

**10th - 12th
NOVEMBER 2023**

Clifton Village

LitFest

**With: Alice Roberts, Peter Lord,
Doug Allan, Polly Toynbee,
Martin Sixsmith, Jen Reid,
Onyeka Nubia, Chris Mullin,
Kat Lyons and Carmina 3
...and many more**

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

Tickets: Eventbrite and Clifton Library

Information: www.foccal.com

Clifton LitFest 2023

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November

Following the first three successful events, we extend a warm welcome to the fourth Clifton LitFest, featuring over the weekend an eclectic programme of talks, walks, workshops, panels, poetry and music. Here's a taste of what is in store.

The Festival opens on Friday night with our Bristol-based keynote speaker, **Professor Alice Roberts**, distinguished polymath, biological anthropologist, author and broadcaster, winner of the Inaugural Royal Society David Attenborough Award for outstanding public engagement with science. In conversation with David Parker, Alice uncovers a history of Britain through burials.

This year we pay tribute to Bristol's global reputation for wildlife film and photography, with talks by BBC cameraman and whale expert **Doug Allan**, TV presenter and founder of birdwatching 'Flock Together' **Nadeem Perera**, **David Parker** on Exmoor film-maker **Johnny Kingdom**, and **Fiona Mathews** and **Tim Kendall**, authors of *Black Ops* and *Beaver Bombing*, about adventures with British mammals.

In response to Bristol audiences' enthusiasm for political debate, we're bringing back ex-Labour minister **Chris Mullin** to mull over his playfully-titled diaries of 2010-22, *Didn't You Use to Be Chris Mullin?* Chris also discusses with Guardian journalist and Orwell Prizewinner **Polly Toynbee** her memoir about social mobility, *An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals*. Former BBC reporter **Martin Sixsmith** (author of *Philomena*, filmed by Stephen Frears with Steve Coogan and Judi Dench), presents his book *The War of Nerves*, about the end of perestroika and the Soviet Union. We also present **Onyeka Nubia**, historian of Africans in pre-colonial England, celebrating the multiple voices of England's history, and **Sian Norris** on her chilling study of US and UK anti-abortion groups, *Bodies Under Siege*.

Bristol has long been a centre of creative arts, so **Peter Lord**, co-founder of Aardman (Wallace and Gromit, Shaun the Sheep and more) recounts the company's amazing international successes, while renowned photographer **Jem Southam** shows and reflects on his photographs of Bristol's docks and harbourside.

We have a feast of literary events. Three of Bristol's brilliant independent booksellers share with the audience their Desert Island Books. **Lennie Goodings**, award-winning Chair of Virago Press, will be talking to **Helen Taylor** about Virago's 50th anniversary year and its astonishing impact on publishing. Two longtime Bristolians, **Laura Shepherd-Robinson** and Sunday Times literary editor **Johanna Thomas-Corr**, talk about Laura's latest celebrated crime novel, *The Square of Sevens*. **Moses McKenzie** introduces his novel about growing up black in Bristol, *An Olive Grove in Ends*. We have an afternoon of dynamic poetry from both sides of the Severn Estuary, and if you want to try your hand at creative writing, BBC radio drama producer/abridger **Sara Davies** and novelist **Lily Dunn** will show you how. Popular **Clare Reddaway** returns to take you on new Clifton literary walks.

Finally, we have three great musical events. On Saturday, there's the premier of pianist and composer **Sandie Middleton**'s multimedia exploration of our elemental relationship with the land and the sea, while fun band **The Harrisons** play a collection of favourite covers to lift spirits. On Sunday evening to close the LitFest, Irish folk/jazz band **Carmina 3** give an inspired performance of their own folk songs and poetry.

With this fabulous lineup, make sure you book early! Tickets available from Eventbrite and Clifton Library - cash during opening hours and card payments available on Wednesdays between 10.30 and 12.30pm.

Clifton LitFest planning group

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

ALICE ROBERTS In conversation with **DAVID PARKER**

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



We are delighted that Alice will be the opening speaker of this year's Festival.

Ancestors: A history of Britain through burials

What can a grave tell us about a person and past lives? From the Bronze Age to the Romans and the Anglo-Saxons, Alice Roberts explores how burial archaeology sheds light on ancient societies, and looks at how genetics is completely revolutionising what we know about the past.

Professor Alice Roberts is a biological anthropologist, author and broadcaster. Having originally studied and practised medicine, she then became a university lecturer, teaching clinical anatomy and undertaking research in biological anthropology. She is especially interested in the intersection between biology, archaeology and history, the impact of ancient genomics in archaeology, and the interaction between humans and the environment through time.

Alice has recently presented various television series including **Digging for Britain**, **Time Team** and **Britain's most Historic Towns**.

Alice went to school in Bristol and achieved her PhD at Bristol University, and lives locally.

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

SIAN NORRIS In conversation with **SARAH LEFANU**

Saturday 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library Cost £10

Photo: Jon Snedden



Sian Norris is a freelance journalist and writer specialising in human rights. Her work has appeared in the Observer, the Guardian, the i, the New Statesman, Open Democracy, and Byline Times. Sian's book **Bodies Under Siege: How the far right attack on reproductive rights went global** was published by Verso in June 2023. She was the founder of the Bristol Women's Literature Festival.

