

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

19-28 SEPTEMBER
**10TH ANNIVERSARY
PROGRAMME**
www.jerseyfestivalofwords.org



FEATURING: **KATIE PIPER OBE BRIAN BILSTON**
AXEL SCHEFFLER MICK HERRON ELLY GRIFFITHS
COLIN BUTFIELD PETER JAMES HELEN LEDERER
+ MANY MORE

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

CELEBRATING
10
YEARS

A Warm Welcome

I'm writing this on my eldest child's 21st birthday, which feels like a huge parental milestone. There is a lot to reflect on and be proud of, and similarly, as I've been looking back over the last decade since the very first Jersey Festival of Words, I've found myself experiencing comparable emotions. I've been remembering the feeling of trepidation on the eve of the 2015 festival, the sleepless nights worrying about whether we were fully prepared for what we were about to embark on, and then the swelling of pride when we succeeded, and faltering first steps turned into confident strides. And so the analogy continues...

Without doubt, the most accurate description of parenthood I've come across is from Ian McEwan's novel *Lessons*. He pinpoints the experience of parenting exactly, by describing it as 'the long letting go'. As it is with anything that you 'birth' or nurture from inception – you must start out with a firm guiding hand, but then you have to recognise the moment to ease your grip, in order to enable that entity to flourish and develop its own unique character.

I'm often asked whether it's been tricky over the years to attract first-class authors to Jersey Festival of Words. And the answer is honestly no. First of all, there was this beautiful island to entice writers over and then, very quickly, we grew a strong reputation for being a really friendly festival that takes good care of its authors and produces quality audiences that fully engage with each and every event. So, thank you to every single member

of the organising committee past and present who has worked tirelessly over the years to foster this reputation, to all the dedicated volunteers who we couldn't have come this far without, and most of all to the fantastic audiences who've put their faith in us from the start and keep turning up year after year, enabling us to have ten wonderful years of Jersey Festival of Words.

I must extend this thanks to all who have backed us and either been a partner, or supported us in kind, or given financial support. Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially our principal corporate sponsor Highvern, and to the Creative Island Partnership for essential funding.

My message to my son as he continues his journey into adulthood in this fast-moving world – *sta et considera miracula* – translates literally as 'stand still and consider the wondrous things', or, stop for a moment, and view the world squarely, without preconceptions. It is not easy to block out the noise or to look at something afresh without bias, but it is vital, now more than ever. A book festival – a celebration of words and ideas, conversation and debate – gives us the space to do this. So please, come along to one of the 70+ events in our programme and take that time to literally and figuratively 'stand still'.



Enjoy Jersey Festival of Words 2025, and here's to the next decade!

Pippa Le Quesne
Festival Director

ACCESSIBILITY:

Jersey Festival of Words aims to be a fully inclusive festival. We would like to thank Ogier for their ongoing sponsorship of the Festival's accessibility arrangements.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Most Festival venues have wheelchair access and are fitted with an induction loop.

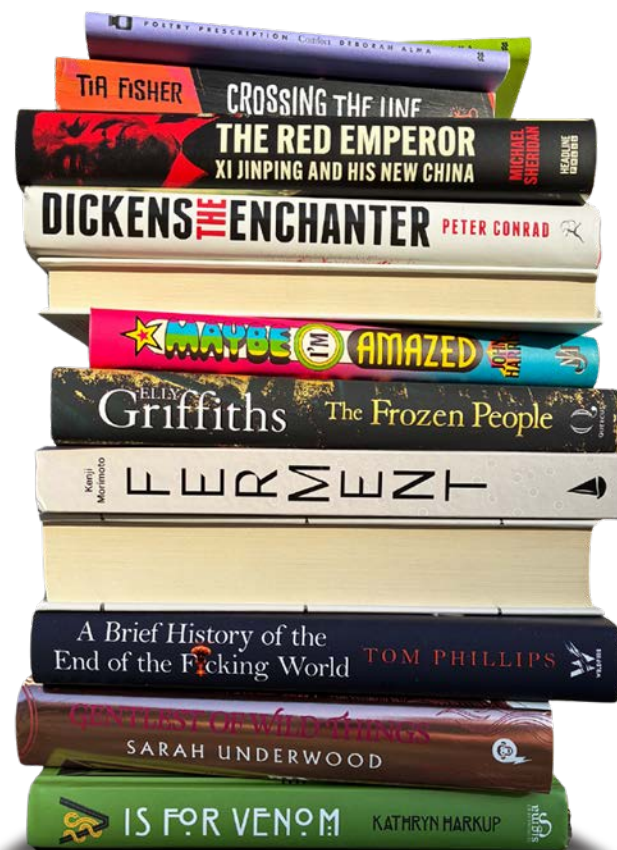
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING: The Freedom Centre and Jersey Arts Centre are fitted with induction loops. There will be a reserved area in certain events for attendees who are hard of hearing and would like to lip-read at the event. **Several events will feature 'speech to text'.**

