

**11 - 13
NOVEMBER 2022**

Clifton Village

LitFest

**With: Michael Buerk • Kit de Waal
Julian Baggini • Jenni Murray
Patrick Gale • Chris Mullin
Norman Bowler • Dorothy Byrne
Nikki May • Helen Doe and many more...**

Music: Gentlemen of Few

**A weekend full of talks,
workshops, music, poetry
and lively discussion**

**Tickets:
Clifton Library
and online at
www.foccal.com**

Clifton LitFest 2022

Friday November 11 - Sunday November 13

A huge welcome to our third LitFest. After an enormously successful series of events last year the Festival is returning for another weekend packed with an ambitious programme of talks, poetry, music, walks and workshops from an eclectic mix of national and local authors.

We are delighted to welcome to the festival two journalists who began their broadcasting careers in Bristol and who went on to international fame.

Michael Buerk will be our keynote speaker at Christ Church on Friday evening while on Saturday Jenni Murray leads an impressive line-up of speakers including philosopher Julian Baggini, historian of the SS Great Britain Helen Doe and ex MP Chris Mullin reflecting on his campaign over the miscarriage of justice for 'The Birmingham Six'. We are working Chris hard because later in the day he'll be in conversation with the first journalist to call out Boris Johnson as a liar, the former head of News and Current Affairs at Channel 4, Dorothy Byrne.

The Saturday programme at Clifton Library showcases a series of local authors, including Amanda Prowse, James Bailey and Bruce Fellows. There is also a walk guided by the perennially popular Clare Reddaway and three hours of poetry (with liquid refreshment) curated by Bob Walton.

On Saturday evening in Christ Church, we feature music from the acclaimed ensemble 'Gentlemen of Few', with their exciting blend of indie/pop rock, skilful vocal harmonies and powerful lyrics. 'They perform their music with raw passion and intense energy "hardly to be believed" - says Chris Evans, and he should know.

On Sunday, we feature two renowned best-selling and Radio 4 Book of the Week novelists, Patrick Gale (Mother's Boy) and Kit de Waal (My Name is Leon, and Without Warning and Only Sometimes). We are also delighted to welcome local actor and Clifton celebrity Norman Bowler (Softly Softly, Emmerdale).

Sunday at the Library is the setting for more remarkable authors, including Nikki May in conversation with Peace Medie about her debut novel, Wahala, described by Stylist Magazine as 'a gripping journey of friendship, revenge and finding your true self'. Charlotte Philby reminisces about her mother Edith and father and spy Kim Philby, while BBC political editor Paul Bartrop is in conversation with Hannah White from the Institute of Government, and Lynne Hapgood talks about her father, Bristol footballer Eddie Hapgood. There's also a panel discussion about the future of writing and publishing, 'Bookshop to Booktok.'

Music in the Library from Jo Swan and Nick Pullin rounds off what we hope will be a festival with something for every taste and an appeal to readers everywhere.

Browse the following pages to see the full programme and to avoid disappointment book early either online at www.foccal.com, or purchase for cash, from Clifton Library in Princess Victoria Street.

CLIFTON LIBRARY



CHRIST CHURCH



**Clifton LitFest
organising committee**

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER

MICHAEL BUERK **In conversation with DAVID PARKER**

Friday 7.00 - 9.00pm Bar from 6pm Christ Church Cost: £15



We are delighted that Michael will be the opening speaker of this year's LitFest.

He knows Bristol well, launching his career as a broadcast journalist in the city in 1973. Since then he has gone on to win a host of awards including the 1984 Royal Television Society *'Television Journalist of the Year'* for his extraordinary and ground breaking reporting of the famine in Ethiopia in 1984-85. In 1988 he was the third recipient of the James Cameron Memorial award, given for 'work as a journalist that combined moral vision and professional integrity' in his coverage of the township uprising and state of emergency in South Africa.

It is that integrity, moral compass and in depth knowledge that makes Michael the perfect chair of BBC Radio 4's discussion programme on moral and ethical issues 'The Moral Maze'.

His autobiography, **The Road Taken**, was published in 2004.

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

AMANDA PROWSE **WOMEN LIKE US**

Saturday 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library Cost: £10



Join Amanda for an inspiring, informative and honest discussion based on her autobiography **Women Like Us**, an uplifting, witty and moving account of her life experiences.