Join Sian Norris and Sarah LeFanu as the pair discuss Sian's book **Bodies Under Siege**, which explores how the backlash against women's rights is fuelled by far-right conspiracy and funding.

SARA DAVIES **RADIO DRAMA WORKSHOP**

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00am **Pavey House (Waterloo Street) Cost: £20**



What makes a standout radio play? How do audio stories make an impact? What can only happen on radio (and what can't)? This session with radio producer and writer Sara Davies will explore the basic elements of audio drama, looking at ways of hooking the listener, establishing place and character, and telling a story through sound.

Sara was a radio producer at BBC in Bristol for over twenty years, working on a range of dramas, readings, poetry, arts and literary features for Radio 4 and Radio 3. She's now a freelance abridger, writer and producer, and is one of the Executive Producers for the weekly BBC Radio 4 series **Opening Lines**, about books and stories and how they make their mark.

DOUG ALLAN **WHALE MEET AGAIN**

Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am **Christ Church Cost: £10**



Doug Allan has filmed whales in Antarctica, off coral reefs, among the giant kelp in California and under the Arctic pack ice. Finding them depends on co-operation with scientists, skilled boat handlers on location, a special patience, and even a healthy dose of luck. Doug describes his most memorable moments in their company, when he's witnessed some remarkable insights into their behaviour and intelligence. We know we can talk to dogs or horses, can you also whisper to a whale?

The world for whales is changing - climate breakdown is affecting the oceans. What does the future hold for the biggest animals on the planet?

Doug's photographic awards include eight Emmys and five BAFTAs. He has three Honorary Doctorates in recognition of his camerawork, as well as two Polar Medals. He's an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and of the Royal Photographic Society and was awarded the RSGS Mungo Park Medal for outstanding contribution to geographical knowledge through exploration.

JONATHAN BRADLEY AND YEALAND KALFAYAN **THE CARDINAL, CLEOPATRA AND THE PASHA**

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



Jonathan Bradley and Yealand Kalfayan will talk about their forthcoming book, **The Cardinal, Cleopatra and the Pasha**. The title refers to the exotic names of some butterflies that occur in France, where there are many more species than in Britain. Jonathan will tell their stories, while Yealand will display their photographic portraits. Their 2020 book about British butterflies, **A Kaleidoscope of Butterflies**, was very well received. The new book will contain original poems, stories and images. Jonathan Bradley has had a varied career in academia and business and has been writing for many years. His other previous publications include **Papiliones**, **Sibling Poets**, and **City Sonnets**, as well as many magazine articles.

Yealand Kalfayan, a retired GP from Bristol, is an accomplished wildlife photographer, specialising in flowers and insects, and an expert on butterfly behaviour. He is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society.

NATHAN FILER **In conversation with BERI HARE**

Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am **The Meeting Room, Clifton Library** Cost: £10



Nathan Filer is an author and broadcaster. **The Shock of the Fall**, his novel about the life of a young man grieving the loss of his brother, was a Sunday Times bestseller and translated into thirty languages. It won the Costa Book of the Year, the Betty Trask Prize, the National Book Award for Popular Fiction and the Writers' Guild Award for Best First Novel. His nonfiction book, **The Heartland: Finding and Losing Schizophrenia** (also published as *This Book Will Change Your Mind About Mental Health*), was a Sunday Times Book of the Year and long-listed for the Rathbones Folio Prize, awarded for the finest work of literature, regardless of form, to be published in the English language. He lives in Bristol and teaches Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

CLARE REDDAWAY **STORY WALK 2023**

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



Clare's popular Clifton story-walk is back, with a brand new walk created for the 2023 festival. Described as 'innovative' and 'an absolute joy' by audiences, Clare's walks regularly sell out. Clare leads walkers on a stroll through Clifton, combining unusual facts with short fictions inspired by contemporary and historical Clifton life.

Clare creates characters who are moving, relatable and often funny. 'I was blown away by the stories' said one participant. Clare is a widely published award-winning short story writer. Her debut novella is out next year, published by Fairlight Books.

CHARLES DOWDING

Saturday 11.30 - 12.30pm **Clifton Library** Cost: £10



Charles Dowding talks all about the no dig gardening method and how it is good for the soil, saves time, produces fewer weeds and healthy harvests. He draws upon 40 years of experience, growing in four market gardens with different soils. He also does many comparisons of growth between dig and no dig and you will see 10 years of results of his trial beds.

Charles has written 14 books over the years, recently **No Dig**, it's the culmination of his life's work.

Charles is on a mission to spread the knowledge of how to grow your own vegetables in the easiest, most natural way. He speaks to children as much as to adults. His book **The Children's No Dig Gardening Book** published by Welbeck (now Hachette) offers advice and encouragement to inspire children to grow.

