



# stroud

book festival

**A CELEBRATION  
OF STORIES, IDEAS  
AND COMMUNITY  
FOR READERS OF  
ALL AGES**

**2nd - 6th  
November 2022**

[stroudbookfestival.org.uk](http://stroudbookfestival.org.uk)



© Mark Levy



stroudbookfestival



@bookstroud



@stroudbookfestival



Photo © Tammy Kwan,  
from the 2021  
Stroud Book Festival

## Festival greetings from Mary Portas

### **Two of my favourite things: books and Stroud.**

My relationship with books has changed so much over the years. As a child, I would watch my mother read poets and thinkers, intrigued by the world she disappeared into when she read. As a young woman, I thought I didn't have the time but was it really that I didn't make the space? As I've got older though, books have played an increasingly important role in my life.

Today, they truly are one of my greatest pleasures. Because within the pages of what I read, I am constantly challenged, provoked, salved and deepened.

A world without books would be a bleak place. And what better place to celebrate them than Stroud. In both, I find inspiration, comfort and connection.

So Happy Stroud Book Festival.

With love and admiration,

Mary



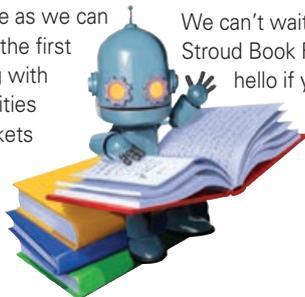
# Dear Festival Friends

The seventh annual Stroud Book Festival is almost here!

Our ambition each year is to produce a programme with a distinctly Stroud flavour that will entertain, start conversations, help us grapple with world events, spark joy, and celebrate the myriad possibilities of the written word. We hope very much that you'll find something to whet your reading appetite as you look through this programme.

In light of the cost of living crisis, we have maintained ticket prices at £10 for most adult events, whilst the majority of our children's events are now £6 a ticket (a small rise of £1, but still competitive compared with other festivals).

We are committed to encouraging and enabling as broad an audience as we can to attend our events, and for the first time this year will be working with local parish councils and charities to make a number of free tickets available.



We would like to thank all of our sponsors, funders and supporters (see back cover) for helping us make this year's Festival happen. As always, our Stroud Book Festival directors and committee have given us invaluable advice and support over the past year. A huge shout out to our brilliant band of Festival volunteers who help make the staging of our events run smoothly.

Finally, we'd like to thank our 2022 Festival illustrator, Mark Levy, for creating such a wonderfully vibrant design for us this year: we all absolutely love it and hope you do too. You'll find his icons and swirls throughout this brochure: our younger Festival goers should keep a special look out for his junior robot, waving to designate our children's events.

We can't wait to welcome you to this year's Stroud Book Festival: please come and say hello if you spot us.

Love from **Shannon, Caroline, Jane, Dominique & Camilla.**



*Jane Churchill*



*Camilla Hale*



*Shannon Newton*



*Caroline Sanderson*



*Dominique Shead*

## Buy the Book



The Festival team loves independent bookshops and encourages you to support them. We are delighted to be working with Stroud Bookshop, who will be selling books at all the events held at the Subscription Rooms and Lansdown Hall. In some cases, a limited number of signed copies will be available.

**Stroud Bookshop**  
**23 High Street, Stroud GL5 1AJ**  
**[www.stroudbookshop.com](http://www.stroudbookshop.com)**  
**01453 756646**  
**[stroudbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:stroudbookshop@gmail.com).**

Scan this QR code to go straight to all our event listings online.





## Sunday October 30

**Stroud Short Stories No.25 'Time'** (19.30 Cotswold Playhouse)..... 6

## Wednesday November 2

**The Laurie Lee Prize for Writing: Our 2022 Winners**

(18.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 7

**Wordsounds & Songlines** with Emily Barker, Chris Cundy, Lukas Drinkwater & Adam Horovitz (20.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 7

## Thursday & Friday November 3 & 4

**Stroud Book Festival Schools' Days** with Emma Carroll, Jasbinder Bilan, John Agard, Matt Goodfellow & Lydia Monks (Sub Rooms) ..... 9

## Thursday November 3

**The Green Start-Up** with Juliet Davenport (18.00 Lansdown Hall) .. 10

**Poetry Night with John Agard** (18.30 Sub Rooms)..... 10

**Nomad Century** with Gaia Vince (20.00 Lansdown Hall)..... 11

**In My Grandfather's Shadow** with Angela Findlay (20.30 Sub Rooms) ..... 13

## Friday November 4

**How Britain Broke the World** with Arthur Snell (18.00 Lansdown Hall) ..... 13

**About a Son** with David Whitehouse (18.30 Sub Rooms) ..... 14

**The Lighthouse of Stalingrad** with Iain MacGregor (20.00 Lansdown Hall) ..... 14

**Bitch** with Lucy Cooke (20.30 Sub Rooms) ..... 15

## Saturday November 5

**Sowing the Seed: Starting to Write**

A Dialect Workshop with JLM Morton (10.00 Museum in the Park)..... 17

**Sherlock Bones Puzzle Adventure** with Tim Collins (10.00 Lansdown Hall) ..... 17

**What the Ladybird Heard & Other Tales** with Julia Donaldson, Lydia Monks & friends (11.30 Sub Rooms) ..... 19

**Meet the Cat in the Hat!** Storytelling Sessions with Jo Bousfield (13.30 & 14.45 Stroud Library) ..... 19

**Escape Room** with Christopher Edge (13.30 Lansdown Hall)..... 20

**A Pinch of Magic:** A Magical Objects Writing Workshop with Michelle Harrison (15.30 Museum in the Park) ..... 20

**When the Dust Settles** with Professor Lucy Easthope (11.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 21

**Companion Piece** with Ali Smith (14.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 21

**When Words Are Not Enough** with Jane Harris, Jimmy Edmonds & Kathryn Mannix (15.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 23

**Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries** with Kate Mosse (16.00 Sub Rooms)..... 23

**Faber Proof Party** with Eliza Clark, Dizz Tate & Charlotte Vassell (17.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 24



**My Pen is the Wing of a Bird: New Fiction by Afghan Women**  
with Lucy Hannah & Zarghuna Kargar (18.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 24

**Harold Fry & Maureen Fry** with Rachel Joyce & Juliet Dowling  
(19.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 25

**The Power of Protest** with Gail Bradbrook, Howard Caygill  
& Sabrina Pace-Humphreys (20.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 26

## Sunday November 6

**Supertato Presents: Evil Pea & the Beanstalk!**  
with Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet (10.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 27

**Shifty McGifty & Slippery Sam: Pirates Ahoy!**  
with Tracey Corderoy (11.45 Lansdown Hall) ..... 28

**Are You Made of Stardust?** with Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock  
(12.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 28

**Friendship Across the Divide: Wartime Stories**  
with Jamila Gavin & Hilary McKay (13.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 30

**Charcoal Drawing Children's Workshop** with William Grill  
(15.30 Museum in the Park) ..... 30

**Everyday Acts of Care** with Kate Mosse & Madeleine Bunting  
(10.00 Lansdown Hall) ..... 31

**Writing in Spite of It All** with Rachel Marks & Penny Parkes  
(14.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 31

**In the Heat of the Summer** with Kate Riordan & Jane Bailey  
(15.30 Lansdown Hall) ..... 33

**brother.do.you.love.me** with Manni & Reuben Coe  
(16.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 33

**Lessons** with Ian McEwan (18.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 34

**Good Pop, Bad Pop** with Jarvis Cocker (20.00 Sub Rooms) ..... 35





# Stroud — Arts Festival

**76th Stroud Arts Festival**  
**19 - 23 October 2022**

- Connections -

A 5 day feast of music, drama, film and art,  
celebrating nationally renowned and locally  
produced artists and performers

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



Sponsored by



**BREWIN DOLPHIN**



# STROUD SHORT STORIES <sup>10</sup> YEARS

19.30 (doors 19.00) | Cotswold Playhouse

This 25th event from the brilliant Stroud Short Stories, run by John Holland, brings an evening of short stories on the theme of TIME, written and read by Gloucestershire authors; some professional writers, some skilled amateurs, some complete beginners.