Described by the Daily Mail as 'The queen of family drama', Amanda is an international bestselling author of more than thirty books. **A Mother's Story** won the Sainsbury's award and she has had two titles selected as World Book Night reads, **Perfect Daughter** in 2016 and **The Boy Between** in 2021. Her chart-topping titles, including

My Husband's Wife and **The Girl in the Corner** have sold eight million copies worldwide. Originally from the East End of London, Amanda now lives in Bristol with her husband and two sons.

JAMES BAILEY **THE WAY BACK TO YOU**

Saturday 10.00 - 11.00am Meeting Room Clifton Library Cost: £5



The funny and heart-warming story of long lost love and second chances.

When Simon Brown reconnects on Facebook with his first love Sylvie - the French pen pal he never actually met - he is determined that this time things will be different. Adamant that he can't let this second chance pass by, Simon sets off on a bike ride from Bristol to Bordeaux on the very same route he covered as a teenager in pursuit of love. However, life isn't so straight-forward at sixty as it was at sixteen...

James was born in Bristol and lives and works in his home city. **The Way Back to You** is his second novel. His debut **The Flip Side** has been published in 11 languages and optioned for television.

JULIAN BAGGINI TRUTH TRUST AND CHARACTER

Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am Christ Church Cost: £10



In today's world truth is disputed, denied, hidden and distorted. The very possibility of objective truth is dismissed, replaced with the idea that things can only be 'true for you' or 'true for me'. Truth still matters, so why can't we agree on what it is? Author of **A Short History of Truth**, Julian will be explaining why truth is so hard to pin down and easy to dispute. He will argue that what we lack is not a philosophical theory of truth but trust in the sources of truth.

Julian Baggin is the founding editor of the **Philosophers' Magazine** and author of several best selling books on the subject of philosophy including **How the World**

Thinks, Life: A User's Manual and **The Great Guide**.

JONATHAN BRADLEY & YEALAND KALFAYAN **A KALEIDOSCOPE OF BUTTERFLIES**



Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10

Like many wild creatures in Britain, butterflies are threatened by damage to their habitats and climate change. Jonathan Bradley will talk about the inspiration for the book and why butterflies matter in the lives of human beings. He will recount some of the stories that lie behind their often exotic or mysterious names and Yealand will join him to explore the art and skill in photographing these superb Lepidoptera.

Jonathan Bradley is an author and poet. His long-standing interest in butterflies was inspired by walks in the countryside with his now-adult children when they were

young. **A Kaleidoscope of Butterflies** is his second book of stories and poems about butterflies.

Yealand, a retired GP from Bristol, has become an accomplished wildlife photographer, specialising in flowers and insects and an expert on butterfly behaviour.

CLARE REDDAWAY CLIFTON STORY WALK

Saturday 11.00 - 12.30pm Clifton Library Courtyard Cost: £10



The Story Walk begins at Clifton Library. The walk is easy and mainly level. Running time approx 1½ hours.

Join Clare on a walk through Clifton. Listen to snippets of history and slices of fiction as you look at your streets with fresh new eyes. After the popularity of last year's story walk, Clare has created a brand new walk introducing a raft of exciting characters and tales. *'Superb - a tour de force!'* **Clifton Story Walk 2021**

LILY DUNN SINS OF MY FATHER: A DAUGHTER, A CULT, A WILD UNRAVELLING

Saturday 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library Cost: £10



Lily Dunn will discuss her dazzling literary memoir about a pursuit to unravel the mysteries of her delinquent father. A writer, publisher and entrepreneur, with wild and wealthy friends, he abandoned his family to follow Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to India. Lily discovered he was a compulsive liar, sex addict, pursuer of wealth ending in ruin, who died alone addicted to alcohol and prescription drugs. She asks how deep legacies of shame and trauma run and if we can reconcile unconditional love with irreparable damage.

Lily Dunn is a writer, teacher and lecturer in creative writing and narrative non-fiction at Bath Spa university. She is the author of one novel, *Shadowing the Sun*, and co-editor with Zoe Gilbert of *A Wild and Precious Life*, an anthology of recovery stories. She will be in conversation with **Helen Taylor**.

