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Tenth annual Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival set to be a sell-out

The 2018 Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival is once again set to be a sell-out, with tickets flying out of the door for the special tenth anniversary event.

Taking place from Wednesday 19th to Sunday 23rd September, this year's Festival has a bigger line up of authors, broadcasters, academics, poets and workshops than ever before, including a packed programme of events for children too.

Highlights include the award-winning garden historian **Ambra Edwards**, whose latest book *The Story of the English Garden* is published by the National Trust, and the writer **Vanessa Berridge**, launch editor of *The English Garden* magazine and author of *Great British Gardeners*, look at our enduring love for our little plot of land. Join them on 19th September.

Most writers agree that the short story is one of the most difficult writing forms, demanding immense skill and precision. On 20th September, two highly-talented writers - **Kirsty Gunn** and **Chris Power** - will talk about how they make their short stories complete and compact, whilst drawing you into the tale.

Chief Executive of Libraries Unlimited, **Ciara Eastell**, and writer **Mary Colwell** also join us on 20th September. They'll debate the importance of the library and how, in a world of online communities and kindle downloads, libraries can and are reinventing themselves to become stalwarts of the community and places of inspiration and creativity once again.

Author of international bestselling novel *Labyrinth* **Kate Mosse OBE** and acclaimed author **Ben Kane** will take us back in time on 22nd September, with epic tales brought to life through immaculate research combined with inspired imagination.

Plus, young writers aged 12 to 18 have the chance to learn from writer and performer **Malaika Kegode** at the **free Arvon Creative Writing Workshop** on 22nd September. In this unmissable event for budding young writers, the focus will be on getting those first few ideas in motion and, by the end, they'll have a brand-new piece of writing to take home.

Those who want to have a seat at these talks will have to move quickly. A number of events across the week have already sold out, with only a handful of tickets remaining for others.

Annie Ashworth, the Festival's Artistic Director, said: "It's a very special year for us as we celebrate ten years of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival and we're so pleased to have such great support once again from our wonderful audiences.

"All the team have worked really hard to put together a diverse programme to delight, entertain and inform people of all ages, as well as offering more workshops than ever before to inspire writers. Tickets are selling fast, so I'd encourage everyone to get theirs quickly to avoid disappointment!"

Unsurprisingly, the workshop with Festival President **Dame Hilary Mantel**, author of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*, was one of the first event to sell out. In a Festival exclusive, the double Man Booker Prize winner will share the tips and techniques she uses in her writing to lucky ticket holders. Other workshops have also proved popular, with the bookmaking workshops and 'Imagining Your Novel' with Greg Mosse having already sold out too.

However, creatives need not fear, as there are still spaces available for Christine Green's card-making and paper-cutting workshop, back this year by popular demand; the Festival's first ever comedy writing workshop; and a meet the editor session, with publishing director at Transworld Susanna Wadson, providing tips on getting your work noticed by publishers.

Young writers also have the chance to develop their writing skills and explore their love of reading at a drop-in writing workshop for children on 23rd September, hosted by Paper Nations of Bath Spa University, suitable for all ages.

To read the full programme of events and to book tickets, visit www.budlitfest.org.

Follow the Festival on social media for regular updates - 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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For more information, please contact Arianne Williams at KOR Communications on 01392 466733 or Arianne.Williams@korcommunications.co.uk.

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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.