



2023 OUTLINE PROGRAMME – SAVE THE DATE!

Date	Time	Event
Sat 11 March	10.30 am – 12 noon	Workshop: ‘Poetry within our Architecture’ with Rhianna Levi , Worcs Poet Laureate (Zoom Event) <i>See how you can be inspired by the glorious architecture in Worcestershire, and pick up tips on how to use your surroundings to create poetry.</i>
Thurs 24 March	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	Illustrated Talk: ‘No Man is an Island – the Life and Poetry of John Donne’ with Jeremy Holmes (Holland House, Crophorne Friendly Lunch) Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. <i>John Donne was controversial even in the 17th century. He gave some of the best sermons ever, but was forever conscious of his own mortality. As he said: “Ask not for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee.”</i>
Fri 7 April	2.30 pm	Afternoon tea at Raphael’s Restaurant, Evesham, with David Howe talking about ‘80 Years of Desert Island Discs’ <i>David is a popular speaker with the Festival. Join us as he takes us down memory lane with Desert Island Discs.</i>
Fri 21 April	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	Illustrated Talk: ‘Gloucestershire Observed’ with Tony Conder (Holland House, Crophorne Friendly Lunch) Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. <i>In this talk Tony looks at events inside and outside Gloucestershire, as recorded by inhabitants and visitors to the county in their journals and diaries.</i>
Tues 9 May	7.00 pm	Supper and Talk: ‘Producing the BBC’s Antiques Roadshow’ with Robert Arley Cornmill Yard, Cheltenham Road, Evesham. <i>Enjoy a great supper, followed by retired TV producer, Robert Arley, explaining how “100 experts turn an unpredictable day of location filming into a smooth Sunday evening show.”</i>
Wed 10 May	7.00 – 9.00 pm	‘Poetry Evening with Open Mic’ (with Anna Saunders and Beth Brooke) <i>In conjunction with Cheltenham Poetry Festival, enjoy a fabulous and inspiring evening of poetry. (Zoom event)</i>
Wed 24 May	11.00 am – 1.00 pm	Guided Walk: ‘In the Footsteps of Laurie Lee round the Village of Slad’ with David Parker <i>Meet at The Woolpack in the delightful village of Slad to join TV producer David Parker for a special guided tour of the village enshrined in much of Laurie Lee’s work. Treat yourself afterwards to a nice pub lunch!</i>

Date	Time	Event
Wed 24 May	7.00 pm	'An Evening with Screenwriter Tony Grounds' Evesham Rowing Club <i>Tony is the creator and writer of BBC One's Our Girl. He talks about his writing career, his breakthrough into writing for television, and the origins of Our Girl.</i>
Fri 2 June	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	Illustrated Talk: 'Richard III: from Car Park to Cathedral' with Pete Hobson (Holland House, Crophorne Friendly Lunch) Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. <i>The story of the discovery of Richard III in a car park in Leicester is well-known. Described as "The man Leicester Cathedral chose to bury a king", Pete Hobson offers a unique perspective on Richard's journey from discovery to final reburial.</i>
Wed 7 June	7.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'DNA Detectives' with Professor Turi King Evesham Rowing Club <i>Turi King is the expert geneticist on the hit BBC series DNA Family Secrets. In this talk she will chart the rise in the use of DNA in genealogy and forensics – everything from immigration cases to identifying the remains of Richard III.</i>
Sat 24 June	7.30 pm	Concert: 'A Novel Show' with EODS (Evesham Operatic and Dramatic Society) Bengeworth Church, Evesham. <i>Back again by very popular demand we are delighted to link up with EODS for an evening of wonderful music in the beautiful setting of Bengeworth Church.</i>
Thurs 29 June	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Guided Walk: 'Literary Links' A 5-mile walk round the villages of Alderton and Dumbleton (Joint event with Evesham Walking Festival) <i>Sample beautiful countryside and learn about some of the literary links associated with this area. Why not stay on and enjoy a pub lunch at the end?</i>
Thurs 29 June	7.30 pm	'An Evening of Words and Music' with Colin Pitts and John Raphael Studio Theatre, The Henrician, Evesham. <i>Colin and John were a real hit in 2022 and we are thrilled to welcome them back in 2023 for another fabulous evening of words and song.</i>
Fri 30 June	10.30 am - 12.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'More from the Family Tree' with Sue Ablett, Noelle Chambers and Galen Bartholomew 117 High Street, Evesham. <i>Following on from last year's popular talk, Sue, Noelle and Galen share yet more fascinating family history findings. You couldn't make it up!</i>
Fri 30 June	2.00 – 3.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'A journey from exotic 18th century Mughal India to Europe' with Moin Mir 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Moin Mir's latest book, The Lost Fragrance of Infinity, is a novel bridging East and West through the life of a wandering tile maker. Described as a book that appeals to both the head and the heart. Moin was last with us in 2019.</i>
Fri 30 June	3.30 – 4.30 pm	Talk: 'Confessions of a Book Blurb Writer' with Louise Wilder 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Louise Wilder has blurbed more than 5000 books. She reckons that most of us will read – or skim – more book blurbs than books in our lifetime. Join us to learn what makes a good book blurb.</i>