BRUCE FELLOWS THE BEST ONE THERE



Saturday 11.30 - 12.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £5

Bruce Fellows will be talking about his recent novel, **The Best One There**, in which a young German pilot is forced to grapple with personal beliefs when confronted with the horrific results of Nazi doctrine.

Bruce currently writes about books in the local Bristol magazine, *BS6+8*, and has written an earlier novel, **That Quiet Earth**, as well as plays for local theatre companies.

Bruce will be in conversation with **Penny Kline**.

HELEN DOE SS GREAT BRITAIN: BRUNEL'S SHIP, HER VOYAGES, PASSENGERS AND CREW

Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm Christ Church Cost: £10



This was Isambard Brunel's technical triumph, the world's first iron propeller driven ship. It sailed the world, across the Atlantic, both north and south and across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. This ship carried many thousands of passengers and was eventually left abandoned in the Falkland Islands. Today she is proudly restored in her original dock in Bristol. In this book, the lives of the passengers and crew are revealed as well as the long career of this innovative vessel. There are also a disastrous navigation error, Australian emigrants, a missing captain, and a Victorian sex scandal.

Helen is an internationally recognised maritime historian and author. Among her many publications are three books on Brunel's ships, an award-winning **Maritime History of Cornwall**, and **Enterprising Women in Shipping**. She is a

regular contributor to television programmes, most recently with Mariella Frostrup discussing *Daphne du Maurier*. Helen is a government advisor to the National Historic Ships, Trustee of the SS Great Britain and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

BEN MACDONALD CORNERSTONES

Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10



Our precious archipelago, ravaged by climate change, bereft of natural ecosystems, now lies at the mercy of global warming, flooding, drought and catastrophic biodiversity loss. Could restoring the species that once helped protect these islands be our best solution?

In Cornerstones, Ben reveals the way beavers craft wetlands, save fish, encourage otters and prevent our rivers from flooding. He shows how wild boar are the best butterfly conservationists and why whales are our best solution to restoring seabird cities. And he examines the role that humans - the most important cornerstone species of all - can play in restoring our biodiversity.

Benedict Macdonald is a naturalist, conservationist, writer and producer. His first book, **Rebirding**, was the winner of the Richard Jefferies Prize & inaugural winner of the Wainwright Conservation Prize 2020.

JENNI MURRAY In conversation with **HELEN TAYLOR**

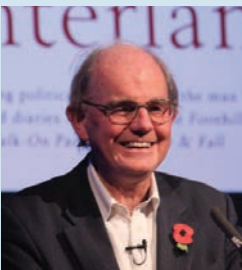


Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10

Dame Jenni Murray, broadcaster and writer, began her career on BBC Radio Bristol's Compass programme, then moved to Southampton's South Today, and finally broadcast with national TV and radio on Newsnight and the Today programme. For 33 years from 1987, she presented Woman's Hour, and now is a weekly columnist for the Daily Mail, and monthly writer for Saga. She has published several books including **Memoirs of a Not So Dutiful Daughter**, **Fat Cow Fat Chance**, and **A History of the World in 21 Women**.

She will be in conversation with **Helen Taylor** about her distinguished career and recent move into journalism and popular writing.

Chris Mullin **THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM BOMBINGS**



Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10

The Birmingham bombings led to the biggest miscarriage of justice in British history and nearly 50 years on the ripples still spread outwards. Chris Mullin, whose campaign led to the overturning of the convictions, talks about the attempt by the West Midlands Police to force him to reveal his sources which led to his recent appearance at the Old Bailey.

TALKING LIBERTIES A showcase of uplifting, liberating poetry from a diversity of voices hosted by BOB WALTON & SUE HILL

Saturday 2.00 - 4.15pm (Interval with bar 3pm) Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Bristol is a city of amazing poetic talent and 'Talking Liberties' presents a brilliant showcase of some of the finest poets in town, featuring the wondrous work and words of **Edson Burton, Stephen Lightbrown, Elizabeth Parker, Caleb Parkin, Muneera Pilgrim** and **Tom Sastry**. Prepare to have your breath taken away by the energy, flair and diversity of voices from this stellar line-up. Every poet published to acclaim, locally and nationally. Every poet hugely experienced in reading and performing their poems with vigour and passion. Prepare to be challenged. Prepare to be carried away on flights of imagination. Prepare to be entertained. Prepare to be uplifted by the power of poetry to move you deeply. And join us at what will surely be one of the poetry events of the year.