POLLY TOYNBEE In conversation with **CHRIS MULLIN**

Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm Christ Church Cost: £10



Polly Toynbee, political and social commentator for The Guardian, is the former BBC Social Affairs Editor. Twice named Commentator of the Year, she also won the George Orwell prize. Her previous books include studies on manual work, (**Hard Work: Life in low Pay Britain**), inequality (**Unjust Rewards**), the record of the last Labour government (**The Verdict**) and the current Conservative government (**The Lost Decade 2010-2020**).

Polly will be talking about her latest book, **An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals**, a story of comfortable lives lived with uncomfortable consciences by well-heeled liberals and leftists struggling, often comically, to make the world a better place amid much social guilt. This is also the shocking story of how Britain's social mobility has gone into reverse, so birth is destiny more, not less, than it was.

DAVID PARKER REMEMBERING JOHNNY KINGDOM

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



No one filmed wildlife like Johnny Kingdom. With no media training, no academic knowledge and only a small hand held video camera Johnny was a 'one off'. He broke all the rules of wildlife film making but he knew his beloved Exmoor like the back of his hand and produced some of the most beautiful and 'real' wild life moments seen on television. David Parker produced many of his programmes for ITV and the BBC and worked with him until Johnny's untimely death five years ago.

Using the very best clips from some of the programmes they made together, David will recount the life and times of this unique character and reflect on what made him so special.

JEN REID In conversation with **PAULA O'ROURKE**

Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Jen Reid tells her story of the events leading up to the Black Lives Matter protest in Bristol that saw the statue of 17th century Slave Trader Edward Colston toppled and thrown into the nearby harbour and how she became a symbol of the protest.

In the early morning of 15th July 2020, a statue by world renown sculptor, Marc Quinn was added to the empty plinth. The statue, titled **A Surge of Power (Jen Reid) 2020**, depicts Jen Reid, raising her arm in a Black Power salute. In the 24 hours it stood, it became a defining global symbol for the BLM movement. Months later, it is still raising conversations and inspiring people to learn more about the structural racial inequalities that have been ignored for too long. By raising her head above the precipice with her spontaneous act, Jen Reid captured a moment which would change the course of history.

LILY DUNN **WRITING COMPELLING MEMOIR**

Saturday 1.00 - 3.00pm Pavey House (Waterloo Street) Cost: £20



Memoir is having its moment: a true life story written with the page-turning power of the best fiction.

In this two hour workshop, author and academic Lily Dunn will introduce creative nonfiction, an increasingly popular literary form that uses fictional technique to explore real life stories. The workshop will be a combination of discussion, set texts and writing exercises, which Lily will guide you through - helping you explore your personal stories, and get back in touch with memories that might have been hidden. For writers of all abilities.

Dr Lily Dunn is an author, mentor and academic. Her debut nonfiction, **Sins of My Father: A Daughter, A Cult, A Wild Unravelling**, a memoir about the legacy of her father's addictions, was The Spectator and The Guardian Best Nonfiction Book, 2022, and her doctorate is concerned with the transformative power of writing memoir. She teaches narrative nonfiction and memoir at Bath Spa University and co-runs London Lit Lab.

LENNIE GOODINGS **50 YEARS OF VIRAGO** **In conversation with HELEN TAYLOR**

Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10



2023 marks the 50th year of the iconic women's publishing house, Virago.

Lennie Goodings is Chair of Virago Press. Her authors include among others, Margaret Atwood, Maya Angelou, Sarah Waters, Natasha Walter, Linda Grant, Joan Bakewell, Sandi Toksvig and Marilynne Robinson. She is Canadian and has been in London and with Virago since the late 1970s; working with authors and books are her passion. She won The Bookseller's Award for Editor and Imprint of the Year in 2010 and a Lifetime's Achievement at London's Women of the World Festival in 2018. Her book **A Bite of the Apple: A Life with Books, Writers and Virago**, is published by OUP. In this discussion with Virago author, Helen Taylor, she reflects on feminist publishing and how books change lives.

ADAM SISMAN **THE SECRET LIFE OF JOHN LE CARRÉ** **In conversation with DAVID PARKER**

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



Adam Sisman's new book, **The Secret Life of John le Carré**, reveals Le Carré to have been a serial adulterer. This is the key to his fiction, the answer to his repeated hints about lies and betrayal; he needed the stimulus of risk to provide energy for his writing. Philandering brought an element of excitement to the otherwise humdrum life of a bestselling novelist. Now that he is dead, we can know him better.

As well as revealing a previously unknown side of this most complicated of writers, Sisman's book explores the difficulties of writing about a living person.

Adam Sisman is one of Britain's most highly regarded biographers. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Honorary Professor at the University of St Andrews.

JENNY CHANDLER

Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Jenny Chandler is a Clifton-based food writer, teacher and chef.

Her latest book, **A Good Appetite: Eating for Planet, Body and Soul**, is published by The National Trust. Jenny will be talking and cooking from her book; showing how fabulous food, that just happens to be both healthy and sustainable, can be simple and economical too.

The book focuses on local, seasonal produce, on less and better meat, more pulses and grains and plenty of veg'. This way of eating is not about dieting or cutting out, but diversifying and embracing new flavours and techniques, with simple tips, batch-cooking advice and great ways with left overs.

Do join Jenny for an entertaining session with lunchtime tasters.