VISUALLY IMPAIRED: Programmes can be sent in Microsoft Word format, which can be enlarged, and is more easily read by text to speech software. There will be trained sighted guides on site. If you require a sighted guide to take you to your seat please get in touch in advance to advise us of which events you are attending.

DISABLED TOILETS: Most venues have disabled access toilets.

Should you require any form of special assistance please email: info@jerseyfestivalofwords.org

All festival details and ticket bookings are available at
www.jerseyfestivalofwords.org



HIGHVERN is proud to support the Jersey Festival of Words for the fourth consecutive year, especially as it celebrates a decade of bringing literature to life on the Island.

The 2025 line-up features an impressive mix of local and international authors, including a special appearance by bestselling thriller writer Mick Herron, whom we are delighted to sponsor as one of the headline events. It's set to be another exceptional year for the festival.

We value the power of words to inform, inspire, and bring people together. Supporting this festival – and standout events like Mick Herron's – reflects our ongoing commitment to the cultural life of our island. Congratulations to the organisers on this milestone, and we look forward to another brilliant year.

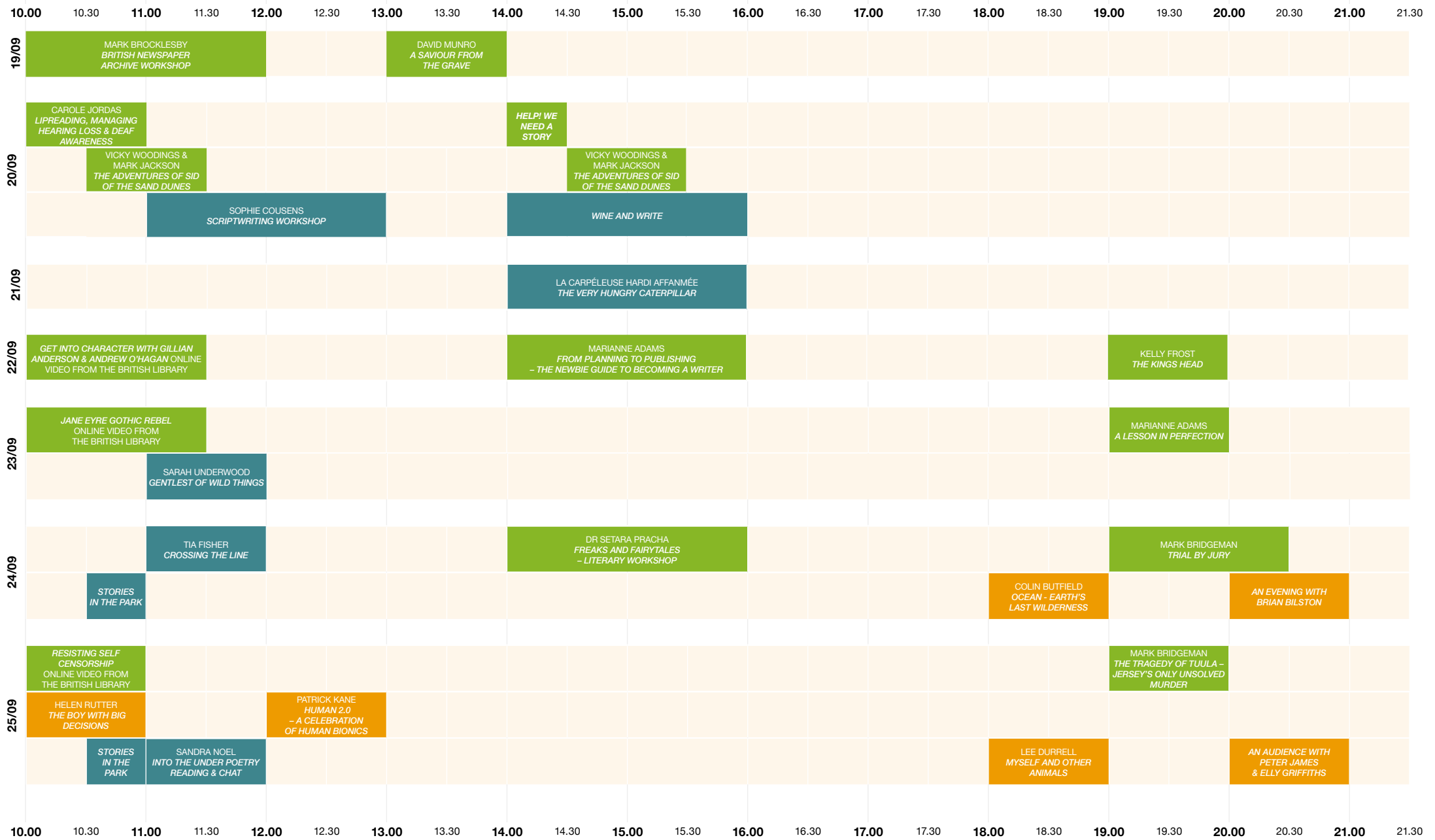
Martin Hall,
CEO of Principal
Corporate Sponsor
HIGHVERN



