



## Opening Speaker

# CAROL VORDERMAN MBE

## In conversation with PAULA O'ROURKE

Friday 4.30pm - 5.30pm Christ Church Cost: £12

*'They broke Britain, but we can fix it,'* said presenter and media personality Carol Vorderman, as she launched her one-woman campaign to oust the Tories. ✓ Job done! Tories out. But now what? Well, that very question is the title of Carol's new book, **NOW WHAT?** On a Mission to Fix Broken Britain. Unless you've had your

head in the sand - or you don't use social media and listen to LBC Radio - you will know that Carol has evolved into an effective and passionate campaigner against Tory corruption and sleaze. Looking at Carol's Instagram account, one would pin-point her 'political awakening' to the horrors and errors that the Tories delivered during Covid. This is a woman in her 60s who has used her voice to speak truth to power without apology. Here is your opportunity to come along and hear from Carol directly and ask the questions you want answered. We are delighted that Carol, much loved by the nation, and adored by her Clifton neighbours, will open the fifth Clifton LitFest, and we are so grateful to Carol for her support for our local library.



## Keynote Speaker

# CHRIS PACKHAM CBE

## In conversation with DAVID PARKER

Friday 7 - 9pm Bar from 6.15pm Christ Church Cost £15

We are delighted to have as the LitFest's keynote speaker Chris Packham CBE, one of Britain's foremost authors, television presenters and wildlife and environmental campaigners. Chris says: 'We live in exciting times for conservation, we have learned how to rebuild habitats, reintroduce extinct animals and plants. We have audited, mapped and studied much of our flora and fauna and we are increasingly clear about where our

conservation priorities should lie. However, coincidentally we live in the age where our awareness is countered by an extraordinary pressure on our natural environment and it is therefore clear that action is required with desperate urgency. We are one species on one remarkable planet, with one massive problem and one last chance to sort it out.' The measures we ourselves need to take and pressures we use to persuade government and industry to move to 'sort it out' are likely to be central to the evening's discussions.

One of the most recognisable faces in Britain today, Chris Packham's passion for everything wild was evident from an early age, amassing an ever growing menagerie of wild things that included reptiles, birds of prey, foxes and badgers. He studied Zoology at Southampton University, then trained as a wildlife film-maker and photographer. He then became a presenter, fronting hundreds of TV programmes from The Really Wild Show in 1986 to Springwatch and Winterwatch today. He is President or Vice President of a host of wildlife charities including the RSPCA and the RSPB, and co-founder of Wild Justice. He campaigns against the culling of badgers and the shooting of wild birds and for Britain's climate targets to be met by government. His critically acclaimed autobiography,

**Fingers in the Sparkle Jar - A Memoir**, was published to great acclaim.

# SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER



## BEN GARROD **ULTIMATE DINOSAURS**

**Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am Christ Church Cost £12 per adult, children 14 and under are free but must have a ticket and be accompanied by an adult**

Get ready to go on an exciting prehistoric adventure as Ben talks you through the deadliest predators that ever roamed the planet. Yes, dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus Rex, Allosaurus and Spinosaurus may have walked or hunted right where you are now! Ultimate Dinosaurs is the hit stage show starring dinosaur aficionado Professor Ben Garrod. Pitting the knowledge of unwitting parents against their all-knowing kids, Ben

presents an interactive, educational and highly entertaining show using terrible jokes, games and the newest science. So come and test your knowledge against Ben in this roarsome interactive show, which is bigger and better than ever.

## CLIVE BURLTON **THE STORY OF THE MODERN MATTHEW**

**Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am The Crypt, Christ Church Cost £12**

Built to commemorate the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's medieval voyage, the modern Matthew is an iconic symbol of Bristol's trading and seafaring heritage. Today, the ship plies its trade in Bristol's beautiful harbour, but who had the idea to build it? How was it funded? Who designed it?

Based on his meticulously researched book, Clive Burlton answers these questions and many more. His talk includes a 30-minute film about how Bristol shipwrights went about building a wooden ship to 'replicate' the one sailed by Cabot across the 'sea of darkness' in 1497.



## MARCHELLE FARRELL and MICHAEL MALAY **TAKING ROOT**



**Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am Clifton Library Cost £12**

**Michael Malay** and **Marchelle Farrell** both write about learning to appreciate the wondrous natural world in England from the viewpoint of someone making their home in a new country. Coming from Indonesia and Australia to live in Bristol, Michael engages with four 'unloved' creatures and their environment. Raised in Trinidad and Tobago, Marchelle engages with trees, plants, vegetables and soil in the garden of her house in a village near Bath during lockdown. In their

close encounters with the small and unfamiliar, they discover a sense of being at home not only with nature but also within their social, cultural and personal environments. Michael's **Late Light** won the Richard Jefferies Award for Best Nature Writing 2023, while Marchelle Farrell's **Uprooting** won the 2021 Nan Shepherd Prize.

With both Marchelle and Michael having been shortlisted for this year's prestigious Wainright Award, this event brings together two of the UK's leading nature writers.

## MARTIN SMITH

### **MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH: Living with History in a Pandemic**



**Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12**

During the Covid 19 pandemic, Martin Smith was classed as being 'at risk' and spent his time in a study crammed with books and DVDs, reminders of his childhood and career.

He left school aged 15 with no educational qualifications and got a job as a film rewind boy. Aged twenty-two he was imprisoned as a petty criminal. By the age of 30 he was making documentary films for television, including *The World at War*, *Vietnam: A Television History* and *Cold War*. He became the exhibition director for Washington's Holocaust Memorial Museum, which influenced his responses

to our government's policies and warnings as Covid 19 was killing thousands. Turning to his book-shelves, he began writing and recording talks that were broadcast on local radio during the pandemic and became a book, **Matters of Life and Death: Living with History in a Pandemic**.

