

Evesham  
Festival of  
Words

30TH JUNE - 2ND JULY 2017

AND PRE-AND POST-FESTIVAL FRINGE EVENTS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

[WWW.EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG](http://WWW.EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG)

FEATURING PRUE LEITH, SUSAN LEWIS, IAN McMILLAN  
& TONY HUSBAND, A FULL DAY OF EVENTS FOR CHILDREN,  
AND SO MUCH MORE!

[INFO@EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG](mailto:INFO@EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG)



@INFOFoW #EVESHAMWORDS



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

Evesham's first Festival of Words in 2016 was fun, frantic and festive. For 2017 we have even more on offer, including some great fringe events before and after the main Festival.

Celebrating words in all their forms – written, spoken, sung, and even pictorial, we have a fantastic selection of events, using various accessible venues in the town, and at a range of prices, even some free! There really is something for everyone, whatever your age or interests, including a wonderful day of fun-packed events just for children and families. See pages 3 – 5 and 10 for fringe events and pages 6 – 9 for the main Festival.

If you are new to Evesham, do take time to explore the town and all that it has to offer. Find out what makes Evesham special. You'll be sure of a very warm welcome. And from everyone on the Steering Group we wish you a truly memorable festival experience. Enjoy the buzz!

**Sue Ablett**  
Festival Chair  
On behalf of Evesham Festival of Words  
Steering Group



Photo By Ian Tustin

## WHERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

Sue Ablett  
[info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)  
T: 0787 128 5606

Online via our website  
[www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

By post to 20 Allardene, Evesham,  
Worcestershire, WR11 1EA.  
Cheques payable to 'Evesham Festival of  
Words'. Please include full contact details.

The Almonry Museum & Heritage Centre  
T: 01386 446944

Jellypicklejam Café, Vine Mews, Evesham

## What makes Evesham special?

The big Cotswold & Vale Magazine challenge for 2017 is to invite you to submit a poem, maximum 25 lines, to tell everyone why Evesham is the best. It's a great chance to get creative and promote our wonderful town.

Send your poems by May 19th at the latest via email ([info@valemagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@valemagazine.co.uk)) or by post to the Cotswold & Vale Magazine, Enterprise Centre, Vale Business Park, Evesham WR11 1GS. Mark all entries What Makes Evesham Special and include full name, address and daytime telephone number. If you are under 16, you must include your guardian's permission plus contact details. There will be prizes for the winning adult and junior entries, and the winning entries will be published in the July issue of Cotswold & Vale Magazine.

**Writers monthly meets:** On the first Wednesday of each month, at 10.30am, local author Sue Johnson hosts an informal gathering of local writers and readers. The venue changes each month, showcasing Evesham's wonderful cafes. A great opportunity for networking, swapping ideas or just enjoying a chat!

**Second Friday Stories:** 11am in Evesham Library on the second Friday of each month. With at least two local authors talking about their books each time, this is a great chance to hear about different writing styles and writer experiences. A free event. Everyone welcome.

### TUESDAY 23RD MAY

#### 'Great Big Poetry Read'

2 – 4 pm

Evesham Library

Free event

Tea/coffee and biscuits

Calling all poetry lovers out there – this is the afternoon for you! Come along and enjoy an afternoon of readings (funny, sad, moving, long and short) from local poets and poetry groups. Maybe get inspired to start writing your own poetry?

### TUESDAY 6TH JUNE

#### 'Down the Old Asum Road'

7.30 pm

Unitarian Chapel, Oat Street

Free event, bring your own drinks

Come along for a wonderful evening of original music with Colin Pitts and Mike Weaver, and new poems by Sue Johnson and Bob Woodroffe, in the delightful atmosphere of Oat Street Chapel.

For more information phone  
Sue Johnson: 01386 446477

### FRIDAY 19TH MAY

#### 'A Cartoon History of Here'



7:30 – 9.30 pm.

