



MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND

29th June – 1st July 2018

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

[www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

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FEATURING: A HOST OF FABULOUS EVENTS (WRITERS, PLAYS, POETRY, MUSIC, WORKSHOPS), A FULL WEEKEND OF FREE EVENTS FOR CHILDREN, AND SO MUCH MORE!



[INFO@EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

 @INFOFoW #EVESHAMWORDS

 EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

# WELCOME



Who was it said 'time flies when you're having fun?' Building on two great years in 2016 and 2017, we have even more to tempt you with in 2018.

Celebrating words in all their forms, we have a fantastic selection of events, with a year-long 'fringe' and the main Festival weekend packed full of events from Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July. Whatever your interest – writing, reading, listening to writers, plays, poetry walks, there really is something for everyone. We even have Punch and Judy! Children have two full days of free activities to enjoy (see page 7). See pages 3 – 5, and 10, for 'fringe' events and pages 6 – 9 for the main Festival weekend.

Come along and enjoy all that our Festival has to offer, explore the town, make new friends, and spread the word! If you would like to be involved in helping with the Festival in any way, do get in touch.

**Sue Ablett**

**Festival Chair**

**On behalf of Evesham Festival  
of Words Steering Group**

*\* Photo By Ian Tustin*

## WHERE TO BUY 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:**

20 Allardene,  
Evesham,  
Worcestershire,  
WR11 1EA

Cheques payable to  
'Evesham Festival of  
Words'. Please include  
full contact details.

**The Almonry Museum &  
Tourist Information Centre**

**T: 01386 446944**

## Wanted - Six of the best!

Intrigued? The big Cotswold & Vale Magazine challenge for the 2018 Festival is Six Word Stories. We are asking you to produce just six words to tell as impactful a story as: "For sale: baby shoes. Never worn." Your masterpiece doesn't have to be as poignant as this one attributed to Ernest Hemingway. Make us laugh, cry or simply marvel at your word mastery.

All you have to do is send your entry, marked Six Word Story, to Cotswold & Vale Magazine:

**[competitions@valemagazine.co.uk](mailto:competitions@valemagazine.co.uk)**

Please include full name, address and daytime telephone number. If you are aged 16 or under, you also need to include your age and your guardian's permission to enter. By entering, you agree to the potential publication of your story.

**Closing date: 1st May**

## All year round

Remember that the monthly writers' meetings and Meet the Authors events continue throughout the year. Check our website and Facebook page for details.

For more information on any of the above, contact Sue Johnson:

**[sue.r.johnson@outlook.com](mailto:sue.r.johnson@outlook.com),  
or 01386 446477**

## Spread the Word



The Festival Steering Group would love your help in spreading the word about the Festival. If you are out and about in this country, or on some exotic jaunt overseas, make sure you have a Festival bookmark, book bag, Programme, or Short Story Anthology with you. Take some photos – arty, funny, quirky – the choice is yours. We will add them to our website, so email photos to:

[info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

## Festival Book Fairy



Our Festival 'Book Fairy' is going to be busy this summer depositing free books in selected venues around the town. They will be clearly marked with a Festival sticker. The idea is you take one, read it, let us know where you found it, then leave it for someone else to pick up. Enjoy and happy reading!

**FREE**

## Meet the Authors

**Second Friday of every month, 11am-12:30pm**  
**Evesham Library**

A monthly meet up with three local authors talking about their books. This is a great chance to hear about different writing styles and writer experiences. Everyone welcome.

**FREE**

## Writers Monthly Meets

**First Wednesday of every month, 10:30am**  
**Jellypicklejam**

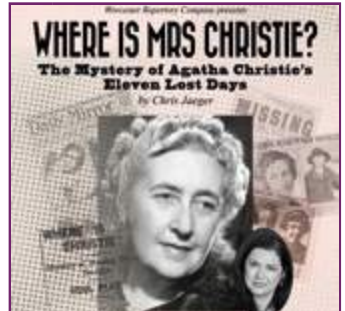
Local author Sue Johnson hosts an informal gathering of local writers and readers. A great opportunity for networking, swapping ideas, or just enjoying a chat and a cuppa!