## ANDREW KELLY

### **HOW DO WE CREATE A NEW CULTURAL RENAISSANCE IN BRISTOL?**

Photo: Jon Craig



**Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am Clifton Club Cost £12**

What makes a cultural renaissance in a city? Andrew Kelly, director of Bristol Ideas for three decades, looks back on this history and work and on Bristol in the 1960s to identify what made culture such an important part of Bristol in these years. He also looks at what we can learn from this to create new periods of cultural renaissance in Bristol and other cities.

Andrew Kelly was director of Bristol Ideas 1993-2024. His projects included Festival of Ideas, Brunel 200, Festival of the Future City, We The Curious, the Great Reading Adventures and Encounters Film Festival. He is the author/editor of many books on Hollywood history, the future of cities, and Brunel.

## MARK FUNNELL

### **CREAM TEAS AND CULTURE WARS: The National Trust and Contested History**



**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm Christ Church Cost £12**

The National Trust's 2020 report on its properties' links with historic slavery and colonialism lit a touch paper. The explosive response from some right wing media and politicians centred on the perceived denigration of major historical figures such as Churchill and British history itself. Books such as Sathnam Sanghera's *Empireland* have further divided opinion. What do the so-called culture wars and the targeting of institutions such as the Trust and the RNLI tell us about our relationship with our past and our changing sense of identity, asks the Trust's Communications and Campaigns Director **Mark Funnell**. And there will be some information about why the NT make their scones dairy-free...



## BRENTON WEST SILVERSMITH'S SECRETS

**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost £12**

Whether for sentimental reasons or to turn a profit, it's good to have an expert's advice when fixing, repairing or improving decorative household items. Through 12 projects, award-winning silversmith and BBC television personality Brenton West explains how to diagnose the problem, apply the repair, and make good almost any precious item. Every project and core technique is fully illustrated so you can see what's happening at each stage, and Brenton shares how to adapt and apply the

skills learned to your own particular repairs. With old skills finessed, many seemingly insurmountable challenges can be overcome. **Brenton will be in conversation with Susie Galbraith.**

## GEORGINA MOORE THE GARNETT GIRLS



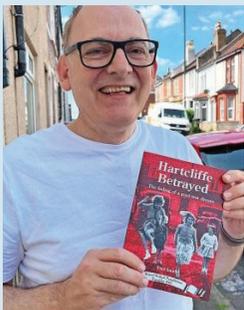
**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm Clifton Library Cost £12**

In her debut novel, Georgina Moore follows the story of the Garnett family as the breakdown of mother Margo's marriage to alcoholic Richard impacts the lives of their daughters, Rachel, Imogen and Sasha, years after the split. **The Garnett Girls** takes you into the heart of the family, which centres around the seaside home of Sandcove in the Isle of Wight, as all the complications of issues past and present play out. Each of the main characters is flawed yet relatable, and the family dynamics between the strong women are portrayed perfectly by Moore. An immersive novel which leaves the reader feeling they have become part of the family.

Georgina has worked for twenty years in publishing as an award-winning publicist, working with an astonishing roster of bestselling authors including Hillary Clinton, Penny Vincenzi, Patrick Gale, Andrea Levy, Adele Parks, Maggie O'Farrell and Bryony Gordon.

**Georgina will be in conversation with Sarah LeFanu.**

## PAUL SMITH HARTCLIFFE BETRAYED



**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12**

Paul Smith's **Hartcliffe Betrayed: The Fading of a Post-war Dream** is a brilliantly researched examination of how Bristol City Council's 'garden city' aspirations for the building of Hartcliffe housing estate in the 1950s fell so sadly short in their implementation. But it is also a timely reminder of the issues our politicians, planners and developers face today. And there is probably no-one better qualified than Paul to write this book. He grew up in Hartcliffe, went to the local schools, and later represented the area as a forthright, popular Bristol City Councillor for many years, eventually becoming Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities from 2016-2020.

Having worked for the National Housing Federation, and now as CEO of Elim Housing, Paul's research into archived official documents, contemporary newspapers and interviews with early residents of Hartcliffe will almost certainly lead to discussion of lessons to be learnt for today's housing crisis.

## JULIAN FISHER THINK LIKE A SPY

Photo: Jules Fisher



**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm Pavey House, Waterloo Street Cost £12**

**Julian Fisher will be in conversation with Gareth Hoskins** about his new book, **Think Like a Spy**, on mastering the art of influencing and building life-changing alliances - this is how spies work. Spies achieve the unimaginable in persuading people to share classified secrets and become traitors, despite the threat of imprisonment, torture and even execution.

All these skills can be mastered and turned to your personal and professional life. Julian used them in his own progress from the poorest postcode in the UK, personal

tragedy and emotional and physical difficulties, through Oxford University, and on to a thrilling career in the international and diplomatic services, security and intelligence worlds. He founded his own private security company and was the lead trainer on the Channel 4 series, Spies. He shares stories from that journey to illustrate how these spy skills can be adapted to everyday situations that we all face.

## SARAH EDWARDS ETHNOBOTANY: Plants, Peoples, Practices



**Saturday 12.00 - 1.00pm The Clifton Club Cost £12**

Human lives are intertwined and dependent on plants: these more-than-human beings with whom we coinhabit our beautiful planet provide us with air, food, medicine, and materials. Ethnobotany - the study of the interrelationships and interactions between people and plants as mediated through culture - sits at the intersection between the sacred and the science, acting as a bridge between different disciplines, modalities and knowledges.