Now in its 11th year and proclaimed by Cheltenham Literature Festival as 'possibly the best short story event in the South West', SSS's considerable reputation is based on the unfailingly high quality of the stories read at its events.

Ten stories are selected for each event from the hundred or so submitted. John's co-judge for this event is the award-winning short story author and four times SSS reader, Chloe Turner.

SSS events almost always sell out in advance, so you should book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are available from the Cotswold Playhouse website, [www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk).

More information from the SSS website –  
[stroudshortstories.blogspot.com](http://stroudshortstories.blogspot.com)



## The Laurie Lee Prize for Writing: Our 2022 Winners

18.00-19.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | Free (no ticket required)

This year, Stroud Book Festival was proud to launch The Laurie Lee Prize for Writing. The idea of best-selling Stroud writer, Katie Fforde, the Prize has been established with the blessing of Laurie Lee's family, and his literary estate.

Open to writers currently resident in Gloucestershire, and to those who were born in the county, submitted writing – whether fiction, non-fiction or poetry – had to be on a nature or conservation theme.

We're delighted to launch Stroud Book Festival 2022 with this celebration of the work of our two inaugural prize winners.

Come along to hear from our prize judges, meet our winners, and listen to readings of the winning entries.



Emily Barker



Chris Cundy



Lukas Drinkwater



Adam Horovitz

## Wordsounds & Songlines

Emily Barker, Chris Cundy, Lukas Drinkwater & Adam Horovitz

20.00-21.30 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

What's the relationship between words and music? How does music interact with and change the approach to words? And when does poetry become song lyric, and vice versa?

On the opening night of Stroud Book Festival, we meld poetry and music in an enchanting exploration of these questions, with the help of some of Stroud's finest poets and musicians. A short panel discussion will be followed by sequences of poetry and music from our four performers.

The evening will conclude with a 30-minute gig from Emily Barker and Lukas Drinkwater as they get Stroud Book Festival under way with a burst of musical (and lyrical) joy!

**Supported by Stroud Arts Festival.**





Authors'  
Licensing and  
Collecting  
Society

## We support, champion and fight for authors

At ALCS we value writers for the impact they have on our lives, every single day. That's why we work hard to protect copyright, author's rights, and vital revenue streams for creators.



[alcs.co.uk](https://alcs.co.uk)



## STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL SCHOOLS' DAYS

Emma Carroll, Jasbinder Bilan, John Agard,  
Matt Goodfellow & Lydia Monks

Sponsored by ALCS



We are delighted to invite you to our 2022 Schools' Days. For the first time this year we are staging not one, but two Schools' Days so we can offer events for a broader age-range. We look forward to hosting events from the following fantastic authors:

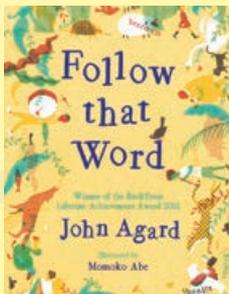
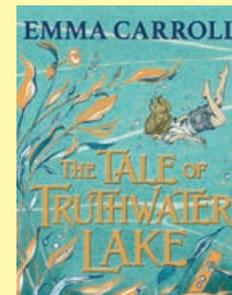
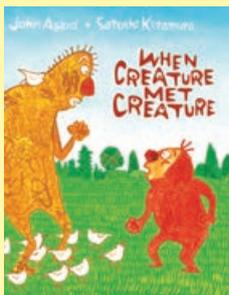
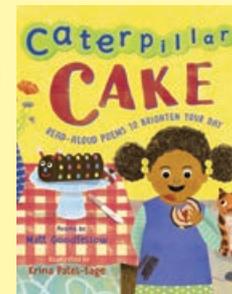
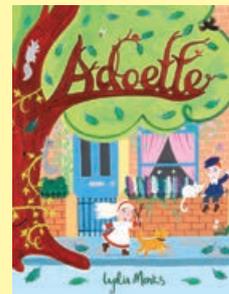
<b>Emma Carroll</b>	Thurs 9.30-10.30	(years 4-6)
<b>Jasbinder Bilan</b>	Thurs 11.30-12.30	(years 4-6)
<b>John Agard</b>	Thurs 13.30-14.30	(years 3-6)
<b>Matt Goodfellow</b>	Fri 11.00-12.00	(years 1-3)
<b>Lydia Monks,</b>	Fri 13.30-14.30	(years 1-3)

Because we understand that some schools are not able to join us at the Sub Rooms in person, we are once again pleased to offer you the opportunity to participate via our live stream.

- All Tickets: £4 per child per event
- Digital only pass: £30 per class per event
- To book tickets, please call the Sub Rooms box office on 01453 796880 or email [james@thesubrooms.co.uk](mailto:james@thesubrooms.co.uk).

You can book secure in the knowledge that if you need to cancel live tickets for any reason, we will offer a full refund or transfer your tickets to digital access.

Huge thanks to our sponsor, ALCS, for its continued support of Stroud Book Festival Schools' Days. Please visit its website for more details of its invaluable work: [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk).





## The Green Start-Up: Make Business Better for the Planet

**Juliet Davenport OBE**

18.00-19.00 | Lansdown Hall | £10

Environmental trailblazer and Five Valleys resident **Juliet Davenport OBE** is the founder of Good Energy, one of the UK's first 100% renewable energy suppliers.

Blending environmentalism with entrepreneurship, her new book, *The Green Start-Up*, leads us through the most pressing questions that face any company: from how to fuel the business to how to hire employees ethically and market sustainably. Along the way she showcases the work of other business innovators who are doing things differently and showing that green business can both be profitable and benefit the planet.

Whether you have a long-established business or a recent start-up, join Juliet to find out how to green-proof your business.

Introduced by **Alicia Carey**.



## Poetry Night with John Agard

18.30-19.30 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

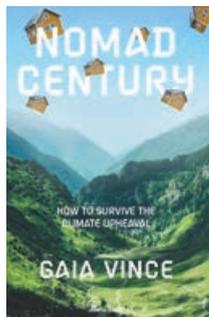
Legendary poet, playwright, and children's writer **John Agard** was born in Georgetown in Guyana and moved to the UK in 1977. He has won many awards for his writing, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and, last year, a Lifetime Achievement Award from Book Trust. His many poetry collections for adults address such themes as race, ethnicity, morality and ancient mythology with a blend of wit, humour and acute observation of the human condition.

John is a puckish, joyous and inimitable performer, mixing 'straight' English with Caribbean Creole to exhilarating effect; he draws an audience in until his words feel as much a part of them as they do of him. We are honoured to welcome John to Stroud Book Festival to perform a selection of his poems in what promises to be a spell-binding event.

Introduced by **Adam Horovitz**.

**Supported by Stroud High School.**

Thursday 3rd November



## Nomad Century: How to Survive the Climate Upheaval Gaia Vince

20.00-21.00 | Lansdown Hall | £10

"A great upheaval is coming. It will change us and our planet," says science writer **Gaia Vince**, the first solo woman to win the Royal Society Science Book of the Year Prize. That upheaval will come as a consequence of the climate emergency, and the fact that huge swathes of the world are swiftly becoming uninhabitable. For every degree of temperature rise, a billion people will be displaced. But, she says, we can survive this crisis if we start planning now for a deliberate human migration northwards.

Join Gaia for an illuminating in-conversation event based on her book, *Nomad Century: How to Survive the Climate Upheaval*, in which she draws on a wealth of scientific research and her travels to argue that migration is not only necessary but has historically enabled humans to survive and prosper, and can do so again. Hers is a simple and powerful message: Migration isn't the problem. It's the solution.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.