TOM SANDERSON DIGITAL TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION



Saturday 2.45 - 4.45pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10

Tom Sanderson, Deputy Director, Centre For Investigative Journalism with practical exercises (bring a laptop to take part).

You don't need to be a journalist to make use of investigative tools. Whether you're trying to verify a claim you've read or heard, looking into a company before trusting them with your money, business or personal data, or just trying to find a specific piece of information you know will be online somewhere, there are many tools, techniques, and online platforms that will help make your research and fact-checking quicker, simpler and more effective.

This session will signpost a huge range of methods to help you search the internet more effectively, access useful data and information, and follow the digital trails of fraudsters and criminals.

The Cable, Bristol's investigative journal, will run a short session during this event.

DOROTHY BYRNE TRUST ME I'M NOT A POLITICIAN with CHRIS MULLIN



Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm Christ Church Cost: £10

Dorothy knows quite a bit about the importance of trust in politics. She was for many years head of news and current affairs at Channel 4 where she oversaw the highly respected Channel 4 News, Dispatches and Unreported World.

At the beginning of Boris Johnson's period as Prime Minister, she caused an outcry when she warned that a known liar was now in 10 Downing Street. She was condemned in editorials in The Sun and The Mail. Other television journalists shied away from using the 'L' word. Would the country have been better off if they had done so?

It was her frustration with truth and deceit in politics that led to her only book, 'Trust me I am not a Politician'.

She will discuss these issues with **Chris Mullin**, who spent more than 20 years as an MP.

CLARE REDDAWAY **CLIFTON STORYWALK**



Saturday 3.00 - 4.30pm Clifton Library Courtyard Cost: £10

The Story Walk begins at Clifton Library. The walk is easy and mainly level. Running time approx 1½ hours.

Join Clare on a walk through Clifton. Listen to snippets of history and slices of fiction as you look at your streets with fresh new eyes. After the popularity of last year's story walk, Clare has created a brand new walk introducing a raft of exciting characters and tales. *'Superb - a tour de force!'* **Clifton Story Walk 2021.**

GENTLEMEN OF FEW **MUSIC**

Saturday 7.30 - 10.00pm Bar from 6.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10

Gentlemen of Few play an eclectic blend of indie/pop rock, fusing skilful vocal harmonies from their folk genre beginnings with 80's guitar and synth sounds to create pop-rock songs that are truly unique. This translates to a live performance of raw passion and intense energy *'hardly to be believed'* - **Chris Evans**, TFI Friday.

The band was formed 11 years ago and in that time has performed many shows both abroad and in the UK. Playing widely recognised venues such as: The O2 Academy 2's in Islington, Birmingham, Oxford and Sheffield to name a few. The Band has also played many established festivals such as: Boomtown Fair, Secret Garden Party, Greenbelt Festival and many more.

Influences - Vampire Weekend, Flyte, Mumford and Sons, Queen, The Kinks.



SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER

CHRIS MULLIN **A VERY BRITISH COUP**



Sunday 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library COST: £10

Chris Mullin talks about his novels **A Very British Coup** and its sequel, **The Friends of Harry Perkins**. **A Very British Coup** was first published in the early 1980s and recently enjoyed a new lease of life with the rise of Jeremy Corbyn. It was made into a successful television series which won four BAFTA's and (in the United States) an Emmy. **The Friends of Harry Perkins** is a post-Brexit novel which follows the fortunes of his successor.

ROSIE PARKER **ONLY HUMMINGBIRDS FLY BACKWARDS**



Sunday 10.30 - 11.30am Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £5

Twins, Ronnie and Jake, have their lives dramatically changed following an accident that leaves Jake brain injured. With secrets from their past beginning to surface and the strain on Ronnie's relationship with her sister-in-law and her own marriage, the novel, set in Bristol and Brittany in two time frames, the 1960s and 1980s, is a celebration of love and the human spirit.