Dr Sarah Edwards is currently Plant Records Officer at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum and teaches Ethnobiology and Biological Conservation

for the Institute of Human Sciences at Oxford. Her latest book, **The Ethnobotanical**, highlights plants of cultural significance from across the world.

## KATE MOSSE THE MAP OF BONES: Joubert Family Chronicles

Photo: Ruth Crafer



**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm Christ Church Cost £12**

Kate Mosse CBE FRSL is an award-winning, bestselling novelist, playwright, performer, interviewer and writer of history and memoir. **She will be discussing with BBC producer and adaptor Sara Davies** the final volume, **The Map of Bones**, in her Joubert Family Chronicles. The author of eleven novels and short-story collections, her books have been translated into thirty-eight languages and published in more than forty countries. Fiction includes the multimillion-selling Languedoc Trilogy (**Labyrinth, Sepulchre, Citadel**), The Joubert Family Chronicles (**The Burning Chambers, The City of Tears, The Ghost Ship, The Map of Bones**) and No 1

bestselling Gothic fiction *The Taxidermist's Daughter* and *The Winter Ghosts*.

She is the Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction - the world's largest annual literary awards celebrating writing by women, and the founder of the global **#WomanInHistory** campaign.

## CHRIS CHAPMAN

### PHOTOGRAPHING DARTMOOR and the SOUTH WEST



**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost £12**

Chris Chapman is a distinguished photographer of rural life, especially on Dartmoor and in the South West. He was born in Wigan, Lancashire in 1952. He began his photographic career at the Newport College of Art in South Wales, and moved to Dartmoor in 1975, since when he has documented aspects of rural life throughout the south west of England. His photographs, especially of the farming community, reflect traditional skills and emphasise the accumulation of knowledge associated with age and customs. He has built up a large photographic archive depicting the culture and character of the region.

Chapman's photography has been widely recognised and is represented in many international galleries including the V&A, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Harvard University. He has published many books, including **Dartmoor: The Threatened Wilderness**, **Foot and Mouth in Devon**, and **A Photographic Friendship**, James Ravilious and Chris Chapman.



## PAUL DIEPPE HEALING AND MEDICINE:

### A doctor's journey toward their integration

**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm Clifton Library Cost £12**

What would make a successful academic doctor change his interest from biomedicine to healing? Bristol-based Professor Paul Dieppe, to the surprise of his colleagues, did just that. After conventionally spending most of his career researching the causes and treatment of osteoarthritis, he switched his interest in the 1990s to healers and healing. His book, *Healing and Medicine*, is about why he became disillusioned with

the materialistic, reductionist science of medicine, and what he found out about healing. He now believes that medicine needs to work with healers and healing, and will try to explain why. **Paul Dieppe will be in conversation with Dr Elizabeth Thompson from National Centre for Integrative Medicine.**

## DURRE SHAHWAR and NASIA SARWAR-SKUSE

### WOMEN OF COLOUR ON NATURE

**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12**



In their 2024 anthology, *Gathering*, editors Durre Shahwar and Nasia Sarwar-Skuse have curated an outstanding, ground-breaking collection of creative and personal essays by women of colour from across the UK. The women write about their relationships with nature, and explore themes such as climate justice, inherited histories, colonialism, mental health, music, rambling and more. Durre and Nasia will be **in conversation with Bob Walton** about these

thought-provoking essays and encourage us all to consider our own experience with nature and our place within it.

Widely published in literary journals, Durre Shahwar is the Deputy Editor of *Wasafiri* Magazine, where she was previously a writer-in-residence. Nasia Sarwar-Skuse won the Queen Mary Wasafiri New Writing Prize 2023 and, as artist-in-residence at St Fagan's National Museum of History in Cardiff, she leads a decolonisation project.

## ROXY DUNN AS YOUNG AS THIS

**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm Upstairs Pavey House, Waterloo Street Cost £12**



Roxy Dunn is a writer/performer and graduate of the BBC Comedy Writersroom. She's acted in multiple television sitcoms and her shows have received sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe and SOHO Theatre. Her scripts have been optioned by several production companies and her pilot *Useless Millennials* was commissioned and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. **As Young as This** is her first novel, about young love, lust, womanhood and expectations. **Roxy will be in conversation with Orla Thomas.**

## JANE DUFFUS THE WOMEN WHO BUILT BRISTOL

**Saturday 1.30 - 2.30pm The Clifton Club Cost £12**

Photo: Jon Craig



The *Women Who Built Bristol* project features three volumes, each book containing 250 unique women who helped to shape Bristol into the vibrant city it is today. From pin makers to police chiefs, from workhouse inmates to lord mayors, these books show that Bristol was built by women. Join author Jane Duffus as she shares some of the stories about these wonderful women, as well as giving a little background information about why this research is so necessary.

## MOSES MCKENZIE

### In conversation with JOHANNA THOMAS-CORR

**Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm Christ Church Cost £12**

Photo: Gee Photography



After a fascinating, insightful talk last year about his Hawthornden Prize-winning debut novel, *An Olive Grove in Ends*, we couldn't resist bringing Moses McKenzie back to LitFest. In what is sure to be a brilliant meeting of minds, Moses will discuss his much-anticipated follow-up, *Fast by the Horns*, with Johanna Thomas-Corr. Like its predecessor, Moses' latest novel is set in Bristol - St Paul's, 1980 - and tells the story of a Rastafarian 14-year-old's dreams and divided loyalties when faced with an opportunity for justice or revenge. *'The book grabs you by its teeth from the first page and never quite lets go,'* Safiya Sinclair, *The Guardian*.

With this compelling second novel, Moses looks set to play a major part in British literature in the years ahead, so who better to discuss his work than one of the UK's leading newspaper literary critics, Bristol's [Johanna Thomas-Corr](#).

