern-day gothic fairytale with a ghost, an anchorite and various people who have dropped out of society and gone under the radar. It pokes fun at modern mores and delves into what we should really treasure.

LOUIS DE BERNIERES is best known as the author of the best-selling *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. He has also written short stories, poetry, non-fiction and twelve novels including his latest, *Light over Liskeard*. Louis worked variously as a landscape gardener, motor mechanic, carpenter and motorcycle messenger before training to be a teacher. After his third novel was published he abandoned his teaching career to concentrate on writing. He accumulates clutter and has successive crazes like Mr. Toad, though music is a constant enthusiasm. He plays the flute, clarinet, guitar and – appropriately – the mandolin. For ten years he was with the Antonius Players, and writes and performs his own songs.

MARTHA KEARNEY is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, best known for her six-year tenure presenting BBC Radio 4's Today programme. In a career that spans almost four decades she has presented some of the UK's longest-running political and current-affairs programmes as well as nearly a decade at Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. Martha has won the Sony Radio Bronze Award and been nominated for a BAFTA for her coverage of the Northern Ireland peace process. Sunday 3 November 2.30pm - 4.30pm Little Hall, Market Place

Ashley Hickson-Lovence

holds a poetry workshop on WRITING MODERN SONNETS



There's a lot at stake when writing a sonnet but not much space to play with. Looking at the work of famous sonneteers from William Shakespeare to Anthony Joseph and more, this two-hour workshop by creative writing tutor ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE will encourage you to write modern sonnets with flair and without fear. The session will embolden you to be adventurous and provide you with the practical tools needed to experiment more widely with the traditions of the fourteenline form. This session is suitable for sonnet first-timers and those further down the line.

ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE is a poet novelist and university lecturer with a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. His verse-novel for young adults *Wild East*, published by Penguin, tells the story of Ronny, a black teenager who moves from London's East End to a mostly white school in Norwich and struggles to balance keeping his head down with his ambition of becoming a rapper. Ashley is a passionate believer in making poetry accessible to all, and in the power of storytelling in lyrics, spoken word and performance poetry. His first collection of poetry *Why I am not a Bus Driver* will be published in 2026.



Sunday 3 November 4.15pm - 5.15pm Lavenham Village Hall

Bill Alexander





Janet Suzman DBE discuss EXPLORING SHAKESPEARE with Paul Venables

Exploring Shakespeare – A Director's Notes from the Rehearsal Room takes us inside the rehearsal room, covering essential aspects of any Shakespeare production from understanding the world of the play, to preparing and cutting text, deciding on costumes and set design, handling soliloquies and considering character and back story. Two eminent Shakespeare experts, BILL ALEXANDER and JANET SUZMAN in conversation provide a fascinating insight into what goes on behind the scenes.

BILL ALEXANDER is a British theatre director. He is best known for his work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Birmingham Repertory Company. His landmark productions include *Richard III* with Anthony Sher and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, both of which won Olivier Awards, and *King Lear* with Corin Redgrave. Most recently he has worked as a director on BBC Radio 4 drama.

DAME JANET SUZMAN the distinguished actor and director joined the newlyformed Royal Shakespeare Company in 1963. She has played most Shakespeare heroines including a definitive performance as Cleopatra, and has acted in numerous other classic and modern plays and television drama productions. She is the author of *Acting with Shakespeare*, based on a series of acting master classes, and is an Honorary Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute.

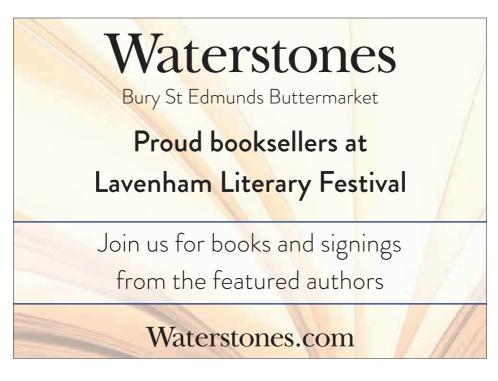
PAUL VENABLES was an actor for twenty years, playing leading roles in the Royal Shakespeare Company and in television and radio, including the part of Jakob in Radio 4's *The Archers*. He now practises as a psychotherapist.



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All content is correct at the time of writing (May 2024).

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Celebrate with us When a special celebration requires extraordinary surroundings

From baby showers and birthdays to intimate dinner parties and anniversaries, our stunning private dining rooms offer a magical setting for your next special occasion.

With great food at the heart of any celebration, our team of chefs are on hand to help bring your event to life with tailored menus and a superb drinks selection to match.



For more details, please visit our website www.theswanatlavenham.co.uk/events/celebration-packages **Enquire about your celebration:**



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