CLARE REDDAWAY **STORY WALK 2023**

Saturday 2.30 - 4.00pm Clifton Library Courtyard Cost: £10



Clare's popular Clifton story-walk is back, with a brand new walk created for the 2023 festival. Described as 'innovative' and 'an absolute joy' by audiences, Clare's walks regularly sell out. Clare leads walkers on a stroll through Clifton, combining unusual facts with short fictions inspired by contemporary and historical Clifton life.

Clare creates characters who are moving, relatable and often funny. 'I was blown away by the stories' said one participant. Clare is a widely published award-winning short story writer. Her debut novella is out next year, published by Fairlight Books.

LAURA SHEPHERD-ROBINSON In conversation with JOHANNA THOMAS-CORR

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm Christ Church Cost: £10



Join Laura Shepherd-Robinson in conversation with Sunday Times literary editor Johanna Thomas-Corr about her latest book **The Square of Sevens**, a lavish historical mystery featuring fortune-telling and twists galore, all set amongst the high society of Georgian Bath, London and Cornwall.

Laura Shepherd-Robinson worked in politics for nearly twenty years before re-entering normal life to complete an MA in Creative Writing at City University.

Her debut novel, **Blood & Sugar**, was a Waterstones Thriller of the Month and won the Historical Writers' Association Debut Crown and the Specsavers/Crimefest Best Debut Novel prize. Her second novel, **Daughters of Night**, was shortlisted

for the Theakstons Crime Book of the Year, the Goldsboro Glass Bell Award, and the HWA Gold Crown.

The Square of Sevens is her third novel. Laura was raised in Bristol and studied at The University of Bristol.

NADEEM PERERA 'UPDATING NATURE'

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10



Nadeem Perera is a wildlife TV presenter, author, activist, and co-founder of the birdwatching group Flock Together. A disruptive and refreshing voice in wildlife, he has earned a reputation as the go-to person when it comes to unheard voices in nature.

Nadeem's love of nature and expert knowledge of birds and other wildlife has seen him rise to prominence in a predominantly white, middle-class space. Nadeem has amassed over 10 years of birdwatching experience and is a walking Collins Bird Guide. In 2020, together with Creative Director Ollie Olanipekun, he co-founded Flock Together, a birdwatching collective for people of colour to get out and enjoy nature, support each other, and look after their mental health.

MONIQUE CHARLESWORTH IMPERFECT MOTHERS and DRIVEN DAUGHTERS

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Monique knew that her charismatic German, Jewish refugee mother was hiding her true origins. Inge surged through life constantly reinventing herself. She ended her life in France, an 'English lady' giving conversation classes despite shaky English grammar and a heavy German accent. But after her death a web of secrets emerged. Monique, her loyal accomplice, discovered that she too had been fooled.

Mother Country: a story of love and lies grew out of grief, rage, and a burning need to know the truth about her mother's life – not least who her real father was.

Monique read French and German at Bristol University, has worked as a journalist and scriptwriter, and has published four acclaimed novels. This is her first memoir. *"A riveting and unexpected story of love, loss and wartime secrets. I couldn't put it down"* Camilla Cavendish, FT journalist.

TIM KENDALL AND FIONA MATHEWS

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10



Beavers in Bedminster, boar and pine martens in the Forest of Dean, bats in Bath's stone mines - our wild mammals are making a long-overdue comeback across the West Country. Yet a quarter of Britain's native mammal species are threatened with extinction, which is why Fiona and Tim criss-cross Britain on a pilgrimage to find them. All the while, they're answering the big questions. Why was Shakespeare terrified of hedgehogs? How can we persuade grey squirrels to use contraception? And does pine marten poo really smell of parma violets? Their book, **Black Ops and Beaver Bombing, Adventures with Britain's Wild Mammals**, was shortlisted for the prestigious Wainwright Prize (Conservation).

Fiona is Chair of Mammal Conservation Europe and author of the **UK's Red List for mammals**; Tim writes about the cultural history of our wildlife. Despite the slow torture of collaborating on a lockdown book together, they're still married.

CLIVE BURLTON

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost: £10



Shortly after writing his first book, **Trenches to Trams**, Clive co-founded Bristol Books, the not-for-profit local publisher in 2012.

Since then, he has written four further books and co-authored three others. He has curated several exhibitions; produced local films; runs tours to the Western Front battlefields and is a regular speaker to community groups across the city. Clive is a Trustee of the Friends of Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives charity.

In **Bristol's Lost City**, Clive tells the remarkable story of the Bristol International Exhibition of 1914 and how the site it occupied was transformed by the War Office for use as a barracks. Part trade fair, part theme park, the Exhibition was already failing financially before the war closed it for good.

The well-illustrated talk includes unique film footage of Bristol in 1914, the playing of a local recruitment song, and a display of objects produced for the Exhibition.

JONATHAN WALKER

D-DAY, ARNHEM & THE RHINE - A GLIDER PILOT'S STORY

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Military historian Jonathan Walker has just edited a fascinating and vivid memoir by Robert Ashby, who piloted gliders on D-Day, at Arnhem and the Crossing of the Rhine. These were among the most daring and dangerous missions of WW2, and it was a miracle that Ashby survived. Out of this story, Jonathan has created an action-packed talk, richly illustrated by still and movie images that will leave you in no doubt as to the heroism of these remarkable men.