## JON CRUDDAS **A CENTURY OF LABOUR**

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost £12



How might the new Labour Government fare with its huge majority? If its history offers some clues, then Jon Cruddas' book might just suggest themes to watch out for. For only 33 years and until this year only three of its leaders managed to win a majority in a general election. Why has Labour underperformed? Why has the party so often struggled to win and hold on to power? And how does delving into its history help understand how its future might unfold?

Jon Cruddas was, until July, the MP for Dagenham and Rainham. He has been active in the trade union and labour movement for almost 45 years and has been a member of the Shadow Cabinet and a candidate for Deputy Leader of the Party. He sees **A Century of Labour** as a commitment to honour the thousands of people in the labour movement with whom he has worked over those 44 years.

## ANTHEA CALLEN **LOOKING AT MEN**

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm Clifton Library Cost £12



Photo: Phoebe Barnett

Professor Anthea Callen's book **Looking at Men: Art, Anatomy and the Modern Male Body** is about sex, power and death. She argues that human anatomy, seen through the Greco-Roman tradition of the ideal Classical body, plays an active role in making the modern male body. Analysing images of men's bodies across the linked disciplines of art, medicine, sport and popular culture, Callen reveals how signs of male heterosexual power - and differences of race, class and gender - are visually embodied alongside homoerotic pleasure.

Internationally renowned art expert and writer, as well as regular contributor to BBC1's **Fake or Fortune**, Anthea Callen publishes books, articles and exhibition catalogue essays on artists' materials and techniques, the male body, French Realist, Impressionist and post-Impressionist painting, the art of landscape, and women in the Arts and Crafts movement.

## JESSICA ANDREWS **MILK TEETH**

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12



Photo: Seth Hamilton

Jessica Andrews will be **in conversation with Bob Walton** about her new novel **Milk Teeth**. Her visceral, sensory novels explore the effects of social class and gender on the body, and consider the limitations of social mobility. Set in Barcelona, this novel's sticky, uncomfortable narrative asks questions about the ways in which we learn to self-police our desires, and why we might deny our own needs and wants.

Jessica Andrews is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at City University, London, and writes fiction and non-fiction. Her debut novel **Saltwater** won the Portico Prize in 2020 and her second novel **Milk Teeth** was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Encore Award in 2023. Her writing has been featured on BBC Front Row, BBC Woman's Hour and BBC Radio 3. She was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction Futures for writers under the age of 35 and longlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award in 2022.

## CATO PEDDER **MOEDERLAND: Nine Daughters of South Africa**

Saturday 3.00 - 4.00pm Pavey House, Waterloo Street Cost £12



**Moederland: Nine Daughters of South Africa** is an exploration of the roots and legacies of apartheid told through the lives of nine women from the arrival of the first Dutch settlers at the Cape in 1652 to the present day. It is seen through the deeply personal lens of a great-grand-daughter of South African Prime Minister Jan Smuts, the world statesman who wrote legislation which enabled apartheid. Following a short reading from **Moederland**, Cato Pedder will discuss themes including women's lives, racism, and colonialism as explored in the book with **Beri Hare**.

## THE MAGIC OF HISTORICAL FICTION

**LIZZIE POOK, LIZ HYDER, ESSIE FOX, chaired by bookseller DANIEL BASSETT**

Saturday 3.30 - 5.00pm The Clifton Club Cost £12



Photo: Ashleigh Cadeit

Three writers discuss their historical novels **with Daniel Bassett** and the process of carving fiction out of historical subjects.

**Lizzie Pook** is an author and award-winning journalist and travel writer. Her first novel,

**Moonlight and the Pearler's Daughter**, set in the pearl industry in northwest Australia, was shortlisted for the HWA Debut Crown Award and the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize. **Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge** was published at the beginning of this year. An Arctic expedition. A mysterious death. And the lengths to which one woman will go to avenge her sister.

**Liz Hyder** is a writer of adult and children's fiction, and a creative workshop leader. **Bearmouth**, her debut novel for young adults, was published by Pushkin Press and won the Branford Boase Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Award for Older Readers. **The Illusions** is the new novel from the much-lauded author of **The Gifts**. Inspired by real-life illusionists and early film pioneers, this astonishing story of women and talent, magic and power, sweeps you into a world where anything is possible and nothing is quite as it seems...

**Essie Fox** worked in publishing and commercial design before she started writing. She has lectured on the history and inspiration behind her novels at the V&A, the National Gallery, and Westminster Library. **The Fascination**, a Sunday Times bestseller, is a beguiling Victorian gothic novel. The estranged grandson of a wealthy collector of human curiosities becomes fascinated with teenaged twin sisters, leading them into a web of dark obsessions. A dazzlingly dark gothic novel from the bestselling author of **The Somnambulist**.

## JOHN O'FARRELL **FAMILY POLITICS**

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm Christ Church Cost £12



Photo: Tim Goffe

**Family Politics** is a razor-sharp political satire about parents and children supporting different political parties. John O'Farrell's first book **Things Can Only Get Better** about his years spent helping the Labour Party lose elections at every level was a number one best-seller. Two decades later he published the sequel **Things Can Only Get Worse**. He has published five novels, including **May Contain Nuts** and **The Man Who Forgot His Wife**; two funny history books; plus three collections of his satirical columns from The Guardian. Formerly a comedy scriptwriter for shows such as Spitting Image and Have I Got News For You, he more recently co-wrote the movie **Chicken Run 2**, the Broadway musicals **Something Rotten!** and **Mrs Doubtfire** and the Old Vic production of **Just For One Day - The Story of Live Aid**. **John will be in conversation with Helen Taylor.**

## DR TOBY JONES **THE NEWPORT MEDIEVAL SHIP PROJECT**

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm The Crypt, Christ Church Cost £12



Dr Toby Jones, Curator of the Newport Medieval Ship Project, will reveal the latest findings of this mid-15th century merchant vessel which traded with Bristol. Discovered and raised in 2002-3, the well-preserved hull remains and numerous artefacts indicate that the ship was likely built in the Basque Country as a wine-trading vessel for Portuguese owners. The recovery of such a unique find of unparalleled craftsmanship offers insights into technological innovation at the very beginning of the Age of Exploration, while the hundreds of artefacts reveal the complexity of Anglo-Welsh /Iberian trading links and illuminate life on board the ship.