Evesham Town Hall  
£12.50, inc. glass of  
wine & nibbles

A truly wonderful and unique evening with Yorkshire poet, broadcaster and comedian, Ian McMillan, and Cartoonist of the Year, Tony Husband. A highly comical, interactive and improvised cartoon show in which Ian talks nineteen to the dozen and elicits all sorts of gems from the audience which are then woven, with support from Tony frantically cartooning each turn of event, into a tapestry of Evesham life going on right there in the room.

Best described as "a fast-flowing, rapid-rafting adventure in which two top funny men reflect upon local stories and legends. For audiences, 9 to 109! This really is an evening not to be missed and a great start to our 2017 Festival.

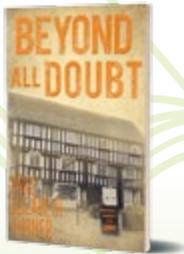
Event kindly sponsored  
by Undervale Ltd.

### All year round

Remember that the monthly writers meetings and Second Friday Stories continue throughout the year. Check our website and Facebook page for details.

## FRIDAY 16TH JUNE

**'Beyond all doubt:  
A literary walk'**  
6 – 6.45 pm  
Start Evesham Market Place  
Free event. Easy walking!



Join local author, Paige Elizabeth Turner (aka Nigel Barnard), for a literary walk around some of the Evesham sites that feature in this new, and very local, crime novel. With three murders in quick succession, the book really is a page-turner. We know who the murderer is, but will he be brought to justice? Starting in the Market Place, we visit places where crimes were committed, and clues and bodies found. The walk ends at the Almonry for a further chance to chat with the author.

**'Festival Bookshop Launch'**  
7 pm  
Almonry Museum & Heritage Centre  
Free event. All welcome!

Come along to the Almonry to meet some of the writers contributing to our 2017 Festival. Hear them read and enjoy a chat over a glass of wine. Copies of books of local participating authors will be on sale in the Almonry Bookshop until 15th July.

## 19TH JUNE – 8TH JULY

**'True Tales'**  
Evesham Library  
Free Event



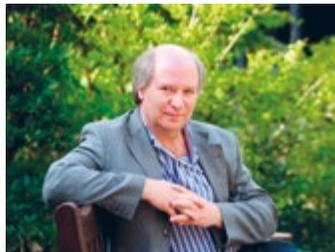
True Tales presents an inspirational contemporary installation based on the true stories from the people of Evesham, young and old, on the theme of new beginnings and change. Curated by Caroline Tredwell, stories gathered by Rhubarb Rhubarb Creatives. A unique experience!

Thanks to Garage Arts, The De Montfort School, Blackminster Middle School, Ferry View and the participants from Eastern Europe, Rhubarb Rhubarb Creatives, Caroline Tredwell and Evesham Library.

True Tales has been supported by Arts Uplift, The Elmley Foundation, Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council, Vale of Evesham Network of Artists and Evesham Festival of Words.

## TUESDAY 20TH JUNE

**'The Word Detective'**  
12 noon  
Holland House, Cropthorne  
£15, including 2-course lunch



Enjoy a delicious 2-course lunch, in the beautiful setting of Holland House, followed by a fascinating talk, 'The Word Detective' by former Oxford English Dictionary Chief Editor, John Simpson. Published in October 2016, 'The Word Detective' is described by one critic as "surprisingly moving. John Simpson's quiet devotion to his daily task, handling words with calmness and devotion, even love, is an inspiration."

Tickets available from  
Holland House:  
[www.hollandhouse.org](http://www.hollandhouse.org)  
Tel: 01386 860330

## FRIDAY 23RD JUNE

**'A picture paints a thousand words'**  
Friday 23rd June (for 2 weeks)  
Word of Mouth Café

Come along to Word of Mouth Café for an exhibition of stunning photographs submitted by members of Birlingham Photography Club. All will have a story to tell, reinforcing the message that 'a picture paints a thousand words'. The exhibition will run for two weeks and all photographs will be for sale. Enjoy a cuppa and a tasty treat while you view!