# STROUD HIGH SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023

[WWW.STROUDHIGHSIXTHFORM.CO.UK](http://WWW.STROUDHIGHSIXTHFORM.CO.UK)  
STROUDHIGHSIXTHFORM EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

To book: [www.stroudbookfestival.org.uk](http://www.stroudbookfestival.org.uk)





RHS

SOFAS & STUFF

Let's design together



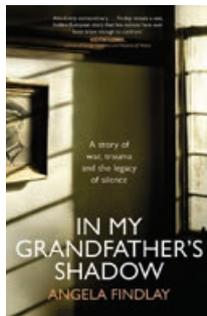
## STROUD SHOWROOM

Woodchester Mill, North Woodchester, Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, GL5 5NN

01453 700812 | [www.sofasandstuff.com](http://www.sofasandstuff.com)



© The Royal Horticultural Society. The Royal Horticultural Society, and its logo, are trade marks of The Royal Horticultural Society (Registered Charity No.222879/SC038262) and used under licence from RHS Enterprises Limited.



## In My Grandfather's Shadow

Angela Findlay

20.30-21.30 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

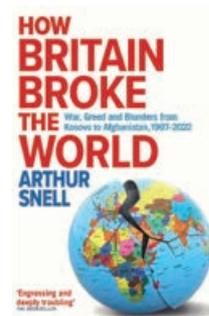
Can we as individuals untangle ourselves from a past that binds us to the suffering and deeds of our predecessors?

This profound question is at the heart of *In My Grandfather's Shadow*, an extraordinary memoir in which Stroud artist and author **Angela Findlay** – the granddaughter of Wehrmacht officer General Karl von Graffen – wrestles with the feeling of “badness within her” that has plagued both her mental health and sense of self for years. It’s a powerful investigation into the personal cost that results from wider history, and the ways in which inherited guilt and trauma can leave scars across generations.

Join us to hear from Angela about this profound and remarkable story.

Introduced by **Alice Jolly**.

Sponsored by **L Townsend** ‘in memory of my beloved elders’.



## How Britain Broke the World

Arthur Snell

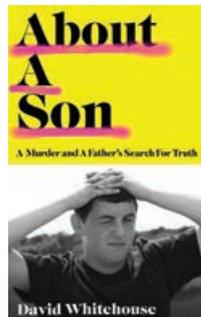
18.00-19.00 | Lansdown Hall | £10

“As a foreign policy specialist, I often hear the question, why is everything so messed up right now? My book is an attempt to answer it.”

In *How Britain Broke the World: Foreign Misadventures from Kosovo to Afghanistan (1997-2022)*, former senior British diplomat and Five Valleys native **Arthur Snell** explains how Britain’s often incompetent, inconsistent foreign policy has played a pivotal role in rendering the world a more dangerous place. Not least when it comes to Russia, where successive British governments have helped to plug Putin’s oligarchy into the Western economic system.

Join Arthur – now a geopolitical consultant and host of hit podcast Doomsday Watch – for an illustrated talk in which he will provide his expert and insider take on how Britain, rather than being a global force for good, has often fostered instability and division.

Introduced by **Stephen Kinsella**.



## About a Son: A Murder and a Father's Search for Truth David Whitehouse

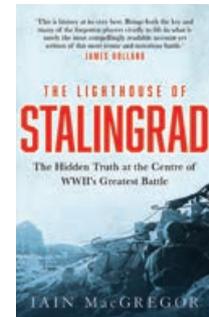
18.30-19.30 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

On the evening of Halloween in 2015, 20-year-old Morgan Hehir was out with friends in his hometown of Nuneaton when they were attacked by a group of strangers. Morgan was stabbed in the heart and lungs and died hours later.

In the aftermath of Morgan's murder, his father Colin kept a diary of his family's grief, the eventual murder trial, and his fight to expose the shocking fact that a young man with a history of violence was at liberty to take his son's life. It was this extraordinary record which, with the family's blessing, journalist and novelist **David Whitehouse** used as the foundation for *About a Son*, a compelling work that is both deeply respectful and superbly crafted.

Join us to hear from David about how he wrote this outstanding book, which brings home the stark human reality behind the words 'True' and 'Crime', but is also a beautiful tribute to a lost young man and his loving family.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.



## The Lighthouse of Stalingrad: The Hidden Truth at the Centre of WWII's Greatest Battle

Iain MacGregor

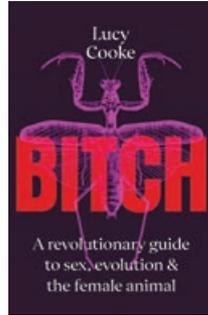
20.00-21.00 | Lansdown Hall | £10

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the pivotal Second World War battle of Stalingrad, one of the bloodiest engagements in the history of warfare. Highly praised by James Holland, Jonathan Dimbleby, William Boyd and others, **Iain MacGregor's** immersive account of the battle, *The Lighthouse of Stalingrad* draws on hitherto unseen documents from German and Russian archives to provide eyewitness testimonies from both sides.

Painting a truer picture of how the battle ended and focusing on a key frontline building codenamed The Lighthouse, MacGregor shows how the Great Patriotic War tropes surrounding the battle perpetuate in Putin's Russia. And he reveals that it was a Ukrainian general who took the final German surrender.

We're delighted to welcome Iain to Stroud Book Festival to give an illustrated talk in which he will share his highly original and deeply researched perspective on this famous and monumental battle.

Friday 4th November



## **Bitch: A Revolutionary Guide to Sex, Evolution and the Female Animal**

**Lucy Cooke**

20.30-21.30 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

Male animals led swashbuckling lives of thrusting agency... while females meekly followed. So went the received wisdom when broadcaster and author **Lucy Cooke** first studied zoology.

In her fabulously entertaining book, *Bitch*, she shows how deluded that thinking is. From the dominant female lemurs of Madagascar, and the murderous meerkat mothers of the Kalahari, to female fruit flies that play the field, Lucy introduces us to dozens of animals whose natural behaviour and preferences overturn outdated binary expectations of bodies, brains, biology and behaviour.

We're delighted to welcome Lucy to Stroud Book Festival for an event that promises to be both hilarious and revelatory.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.

**Gloucestershire**  
**YOUNG**  
Carers

# VOLUNTEER TODAY

SUPPORTING THE YOUNG IN YOUNG CARERS

WHEREVER YOUR SKILLS LIE  
WE HAVE A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

---

GloucestershireYoungCarers glosyoungcarers  
 @glosyoungcarers glosyoungcarers.org.uk  
 Gloucestershire Young Carers

[glosyoungcarers.org.uk](http://glosyoungcarers.org.uk)

To book: [www.stroudbookfestival.org.uk](http://www.stroudbookfestival.org.uk)

# THE PAINSWICK



## FOOD WITH A STORY TO TELL

Jamie McCallum tells his story of British food through an ever-evolving tasting menu of seasonal dishes

Book a table online or call us

T: 01452 813688 | W: [THEPAINSWICK.CO.UK](http://THEPAINSWICK.CO.UK)



KEMPS LANE . PAINSWICK . GLOUCESTERSHIRE . GL6 6YB



## Sowing the Seed: Starting to Write

A Dialect Workshop **JLM Morton**

10.00-12.30 | Museum in the Park

£7.50 for Museum members; £12.50 non-members

Not sure how to start writing (and how to keep going)? Perhaps you've already been writing for a while and want to strengthen your craft, or your writing has stalled and you need a jump start.

This playful workshop will take inspiration from the walled garden at Museum in the Park to plant new seeds to help you grow your writing.

Suitable for everyone and led by poet and educator, **JLM Morton**, a warm and encouraging facilitator.

12 places only.