## KIM MOORE, JO EADES & KAYCEE HILL **ARE YOU JUDGING ME YET?**

Saturday 4.30 - 6.00pm Clifton Library Cost £12



Photo: Lorna Elizabeth



**Are You Judging Me Yet?** is the title of Kim Moore's essay collection, and sets the tone for readings by three wonderful poets who write about the complexities, vulnerabilities and power of contemporary women's lives in challenging, lyrical, often

humorous ways. Kim Moore is one of the leading poets in the UK today. Her first collection, *The Art of Falling* (2015) won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and her second collection, *All the Men I Never Married*, won the 2022 Forward Prize for Best Collection. She is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. Kaycee Hill, a working-class, mixed-heritage poet, was joint winner of the inaugural James Berry Poetry Prize 2021. Her debut collection, *Hot Sauce*, 'transform(s) the contemporary into a mythic, lyrical landscape' (Malika Booker). Jo Eades, from Clifton Wood, was selected for Apples and Snakes' cohort of Future Voices and won the Lyra Poetry Festival Slam 2024. All three poets are, in different ways, superb readers and performers of their poems.

## TIMANDRA HARKNESS **TECHNOLOGY IS NOT THE PROBLEM**

Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12



Why, despite more and more awareness of how we are all profiled and targeted by data-gathering technology, do we seem to embrace it? In her new book, **Technology is not the Problem**, Timandra Harkness asks why we are susceptible to the seductions of personalising technology, and she makes the connection between building our online personae through technology, and our desire to create who we are through how others see us.

Timandra Harkness is a broadcaster, statistician and mathematician who came to science through comedy. Her BBC documentaries include **Data, Data Everywhere** and **Personality Politics**, and she is a regular on Radio 4. Timandra also regularly writes about data, algorithms and our relationship with technology for many publications.

## SATURDAY EVENING MUSIC

### BRISTOL ARCHIVES **A CENTENARY CELEBRATION IN MUSIC, FILM AND WORDS** with Sandie Middleton and Katie Axelsen **Saturday 6.30 - 7.30pm**

**Christ Church Cost £15** to include a glass of prosecco

After a terrific debut at last year's festival, composer and pianist Sandie Middleton along with flautist, Katie Axelsen, return this year with a programme of music and film to celebrate the centenary of Bristol Archives. Its superb collection of evocative films that chart the history of the city over the last hundred years is curated by

**David Parker** and **Bob Pitt**.



### KATE DIMBLEBY with KEITH WARMINGTON and CLARE LINDLEY **Bar from 7.30pm**

Saturday 8.00pm - 9.30pm Clifton Library Cost £12

Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Kate Dimbleby, violin virtuoso Clare Lindley (DLM; Big Train), and well-known former BBC Radio Bristol personality & musician Keith Warmington, bring together a touch of Americana and Blues with a British sense of humour. They combine Kate's songs with those of John Prine, Kirsty MacColl, Fleetwood Mac, Richard Thompson and Leonard Cohen. The trio share a love of songs that tell the story of long-term relationships, love and loss, and looking for ways to ride the storm.



Kate has released eight albums, toured internationally at arts and music festivals and appeared regularly on national radio. She has toured the world with her one woman shows, selling out venues like the Festival Hall and Ronnie Scott's. She recently performed at the Royal Albert Hall with Gifford's Circus singing a version of Joni Mitchell's 'Both Sides Now' as part of the Royal Variety Performance 2022. Kate's new album **Deep Waters** features a six piece band including Keith and Clare.

# SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

## EMMA PUSILL and JANET WILKINSON

**THE LIDO GUIDE: Find it, swim it, love it**



**Sunday 10.00 - 11.00am Clifton Library Cost £12**

Emma Pusill and Janet Wilkinson would like to talk lidos of the UK with you. A twenty-plus year quest to find and swim in all of the lidos of the UK led to their creation of **The Lido Guide**. After hours spent sharing their admittedly niche body of knowledge with each other, they realised that if they wanted to help the last remaining publicly accessible lidos to thrive and survive, they needed to help others find them, swim in them and love them. And finding and using them is not always as easy as you might imagine! They invite the lido lovers and the lido-curious alike to join them, for tales of mis-timed lido picnics eaten in car parks and much more.

Janet Wilkinson has spent twenty years swimming her way around the UK and Channel Islands, reigniting the love for lidos that was born in her 9-year-old self during a holiday in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. She has now swum in every single one of the pools featured in **The Lido Guide** and is a happy regular at Bristol Lido.

Emma Pusill moved to Portishead on the strength of a great day out at the open air pool there. She soon began volunteering (it is a community-run pool) and has done a variety of volunteer jobs at the pool. She is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees. She met Janet on Twitter/X where there is a thriving lido community.