**FREE**

## EFofW Flash Fiction Group

**Second Monday of every month, 2pm**  
**Brew Bear Cafe**

Attendees write a short piece to a previously agreed prompt and meet for one hour to read it, drink coffee, and receive feedback and ideas from other group members.



**£10\***

## Where is Mrs Christie?

**Tuesday 24th April, 7:30-9:30pm**  
**Evesham Town Hall**

Agatha Christie was one of the greatest and most prolific thriller writers of all time. In 1926 she was at the centre of a mystery as perplexing as any of her fiction; a series of events that sparked one of the biggest and most extensive manhunts in history. Her crashed car was discovered in Surrey and the famous author was missing, presumed dead by many, for eleven days. When she was later found at a luxury hotel in Harrogate, the author claimed to be suffering from amnesia and remembered nothing. Neither the press nor the police believed her.... Liz Grand plays Agatha in this wonderful one-woman show, presented by Worcester Repertory Company.

\*Ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles.





## **93** I am John Clare

**Thursday 3rd May, 7pm, Almonry**

After years of being addicted to poetical prosing, John Clare, known as the peasant poet, found himself committed to Northampton General Lunatic Asylum in the closing weeks of 1841. We join him there on the night of 8th March 1860. Subtitled 'One night with a poet in a madhouse', the Almonry provides the perfect setting for this one-man play, written by award-winning writer, Stephen Loveless, and performed by actor, fiddle-player and singer, Robin Hillman. The play will be followed by a Q & A session.

*\*Ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles.*

**£15\***

## Up with the Lark

**Thursday 24th May,  
6pm for 6:30pm  
Ellenden Farm Shop/Café,  
Harvington**

With a new venue for 2018, we are delighted to offer a 2-course asparagus supper at Ellenden Farm Shop/Café, Harvington. Supper will be followed by Evesham's very own 'Countryfile Farming Hero, 2015', Joan Bomford, talking about her book 'Up with the Lark: My Life on the Land.' A perfect summer's evening!

*\*Supper served prompt at 6.30pm. Pre-booking essential.*

**FREE**

## Great Big Poetry Read

**Tuesday 15th May, 2-4pm  
Wallace House**

An afternoon of readings from local poets and poetry groups. Meet some fellow poets, and maybe get inspired to start writing your own poetry.



**93**

## Laurie Lee – The Lost Recordings

**Thursday 14th June, 7:30pm  
Evesham Rowing Club**

David Parker has been a film producer for many years, making films for BBC, ITV and Channel 4. In 1994 he made a TV programme with Laurie Lee to mark his 80th birthday—quite a coup as Laurie did not 'do' television! David interviewed Laurie about his life in the Slad Valley, and the influence of the landscapes and memories of his childhood on his subsequent writing. In this session David will introduce the recordings, talk about how the film was made, and then show the 30 minute film.

**FREE**

## Books inspiring photos

**Early June – Mid July  
Evesham Library**

Come along and enjoy a month long exhibition of original photography by members of Birlingham Photography Club who were challenged with matching an image to a book title of their choice. The big question is ... which came first, the book or the photograph? All photographs will be for sale.

**FREE**

## Festival Bookshop Launch

**Friday 15th June, 7pm  
Almonry**

Over a glass of wine listen to readings from writers contributing to our 2018 Festival, chat to the writers, buy some books. Copies of books of participating authors will be on sale in the Almonry Festival Bookshop for a month until 15th July.



£5 PP\*

## Bookworms Quiz Night (\*Teams of 4)

**Wednesday 27th June, 7:30pm,  
Raphael's Restaurant**

Popular quizmasters, Helen Yendall and Chris Cherry, are back once again with more questions to tax your brain, or allow you to shine. Test your knowledge of novels, nursery rhymes, poetry, plays and all things 'wordy'.