To buy tickets: <https://bit.ly/3CEzkP9>  
or visit [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)



## Sherlock Bones Puzzle Adventure

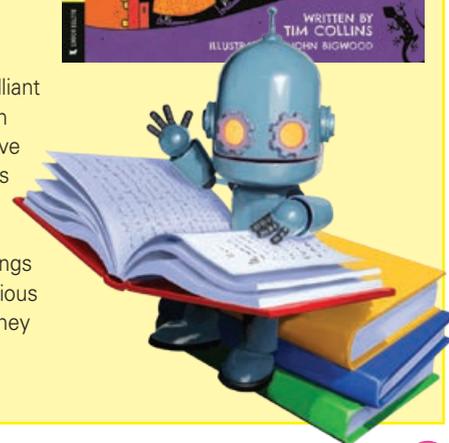
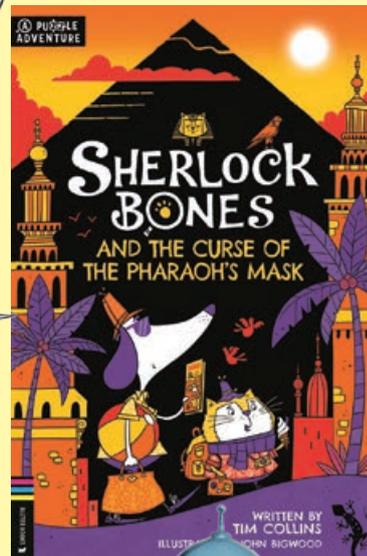
**Tim Collins**

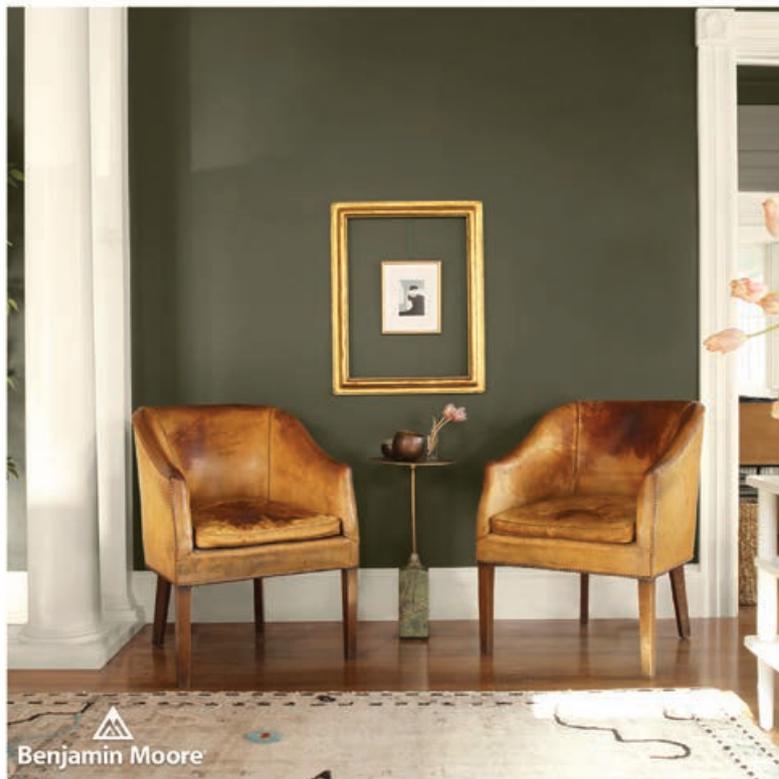
10.00-10.45 | Ages 7-10 | Lansdown Hall | £6

Calling all passionate puzzlers and budding sleuths!

Sherlock Bones, the world's greatest dog detective, and Dr Catson are BACK for another adventure! And **Tim Collins** – author of this brilliant fiction series featuring dozens of puzzles woven into the action – is here to lead you in a Detective Workshop so you can start sniffing out suspects and find the culprit.

While visiting the tombs of the ancient feline kings in Egypt, the detective duo discover that a precious mask has been stolen. Team up with them as they embark on a thrilling new adventure!





# Bailey Paints

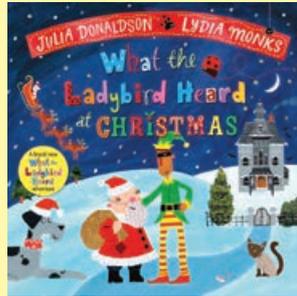
A RABART DECORATING CENTRE

We are proud to be sponsoring the Stroud Book Festival for the 7th consecutive year.

From sprucing up your reading nook to repainting your home inside and out, we have paint for every area of your home.

Email: [info@baileypaints.co.uk](mailto:info@baileypaints.co.uk)  
[www.rabart.co.uk](http://www.rabart.co.uk) / Tel: 01453 882237





## What the Ladybird Heard & Other Tales

**Julia Donaldson, Lydia Monks & friends**

11.30-12.30 | Ages 4+ | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £8

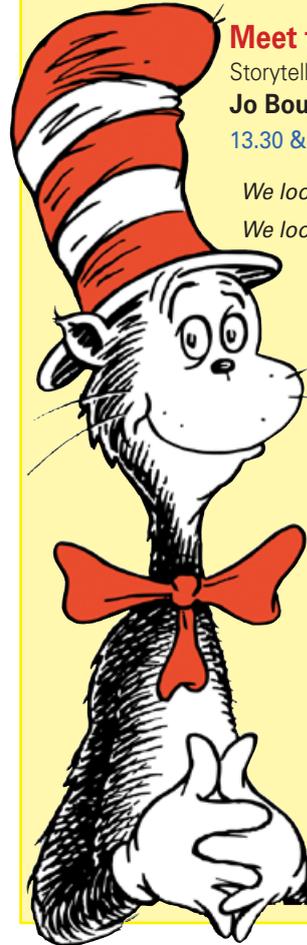
Moo! Cluck! Hiss! Quack! Neigh! Oink! Baa! Woof!

What a joy to be welcoming bestselling and award-winning picture book duo **Julia Donaldson** and **Lydia Monks** back to Stroud Book Festival! Don't miss this fantastic chance to catch them live on stage as they launch their new picture book, *What the Ladybird Heard at Christmas*. Hear all about this latest adventure starring everyone's favourite plucky ladybird, and meet lots of other well-known characters along the way.

Expect oodles of fun, music, storytelling, and live illustration from two of the nation's best loved picture book creators.



**Sponsored by Bailey Paints,  
a Rabart Decorating Centre**



## Meet the Cat in the Hat!

Storytelling Sessions at Stroud Library

**Jo Bousfield**

13.30 & 14.45 | Stroud Library | Ages 3-6 | Free

*We looked, then we saw him step in on the mat*

*We looked and we saw him... the Cat in the Hat!*

The one and only Cat in the Hat from the amazing Dr Seuss is 65 years old! So come along to our birthday story-telling sessions and enjoy this famous tale of madness and mayhem once again... or maybe even for the first time.

There will also be some free Cat in the Hat activity sheets and a Cat in the Hat STEM activity – meeting mini robots and using 3D pens to create a Hat for a Cat!

30 places. These are free sessions but advance booking is necessary using the QR code or call in at the library.



SCAN ME



## Escape Room Christopher Edge

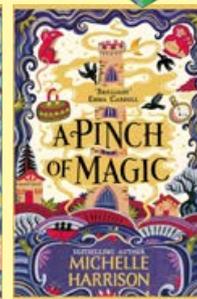
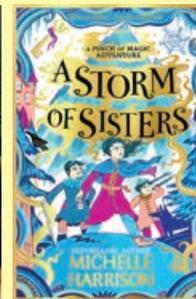
13.30-14.30 | Ages 9+ | Lansdown Hall | £6

What have you done to help save the world today?

Welcome to The Escape – the ultimate Escape Room – with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. But wait, this is no ordinary game... Do you dare to play?

Join Gloucestershire author **Christopher Edge** on a heart-racing journey as he brings The Escape to life. And explore the imaginative, empowering world of his mind-bendingly brilliant novel, *Escape Room*, a story of friendship, artificial intelligence and the nature of consciousness.