Jonathan was educated at Clifton College and is an Honorary Fellow in War Studies at the University of Birmingham and a member of the British Commission for Military History. He has written or contributed to ten books on 20th Century conflict and combines writing with a busy schedule of talks both at home and on cruise ships. He regularly contributes to television and radio documentaries.

SANDIE MIDDLETON AND FRIENDS

THE LIE OF THE LAND - THE CALL OF THE SEA

Saturday 6.00 - 7.00pm Christ Church Cost: £15 (to include a glass of Prosecco)



Clifton LitFest proudly presents the premiere of a multimedia exploration of our elemental relationship with the land we rely on and the sea that surrounds us, using music especially composed and played by pianist Sandie Middleton, Katie Axelsen on Flute, alongside poetry readings by Rowan Middleton and superb film of life in Britain's recent past.

SATURDAY EVENING MUSIC

THE HARRISONS Cost: £10

Saturday 7.30 - 9.30pm Bar from 7.00pm Clifton Library

The Harrisons Trio was formed just before the turn of century and boasts around 150 years of eclectic musical experience.

With credits including Portishead and Goldfrapp, recording dates in Nashville and Rockfield, and shows in venues as diverse as The Royal Festival Hall and The Rainbow Cafe, The Harrisons Trio is truly a band for all occasions.

With smatterings of country, blues, rock 'n' roll and maybe the odd show number, they offer feel-good tunes, sweet harmonies, smiles, two guitars and a trombone. No two shows are the same.



SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

CHRIS MULLIN

DIDN'T YOU USE TO BE CHRIS MULLIN? DIARIES 2010-22

Sunday 10.00 - 11.00 am Clifton Library Cost: £10



No longer in the tent, but not quite out of it, former Labour minister and celebrated diarist, Chris Mullin, gives his take on the twelve turbulent years since he left parliament. With his trademark wit and a keen eye for the absurd, he recounts events from the fall of New Labour to the death of the Queen.

FRANNY MOYLE **HANS HOLBEIN - THE KING'S PAINTER**

Sunday 10.30 - 11.30am The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Book of the Week on Radio Four and praised by The Times as being like 'Wolf Hall but with pictures' Franny Moyle's biography of Henry VIII's painter, Hans Holbein, was one of the literary highlights of 2021/2022.

Franny will talk further about Holbein's defining portraits of the Tudor Court; how he successfully negotiated the dangerous politics of Henry's quixotic reign unlike so many of his famous sitters, and to what extent the myth of Henry has been perpetuated by his powerful, symbolic work. With the opportunity to look closely at some of the most fascinating portraits in the history of Art and engage in discussion with the author, this talk is for history and art lovers alike.

CLARE REDDAWAY **STORY WALK 2023**

Sunday 11.00 – 12.30pm Clifton Library Courtyard Cost: £10



Clare's popular Clifton story-walk is back, with a brand new walk created for the 2023 festival. Described as 'innovative' and 'an absolute joy' by audiences, Clare's walks regularly sell out. Clare leads walkers on a stroll through Clifton, combining unusual facts with short fictions inspired by contemporary and historical Clifton life.

Clare creates characters who are moving, relatable and often funny. 'I was blown away by the stories' said one participant. Clare is a widely published award-winning short story writer. Her debut novella is out next year, published by Fairlight Books.

MOSES MACKENZIE **In conversation with LAWRENCE HOO**

Sunday 11.30am - 12.30pm Clifton Library Cost: £10



The dazzling debut novel about love, faith and community, by an electrifying new voice.

One of the Observer's 10 must-read debut novelists of 2022

A Guardian novel of the year 2022

Soho House Breakthrough Writer award 2022 winner

Shortlisted for the Writers' Guild Best First Novel award 2023

'A rare glimpse into the harsh realities of street life and love in luminous prose, rendered with sensitivity and without sentimentalism'.

Moses McKenzie is of Caribbean descent and grew up in Bristol where his debut, **An Olive Grove in Ends**, is set. Moses was born in 1998 and wrote this book aged 21. Three years later, it is now being turned into a TV series for Pulse Films. His writing is strongly influenced by his literary heroes, including James Baldwin and Maya Angelou.

**** BREAKING NEWS** - Moses has just been awarded this years Hawthornden Prize for Literature!**

DESERT ISLAND BOOKS **with three independent booksellers**

Sunday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Bristol has become known for its wonderful range of independent bookshops, based (among others) in Clifton, Henleaze, Southville and Wapping Wharf.

They have proved successful because of close relationships with their communities and individual readers, and have attracted national attention and acclaim. In this session, three booksellers - **Heron Books'** Lizzie Moss, **Storysmith's** Dan Ross, and **Max Minerva's** Sam Taylor - will describe their shops, then talk about 5 or 6 books that mean most to

them and their customers. We'll open the discussion to the audience to offer your own book choices and views on Bristol's indie bookshops. Chaired by Helen Taylor.