*\*Supper included: pre-booking of teams essential.*

FREE

## Bridging the Gap

**Tuesday 26th June, 6:30pm  
Broadway Museum  
and Art Gallery**

Bridging the Gap is an intergenerational project between St Mary's Primary School and care home residents from Rooftop Housing in Broadway. With Rhubarb Rhubarb Creatives, the young people will gather information about WW1 and Broadway. Singer/songwriter Deborah Rose will then work with them to create their own songs based on the research. In this lovely setting you will hear the new songs performed. With free entry to the WW1 exhibition in the Museum.

*\* Pre-booking essential.  
Tel: 01386 859047*

£15/  
£10

## Romeo and Juliet

**Thursday 28th June, 7pm  
The Fleece, Bretforton**

The HandleBards are the world's first cycling theatre company. Before touring their "seriously silly" production of Romeo and Juliet around the world, they pedalled it 1500 miles around the UK by bicycle, with all the necessary set, props and costumes in tow. Now, the show is back by popular demand – and, in usual HandleBards style, expect riotous amounts of energy, a fair old whack of chaos, and a great deal of laughter.

Join the HandleBards' all-female troupe in the beautiful setting of The Fleece, Bretforton, for Romeo and Juliet as you've never seen it before! (We'll be in the garden weather permitting.) And what's the play about? Well – Romeo and Juliet fall in love, despite the fact that both their families hate each other. Hilarity ensues.... Well, sort of. *"Gloriously eccentric and very, very funny."* (The Stage)

A joint event with The Fleece, Bretforton.

**Tickets available from:  
[thefleeceinn.co.uk/whats-on/](http://thefleeceinn.co.uk/whats-on/)**

*\* £10 Tickets for under 18s.*



# MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND

£5\*

## A Traveller's Tales

**Friday 29th June,  
10:45-11:45am  
Wallace House**

Festival Chair Sue Ablett, is back with another 'travel talk with a literary twist', including tales of fabulous places, fascinating characters, storytelling, linguistic oddities from around the world, and so much more. Bound to be a fun session!

*\*Ticket includes tea and home-made cakes.*

£15\*

## How to market your self-published book

**Friday 29th June,  
11am-12:30pm  
Evesham Hotel**

So you've written and published a book - congratulations!

But how do you get it in front of readers without a traditional publishing company? Drawing on a variety of experience, and her own success as an indie author of fiction and non-fiction, local author, Debbie Young, will advise you how to set up and run an effective marketing campaign for next to no financial investment – and how to spend whatever budget you have wisely. This session will be suitable for both beginners wondering where to start and experienced indie authors wishing to expand their reach.

*\*Ticket includes tea and coffee.*

£3

## Juggling - writing, medicine and motherhood

**Friday 29th June, 2-3pm  
Evesham Hotel**

For 20 years Rachel Crowther worked as a doctor in the NHS before succumbing to a lifelong yearning to write fiction. She has an MA in Creative Writing, a string of prizes for her short fiction, and has recently published her third novel. Her second novel, 'The Things You Do for Love' received rave reviews, with Fay Weldon saying "A wonderful page-turner about the complexity of female life, by a new writer who understands it all too well."

£3

## Keeping the reader guessing

**Friday 29th June,  
3:30-4:30pm  
Evesham Hotel**

With writers Kate Riordan and Amanda Reynolds. Kate is a writer and journalist. After working on the staff of The Guardian and Time Out London, she left the capital and moved to the Cotswolds to concentrate on writing novels. Amanda Reynolds is a writer and creative writing tutor. A familiar face at Festival events, she is now on a sabbatical from teaching to write full-time. Her second book, Lying to You, is published in 2018.