10th Anniversary

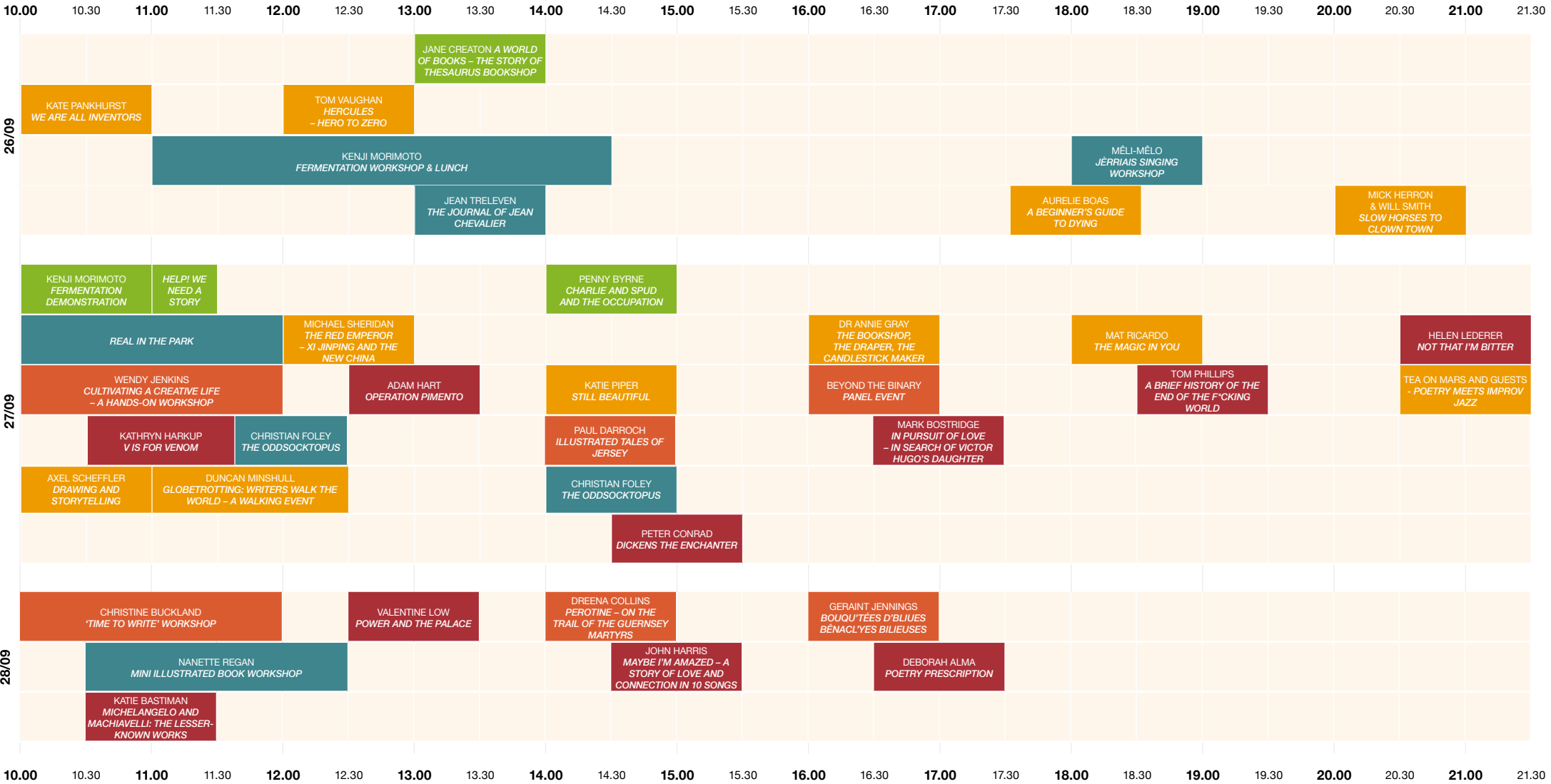
Friday 19 September – Thursday 25 September