JEM SOUTHAM

Sunday 1.00 - 2.00pm Clifton Library Cost: £10



Jem Southam was born in Bristol in 1950.

After studying Photography at the London College of Printing he moved back to Bristol and worked at Arnolfini between 1976 and 1982. It was during this time he undertook his first photographic study of the dockland landscape and its remaining harbour infrastructure. This was exhibited in the city and a book co-authored with John Lord was published by Redcliff Press in 1983. He will show examples of his photos and discuss his representation of Bristol docks with Derrick Price.

Jem subsequently began a teaching career in Cornwall and Devon, during which he continued to make extensive photographic studies of the regions landscapes. These are usually presented as exhibitions and books and include: **The Red River** 1989, **The Raft of Carrots** 1992, **Rockfalls, Rivermouths and Ponds** 2000, **The Painter's Pool** 2004, **The River Winter** 2011, **The Moth** 2017, **Four Winters** 2022.

Pictures from his latest work **A Bend in the River** were exhibited at the RWA earlier this year.

FIONA BECKETT **In conversation with PAULA O'ROURKE**

Sunday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Fiona is a food and wine writer who has written at one time or another for most of the UK press. She is currently the Guardian's drinks writer and a regular contributor to Decanter and National Geographic Traveller Food. She has written 25 books including - perhaps surprisingly - one on not drinking and publishes her own website matchingfoodandwine.com. You can also read her weekly Substack newsletter **Eat This, Drink That** at fionabeckett.substack.com

Come and sample some of the wine she describes so eloquently and hear about the tricks of her trade.

MARTIN SIXSMITH **In conversation with DAVID PARKER**

Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10



Martin Sixsmith witnessed the end of the Cold War first-hand, reporting for the BBC from Moscow during the presidencies of Gorbachev and Yeltsin. In **The War of Nerves**, he draws on a vast array of archives and sources, as well as his own experiences, to take us into the minds of those affected by the simmering tensions and paranoia on both sides of the Iron Curtain. In framing the Cold War from a psychological perspective, Sixsmith throws fresh light on the personalities of the leaders in the East and West who presided over the conflict, and on the events that came to define it, from the Yalta Conference and the Berlin Airlift to the endgame of perestroika and Soviet implosion.

From 1980 to 1997 he worked for the BBC as the Corporation's correspondent in Moscow, Washington, Brussels and Warsaw. He is the author of two novels and several works of non-fiction, including **Philomena** (which was the basis for Stephen Frears' acclaimed film starring Steve Coogan and Judi Dench) and **Russia: A 1,000 Year Chronicle of the Wild East**.

SEVERN BRIDGE POETRY

Sunday 2.30 - 4.15pm (interval with bar at 3.15pm) Clifton Library Cost: £10



Don't miss this meeting of vibrant poetic voices from both sides of the Severn Estuary, a bridge over the flowing waters of imagination, a glorious span of ideas, feelings and language from four major poets. Our two most recent Bristol City Poets - **Caleb Parkin** and **Kat Lyons** - join forces with **Abeer Ameer** and **Jonathan Edwards** from South Wales for a wonderful afternoon of poetry that will provoke, entertain, excite and leave you wanting more.

City Poets, Kat and Caleb have won numerous awards and been acclaimed for their dynamic readings in venues across the UK. Iraqi-heritage poet Abeer Ameer was runner-up for Wales Poetry Book of the Year 2022 with her breathtaking debut collection, **Inhale/Exile**, while Jonathan Edwards won the Costa Poetry Prize with his wonderful **My Family and Other Superheroes** and the prestigious 2022 Troubadour International Poetry Prize.

This afternoon of brilliant poetry is sure to be one of your highlights of the year.

DR ONYEKA NUBIA UNDERSTANDING ENGLAND'S PAST

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



The sound bite of 'political correctness gone mad' hides the narrative that there is history 'out there.' And it is impossible to tell England's story, without including multiple voices! History is not his-story, the elite musings of few very powerful-rich, landed gentry who were born in Europe. England's history is the histories of everyone who has lived or been connected to these islands. One does not have to choose between Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, Samuel Coleridge Taylor and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. They are all part of this island's story.

Dr Onyeka Nubia is a pioneering and internationally recognised historian, writer and presenter. His books include **England's Other Countrymen: Black Tudor Society** and **Blackamoors: Africans in Tudor England: Their Presence Status and Origins**.

He is the leading historian on the status and origins of Africans in pre-colonial England from antiquity to 1603. He has helped us to an entirely new perspective on otherness, colonialism, imperialism and the Black British contribution to World Wars I and II.

BRUCE FELLOWS

Sunday 3.00 - 4.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost: £10



Bruce Fellows will be talking about his 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 Bristol Six + Eight Magazine**. He has written an earlier novel, **That Quiet Earth**.

Bruce lives in Bristol and has written plays for local Bristol theatre companies including Show of Strength, Theatre West and the Brass Works.

His new novel, **The End of It**, will be published early in 2024.