Can YOU help Christopher find the Answer and save the world?



## A Pinch of Magic: A Magical Objects Writing Workshop

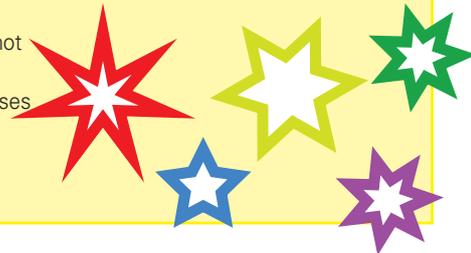
Michelle Harrison

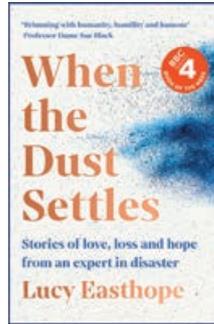
15.30-16.30 | Ages 9-14 | Museum in the Park | £10

Create your own stories and turn everyday objects into magical items as you dive into a world of magic, superstition and folklore at this brilliant writing workshop led by **Michelle Harrison**, the bestselling author of the *Pinch of Magic Adventures* series.

If you need extra inspiration for your writing, you might even find it in the fascinating collection of objects at the Museum in the Park!

- 30 places only. Adults do not need to buy a ticket but must remain on the premises for the duration of the workshop.





## When the Dust Settles

Professor Lucy Easthope

11.30-12.30 | Lansdown Hall | £10

"Each disaster is seared into my brain and has nudged and shaped every aspect of my life and my very self."

Involved in the response to almost every major disaster of the past two decades, including the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, 9/11, the 7/7 London bombings, Grenfell, and the Covid-19 pandemic, **Professor Lucy Easthope** is the UK's leading authority on how we plan for, and recover from such seismic events. Her 'professional confessional', *When the Dust Settles*, is a deeply humane account of her Liverpool childhood, what drew her to take on such work, and how she steels herself to tackle the worst of human scenarios.

We welcome Lucy to Stroud Book Festival to share her stories of raw humanity in the face of disaster, and reflect on how, with care and compassion, we can rebuild people's lives after the dust has settled.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.



## Companion Piece

Ali Smith

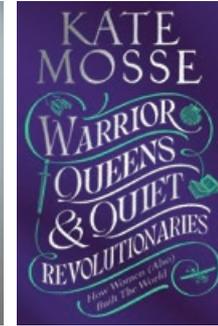
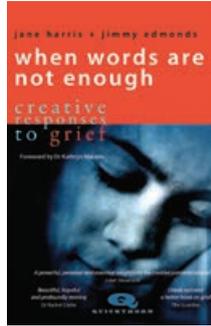
14.00-15.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

"A story is never an answer. A story is always a question."

What happens when we cease to trust governments, the media and each other? What have we lost? What stays with us? What does it take to unlock our future? Novelist **Ali Smith** is one of the supreme inquisitors of our times, notably through her remarkable Seasonal Quartet, written in response to current events. She came top of a Times Literary Supplement nominated list of the best British & Irish novelists working today. In her latest novel, *Companion Piece*, she again lights a way for us through our nightmarish now, with a vital celebration of companionship in all its forms.

Ali's public appearances are always brilliant and uplifting. Don't miss this in-conversation event, chaired in tribute to the hope for our future Ali invests in the young people in her novels, by 21-year-old university student, **Julia Brookes**, who grew up in Stroud.





## When Words Are Not Enough: Creative Responses to Grief

**Jane Harris, Jimmy Edmonds & Kathryn Mannix**

15.30-16.30 | Lansdown Hall | £10

Everyone grieves for someone at some point in their lives. But how do we find ways to express painful feelings when words are not enough?

Psychotherapist **Jane Harris** and photographer and documentary film editor **Jimmy Edmonds** drew on their experience of loss after the death of their son Josh for *When Words Are Not Enough*. Taking in the experiences of 13 other bereaved people, the book also charts their founding of The Good Grief Project, a charity which promotes the understanding of grief as a creative process.

Joining Jane and Jimmy is retired palliative care doctor, **Kathryn Mannix**, author of another seminal book on grief, *With the End in Mind: How to Live and Die Well*. They will discuss how creativity can shape a future where the deceased still play a part. Jane and Jimmy will also show a short film they made to accompany the launch of the book.

## Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries: How Women (Also) Built the World

**Kate Mosse**

16.00-17.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

As founder of the Women's Prize and the #WomenInHistory campaign, novelist, playwright and non-fiction writer **Kate Mosse** has long championed the achievements of unheard, and under-heard women.

*Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries* draws both on her 40 years of activism and her discovery that she was walking in her great-grandmother's footsteps as a novelist. It celebrates the legions of women whose accomplishments deserve to be better known; from trailblazing women at the Bar to pirate commanders and women who fought for what they believed in. Threaded through it is the story of Mosse's great-grandmother, writer and activist Lily Watson.

In this fascinating event, Kate will tell us more about a book she says she has "been waiting to write for so many years".



## Faber Proof Party

**Eliza Clark, Dizz Tate & Charlotte Vassell**

17.30-18.30 | Lansdown Hall | £10

Proof parties are a great way of getting a sneak preview of some of the most exciting new books being published, so we're thrilled to showcase the authors of three of the hottest novels being published by Faber & Faber in 2023.

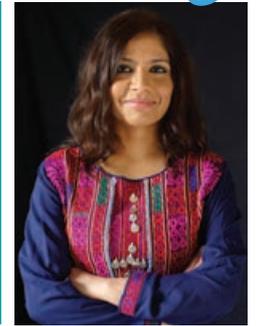
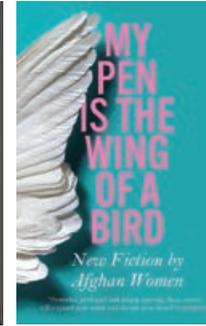
*Brutes* by **Dizz Tate** is a striking story about the female experience, trauma past and present, and friendship. Set in Florida where Tate grew up, her fiction has been compared to the work of Lorrie Moore and Shirley Jackson.

*The Other Half* by **Charlotte Vassell** is a police procedural set in London, packed with suspense and introducing Detective Caius Beauchamp. It's an ideal read for fans of *Knives Out* and the novels of Lucy Foley.

*Penance* by **Eliza Clark** is the chilling and compulsive story of a murder among teenagers, set in a seaside town on the eve of the Brexit vote. An unputdownable novel for true crime readers.

Your ticket price includes a glass of wine, and a goodie bag containing proof copies of the three novels.

Chaired by **Louisa Joyner**.



## My Pen is the Wing of a Bird: New Fiction by Afghan Women

**Lucy Hannah & Zarghuna Kargar**

18.00-19.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

A woman's fortitude saves her village from disaster. A tormented girl tries to find love through a horrific act. A headmaster makes his way to work, treading the fine line between life and death. Just some of the scenarios which feature in *My Pen is the Wing of a Bird*, a landmark first anthology of short fiction by Afghan women in English translation, which introduces the work of some extraordinary writers. They tell unforgettable stories of family, work, childhood, friendship, war, gender, identity and cultural tradition.

To discuss the anthology and the two years of collaboration with women in Afghanistan and elsewhere, we welcome **Zarghuna Kargar**, an award-winning BBC News journalist and one of the translators who worked on the anthology. And **Lucy Hannah**, founder of the Untold Narratives project, which helps develop the work of writers marginalised by community or conflict, and which led on the anthology's curation.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.





## The Power of Protest

**Gail Bradbrook, Howard Caygill  
& Sabrina Pace-Humphreys**

20.00-21.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

From civil rights to Wikileaks, Black Lives Matter and Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future, the history of resistance is long and fierce.

Now in our increasingly turbulent world, the urge to resist is growing right across the political spectrum, even while our right to do so is under increasing threat.

