



Media release for immediate use

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Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival turns 10

Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival has announced the line-up for this year's event, with more award-winning authors, acclaimed historians and fascinating thought-leaders than ever before heading to Budleigh to celebrate the Festival's tenth anniversary.

Taking place Wednesday 19th to Sunday 23rd September 2018, the annual Festival will once again excite audiences with its impressive line-up, as well as inspiring and educating with a range of workshops and activities for all ages.

Highlights for 2018 include bestselling author and BBC historian **Lucy Worsley**, whose latest book tracks the life of Queen Victoria; **John McCarthy MBE**, who was abducted by Islamic Jihad in Beirut in 1986 and whose plight captured the imagination of the country; author of international bestseller *Labyrinth* **Kate Mosse OBE**, speaking alongside acclaimed author **Ben Kane**; television historian, **Dan Cruickshank**, who presented *Around the World in Eighty Treasures*; and Devon-based master storyteller **Michael Morpurgo**, one of Britain's best loved children's writers.

In a Festival exclusive, double Man Booker prize winner and Festival President, **Dame Hilary Mantel** will be holding an unmissable writing masterclass. Aimed at curious readers and writers of all levels, the event will include some of the tips and techniques that she uses in her writing.

Dame Hilary said: "The Budleigh Literary Festival is known internationally and each year our ambitions have expanded. We are proud of the calibre of writers we attract and the commitment of our sparky audiences.

"I wish that our founder, the late Susan Ward, could be with us to see what an impact her work has made, and how much pleasure the Festival has given to visitors and townsfolk."

Also speaking this year are TV and Radio 4 presenters **Hannah Fry** and **Dr Adam Rutherford**, who will be speaking on separate books looking at both the 'age of the algorithm' and what sets apart the human race from other animals; author of five Sunday Times bestselling novels, **Kate Morton**, alongside acclaimed Somerset-based author **Andrew Miller**; and **Patrick Gale**, author of award-winning *Notes from an Exhibition* and *A Perfectly Good Man*.

Poet, performer and broadcaster **Michael Rosen**, will be delivering the inaugural Susan Ward Talk on Friday 21st September in memory of the Festival's late founder. He'll be asking whether the hunger for data by successive governments, which has made us shovel information into children to be regurgitated in exams, has stopped children from really engaging in reading stories, poems and plays.

As well as more than 30 speaking events across the five-day Festival, 2018 will see more workshops and masterclasses than ever before. From bookmaking to paper-cutting, a writers' workshop with Greg Mosse to a meet-the-editor session, the programme is brimming with events to inspire and help people improve their skills. There will also be an open mic poetry evening for amateur and professional poets alike to share their work.

Annie Ashworth, Festival Artistic Director, said: "This year's Festival has something for everyone, with authors, broadcasters, presenters and editors from all styles and genres. From Queen Victoria to the future of technology; battling waste plastic to the evolution of libraries; comedy writing to walking South West coastal path; we've traversed the globe and the centuries for our special tenth anniversary programme.

"We are grateful as always to our Festival committee, volunteers, venues, supporters, friends and, of course, our dedicated audiences for continuing to make the Festival a celebration of literature and our community. We look forward to seeing you in September."

An important part of the Festival's work as a charity is being able to offer school visits from authors and illustrators, to inspire children to read and enjoy books. There will also be an expanded programme of events for children of all ages, including the return of the much-loved poetry slam and literary quiz events.

To read the full programme of events, including times and prices, visit www.budlitfest.org. Tickets will go on sale to Friends of the Festival on **2nd July 2018** and on general sale on **9th July 2018**.