PETER LORD AARDMAN

Sunday 4.00 - 5.30pm Christ Church Cost: £10



From earliest beginnings on Children's TV, (especially with Tony Hart's sidekick Morph), Peter's company Aardman has gone from strength to strength. As well as kids' series, they have produced independent short films like **Creature Comforts**, music videos like Peter Gabriel's **Sledgehammer**, and the first full length animated feature to be made in Britain in decades, **Chicken Run**, which Peter co-directed with Nick Park. Later films include **Shaun the Sheep**, **Flushed Away**, **Arthur Christmas** and **The Pirates in an Adventure with Scientists**.

Not to mention the much loved duo **Wallace and Gromit**.

Peter will chat about the story of Aardman, the people who make up the company, and take you behind the scenes of some of the films they've made.

JANET REIBSTEIN In conversation with HELEN TAYLOR



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

Dr. Janet Reibstein is a psychologist, academic, researcher, broadcaster and psychotherapist. She is Professor Emerita in the School of Psychology at the University of Exeter, where she directed the postgraduate programme in family and couple therapy for MSc and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology students.

Janet wrote the official UK Parenting Programme and **Listening to Children**. She has sat on various boards of organisations concerned with families and relationships, including, Relate and was clinical consultant to the charity, One plus One. She is the author of a number of books, the most recent being **Good Relations: Cracking the code of how to get on better**, as well as numerous publications both in the academic and in the popular media. She has broadcast two Radio 4 series on couples, as well as a 5 part Channel 4 series based on her work, called **Love Life**.

In a Q and A session Janet will discuss her research and whether there is a 'code' for getting on with others.

PETE DALBY **ONE HUNDRED DAYS IN A BALLOON** **In conversation with MICHAEL MacMAHON**

Sunday 4.30 - 5.30pm **The Meeting Room, Clifton Library** **Cost: £10**



Pete Dalby will discuss his life in ballooning in conversation with Michael MacMahon.

From a chance encounter with a balloon pilot in the mid eighties to flying the largest operational balloon in the UK, carrying a very surprising load, Pete transports us into that ethereal existence of a hot air balloon pilot. Spanning a career of 37 years and over 2,400 hours, standing in a variety of balloon baskets, the stories and anecdotes are plentiful.

SUNDAY EVENING MUSIC

CARMINA 3 **WORDS BECOME MUSIC** **Cost: £10**

Sunday 7.00 - 9.00pm **Clifton Library** **Bar from 6.30pm**

Carmina3 play a mix of folk, jazz and Celtic music in powerful original songs that often draw their inspiration from literature. Award-winning songwriters and founder members Rob King (acoustic guitar, bodhran) and Pippa Marland (vocals, saxophones, Irish whistles) met while studying English at the University of Bristol. They have toured internationally and released six albums, two produced by Irish music legend Donal Lunny. The third, longstanding member of the band is the brilliant Irish musician Paul Bradley, who adds virtuoso vocal harmonies, melodica and acoustic and electric guitar to the mix.



In a special show devised for Clifton LitFest, the band will combine short readings from their literary touchstones with performances of the songs they inspired. The authors are an eclectic mix including Adrienne Rich, Philip Larkin, Edith Sitwell, William Shakespeare, Carol Ann Duffy and R.D. Laing as well as other songwriters and lyricists. The evening will celebrate the close connections between literature and song, showing how words become music.

Clifton Village

LitFest

Venues 2023

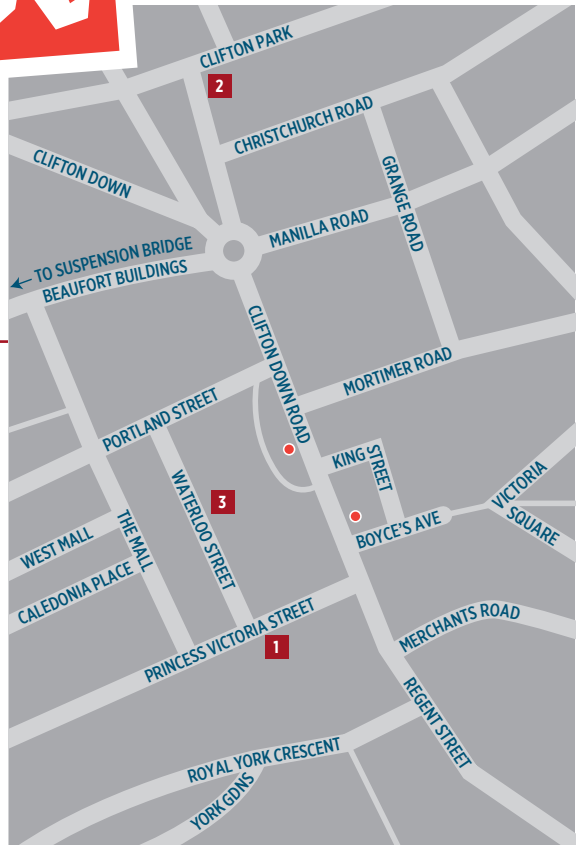
Getting here

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 11th & Sunday 12th 10am - 7pm during the Festival.