Rosie Parker is the pen name of Bristolian writer and poet Rosemary Dun. She had a portfolio career in physiotherapy, medical rehabilitation and disability research before returning to her first love, writing. She holds a MA in Creative Writing and is a tutor on the M.A. creative writing course at the Open University.

Rosie will be in conversation with Mike Manson, co-founder of Bristol Writers and author of Bristol Miscellany.

CHARLOTTE PHILBY **EDITH AND KIM - A DOUBLE LIFE**



Sunday 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library Cost: £10

Charlotte worked as a newspaper reporter and editor before moving into magazines, and then after a third baby, turning her hand to fiction. As a journalist, her work varied from undercover investigations to celebrity interviews. But what really interests her is seemingly ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

After spending time exploring the legacy of her grandfather, the double agent Kim Philby, she became interested in spy fiction and decided to write the books she longed to read: female-led stories that are twisty, stylish and multi-layered, tying together global espionage with haunting domestic noir. Her books include **The Second Woman** (2021), **A Double Life** (2020) and **Part of the Family** (2019).

GEOFF BROOKES **GRAVE TALES**



Sunday 12.00 - 1.00pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £5

Every grave, everywhere, is a physical representation of a life, and every life is fascinating. Gravestones are the means by which we can explore hidden histories, often the forgotten lives of ordinary people, lives otherwise overlooked.

Headstones are physical memories, accessible to us all. One's presence and touch can bring those memories to life. These tales from the past can still speak to us. They were here before us, and they will be there after we have gone. That is what makes them so special.

In **Grave Tales** Geoff introduces us to heroes and poets, he confronts tragedies and murders, injustice and sadness and reveals wonderful achievements, astonishing courage and simple humanity.

NIKKI MAY WAHALA

Sunday 1.00 - 2.00pm Clifton Library Cost: £10



Born in Bristol, raised in Lagos, NIKKI MAY is Anglo-Nigerian. She ran a successful ad agency before turning to writing. Her debut novel **WAHALA** was inspired by a long (and loud) lunch with friends. It was published in 2022 around the world and is being turned into major BBC TV drama. She lives in Dorset with her husband.

Nikki will be in conversation with **Peace Medie**.

ALAN BILTON THE END OF THE YELLOW HOUSE

Sunday 1.30 - 2.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £5



War, Russia, Madness: the themes of Alan Bilton's dreamlike take on the historical novel can be seen as an uncanny mirror of our own troubled times. Madness has been described as 'the Russian disease', and Bilton explores the theme through Russian literature and history, exploring ideas of 'the Holy Fool' and the roots of the Slavic Soul.

The End of The Yellow House is set in Central Russia in 1919, in a sanatorium cut off by the chaos of the Russian civil war. There, the murder of the chief doctor sets in motion a nightmarish series of events involving mysterious experiments, the secret police, the Tsar's double, an enigmatic 'visitor', giant corpses, possessed cats, sorcery, and the overwhelming madness of war, in this fantastical and wildly exuberant historical novel. Combining elements of the 'whodunnit', the war novel, and farcical tragicomedy, **The End of The Yellow House** helps to illuminate the mysteries of Russia's troubled past.

KIT de WAAL WITHOUT WARNING AND ONLY SOMETIMES

Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10



Kit will be in conversation with Sarah LeFanu about her latest book, an extraordinary memoir of her childhood and the way in which a girl who grew up in a house where the Bible was the only book on offer, went on to discover a love for reading that inspires her to this day.

Kit de Waal was born in Birmingham to an Irish mother, a childminder and foster carer and a Caribbean father. She worked for fifteen years in criminal and family law, was a magistrate for several years and sits on adoption panels. She is the author of **My Name Is Leon**, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and winner of the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year, **The Trick to Time**, long-listed for the Women's

Prize for Fiction and a short story collection, **Supporting Cast**.

ROB MITCHELL **A NIGHT TO REMEMBER**



Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10

The night in question, April 2nd 1980, the night of the St Pauls uprising about which Rob Mitchell, using first person testimony, made this superb and revealing half hour documentary film for the BBC. Rob will talk about how he managed to make the film and how the making of it illustrated the significance of the 'riot / uprising' for both the city and the wider country. He'll reflect on its continuing relevance 20 years on from its making.

Rob Mitchell is a writer and creative media producer who works in Bristol on the topics of race, identity, community, personal development and transatlantic slavery.