The 2018 Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival:

Wednesday 19th September

- Bookmaking workshop with **Lina Avramidou**
- Roy and Lesley Adkins: *Gibraltar – The Greatest Siege in British History*
- Anna Beer: *Patriot or Traitor – The Life And Death of Sir Walter Raleigh*
- Lucy Siegle: *Turning the Tide on Plastic*
- Vanessa Berridge and Ambra Edwards: *The English Garden – A History*
- Open Mic Poetry Evening
- John McCarthy with Emily Mayhew: *Human Conflict – A Survival Guide*

Thursday 20th September

- Card making and paper cutting workshop with Christine Green

- Writing and Delivering Comedy workshop
- Kirsty Gunn and Chris Power: Keeping It Short
- Ciara Eastell OBE and Mary Colwell: Libraries – who needs ‘em?
- Natalie Haynes: Comedy Classics – *The Children of Jocasta*
- Mary Colwell and Miriam Darlington: Birds of a Feather
- Dan Cruickshank: *The History of Architecture in 100 Buildings*
- East Devon Writers’ Group: Off The Page (a performance)
- Stephen Walsh: *Debussy – A Painter in Sound*
- Wendy Cope: *Anecdotal Evidence*

Friday 21st September

- Writing masterclass with Dame Hilary Mantel
- Fiona Sampson: Mary Shelley
- Lalage Snow: *War Gardens – Calm in the Midst of Conflict*
- John Boyne: *A Ladder to the Sky*
- Sarah Winman and Vanessa Nicholson: Two Sides to the Story
- Julian Baggini: *How the World Thinks – A Global History of Philosophy*
- Michael Rosen: Is Data Collection the Death of Reading?
- Patrick Gale: *Take Nothing with You*

Saturday 22nd September

- Writer’s workshop with Greg Mosse: Imagining Your Novel
- Raynor Win and Katherine May: The Healing of the Coastal Path
- Hannah Fry: *How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine*
- Kate Mosse and Ben Kane: Historical Fiction – Creating an Epic
- Johnny Mercer: *We Were Warriors*
- Andrew Miller and Kate Morton: History in the Making
- Lynne Truss: Turning to Crime
- Lucy Worsley: *The Many Faces of Queen Victoria*

Sunday 23rd September

- Meet the editor: Susanna Wadson
- Helen Cullen, Kim Sherwood and Victoria Panton: The Things We Leave Behind
- Caroline Elton and Christie Watson: The Human Face Behind the Mask
- Michael Morpurgo: Master Storyteller
- Chris Orr: *The Miserable Lives of Fabulous Artists*
- Dr Adam Rutherford: *The Book of Humans - The Story of How We Became Us*

Festival events for children:

Wednesday 19th September

- Children’s Literary Quiz Final

Thursday 20th September

- Poetry Slam (workshops and performance)

Friday 21st September

- Bounce and Rhyme

Saturday 22nd September

- Pirates Ahoy! (themed activity tent on the Green)
- Arvon Creative Writing workshop with Malaika Kegode
- Tracey Corderoy: *Fairy Tale Pets*
- 'Lady Mary' by Lucy Worsley
- Dan Metcalf: Dino Wars workshop
- Katie Cleminson: *Otto the Book Bear*

Sunday 23rd September

- 'Dare to Write?' drop-in session
- Pirates Ahoy! (themed activity tent on the Green)

Find out more at www.budlitfest.org.uk or follow the Festival on social media: Twitter [@BudleighLitFest](https://twitter.com/BudleighLitFest), Instagram [@budlitfest](https://www.instagram.com/budlitfest) or Facebook/[BudleighSaltertonLiteraryFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BudleighSaltertonLiteraryFestival).

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Attached images may be used in connection with this press release. Additional images available upon request.

Photographs show: Speakers coming to the 2018 Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival.

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Notes to editors:

- The Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival was founded in 2008 with the aim of attracting acclaimed authors, playwrights and poets, whilst retaining accessible ticket prices and a friendly atmosphere.
- The Festival has grown in popularity over the last eight years and attracts many leading authors. Amongst the highly-reputed authors appearing at this year's festival will be Dame Hilary Mantel, Lucy Worsley, Michael Morpurgo, Wendy Cope, Lynne Truss, John Boyne, Hannah Fry, and John McCarthy.
- The Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival is a registered charity no. 1127885 and a Limited Company by Guarantee no. 6758203.
- To find out more, visit www.budlitfest.org.uk.