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



CLIFTON LIBRARY

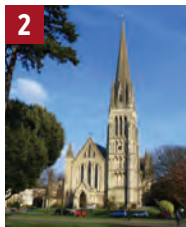
1



13 Princess Victoria St,
Bristol BS8 4BX

CHRIST CHURCH

2



Clifton Down Rd,
Bristol BS8 3BN

PAVEY HOUSE

3



Waterloo St,
Bristol BS8 4BT

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, exercise classes, Bridge lessons, book club, craft sessions, table tennis, music, theatre etc. and of course this LitFest.

A full list of weekly events and a description of the talks and films can be found in our Autumn Programme brochure which is available at the Library. Do check our website for details and social media pages on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for up to date details of events.

Also we are always looking for volunteers to help us run these events – we could do so much more with more help so please, contact us, if you feel you could spare some time.

Get in touch, either by email: hello@foccal.com or on our website www.foccal.com

We would like to thank our wide range of very talented speakers and musicians for being a part of the 2023 LitFest.

Thanks must also go to the LitFest committee who have worked tirelessly to curate, manage and organise such a wide ranging programme for 2023. Thanks to Kevin Clutterbuck of LiquoriceSuite for our publicity, his patience and creativity.

The three 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, to Clifton Library and to all at Pavey House. 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 2024.



Thanks to our kind sponsors



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



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

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.

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**

Diary of events

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

Tickets available from Eventbrite and Clifton Library - cash during opening hours and card payments available on Wednesdays between 10.30 and 12.30pm

FRIDAY 10 November	
ALICE ROBERTS In conversation with David Parker 7.00 - 9.00pm Christ Church £15	CLIVE BURLTON 4.30 - 5.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10
JONATHAN WALKER D-Day, Arnhem & The Rhine - A Glider Pilot's Story 4.30 - 5.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10	
SATURDAY 11 November	
SIAN NORRIS In conversation with Sarah LeFanu 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library £10	SANDIE MIDDLETON AND FRIENDS The Lie of the Land - The Call of the Sea 6.00 - 7.00pm Christ Church £15
SARA DAVIES Radio Drama Workshop 10.00 - 12.00am Pavey House £20	THE HARRISONS 7.30 - 9.30pm Clifton Library £10
SUNDAY 12 November	
DOUG ALLAN Whale Meet Again 10.30 - 11.30am Christ Church £10	CHRIS MULLIN Didn't You Use to be Chris Mullin? 10.00 - 11.00 am Clifton Library £10
JONATHAN BRADLEY AND YEALAND KALFAYAN The Cardinal, Cleopatra and the Pasha 10.30 - 11.30am The Crypt, Christ Church £10	FRANNY MOYLE Hans Holbein - The King's Painter 10.30 - 11.30am The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10
NATHAN FILER In conversation with Beri Hare 10.30 - 11.30am The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10	CLARE REDDAWAY Story Walk 2023 11.00 - 12.30pm Clifton Library Courtyard £10
CLARE REDDAWAY Story Walk 2023 11.00 - 12.30pm also at 2.30 - 4.00pm Clifton Library Courtyard £10	MOSES MACKENZIE In conversation with Lawrence Hoo 11.30am - 12.30pm Clifton Library £10
CHARLES DOWDING 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library £10	DESERT ISLAND BOOKS With three independent booksellers 12.00 - 1.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10
POLLY TOYNBEE In conversation with Chris Mullin 12.00 - 1.00pm Christ Church £10	JEM SOUTHAM 1.00 - 2.00pm Clifton Library £10
DAVID PARKER Remembering Johnny Kingdom 12.00 - 1.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	FIONA BECKETT In conversation with Paula O'Rourke 1.30 - 2.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10
JEN REID In conversation with Paula O'Rourke 12.00 - 1.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10	MARTIN SIXSMITH In conversation with David Parker 2.30 - 3.30pm Christ Church £10
LILY DUNN Writing Compelling Memoir 1.00 - 3.00pm Pavey House £20	SEVERN BRIDGE Poetry 2.30 - 4.15pm Clifton Library £10
LENNIE GOODINGS 50 years of Virago In conversation with Helen Taylor 1.30 - 2.30pm Christ Church £10	DR ONYEKA NUBIA Understanding England's Past 2.30 - 3.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10
ADAM SISMAN The Secret Life of John le Carré In conversation with David Parker 1.30 - 2.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	BRUCE FELLOWS 3.00 - 4.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10
JENNY CHANDLER 1.30 - 2.30pm The Meeting, Room Clifton Library £10	PETER LORD Aardman 4.00 - 5.30pm Christ Church £10
LAURA SHEPHERD-ROBINSON In conversation with Johanna Thomas-Corr 3.00 - 4.00pm Christ Church £10	JANET REIBSTEIN In conversation with Helen Taylor 4.00 - 5.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10
NADEEM PERERA 'Updating Nature' 3.00 - 4.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church £10	PETE DALBY One Hundred Days in a Balloon In conversation with Michael MacMahon 4.30 - 5.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library £10
MONIQUE CHARLESWORTH Imperfect Mothers and Driven Daughters 3.00 - 4.00pm The Meeting, Room Clifton Library £10	CARMINA 3 Words Become Music 7.00 - 9.00pm Clifton Library £10
TIM KENDALL AND FIONA MATHEWS 4.30 - 5.30pm Christ Church £10	