But when is protest legitimate? How radical can it go and still remain so? Who gets to decide who can protest and who can't? And what lasting change does it all achieve anyway? On Guy Fawkes night, we ask three authors and experts on the power of protest to debate these questions and more.

Chaired by **Sarah Dunant**.



**Dr Gail Bradbrook** is co-founder of Extinction Rebellion (XR).

She has been arrested several times for acts of civil disobedience, and for these actions she faces a potential jail sentence of up to 10 years.

She is a contributor to *This Is Not A Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook*.



**Howard Caygill** is Professor of Modern European Philosophy at Kingston University.

He is the author of *On Resistance: A Philosophy of Defiance*, a systematic analysis of resistance as a means of defying political oppression.



**Sabrina Pace-Humphreys** grew up in Stroud and was moved to speak out about the rural racism she had suffered as a child at the Black Lives Matter protest in Stroud.

She is the author of *Black Sheep: A Story of Rural Racism, Identity & Hope*.



## Supertato Presents: Evil Pea & the Beanstalk!

Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet

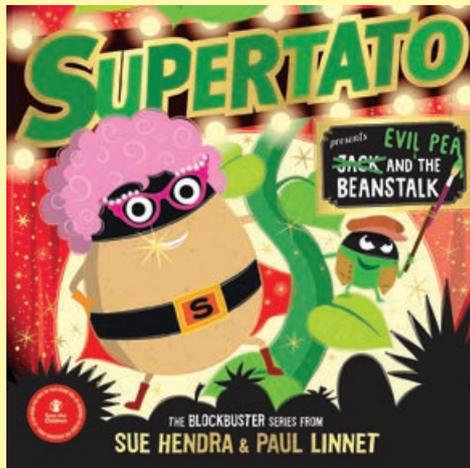
10.00-11.00 | Ages 3+ | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £6

It's showtime at the supermarket as Supertato and the veggies put on their very own production of "Jack and the Beanstalk", starring The Evil Pea, and Supertato as Jack's Mum.

Will Jack and Supermum be able to escape the fearsome giant and find riches beyond their wildest dreams?

Rush along to this laugh-out-loud, sing-along event from **Sue Hendra** and **Paul Linnet**, creators of the super-bestselling Supertato series, to find out.

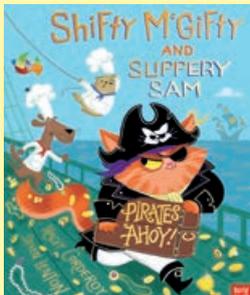
Starring Supertato, Evil Pea and the veggies, and inspired by their brand-new book *Supertato Presents Jack and the Beanstalk*, it'll be a spectacular show.... Oh yes it will!



**SUPERTATO TRAIL!**  
22 October - 6 November

From the start of October half-term until the end of this year's Festival we are running a free Supertato trail at the Museum in the Park for children of all ages. See how many veggies you can spot hiding around the Museum, while watching out for the Evil Pea of course!

For more information, please pick up a leaflet at the Museum in the Park, or call 01453 763394 (please note that the Museum is closed on Mondays).



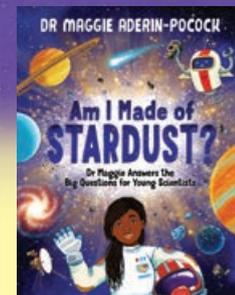
## Shifty McGifty & Slippery Sam: Pirates Ahoy!

Tracey Corderoy

11.45-12.30 | Ages 3-7 | Lansdown Hall | £6

Everyone's favourite doggy baking duo is back for another swashbuckling adventure! When Shifty and Sam are asked to bake for a pirate party, they find themselves caught up in the middle of a robbery. Uh-oh! Can Shifty and Sam catch those BAD pirates and bring back the loot?

Join Stroud's own **Tracey Corderoy** for an interactive storytelling session which brings to life her latest book, *Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: Pirates Ahoy!* Drawings, games, it's bound to be fun, ooo-arghhh!



## Are You Made of Stardust?

Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock

12.00-13.00 | Ages 8+ | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £8

*How long would it take to fly me to a star?  
What would happen if I fell inside a black hole?  
Does it rain diamonds on Jupiter?*

Who better to tell us the answers to these space-tastic questions and many more than award-winning space scientist and BBC broadcaster, **Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock**.

In an event for all the family, we're thrilled to welcome superstar Maggie to Stroud Book Festival to share lots of fabulous facts, mind-blowing insights and engaging explanations from her new book *Am I Made of Stardust?*, from whether there are rainbows on other planets, to what the astronauts are having for dinner on the International Space Station!

- Sponsored by Renishaw plc.

Think engineering,  
community, careers.

Think Renishaw.

We enjoy being part of the success of the local community, both as an employer and as a supporter of community projects.

Since our formation in 1973 we have become Gloucestershire's largest business employer (with 2,500 staff locally) where we carry out the majority of our research and development, and manufacturing.

We are one of the world's leading engineering and scientific technology companies, with expertise in precision measurement and healthcare. We supply products and services used in applications as diverse as jet engine and wind turbine manufacture, through to dentistry and brain surgery. We're also a world leader in metal 3D printing, designing and making industrial machines which 'print' parts from metal powder, including the handlebars for British Cycling's track bikes at the Tokyo Olympics.

For more information, or to join us,  
visit [www.renishaw.com](http://www.renishaw.com)



## Friendship Across the Divide: Wartime Stories

**Jamila Gavin & Hilary McKay**

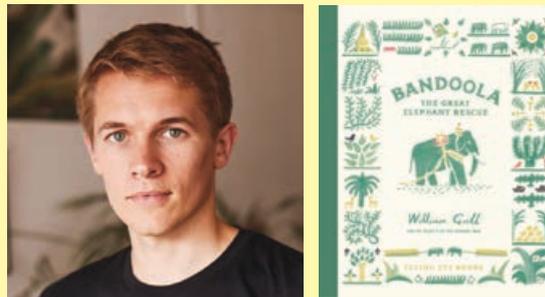
13.30-14.30 | Ages 10+ | Lansdown Hall | £6

In this enthralling event for anyone who loves historical stories, Stroud's own **Jamila Gavin**, author of many novels for young people including the award-winning *Coram Boy*, introduces her new book *Never Forget You*. Set in the Second World War, it features four very different teenage girls who become friends at an English boarding school.

Also with us will be renowned children's writer **Hilary McKay** who presents *The Swallows' Flight*, the companion novel to her Costa Children's Award-winning *The Skylarks' War*. Also set in the Second World War, it introduces two German boys and two English girls whose lives are tumbled together by war.

Discover the inspiration behind the authors' work, and take home some top tips for crafting stories inspired by real-life events.

Chaired by **Damian Kelleher**.



## Charcoal Drawing Children's Workshop

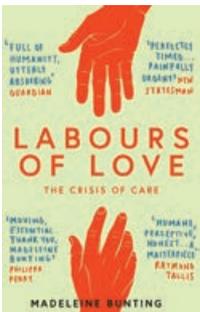
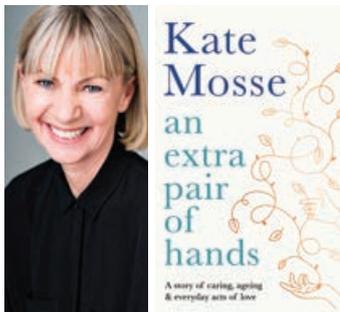
**William Grill**

15.30-16.30 | Ages 6-10 | Museum in the Park | £10

Here's a fantastic chance to learn charcoal drawing techniques in the company of award-winning author and illustrator **William Grill**.

In an illustration workshop inspired by his gorgeous new book *Bandoola: The Great Elephant Rescue*, which is based on a true story about the empathy between humans and animals, he'll provide plenty of drawing tips to help you create your very own wildlife masterpieces in charcoal. He'll also share lots of fascinating facts about amazing elephants, along the way.

- 30 places only. All materials are provided. Adults do not need to buy a ticket but must remain on the premises for the duration of the workshop.