HANNAH WHITE **HELD IN CONTEMPT - What's Wrong with the House of Commons?**



Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm Clifton Library Cost: £10

The accusation that Boris Johnson lied to the House of Commons about 'partygate' is just the latest example of why the public holds Parliament in contempt. Hannah White will examine what the latest ethical scandals, Brexit and the pandemic have meant for democracy, what recent events tell us about what's wrong with the House of Commons, and what should be done about it.

Dr Hannah White OBE, Deputy Director - The Institute for Government, joined the Institute after ten years working in the House of Commons and the Committee on Standards in Public Life. She lives in Brighton with her three children.

Held in Contempt - What's Wrong with the House of Commons? is published by

Manchester University Press.

In conversation with **Paul Bartrop**, BBC Political Correspondent in the West of England.

LYNNE HAPGOOD **EDDIE HAPGOOD - Footballer**



Sunday 3.00 - 4.00pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £5

Lynne's memoir of her Bristolian father, captain of England and national soccer celebrity, was published to great acclaim earlier this year. It's a remarkable story brought to life in this compelling account. The young unknown from Bristol became Arsenal and England captain and a national hero in the dark days of fascism in the 1930s. His impact is so enduring that, when the millennium dawned, the public voted him one of the greatest sportsmen of the century. A glorious legacy which was painfully achieved.

'In this gripping memoir, his daughter pulls together the various threads: success, celebrity, tragedy and vindication, to reveal the real Eddie Hapgood. She examines the nature of sporting greatness and its impact on fans and family.' **Telegraph Review.**

NORMAN BOWLER in conversation with **STEVE POOLE**



Sunday 4.00 - 5.00pm Christ Church Cost: £10

In a career spanning more than seven decades, Norman Bowler made his first stage appearance in the 40s. In 50s London he found himself mixing with the 'Soho Set', including Lucien Freud and Francis Bacon. Freud took a room in Norman's flat where he installed his various muses, but never paid his rent.

He played Mick in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* on Broadway, before moving to Bristol in the 1960s to play DCI Harry Hawkins in the BBC Television police drama, *Softly Softly* in those days broadcast live! And he never moved away, going on to play the notorious Frank Tate in the ITV soap *Emmerdale*.

Norman is a committed supporter of Auroville, visiting the Indian International Township over many years.

Now in his 90s he will reflect on his long career in conversation with **Steve Poole**.

THE FUTURE OF WRITING AND PUBLISHING **BOOKSHOP TO BOOKTOK?**



Sunday 4.00 - 5.00pm

Clifton Library

Cost: £10

We live in a time of social media, with Amazon, Instagram and Booktok replacing traditional bookshops, TV, radio and newspaper book programmes and reviews. What does this mean for writers and publishers, who all suffered financially during Covid lockdowns and face a rapidly changing literary landscape? In this panel discussion, Helen Taylor will discuss the future of writing and publishing with a poet, a novelist and a book reviewer.

Vanessa Kisuule is a writer, performer and facilitator based in Bristol where she was City Poet 2018-20. Her poem on the topping of Edward Colston's statue 'Hollow' went viral on Twitter. She has won over ten slam titles and performed nationally and internationally. She wrote and presented **The Poetry Detective** for Radio 4 in 2021. She was Highly Commended in the Forward Poetry Prize Anthology 2019.

Peace Adzo Medie is an award-winning scholar and a writer, also Associate Professor in Politics, University of Bristol. She has published several short stories, and her debut novel, **His Only Wife**, was a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, a New York Times Notable Book of 2020, and a Time Magazine Must-Read Book of 2020, as well as a Reese's Book Club pick.

Johanna Thomas-Corr is a contributing writer for the New Statesman and a book critic for the Sunday Times. She has written extensively for the Times, the Observer and the Evening Standard. She judged the Goldsmiths Prize for Fiction in 2021.

DAVID LEFFMAN

CHINESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS: FOLK ART, GODS, AND PROPAGANDA



Sunday 4.00 - 5.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10

While still at school David Leffman became fascinated by an exhibition of Japanese prints at the local museum, and taught himself to cut, ink, and print woodblocks for a final-year art assignment.