FESTIVAL  
WEEKEND  
OPENER



£7.50\*

## High jinks & high seas

**Friday 29th June, 7-9pm  
Evesham Town Hall**

Amelia Dalton's best-selling book 'Mistress and Commander', described as "a page turner with attitude", is a tale of high jinks, high seas and Highlanders – the author's biographical adventures and a personal story which led her to buy and renovate a neglected arctic fishing trawler, creating a chic expedition ship. It is packed full of funny incidents, fascinating characters, and a story of personal discovery from family tragedy to learning to run the ship's engines. A heart-warming and inspiring story from a real live wire and a great speaker.

Amelia's talk will be followed by the presentation of prizes to the winners of our 2018 Festival of Words Short Story Competition.

*\*Ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles.*

# CHILDREN'S/ FAMILY EVENTS

**TWO FULL  
FUN-PACKED AND FREE  
DAYS FOR CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES.**



**FREE**

## Punch and Judy

**Saturday 30th June,  
11am & 2pm  
Market Place**

The British seaside comes to Evesham Market Place! Childhood memories of sitting on a beach at the seaside, usually freezing cold, watching Punch and Judy? Well, this summer, you only need go as far as the Market Place, as Mel Harvey does two performances of his traditional Punch and Judy show.

Not familiar with Punch and Judy? It is a puppet show, featuring Mr Punch and his long-suffering wife, Judy. A truly unique event – quite hard to put into words – you really need to come along and see for yourself. You'll have the chance to join in the fun. Perfect for all members of the family, young and old!

**FREE\***

## Story Chefs

**SATURDAY CHILDREN'S EVENTS**  
KINDLY  
SPONSORED BY  
**ROOFTOP  
HOUSING  
GROUP**

**Saturday 30th June, Two Sessions  
Evesham Library**



**Session 1 (for 3-7yr olds),  
12:30-1:30pm**

An interactive session where Staffordshire writer, Lindsey Bailey, will be reading an excerpt from her debut children's book, 'The Cape of Courage', inviting the young (and young at heart) to join in with some role play and a creative writing activity.

**Session 2 (for 7-11yr olds),  
2:30-3:20pm**

This interactive session encourages young writers to release their creativity and let their imagination run wild! Head Chef, Lindsey Bailey, brings the 'Fiction Kitchen' to Evesham this June, providing all the ingredients needed to cook up a tasty tale or two.

*\*Story Chefs sessions are free but please reserve a place through The Almonry (tel: 01386 446944) or email [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)  
Children must be accompanied.*

**FREE\***

## Crafter's Companion Crafty Sessions

**Sunday 1st July,  
1hr workshops starting at: 11am/12:30pm/2pm/3:30pm  
Crafter's Companion, The Valley**

Four identical hour-long crafty workshops will give children the chance to design their own notebook/journal that they can take home to write their thoughts or feelings, or write poems and stories.

All materials supplied. Just bring your imagination!

Suitable for children aged 4+

All children must be accompanied.

Free face painting from 11am - 4pm.

*\*14 places per workshop – pre-book on:  
<http://bit.ly/Evesham-classes>*

**SUNDAY CHILDREN'S EVENTS**  
KINDLY  
SPONSORED BY  
**CRAFTER'S  
COMPANION**

# MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND



£5\*

## From Newsdesk to Novelist

**Saturday 30th June,  
10:30-11:30am**

### Friends Meeting House

Jackie Kabler spent more than 9 years with GMTV as a news correspondent and presenter, during which she covered some of the biggest stories of the decade, including President Clinton's impeachment trial, the Kosovo crisis, and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. In 2014 she fulfilled a long-held dream and signed a three-book deal with Accent Press. Her debut novel, 'The Dead Dog Day', was released in October 2015. A humorous murder mystery set in a television newsroom, it became an Amazon top 25 bestseller. 'The Deadline' followed and book number three, 'The Development', is published May 2018.