## Everyday Acts of Care

**Kate Mosse & Madeleine Bunting**

10.00-11.00 | Lansdown Hall | £10

So many of us will be called upon to care for those we love. And yet we face a crisis in care as a country, with carework chronically underpaid and the caring labours of women so often taken for granted. We welcome two acclaimed authors to discuss what it means to care, as individuals and as a nation.

In her non-fiction book, *An Extra Pair of Hands*, bestselling novelist and Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction **Kate Mosse** tells the moving story of finding herself a carer in middle-age, both for her parents, and for her 90-year-old mother-in-law.

And in her Orwell Prize shortlisted *Labours of Love*, **Madeleine Bunting** blends her own experience with the testimonies of charity workers, doctors, and more as she issues a call for change in how we regard the act of caring.

Chaired by **Alice Jolly**.

## Writing in Spite of It All

**Rachel Marks & Penny Parkes**

14.00-15.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

Writing books and getting them published is hard at the best of times. But what about at the worst of times? What keeps you writing when adversity strikes? Does experiencing difficult times make you a better writer? Two Gloucestershire writers who have written and published brilliant 'uplit' novels through chronic illness and times of upheaval join us to consider these questions as well as sharing their latest books.

**Rachel Marks** is the author of three published novels. Her latest is *Hello, Stranger*, the story of Jamie and Lucy who know from their first date that they've met THE ONE. So why are they saying 'goodbye' to one another?

**Penny Parkes** is the author of five published novels. Her latest, *Home*, is the story of house-sitter Anna who has only ever wanted a home of her own. But having grown up in foster care, settling in one place is the challenge of her life.

NB Penny Parkes will be joining this event remotely. Chaired by **Jo Durrant**.

Once upon a time there was a tired old hotel in Stroud that had lost its way. It didn't know what it was, a B&B, a venue for stag and hen parties... Sad old hotel.

Oh dear oh dear.

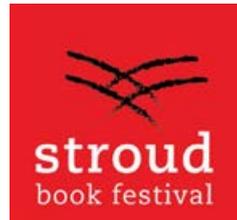
But along came new owners who sprinkled some builders dust, and in a puff of effort Five Valleys Aparthotel was born.

And what gives this story a happy ending? All the stories that our guests create when they come to stay.

And you can book too

[www.5va.co.uk/book/](http://www.5va.co.uk/book/)

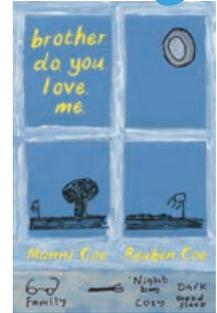
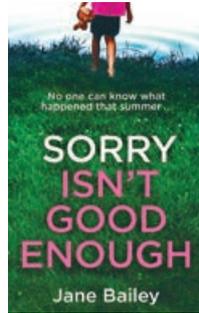
The ~~end~~ beginning.



**Serviced Apartments:** for a couple of nights, a week or a month, [Stroud's alternative place to stay](#)

[stay@5va.co.uk](mailto:stay@5va.co.uk) 01453764496

Delighted to support Stroud Book Festival 2022.



## In the Heat of the Summer

Kate Riordan & Jane Bailey

15.30-16.30 | Lansdown Hall | 10

Almost winter it may be, but this event featuring the sizzlingly sinister work of acclaimed Gloucestershire novelists, **Kate Riordan & Jane Bailey**, will transport you right back to the heat of summer.

In Kate's novel *Summer Fever*, set in Italy, Nick and Laura are the hosts: pretending their marriage isn't on the rocks. Madison and Bastian are the guests: but neither is remotely who they claim to be. Under the scorching Mediterranean sun, no secret will be safe, and no betrayal will go unnoticed.

Set chiefly in the summer of 1966, Jane's novel *Sorry Isn't Good Enough* is set in close-knit Napier Road, where 9-year-old Stephanie strikes up a relationship with Mr Man, who, unlike her mother, always seems pleased to see her. But when her spiteful friend Dawn goes missing in the woods during the World Cup final, a web of secrets and lies is exposed.

Chaired by **Tessa Harris**.

## brother.do.you.love.me

Manni Coe & Reuben Coe

16.00-17.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £10

Aged 38, **Reuben Coe** was living in a care home for adults with learning disabilities. For over a year through lockdown he had been non-verbal, unable to express his feelings except on paper with felt-tip pens. Deeply depressed, heavily medicated, and cut off from everyone he loved, he was struggling with the reality of Down's Syndrome. One day he sent his elder brother **Manni Coe** a text message. It read: brother.do.you.love.me.

Immediately Manni left his home in Spain, took Reuben out of care and moved them both into a cottage in the countryside. Slowly as winter turned to spring, the bonds of brotherhood were rebuilt.

The Coe brothers have now told their story of hope and resilience in a beautiful new book, with text by Manni and drawings by Reuben. We're thrilled to welcome them for what promises to be a memorable, moving event.

Chaired by **Caroline Sanderson**.



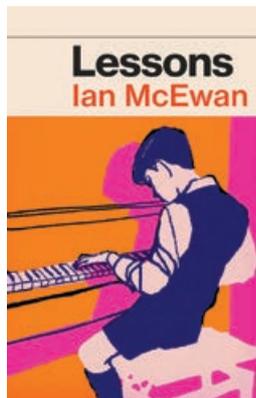
## Lessons

### Ian McEwan

18.00-19.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £12

How do global events beyond our control shape our lives and memories?

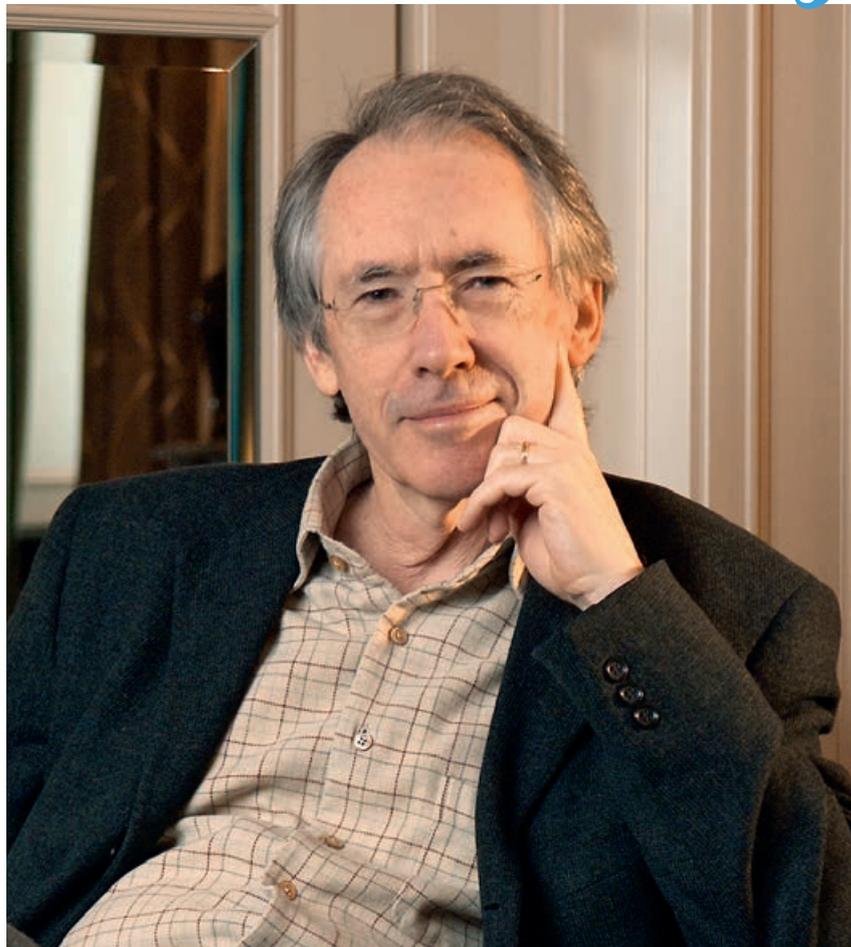
While the world counts the cost of the Second World War, and as the Iron Curtain descends, the life of Ronald Baines is turned upside down. 2,000 miles from his mother's love at an unusual boarding school, his vulnerability attracts his piano teacher, Miriam Cornell. She leaves him with scars and a memory of love that will never fade.