He first visited China in 1985 and has been back and forth ever since as a freelance travel writer and photographer. He bought his first Chinese woodblock prints in the 1990s, and investigating why they were made has given him insights into wider aspects of traditional Chinese culture – religion, history, literature and folklore.

Chinese woodblock prints were once made in their millions, but today this folk art is dying out. Using prints from his collection – cheerful New Year pictures, fierce door guardians and talismans, ‘paper horse’ deity prints, and action-packed nineteenth-century propaganda sheets – David Leffman investigates the hidden meanings, social commentary, history and folklore behind each print, and the challenges faced by the remaining printing centres and craftsmen.

PATRICK GALE

MOTHER'S BOY



Sunday 5.30 - 6.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10

What the Times Literary Supplement called ‘A tender, evocative retelling of the life of the poet Charles Causley’, **Mother’s Boy** is the story of a man who is among, yet apart from his fellows, in thrall to, yet at a distance from his own mother; a man being shaped for a revered life yet spent hiding in plain sight. And it’s the story of a dauntless mother shielding her son long after the dangers of war are past.

One of this country’s best-loved novelists, Patrick Gale’s most recent works include **A Perfectly Good Man**, the Richard and Judy bestseller, **Notes From An Exhibition** and the Costa-shortlisted **A Place Called Winter**. His original television drama, **Man In An Orange Shirt**, was shown to great acclaim in 2017 in the BBC’s Queer Britannia series.

HOUNDS OF LOUNGE DUO

JOANNA SWAN and NICK PULLIN - VOCALS & GUITAR

Sunday 19.00 - 21.00pm Bar from 6.30pm Clifton Library Cost: £5

The Hounds of Lounge duo perform classic songs from the 1930’s to the present day.

With Joanna’s stunning vocals and Nick’s rhythmic and eclectic guitar style, expect Howling Wolf to Kylie Minogue and Peggy Lee to Led Zeppelin!



Clifton Village

LitFest

Venues 2022

Getting here

By Bus: Numbers **8** and **505** or plan your journey via **TravelWest** website. Bus stops marked on map with ●

By Car: Car parking is very limited.

Festival Box Office: Clifton Library.
Open Saturday & Sunday 10am - 7pm.

Refreshments: Tea, coffee and snacks available at Christ Church throughout both days. Bar available at all evening events.

CLIFTON LIBRARY CHRIST CHURCH

1



13 Princess Victoria St,
Bristol BS8 4BX

2



Clifton Down Rd,
Bristol BS8 3BN



Friends of Clifton Centre and Library (FoCCaL)

Clifton Library is a well loved and vital community resource in the heart of Clifton and is the only public building in the village. FoCCaL is a group of local volunteers working with the library to organise and support a variety of community events and activities such as talks, film nights, wellness sessions, book club, craft sessions, table tennis, music, theatre etc. and of course this LitFest.

Join us! We'd love to have more people join us and help run events and activities as there's lots of opportunities to do so much more.

Get in touch! either by email: hello@foccal.com or leave a note in the library and we will get back to you.



Thanks to our kind sponsors



Regent Street
Clifton Village



BID Clifton Village

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Clifton Village BID aims to support all businesses within the area and to work collaboratively on projects that will enhance the Village and make a difference to our trading environment.

@CliftonVillage



FoCCaL wishes to thank Jan and Simon at No 9 Prince's Buildings for kindly supporting us by offering accommodation in their lovely Bed and Breakfast home for some of our speakers.

No 9 Prince's Buildings is a family run Bed and Breakfast – *The hidden secret of Clifton!*

A superb base in one of Bristol's finest Georgian Houses, furnished in keeping with the style of the property, and without doubt the best views in Clifton. You are welcomed into a large hallway with sweeping staircase to take you to your room. Sunny traditional bedrooms with comfortable beds. You will be a hop away from the elegant Clifton Suspension Bridge, restaurants, shops and pubs of the Clifton Village.