*\* Ticket includes tea & home-made cake.*



£5\*

## A Day in the Life...

**Saturday 30th June, 12-1pm  
Friends Meeting House**

An eloquent and brilliantly funny speaker, Ayisha Malik is a British Muslim born and raised in London. She holds a BA in English Literature and Sociology, and a First Class MA in Creative Writing. She has spent various spells teaching, photocopying, volunteering, being a publicist and an editor. Her debut novel, 'Sofia Khan is Not Obligated' was followed by the sequel 'The Other Half of Happiness' which were both met with critical acclaim, and she was a WHSmith Fresh Talent Pick in 2016. Ayisha is now a full-time writer and is working on her third novel, as well as being the ghost writer for Great British Bake Off winner, Nadiya Hussain. Highly talented, Ayisha's books are crammed with witty humour.

*\*Ticket includes tea and home-made cake.*

FREE

## Open Mic

**Saturday 30th June,  
1:30-3:00 pm, Red Lion Pub**

Come along to read/perform your poetry or prose in this Open Mic session, once again compèred by former Worcestershire Poet Laureate, and colourful character, Fergus McGonigal.



FREE

## Down the Old Asum Road

**Saturday 30th June,  
3:15-4:45pm, Red Lion Pub**

The popular Dallimore brothers (Will and John) return for a bit more chat in our very own Asum dialect – see if you can make out a word of what they are saying! They are joined this year by lovers of all things Evesham, local singer/songwriter, Colin Pitts, and poets Bob Woodrooffe and Sue Johnson, who will be performing songs and poems from their new CD, entitled 'A Town Like Evesham'. Sit back and enjoy the fun!



# MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND

£10

## More than Words

**Saturday 30th June, 7:30pm**  
**Bengeworth Church**

EODS are back! This award winning group is again presenting an evening of songs and readings. Musical numbers that have been influenced by famous novelists, writers and poets are included, plus some extracts from well-known books.

Their talent is amazing, the setting superb, and you are sure to be in for an unforgettable evening. In fact, we guarantee you will be singing all the way home!

*\*Ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles.*

FREE

## Poetry Walk

**Sunday 1st July,**  
**10:30-12noon**  
**Meet at the Almonry**

Popular local poet, Polly Stretton, returns once again to lead the Poetry Walk through Evesham's most scenic sites around Abbey Park. With poems performed along the way, the Walk culminates in the beautiful garden of the Almonry. Sunshine definitely on our wish list! Why not stay on for the next event in the lovely setting of The Almonry garden?



\*£6

## Flash Fiction & Afternoon Tea

**Sunday 1st July, 2-4pm**  
**Almonry Gardens**

If afternoon tea, with scones, home-made cake, and the beautiful setting of the Almonry Garden appeals, then this is the event for you, and there is more on offer. 'Flash Fiction & Afternoon Tea' will include not just a nice tea, but readings of flash fiction by Sue Johnson, Roz Levens, and writers who took part in our 19th March Flash Fiction Workshop. Come along and enjoy the stories, and maybe find some inspiration of your own. Fingers crossed for a sunny afternoon!

*\*Pre-booking essential.*



£10\*

## Old Herbaceous

**Sunday 1st July, 7pm**  
**Evesham Town Hall**

Giles Shenton is superb as the lovable title character, Herbert Pinnegar, in this one-man play, 'Old Herbaceous'. Herbert has spent his life as a gardener at 'the big house'. The set is a very realistic greenhouse, in which Herbert potters and chats about his first day at work, his rise up the ranks to head gardener, to officiating for the RHS. All of this takes place under the tender but ever class-conscious protection and encouragement of his beloved employer, Mrs Charteris. Dubbed 'Downton Abbey with gardening tips', and touching on a portrayal of relationships between the classes in a gentler, simpler age, this is an hour and a half of sheer delight, which will keep the audience engrossed from the opening sentence.

*\*Ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles.*





# POST-FESTIVAL FRINGE

£15\*

## Writing Serials for Women's Magazines

**Sunday 8th July, 2-3:30pm**  
**Friends Meeting House**

Some of our best-known writers wrote serials for popular magazines, so if that's your aim, you'll be in good company. In this workshop with Helen Yendall we'll look at the building blocks of serial writing, including plot, point of view, character, pace, suspense and those all-important cliff-hangers. We'll also discuss the requirements for individual magazines. This workshop is aimed at those who've already done some writing (e.g. short stories) and who would like the challenge of writing something longer.