Twenty-five years later, Roland's wife mysteriously vanishes, leaving him alone with their baby son to confront his rootless existence. He begins a search for answers that lasts for the rest of his life.

Stroud Festival Patron **Ian McEwan's** new novel, *Lessons* is a powerful meditation on history and humanity. We're thrilled to welcome Ian to discuss this chronicle for our times.

Chaired by **Jon Cook**.





## Good Pop, Bad Pop

### Jarvis Cocker in Conversation

20.00-21.00 | Sub Rooms Ballroom | £12

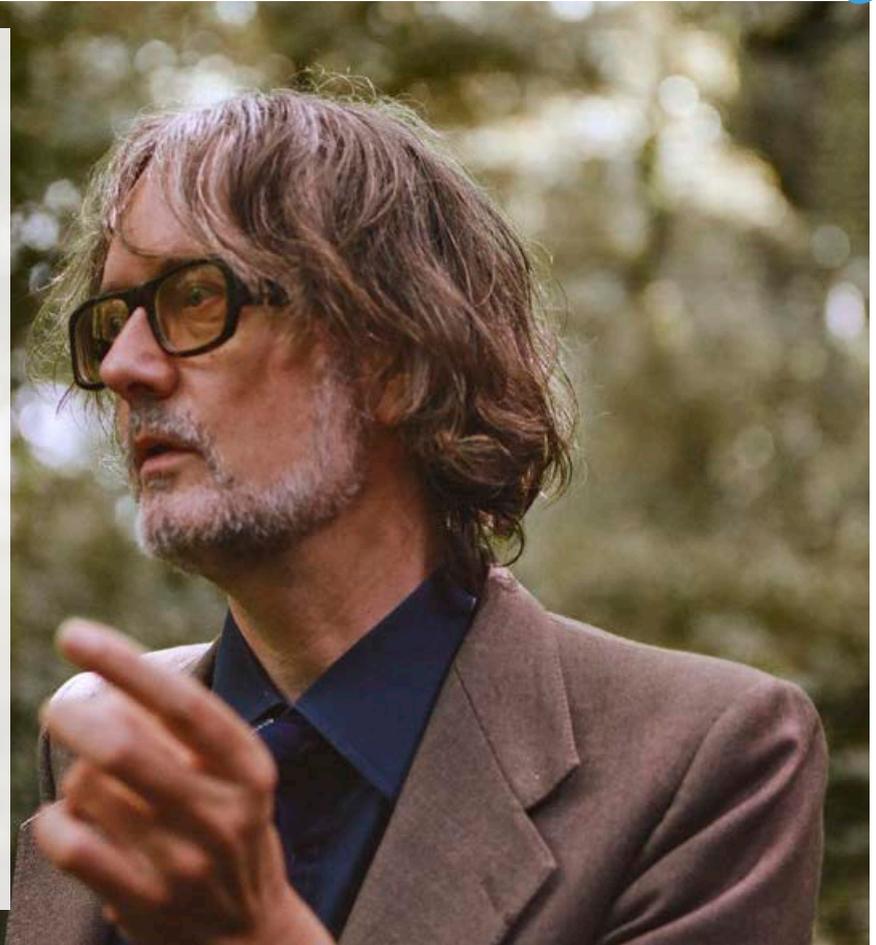


For our fabulous Festival finale, Pop/Up (Stroud's brand new Music & Culture Bookclub) are bringing Pulp frontman **Jarvis Cocker** to the Sub Rooms.

Published earlier this year, the Britpop legend's memoir *Good Pop, Bad Pop* is a journey through his life and early career inspired by the jumble of objects salvaged when clearing out his loft.

From a Gold Star polycotton shirt to a pack of Wrigley's Extra, from his teenage attempts to write songs to the Sexy Laughs Fantastic Dirty Joke Book, this is the hard evidence of Jarvis's unique life, Pulp, 20th century pop culture, the good times and the mistakes he'd rather forget. And this accumulated debris of a lifetime also reveals his creative process – writing and musicianship, performance and ambition, style and stagecraft. It's not a life story... it's a loft story!

Jarvis joins us for an in conversation event in which he will talk about his life in pop, as well as answer questions from the audience.



# With grateful thanks



Allen Lane  
Andersen Press  
BBC Radio Gloucestershire  
Jane Bailey  
Bantam Press  
Sally Barker  
John Best  
Katy Bevan  
Bloodaxe Books  
Bloomsbury  
Bluebird Books  
Bodley Head  
Louise Brice  
Emma Broadbent  
Julia Brookers  
Buster Books  
Canbury Press  
Alicia Carey  
Chicken House  
Constable  
Jon Cook  
Cotswold Life  
Dominic Cotter  
Rosie Crocker  
Penny De Lotz  
Jessica Derham  
Doubleday  
Sarah Dunant  
Jo Durrant

Elliott & Thompson  
Faber & Faber  
Farshore  
Katie Fforde  
Jemma Forino  
Five Valleys Shopping Centre  
Flying Eye  
Jennifer Fowles  
Will Gardner  
The Good Grief Project  
Good on Paper  
Granta  
Jennie Greenshields  
Hachette Children's Books  
Hamish Hamilton  
Harper Collins Children's Books  
Tessa Harris  
Hawthorn Press  
Headline Review

Heligo Books  
Lisa Hinkley  
Alex Hobbs  
Hodder & Stoughton  
Hodder Children's Books  
John Holland  
Adam Horovitz  
HQ  
Rob James  
Katie Jarvis  
Alice Jolly  
Jonathan Cape  
Louisa Joyner  
Damian Kelleher  
Stephen Kinsella  
Tammy Kwan  
[Lansdown Hall & Gallery\\*](#)  
Abigail Large  
Jessy Lee

Mark Levy  
Little Toller  
Emily Lowe  
MacLehose Press  
Macmillan Children's Books  
Mantle Books  
Candia McCormack  
JLM Morton  
[Museum in the Park\\*](#)  
N&P Print  
Nosy Crow  
Fiona Orwin  
Otter-Barry Books  
Sabrina Pace-Humphreys  
The Painswick Hotel  
Steve Palmer  
Penguin  
Norah Perkins  
Phoenix Books  
Princeton University Press  
Profile  
Quercus  
Sally Say  
Scallywag Press  
Seven Dials  
Simon & Schuster Children's Books  
Sofas & Stuff  
Stonehouse Town Council

Stroud Against Racism  
Stroud Arts Festival  
Stroud Bookshop  
Stroud High School  
[Stroud Library\\*](#)  
Stroud Short Stories  
Stroud Town Council  
[Stroud Subscription Rooms\\*](#)  
Tangy Media  
Bev Tanner  
Charles Tongue  
Louise & Richard Townsend  
Jo de Vries  
Waitrose Stroud  
Walker Books  
Wellcome Collection  
Lucy Yarham  
The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop  
Kate Young

And all our wonderful volunteers

\* [Extra special thanks to the amazing teams at our Festival venues](#)

Designed by Steve Palmer

Printed by Tewkesbury Printing

## Stroud Book Festival Committee & Directors

Jane Bailey	Adam Horovitz
Louise Brice	<a href="#">Stephen Kinsella</a>
<a href="#">John Denton</a>	Sue Limb
John Dougherty	<a href="#">Harvey Sagar</a>
Katie Fforde	Charles Tongue
<a href="#">Jamila Gavin</a>	<a href="#">Darrell Turk</a>

We are very grateful to all our supporters, sponsors and funders for their generosity