## SUNDAY 25TH JUNE

**'Half Him Half Her'**  
6.45 pm  
Raphael's Restaurant,  
Hampton Ferry  
£10, including supper



How better to spend a summer's evening than with great entertainment in a stunning setting? Join us at Hampton Ferry with Stroud-based writer and actor, Philip Douch, and singer songwriter, Suzie Latham, for a warm and welcoming evening of readings and music. Philip won the Gloucestershire Writers Network Short Story Prize in 2015 and has performed at the Cheltenham Literature Festival. He and Suzie regularly perform together, with a mixture of Philip's fun short stories and relaxed musical interludes by Suzie. Supper included in ticket price (don't eat before you come!)

## THURSDAY 29TH JUNE

**'Quiz Night'**  
7.30 pm  
Raphael's Restaurant,  
Hampton Ferry  
£5, including interval nibbles

Back by popular request and bound to be a sell-out! Helen Yendall and Chris Cherry will again be posing some tricky, or not so tricky, questions for a fun Quiz Night. Teams of 4. Maximum of 10 teams. Come along and enjoy a really fun evening to get you warmed up for the rest of the Festival!

## 'A world of words'

10.30 – 11.45 am

Wallace House

£5, inc tea & home-made cakes

With Festival Chair, and passionate traveller and reader, Sue Ablett. Following on from her sell-out talk in 2016, and based on her travels to far-flung places, Sue will again take her audience on a fascinating and highly unusual linguistic and literary voyage around the world. Bound to be fun and fascinating! Book your ticket early, this is sure to be another sell-out event!

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## 'Workshop:

### Writing Short Stories'

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Evesham Hotel

£15, inc tea/coffee

Alexa Radcliffe-Hart is a short story writer, whose work featured in the inaugural Liquorice Fish anthology, *Lost Voices*, among others. Alexa is currently writing her short story collection, 'Yet to be determined'. She also works in marketing and as an editor for various literary organisations.

Alexa's workshop is a focused hands-on course which will allow a group of up to 15 writers to develop their short story skills. Bring your writing equipment and an open mind. Alexa will guide you to uncover new characters and situations to explore within the short form.

## 'The healing power of poetry'

2.00 – 3.00 pm

Evesham Hotel, £5

A talk on the healing power of poetry with Rachel Kelly. Rachel is a former Times journalist, a poet, public speaker, mental health campaigner, and workshop organiser. Poetry was one of the key protagonists of her memoir 'Black Rainbow: How Words Healed Me', which won the Spear's Best First Book Award and was recently published in the US. She also touches on the healing power of the written word in her new book 'Walking on Sunshine: 52 Small Steps to Happiness'.

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## 'A very modern romance'

3.30 – 4.30 pm

Evesham Hotel, £5

Phillipa Ashley just loves writing feel good romantic fiction. In this session she will talk about her experience of writing best-selling romantic fiction in the digital age. She is author of the best selling Cornish Café series. Book 1 – 'Summer at the Cornish Café' was a 2016 summer best seller. The books are described as "comforting reads with lots of twists and turns". In 2016 Phillipa celebrated a decade since her debut novel, 'Decent Exposure' was published. It was made into a Lifetime TV movie, called '12 Men of Christmas'.

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT



## 'An evening with

### Prue Leith'

7.00 – 9.30 pm

Evesham Town Hall

£7.50, inc glass of wine & nibbles

We are thrilled to welcome Prue Leith to Evesham. Prue will be familiar to all for her varied roles as cook, restaurateur, food writer, TV cookery judge, business woman, star of Channel 4's *Great British Bake Off*, and now a very successful novelist. Her latest novel 'The Prodigal Daughter', the second book in the 'Food of Love' trilogy, was published by Quercus in September 2016.

Prue's talk will be followed by the presentation of prizes to the winners of the 2017 Festival of Words Short Story and What Makes Evesham Special Competitions.

## Children's Events

A full fun-packed day for children and their families

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Evesham Library

Free event.



**Pictured: Richard O'Neil**

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A series of free events for children, making a full fun-packed, enjoyable, and educational day. This really will be a great family day – perfect for younger children, parents and grandparents.