*\*Ticket includes tea and home-made cake.*

£5

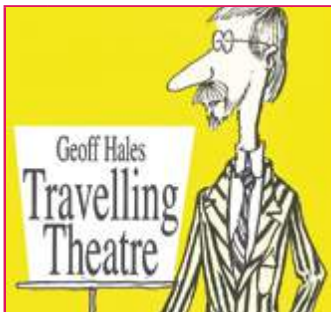
## Fifty not out: The six sixes revisited

**Tuesday 28th August, 7:30pm**  
**Evesham Rowing Club**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Garry Sobers hitting an historic 36 runs off one over at Swansea in August 1968, Grahame Lloyd recalls both the famous feat and the mysterious fate of the ball bowled by Malcolm Nash. An iconic moment, a disturbing tale of fake news and a whodunit? - with a ball



instead of a body. This event will appeal to cricket lovers and anyone who likes a good old mystery story. Grahame Lloyd has been a freelance broadcaster and journalist for nearly 37 years.



£13\*

## One Man in a Boat

**Friday 21st September, 7pm**  
**Raphael's Restaurant**

Geoff Hales follows his acclaimed Festival debut (readings at the 2017 Almonry Christmas event), with a Travelling Theatre performance. 'One Man in a Boat' is about Jerome K. Jermone, the author of 'Three Men in a Boat'. The play begins in France in 1915, where Jerome was serving as an ambulance driver in the French army. He looks back on his life, recalling a particularly Victorian childhood, his brief acting career and the writing of his comic masterpiece, from which he reads some of the most famous episodes.

*\*Ticket includes supper. Pre-booking essential.*

£10\*

## From the Inside: Short Fiction Competitions - Tips and Tactics

**Saturday 27th October, 2:30-4:30pm, Almonry**

Vanessa Gebbie's short fictions have won or been placed in the top three in many short story competitions, including the Bridport Prize, the Fish Prize (twice), and Willesden Herald. She now acts as final judge for many competitions. In this packed event, she will share her inside knowledge, and help you answer questions such as: How do I know which competitions are best? How do I sharpen my story? Why should I pay to enter competitions? Do the rules really matter? Bring your own questions too - there will be discussion and Q & A to maximise your chances of rising to the top!