Date	Time	Event
Fri 30 June	7.30 pm	'Festival Quiz Night' with quizmasters Helen Yendall and Chris Cherry (Teams of 4) Raphael's Restaurant. Light supper included. <i>A regular Festival feature and always a hugely popular evening.</i>
Sat 1 July	10.30 am – 12.30 pm	Workshop: 'Winning Words' with El Rhodes 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Join award winning writer, El Rhodes, for a session that focusses on writing fantastic flash and super short stories that really stand out from the crowd.</i>
Sat 1 July	10.45 – 11.45 am	'An interview with TV presenter and crime writer, Jackie Kabler' Friends Meeting House, Evesham <i>Jackie is author of a series of three cosy crime murder mysteries set in a TV newsroom. Her latest bestselling psychological thrillers have sold nearly three quarters of a million books and been translated into 8 languages.</i>
Sat 1 July	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'Sherlock Holmes – A Man of Many Faces but Surprisingly Few Hats' with Martin Davies Friends Meeting House, Evesham <i>In this talk Martin takes a light-hearted look at the great man's development over time – through film, radio and spin off works.</i>
Sat 1 July	3.00 – 4.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'Blenheim Palace – Behind the Scenes' with Antonia Kearney Friends Meeting House <i>Antonia is a social history researcher at Blenheim Palace and comes with a wealth of fascinating facts and stories about this wonderful palace.</i>
Sat 1 July	7.00 pm	Author Talk: 'An Evening with best-selling author Sophie Hannah' Evesham Rowing Club <i>Sophie Hannah is a Sunday Times/New York Times best-selling author, also described as the Queen of Psychological Suspense. She is also author of a number of new Hercule Poirot novels.</i>
Sun 2 July	10.30 am – 12.30 pm	Workshop 'Creative Non-Fiction' with Simon Whaley Hampton Community Hall <i>Creative Non-Fiction is about being creative in how we convey facts, whether writing travel, biography or memoir. This workshop will explore creative techniques that make your true stories read like fiction.</i>
Sun 2 July	2.00 – 3.00 pm	'An interview with author Joanna Cannon' followed by tea/scones/jam/cake Friends Meeting House <i>Joanna is best-selling author of The Trouble with Goats and Sheep, and Three Things about Elsie. Her new novel, A Tidy Ending, has been highly acclaimed.</i>
Sun 2 July	7.00 pm	'Desert Island Poems' with Festival Patron, Alistair McGowan Venue to be confirmed <i>Alistair McGowan is best known as an impressionist, comic, actor, singer and writer. Join us for a very special evening as he shares his love of poetry, and which poems he would take to that desert island.</i>

Date	Time	Event
Wed 26 July	7.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'The Great Train Robbery – 60 Years On' with Ian Boskett Evesham Rowing Club <i>Ian's talk is the result of years of research into the Great Train Robbery and meeting people with stories to tell. His personal goal was to work out how the robbers stopped the train travelling at 95 mph!</i>
Wed 2 Aug	7.00 pm	Illustrated talk: 'Fake News: from Henry VIII to Covid' with Derek Taylor Evesham Rowing Club <i>In this talk historian and international journalist, Derek Taylor, tracks the long and bloody fight between the media and the mighty, and explains how neither side has always told the truth.</i>
Friday 13 Oct	12.30 for 1.00 pm lunch	Illustrated talk 'SS Suevic – A tale of Shipwreck and Survival' with Galen Bartholomew (Holland House, Crophorne Friendly Lunch) Tickets incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. <i>An amazing tale of shipwreck and survival. Miraculously no lives were lost and two of Galen's relatives were among those rescued.</i>
Sat 18 Nov	7.00 pm	One woman play: 'Mrs Churchill – My Life with Winston' with Liz Grand Bengeworth Church <i>They say that behind every great man, there is a great woman. Was this true in Churchill's case? What of Clementine, his wife for 56 years? Did Clem have any influence or was she 'the little lady at home'?</i>

Further details of all these and other, events, including ticket prices, will be on the Festival website (www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org) by the beginning of 2023.

For more information on any of the above, or for ticket enquiries, please email: Festival Chair, Sue Ablett (info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org) or tel: 0787 1285606.

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Payment for all the Festival events can be made as follows:

By paypal from the Festival website.

By BACS (Bank details – Account name: Evesham Festival of Words; Sort code: 30-80-34; Account No. 54420160). Please email details of events and no. of tickets paid for.

By cheque payable to 'Evesham Festival of Words' and sent to Sue Ablett, 28 Anthony Drive, Thurnby, Leicester. LE7 9RA. Please send details of events with cheque.



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