## KIM MOORE **POETRY WORKSHOP: The House of Poetry**

**Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £20**

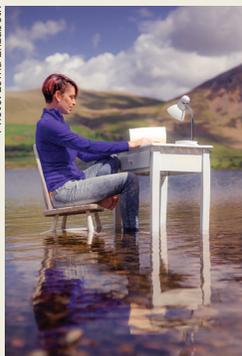


Photo: Lorna Elizabeth

*"During this workshop we will be exploring the different ways that we can write about the house - both as a literal and a psychological space. We will explore poems that examine the house as mythical place, as childhood memory, as the theatre of family drama or domestic routine and as a place of both wildness and safety. This will be a practical workshop suitable for beginners and advanced writers."*

LitFest is delighted to host one of the UK's most in-demand poetry workshop facilitators, Kim Moore. A brilliant poet, Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, and co-founder of the annual online Writing Hour workshop series which attracts hundreds of poets from across the UK and abroad, Kim brings immense expertise to what is certain to be an outstanding workshop, inspiring fresh ideas and approaches to writing poetry.

## HARRIET BAKER and MAGGIE HUMM

**VIRGINIA WOOLF: A Life in Two Places**

**Sunday 11.00 - 12.00pm Clifton High School, Main School Hall Cost £12**



Photo: David Kirham

Virginia Woolf's homes, Talland House and Asheham, changed her life and her writing, and were places she hosted many Bloomsbury figures. Woolf loved visiting writers' houses - the homes of the Brontës and Carlyle.

Why are we so attracted to writers' houses, like Woolf? Why do we love seeing their 'things'? A writer's 'things' can include archives, inventories, lists, rooms, lanes, hauntings.

The authors Harriet Baker and Maggie Humm will talk about the importance of place to Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group. **They will be in conversation with Helen Taylor.**

Harriet Baker's new book is **Rural Hours: The Country Lives of Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Townsend Warner and Rosamond Lehmann**. Maggie Humm is Professor Emeritus, University of East London and has published two award-winning novels, **Talland House** and **Radical Woman: Gwen John & Rodin**. Her new book is **The Bloomsbury Photographs**, 2024.

## BEN GARROD **A DOG CALLED JACK-JACK**

**Sunday 11.00 - 12.00pm Clifton High School, The Rose Theatre Cost £12 per adult, children 14 and under are**

**free but must have a ticket and be accompanied by an adult**



Professor Ben Garrod, a popular broadcaster and prolific author, has recently launched his first fiction series: four stories about his dog Jack, entitled **The Adventures of a Dog called Jack-Jack**. The first volume is **Jack-Jack, A Dog in Africa** (2024).

As Ben says: 'It's the best job in the world when you get to write about your best mate. When he happens to be a snake-wrangling, chimp-wrestling, snack-loving dog, it doesn't feel like work at all. I first met Jack-Jack while I was filming in West Africa and, in what can only be described as the ultimate human/animal bromance, we both decided he would come and live with me in the UK. We've been on so many adventures together, it just seemed right we'd share them with young readers too.'

## LILLEITH MORRISON

**PAUL STEPHENSON and the BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT**



**Sunday 11.30 - 12.30pm Clifton Library Cost £12**

Lilleith Morrison will discuss **Memoirs of a Black Englishman** by Paul Stephenson OBE, who led the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott. Morrison collaborated with Stephenson to put his life into a political perspective. She took notes and recordings of Paul's firsthand experiences and did the background research into the political events at the time. This background was dovetailed into Paul Stephenson's story, while keeping his authentic voice and enabling the reader to see the relationship between the personal and the political in his life. The memoirs show the influence of his early

experiences in life which shaped his character, and gave him the courage and confidence to take on the establishment and eventually, in some ways, become part of it. **Lilleith will be in conversation with Paula O'Rourke.**

## NOREEN MASUD **A FLAT LIFE**



**Sunday 1.00 - 2.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12**

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year award 2024, Noreen Masud's **A Flat Place** has been described as raw and radical, strange and beguiling - a love letter to Britain's breathtaking flatlands, from Orford Ness to Orkney, and a reckoning with the painful, hidden histories they contain. Noreen Masud has always loved flat landscapes - their stark beauty, their formidable calm, their refusal to cooperate with the human gaze. They reflect her inner world: the 'flat place' she carries inside herself, emotional numbness and memory loss as symptoms of childhood trauma. Robert MacFarlane called it

'sharp, subtle and very moving'. Masud, who is a Lecturer in 20th Century Literature, University of Bristol, and an AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker, will be **in conversation with Lizzie Moss** of Heron Books, Clifton.

## HELEN DOE **ONE CREW: The RNLI and 200 Years of Saving Lives at Sea**

**Sunday 12.30 - 2.30pm Rose Theatre, Clifton High School Cost £12**



The Royal National Lifeboat Institution began with a meeting in a London Tavern in March 1824. Since then, its volunteer crews have saved over 146,000 lives around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. Dr Helen Doe was commissioned to write the history of this vital service and in this talk she takes a look at some known and unknown characters and incidents in its rich history.

Dr Helen Doe is a maritime historian and author. She is Chair of the British Commission for Maritime History and a government appointed advisor to the fleet of National Historic Ships. It is people, often the ordinary and, sometimes unsung, heroes and heroines that attract her attention. A regular expert on TV and radio, she has written a range of books including one on the **SS Great Britain**. Her latest book is **One Crew: The RNLI'S Official 200-year History**.

**Film screening - 'For Those in Peril'** A gripping, life-affirming and award winning film by David Parker about the people who put their own lives at risk to come to the aid of those in peril from the sea.

## WILL HUTTON **THIS TIME NO MISTAKES: How to Remake Britain**

**Sunday 12.30 - 1.30pm Clifton High School, Main School Hall Cost £12**



'Brilliant' is how Keir Starmer has described Will Hutton's latest commentary on what has gone wrong with the economy, so he urges everyone to read it. 'Eminently readable and hugely ambitious' is how Frances Cairncross characterises the analysis of what has gone wrong in Britain since Brexit, and Hutton's prescriptions for putting it right.