In the morning legendary Romany storyteller, and writer of stories for children, Richard O'Neill will be with us for two sessions, from 10.00 – 10.45, and again from 11.00 – 11.45 am. With skills learned around the campfire as a child of a traveller family, Richard regularly tells his stories to groups ranging from nursery schools to university students. Presented with a 'National Literacy Hero' award by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, we guarantee Richard will enthuse and inspire children and adults alike. Regularly working as a literacy consultant in schools, Richard has a well-deserved reputation for leaving children – and staff – buzzing after one of his visits!



**Pictured: Gavin Young**

In the afternoon we have two sessions with another equally dynamic storyteller, Gavin Young, who will be engaging his audiences from 1.15 – 2.00 pm, and 2.15 – 3.00 pm. Originally from South Africa, Gavin is best described as a writer, storyteller, performance poet and compère. He is also a bit of a stone troll! Fascinated with rocks and crystals of every kind, seeing them in much the same way as he sees people: as each owning a wonderfully unique story! He regularly does storytelling sessions throughout libraries in the Black Country.

The four sessions are all free, but you are advised to reserve a place by contacting: [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org) or telephone 0787 1285606, or the Almonry (tel: 01386 446944).

Children aged 7 and under must be accompanied.

**Children's events kindly sponsored by Rooftop Housing Group.**

## 'A biography of story, a brief history of humanity'

10.45 – 11.45 am

Friends Meeting House,  
Cowl Street

£5, inc tea & home-made cakes

New Zealand-based author, Trish Nicholson, social anthropologist and writer (most recently of travel memoirs and short stories) will be visiting Evesham Festival as part of a UK book launch tour. In this new book, Trish brings a unique interweaving of literature and history seen through the eyes of storytellers, making a fascinating journey for general readers and students alike. This is a book-lover's book, illustrated and handsomely presented, designed 'to have and to hold'. Chance to win a signed copy. A Biography of Story book bag for the first 20 to book tickets.

## 'More Asum Grammar'

12 – 1.00 pm

Red Lion Pub

Free event

Back by popular demand, the Dallimore brothers (John and Will) will again be sharing their knowledge of, and love for, Asum grammar. For those not familiar with it, Asum is the local Evesham dialect. Guaranteed to be a fun event, and a convivial atmosphere!

## 'Real Life: Real Drama'

12.15 – 1.15 pm

Friends Meeting House,  
Cowl Street

£5, inc tea & home-made cakes



We are thrilled to welcome Sunday Times best-selling author, Susan Lewis, to Evesham. Susan started writing fiction while a production assistant for Thames Television. Thirty-seven novels later, she is one of the UK's bestselling fiction writers, renowned for her gripping, heartfelt and meticulously researched novels, which explore how ordinary people cope in extraordinary situations. Susan's latest novel, *You Said Forever*, out February 2017, is described as "a heartbreakingly real family drama."

## 'Open Mic' event

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Red Lion Pub

Free event

Come along to read/perform your poetry or prose in this Open Mic session, compèred by former Worcestershire Poet Laureate, and colourful character, Fergus McGonigal. Guaranteed to be an enjoyable event!

## 'Hanna-h'

3.15 – 3.45 pm

Red Lion Pub

Free event

Talented singer songwriter, Hanna Knight and musician, Tim Haines, who together make up Hanna-h, are well known on the local music scene. Their first album, *Atelophobia*, is described as "a collection of musings that journey through the emotions of life and love." They are currently working on their second album. They performed at the Cornbury Festival in 2015. Their songs tell a story – you have to hear them to understand.

## 'Let the music speak'

7.30 pm

All Saints Church

£10, inc glass of wine & nibbles

A concert of music and words, featuring internationally renowned classical pianist, Marcel Zidani, and the choir Mums Aloud, with some individual singers, under the direction of Jenny Newbury, Festival Patron, and TV and radio presenter, Michael Collie, will compère the evening and perform some readings. Music from Marcel will include Chopin Etudes, as well Liszt, Grieg and some of his own pieces. A truly unique evening once again allowing us to explore the use of words in all their forms.

## 'Poetry Walk'

10.30 – 12.00 noon

Meet at Almonry

Free event

Once again led by well known local poet, Polly Stretton, the Poetry Walk will visit some of Evesham's most scenic sites, with poems performed along the way, and culminating in readings in the beautiful garden of the Almonry.