Thanks to Clifton Wealth Management

Most importantly we would like to thank our wide range of very talented speakers and musicians for being a part of the 2022 LitFest. Thanks must also go to the LitFest committee who have worked tirelessly to curate, manage and organise such a wide ranging programme for 2022. Thanks to the designer of our publicity for his patience and creativity. The two venues for the LitFest have been extremely helpful and it goes without saying that it would have been impossible without their support - so a round of applause to Christ Church and their staff and to Clifton Library and staff. Thank you to all our volunteers. Thank you also to all our local shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs for putting up and handing out publicity. Everyone has a part to play so thank you to those who have been spreading the word and most of all to those who have bought tickets for the LitFest because without you there would be no LitFest. Thank you all and see you in 2023.



Diary of events

Refreshments available at the Church cafe and there will be a bar for all evening events.

Facebook: [Friends of Clifton Library](#)

Twitter: [@CliftonLiterary](#)

Tickets: www.foccal.com and [Clifton Library](#)

FRIDAY 11th November	SUNDAY 13th November
MICHAEL BUERK with David Parker 7.00 - 9.00pm Christ Church £15	CHRIS MULLIN <i>A very British Coup</i> 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library £10
SATURDAY 12th November	ROSIE PARKER <i>Only Hummingbirds Fly Backwards</i> 10.30 - 11.30am Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5
AMANDA PROWSE <i>Women Like Us</i> 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library £10	CHARLOTTE PHILBY <i>Edith & Kim - A Double Life</i> 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library £10
JAMES BAILEY <i>The Way Back To You</i> 10.00 - 11.00am Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5	GEOFF BROOKES <i>Grave Tales</i> 12.00 - 1.00pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5
JULIAN BAGGINI <i>Trust, Truth & Character</i> 10.30 - 11.30am Christ Church £10	NIKKI MAY <i>WAHALA</i> 1.00 - 2.00pm Clifton Library £10
JONATHAN BRADLEY & YEALAND KALFAYAN <i>A Kaleidoscope of Butterflies</i> 10.30 - 11.30am The Crypt, Christ Church £10	ALAN BILTON <i>The End of The Yellow House</i> 1.30 - 2.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5
CLARE REDDAWAY <i>Clifton Story Walk</i> 11.00 - 12.30am also at 3.00 - 4.30pm Clifton Library Courtyard £10	KIT de WAAL <i>Without Warning and only Sometimes</i> 2.30 - 3.30pm Christ Church £10
LILY DUNN <i>Sins of my Father</i> 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library £10	ROB MITCHELL <i>A Night to Remember</i> 2.30 - 3.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10
BRUCE FELLOWS <i>The Best One There</i> 11.30 - 12.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5	Dr HANNAH WHITE <i>Held in Contempt - What's Wrong with the House of Commons?</i> 2.30 - 3.30pm Clifton Library £10
HELEN DOE <i>SS Great Britain: Brunel's Ship, Her Voyages, Passengers and Crew</i> 12.00 - 1.00pm Christ Church £10	LYNNE HAPGOOD <i>Eddie Hapgood - Iconic England Footballer</i> 3.00 - 4.00pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library £5
BEN MACDONALD <i>Cornerstones</i> 12.00 - 1.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	NORMAN BOWLER with Steve Poole 4.00 - 5.00pm Christ Church £10
JENNI MURRAY with Helen Taylor 1.30 - 2.30pm Christ Church £10	DAVID LEFFMAN <i>Chinese Woodblock Prints: Folk Art, Gods, and Propaganda</i> 4.00 - 5.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10
CHRIS MULLIN <i>The Truth about the Birmingham Bombings</i> 1.30 - 2.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	THE FUTURE OF WRITING AND PUBLISHING: Bookshop to Booktok? 4.00 - 5.00pm Clifton Library £10
TALKING LIBERTIES <i>Uplifting Poetry</i> 2.00 - 4.15pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10	PATRICK GALE <i>Mother's Boy</i> 5.30 - 6.30pm Christ Church £10
TOM SANDERSON <i>Digital Tools for Investigation</i> 2.45 - 4.45pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	FESTIVAL FINALE HOUNDS OF LOUNGE DUO JOANNA SWAN & NICK PULLIN 7.00 - 9.00pm Clifton Library £5
DOROTHY BYRNE <i>Trust Me I'm not a Politician</i> 3.00 - 4.00pm Christ Church £10	
GENTLEMEN OF FEW <i>AN ECLECTIC BLEND OF INDIE/POP ROCK</i> 7.30 - 10.00pm Christ Church £10	