Will Hutton, distinguished British journalist and author, will be discussing his new book, **This Time No Mistakes: How to Remake Britain**, with economist Susan Harkness, Professor in the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol.

Photo: Eva Turrell

## PAUL GOUGH **BROTHERS IN ART: Gilbert and Stanley Spencer**

**Sunday 1.00 - 2.00pm Clifton Library Cost £12**



Gilbert and Stanley Spencer were the youngest brothers in the brilliantly versatile family of nine children that grew up in the village of Cookham, Stanley's 'paradise on earth'. Best friends and companions, the two were inseparable in childhood; they both studied at the Slade, served in the war (including periods in Bristol), and then took their separate paths as painters and celebrated Royal Academicians. This talk examines not only their friendship and camaraderie, but their rivalries in love and art, exploring what they had in common but what made them very different - and quite extraordinary - painters.

Professor Paul Gough is a painter, author and broadcaster, who has exhibited his art globally. He has written books and research papers on the representation of conflict, remembrance and commemoration, and cultural memory. In addition to books on Stanley Spencer, John and Paul Nash, he publishes and broadcasts on the street artist Banksy. He is Vice-Chancellor of Arts University Bournemouth, and an artist-academician and former chair of the Board at the Royal West of England Academy. His latest book is **Brothers in Art: Gilbert and Stanley Spencer**.

## MARTIN KISZKO and LOCAL CHILDREN **GREEN POEMS FOR A BLUE PLANET**

**Sunday 2.00pm - 3.00pm Upstairs, Pavey House Tickets are free but must be ordered on line.**

**Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.**



Martin Kiszko, 'The UK's Green Poet', has taken his humorous, theatrical and challenging eco-comedy performance to festivals and venues across the UK and around the globe. Following his Litfest-funded creative writing workshops in Christ Church C of E Primary and Hotwells Primary Schools in early November, Martin will perform poems from his award-winning collections (**Green Poems for a Blue Planet** and **Verse for the Earth**, both illustrated by Wallace and Gromit creator, Nick Park) while children from both schools will

perform their poems inspired by Martin's workshop. Join us for an entertaining celebration of creativity and our love and concern for the environment, suitable for all the family.

## PETER DAVIES **THE CRYPT GROUP, ST IVES**

**Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm Clifton Library Cost £12**



Peter Davies, well known author, critic and seasoned art activist, will tell the story of The Crypt Group, a young avant-garde group of artists who exhibited in the crypt of the former mariners' church, St Ives which had become the home and gallery of the St Ives Society of Artists in the 1940's. Their three transformative exhibitions 1946 - 1948 were a precursor to the founding of the Penwith Society of Arts in 1949 and the rise of the St Ives Modern Movement. The Group included personalities who would later become legends in the art world, including Peter Lanyon, Sven Berlin, John Wells, Wilhemina Barns-Graham and Bryan Wynter. **The Crypt Group 1946-1949: Rites of Penwith Passage** is Peter Davies' eighth book on St Ives.

Photo: Simon Bishop

## GEORGE MARSHALL WHY WE DON'T THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE - and what will happen when we do

Sunday 2.30 - 3.30pm Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12



Psychological research shows that climate change is an exceptionally difficult issue for us to accept and understand, combining all the qualities that we are worst at dealing with.

Difficult.. but not impossible: if we directly address these obstacles, we can adapt to climate change and build a better and more sustainable future. But if we don't, we may descend into ever more irrational and self-destructive coping strategies.

George Marshall is an activist, social researcher and communications specialist, working at all levels from grass roots protests movements to senior positions in Greenpeace and the Rainforest Foundation. He has held consultancies for the UN, World Bank and 17 governments. He founded the Oxford-based communications charity Climate Outreach, and is the author of **Don't Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change**, listed by Esquire as one of the '15 essential books on climate change'. He is Adjunct Fellow of the University of Queensland Department of Psychology.

## JONATHAN DIMBLEBY ENDGAME 1944: How Stalin Won the War

Sunday 3.00 - 4.00pm Rose Theatre, Clifton High School Cost £12



Biographer and broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby makes a welcome return to the LitFest to discuss with the Festival chair, **David Parker**, some of the issues raised in his latest book about the Second World War in the East, **Endgame 1944: How Stalin Won the War**. 2024 has been a year of commemoration of the allied battles on the Western Front, notably D Day and the invasion of Normandy. Jonathan's work is a timely reminder of the brutal war raging at the same time from the Baltic to The Black Sea, and which led to the crucial defeat of the German army, the Wehrmacht.

## CHARLOTTE PHILBY

Sunday 2.00 - 3.00pm Main School Hall, Clifton High School Cost £12



After her incredibly well received event at the LitFest two years ago, Charlotte Philby returns this year to feature in the first of two special events devoted to the increasingly popular genre of crime fiction. She will be discussing her latest and critically acclaimed work, **The End of Summer**. Hailed as a 'standout literary thriller' by the FT and book of the summer in publications ranging from Grazia to Women and Home, and The Literary Review to Mail on Sunday, the novel was thriller of the month in the Sunday Times, which called it 'a female Talented Mr Ripley'.

Charlotte Philby worked for eight years as a columnist, editor and reporter for the Independent and was shortlisted for the Cudlipp Prize for her investigative journalism at the 2013 Press Awards. Recently hailed, 'A rising star of British thriller writing' by the Sunday Times, she is a former contributing editor and feature writer at Marie Claire, and has written for publications including the New Statesman, The Guardian and Inside Time. Charlotte has three children and lives in Bristol. **The End of Summer** is her fifth novel.