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## 'Workshop: Writing Short Stories for Women's Magazines'

2.30 – 4.30 pm

Almonry

£15, inc tea/coffee/biscuits

Helen Yendall is a creative writing tutor, who has had over 100 stories published in women's magazines. She was the winner of the People's Friend serial writing competition in 2015. This workshop will focus on what a short story is (and isn't!) and how best to sell it. Helen will look at the magazines that currently publish fiction and provide the latest information on their requirements. It's a competitive market and we can't guarantee publishing success but we can assure you of a fun, hands-on workshop, which should leave you buzzing with ideas and inspiration.

## 'A Summer Serenade'

2.00 – 4.30 pm

Springhill Barn,  
Fladbury WR10 2PE

£12, Students £3,  
Under 10s free.

In partnership with Evesham & District Music Club, this annual event is a real treat. Enjoy the wonderful acoustics of Springhill Barn for a performance by the Michael Bochmann String Trio, with young string players, and some poetry recitals.

Bring a picnic and enjoy the interval in the gardens, around the lake or in the Barn.

For further information and tickets:

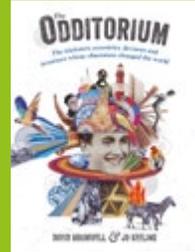
EDMC, Badgers,  
Salters Lane, Lower Moor,  
Pershore. WR10 2PE.

Tel: 01386 861206

Or at the Almonry,  
tel: 01386 446944

## FESTIVAL FINALE

### 'The Odditorium'



7.00 – 9.30 pm

Evesham Town Hall

£7.50 inc glass of  
wine & nibbles

Celebrating a great new book, 'The Odditorium': The tricksters, eccentrics, deviants and inventors whose obsessions changed the world.' Co-authors, David Bramwell and Jo Keeling, will be present, along with contributor, John Higgs, to give a selection of some of these unforgettable characters. BBC Breakfast Show host, Chris Evans, was hooked.

David is a Sony Award-winning presenter on BBC Radio 3 and 4, creator of the best-selling Cheeky Guides, author of The No 9 Bus to Utopia and, according to the Radio Times, "a remarkable storyteller." John Higgs specialises in "finding unsuspected narratives hidden in obscure corners of our history and culture". A wonderful way to round off the main Festival!

Event kindly sponsored  
by Richmond Villages.

## TUESDAY 4TH JULY

### 'Teens tackle Shakespeare'

7.30 pm

Almonry Garden

£5 inc glass of wine/juice

A unique addition to The Festival of Words, this event highlights the love of Shakespeare's words by a group of teenagers. Following on from their performance last year at the RSC, The Festival Players, directed by Eric Jones, bring together teenagers, who love acting, for an evening of monologues and excerpts from major works. These youngsters enjoy rehearsing some of the extraordinary characters whom Shakespeare, and others, created. A perfect way to spend a summer's evening – bring a picnic chair!

## TUESDAY 22ND AUGUST

### 'M – Maxwell Knight: MI5's Greatest Spymaster'

7.30 pm

Evesham Rowing Club

£5

Everybody loves a spy story! Not everyone may have heard of Maxwell Knight. In a gripping talk, Henry Hemming tells of two remarkable female spies and the man who ran them: an animal-loving drop-out who went on to become MI5's greatest spymaster. Get to know more about Maxwell Knight, an inspiration for the James Bond 'M'.

Henry Hemming is author of four non-fiction books, including a New York Times Bestseller. M will be the

first biography of Maxwell Knight in over thirty years, and draws on a wealth of material released by MI5 as well as previously unpublished material. Bound to be a fascinating evening.

## FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

### 'Died Blondes'

7pm

Raphael's Restaurant,  
Hampton Ferry

£10, inc supper

Following the success of her first one woman show, award-winning author, Joan Ellis, is showcasing in 2017 a new solo presentation, 'Died Blondes'. In death, two so-called dumb blondes, Marilyn Monroe and Ruth Ellis find their voice. What secrets might Hollywood legend and John F Kennedy's mistress, Marilyn Monroe, have shared with ex-husband Joe DiMaggio during her final ever phone call? And how would Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, explain to lover David Blakely why she shot him? Infamous women. Famous last words. Reimagined by writer, performer, Joan Ellis. Ticket includes supper (no need to eat before!).

## MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER

### 'Mona Lisa: The People and the Painting'

12 noon

Holland House, Crophorne

£15, inc 2-course lunch

Come along and enjoy a drink and a 2-course lunch in the delightful surroundings of Holland House, followed by a fascinating talk by Professor Martin Kemp, who will

uncover the true story of the Mona Lisa with a wealth of previously undiscovered revelations about the people behind the portrait, how Leonardo painted it, and what it meant to him. Martin Kemp is Emeritus Professor in the History of Art at Trinity College, Oxford University, and is one of the world's leading authorities on Leonardo da Vinci. 'Mona Lisa: The People and the Painting' by Martin Kemp and Giuseppe Pallanti is published by OUP, June 2017.

Tickets available from Holland House. [www.hollandhouse.org](http://www.hollandhouse.org).  
Tel: 01386 860330.

## SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

### Bookfest

10.30 am - 3.30 pm

Almonry

Meet a host of local authors and poets for advice and chat. Poetry Booth. Books for sale – perfect for last minute Christmas presents. Free refreshments.

## THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

### 'Dickens Penny Readings'

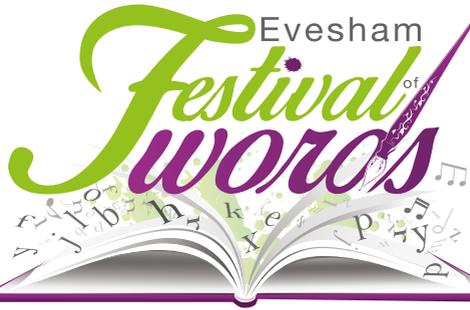
As part of the Almonry Christmas celebrations, we feature Cambridge-based Geoff Hales for a legendary performance of some of Charles Dickens' 'Penny Readings'.

(Further details on times and tickets on our website or the Almonry).



**Festival Map**

1. Almonry
2. Abbey Remains  
Bell Tower
3. All Saints Church
4. Market Place/Town  
Hall/Red Lion Pub
5. Abbey Park and  
riverside walk
6. Friends Meeting  
House, Cowl Street
7. Library
8. Unitarian Chapel,  
Oat Street
9. Wallace House, Oat  
Street
10. Evesham Arts  
Centre
11. Northwick Hotel
12. Evesham Hotel
13. Hampton Ferry and  
Raphael's Cafe
14. The Valley



# Evesham Festival of Words

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## Evesham Festival of Words 2018

Save the date – Friday 29th June – Sunday 1st July!  
Short Story Competition – launch date 1st November  
2017. Closing date: Friday 23rd March 2018.

### A huge thank you to:

**Our wonderful contributors, audiences, volunteers and Festival Patrons:** TV and Radio presenter, Michael Collie; local MP, Nigel Huddleston; TV presenter and comedian, Alistair McGowan.

**Sponsors and supporters:** Alisons Bookshop, Tewkesbury; Allchurch Bailey; Almonry Museum & Heritage Centre; Cotswold and Vale Magazine; Evesham Library; Evesham Town Council; Holland House; Jellypicklejam; Red Lion Pub; Richmond Villages; Rooftop Housing Group; The Rotary Club of Evesham; Tesco; Undervale Ltd; VECTA; The Wealth Group; and Wychavon District Council.

**Local businesses which supported production of this Festival Brochure:** Abbey Appliances; Achille (Hairdressers); Birlingham Photography Club; Evesham Hotel and Spa; Knights of Evesham; Dave Purser, Master Butcher; Raphael's Restaurant; Steve Roberts, Professional Painting & Decorating Services; Tom the Barber; Vale Balloons; Word of Mouth Café.

**Festival brochure design:** Kitty Kovacevic  
**Printing and production:** Create Design and Print, Port Street, Evesham  
**Website design and support:** Mercia Digital



THE WEALTH GROUP

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