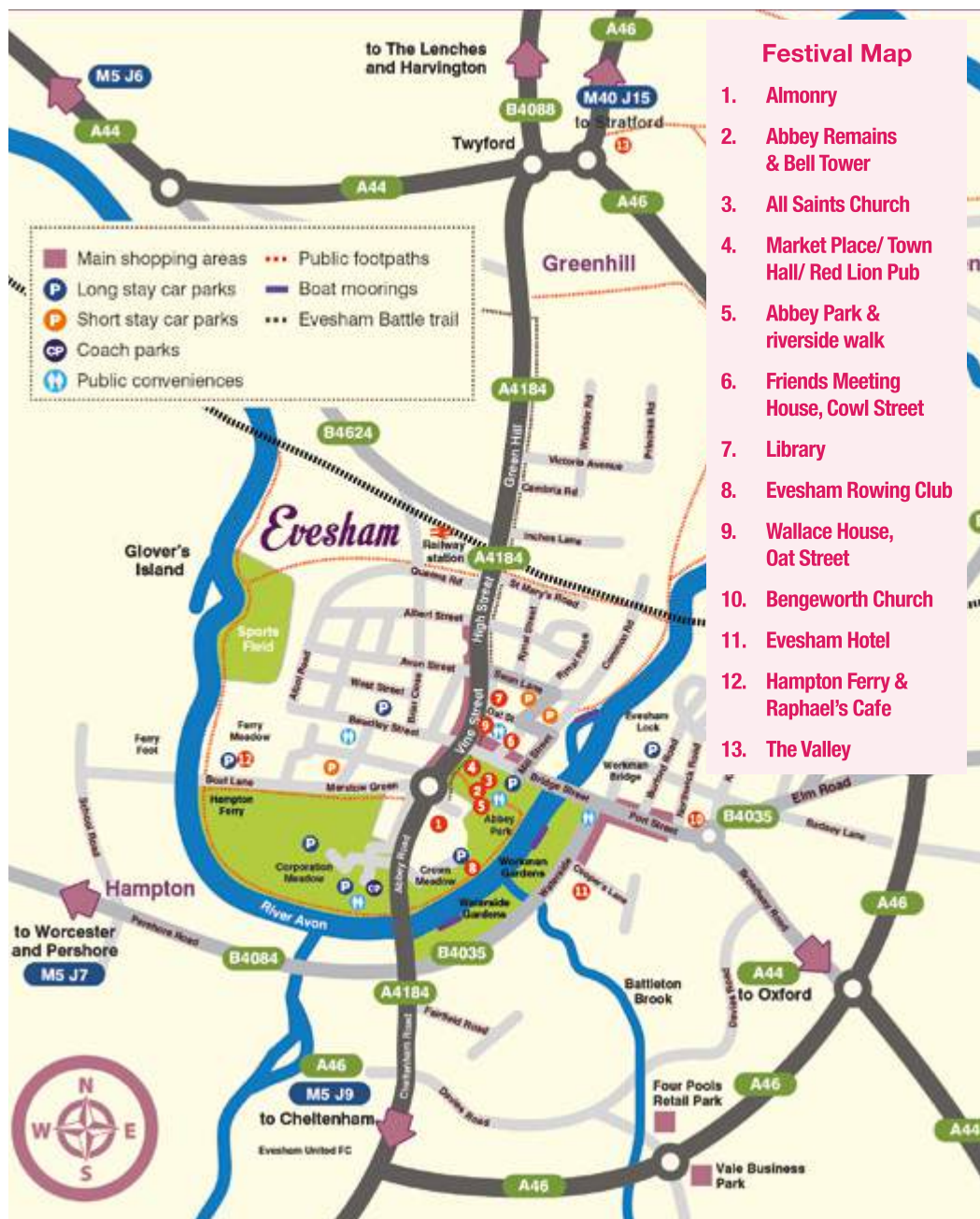
*\*Ticket includes tea and biscuits.*

FREE

## Christmas Wordy Quiz Sheet

**Available from Saturday 1st December**

Our 2018 'Christmas Wordy Quiz Sheet' will be out from 1st December, with a closing date of Saturday 5th January 2019. £10 book token to the winner. Copies of the Quiz will be emailed out to everyone on the Festival distribution list, also available to download from the Festival website, or pick up at The Almonry.



## EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2019

Save the Date  
Friday 28th - Sunday 30th June,  
with year long 'fringe' events.

Short Story Competition  
Launch date 1st November 2018.  
Closing date: Friday 22nd March 2019

# Evesham Festival of Words

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:**

Alison's Bookshop, Tewkesbury; Almonry Museum & Tourist Information Centre;  
Broadway Museum & Art Gallery; Cotswold and Vale Magazine; Crafter's  
Companion; Ellenden Farm Shop & Café, Harvington; Evesham Cricket Club;  
Evesham Library; The Fleece, Bretforton; Holland House; Jellypicklejam;  
Red Lion Pub; The Rotary Club of Evesham; Tesco; and Undervale Ltd.

**Local businesses which supported production of this Festival Brochure:**

Abbey Appliances; Birlingham Photography Club; Delicious Cafe; Evesham Hotel  
and Spa; Knights of Evesham; Dave Purser, Master Butcher; Raphael's Restaurant;  
Steve Roberts, Professional Painting & Decorating Services; and Vale Press Ltd.

**Festival brochure design:** Kitty Kovacevic

**Printing and production:** Vale Press Ltd

**Website design and support:** Mercia Digital

**Major Sponsors:**



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