## EMILY KOCH, BRYAN J MASON and GILLY MACMILLAN THE SCENE OF THE CRIME

Sunday 3.30 - 4.30pm Clifton High School Main School Hall Cost £12



Photo: Barbara Evripidou



Photo: Celine Nieszawer

Three successful writers, all living in Bristol, consider just how important in their writing is a sense of 'place'. Emily Koch worked as a journalist in the city before going on to become a successful author of three crime fiction novels including **If I Die**

**Before I Wake**. Set in Bristol it was praised by The Guardian as 'a debut to be reckoned with'. Bryan J Mason's second novel, a black comedy, **An Old Tin Can**, is set in Belfast during the 'troubles', whilst Gilly Macmillan, the author of eight internationally bestselling crime novels including **The Fall**, described as a 'standout psychological thriller' by The Wall Street Journal, has used Bristol as a location in a number of her books.

Moderating the panel will be Jade Chandler, the publishing director of Baskerville, a literary crime and thriller imprint based at Hachette UK's Bristol office. Baskerville publishes critically acclaimed writers including Mick Heron, Natalie Marlow and Rose Wilding.



## DAVID LEFFMAN THE MASTERS OF SUZHOU WOODBLOCKS

Sunday 4.00 - 5.00pm Clifton Library Cost £12



Chinese woodblock prints were the most sophisticated in the world during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, depicting everything from folk legends to racy bedroom scenes, cityscapes and delicate flower-and-insect studies, and pioneering colour printing techniques and the use of European-inspired shading and perspective. And yet a few decades later the industry had become little more than a rough folk craft.

Author of **Paper Horses: Traditional Woodblock Prints of Gods from Northern China**, David Leffman explores printing at its peak, and proposes various reasons for its rapid decline.'

## LIA LEENDERTZ THE RURAL ALMANAC



Sunday 4.00 - 5.00pm The Meeting Room, Clifton Library Cost £12

Bristol-based Lia Leendertz's reinvention of the traditional, rural almanac has become an annual must-have for readers keen to reconnect with the seasons, appreciate the outdoors, and discover ways to mark and celebrate each month (also the ideal stocking filler...). Come and hear her talk about her 2025 edition and its theme 'ancient astronomy', as well as the moons, tides, folklore and seasonal food of the upcoming year.

Lia Leendertz is the author of a dozen books on gardening, allotment-holding and food in addition to her Almanacs. A regular columnist in the Telegraph, Guardian, Gardens Illustrated, The Garden and Simple Things magazine, Lia often guests for Cerys Matthews on Radio6Music.



# TONY BENN'S DEFINING MOMENTS

DISCUSSION AND FILM:  
With Dawn Primarolo, Ruth Winstone and Jonathan Dimbleby

Sunday 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm Rose Theatre, Clifton High School Cost £12



Tony Benn was a commanding presence in post-war Bristol. An MP in the city from 1950 to 1983, he served in Labour Governments during the 1960s and 70s and remained active in politics until his death in 2014.

To mark the 10th anniversary of his death, the significance of Benn's political life and legacy will be discussed by one-time constituency secretary and ex-MP for Bristol South, Baroness Dawn Primarolo, the editor of his diaries, Ruth Winstone, and broadcaster and journalist, Jonathan Dimbleby. The event will be followed by a screening of David Parker's intimate, 50-minute film portrait of Tony's life and times in Bristol, Tony Benn's Defining Moments.

## SUNDAY EVENING MUSIC

### PHIL KING SINGER-SONGWRITER

Saturday 7.30 - 9.00 Bar opens at 7.00 Clifton Library Cost £12

As a singer-songwriter Phil King has the whole trinity: a beautiful, soulful singing voice; deft skills at playing the guitar; and the capacity to write elegantly worded and powerful songs. His album **The Wreckage** received excellent media attention with Radio 2's Bob Harris describing him as 'Absolutely Brilliant' and a 'Song Weaver'. Folk Radio UK said, 'Stunningly Beautiful!'

**The Wreckage** should expand his profile considerably, while Rock n Reel Magazine wrote 'always Lyrical, Tuneful and Emotional, lovers of the darker side of folk and roots music will find plenty to enjoy!' Venue praised 'Smouldering Folk from Bristol's Root Artist Of The Year, Phil King!'



Photo: Alice Hendy

# Clifton Village LitFest

## Venues 2024

### CLIFTON LIBRARY



13 Princess Victoria St, Bristol BS8 4BX

### CHRIST CHURCH



Clifton Down Rd, Bristol BS8 3BN

### PAVEY HOUSE



Waterloo St, Bristol BS8 4BT

### THE CLIFTON CLUB



22 The Mall, Bristol BS8 4DS

### CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL



College Road, Bristol BS8 3JD



### 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.

● Disabled access.

**Festival Box Office:** Clifton Library. Open Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th 10am - 7pm during the Festival.

**Refreshments:** Tea, coffee and snacks available at Christchurch and The Clifton Club on Saturday. Clifton High School on Sunday. Bar available on all evening events.

# 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](mailto:hello@foccal.com) or on our website [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)

**TOM GAULD**



We would like to thank our wide range of very talented speakers and musicians for being a part of the 2024 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 five venues for 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 their staff for supporting us for the last five years and thank you to Pavey House as we enjoy our second year in the building. Thanks to our new venues, Clifton High School and The Clifton Club for opening their doors to support this this fantastic weekend of events. Thank you to all our volunteers. Thank you also to all our local shops and businesses, the restaurants, cafes and pubs for putting up and handling our 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 2025.**