Jersey Festival of Words 2025



Friday 26 September – Sunday 28 September

Jersey Festival of Words 2025



LIBRARY PROGRAMME

All events are **FREE** but require booking via [ticketsource](https://ticketsource.co.uk)

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER



MARK BROCKLESBY
BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE WORKSHOP / 10.00-12.00

Join us at Jersey Library for a workshop where we will guide you through the wide array of resources available on the British Newspaper Archive website – showing you how to navigate the wealth of information, whether you are looking into local history or exploring subjects across the globe. During the workshop you will be shown how to find everything from articles and letters to death notices and obituaries. Don't miss the opportunity to unlock some of the pages of history!

DAVID MUNRO
A SAVIOUR FROM THE GRAVE / 13.00-14.00



David Munro's love of history allows him to delve into past cultures and pinnacle events. His third novel, *Awakening*, is set in 1914 and 2014 telling a story of mystery, suspense and romance. As a writer, David's aim is to give readers enjoyment through interesting stories with compelling characters. His genres are historical fiction and fantasy. As an arts professional with experience of different cultures, this lends itself well to creative literature.

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

CAROLE JORDAS
LIPREADING, MANAGING HEARING LOSS & DEAF AWARENESS / 10.00-11.00

Sponsored by Ogier

Lipreading is an aid to help with communication for people with all levels of hearing loss. In Deaf Awareness you will learn lots of valuable tips on how to be deaf aware. This one-hour workshop is suitable for anybody with hearing loss of all levels and also for hearing people. Carole Jordas is profoundly deaf and has been since birth. She is a qualified tutor in Lipreading & Managing Hearing Loss as well as Deaf Awareness.

VICKY WOODINGS & MARK JACKSON
THE ADVENTURES OF SID OF THE SAND DUNES / 10.30-11.30 / suitable for children aged 8-12

Sid of the Sand Dunes is a magical adventure featuring Sid – a brave little lizard – and his loyal sidekick Jorge the cow. This workshop is an opportunity to learn about the huge range of animals that feature in Sid's adventures plus engage in some fun activities – there might even be prizes!

HELP! WE NEED A STORY / 14.00-14.30 / suitable for children aged 4-8

Come along and listen to a special story time in the Children's Library. Write your own story, design your own book cover and colour the picture of Artie the macaque and his jungle friends!



JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

VICKY WOODINGS & MARK JACKSON
THE ADVENTURES OF SID OF THE SAND DUNES / 14.30-15.30 / suitable for children aged 8-12

Please see earlier listing for event details. This workshop will take place at the Communicare Library, St Brelade.

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

GET INTO CHARACTER WITH
GILLIAN ANDERSON & ANDREW O'HAGAN
ONLINE VIDEO FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY / 10.00-11.30

Gillian Anderson has built a career on inventing, inhabiting and adapting some of the most memorable characters ever written. But what is it that brings a character to life? And how does it feel to give physical form to words on a page? In this Literature Matters: RSL 200 event, Anderson and her friend, novelist and RSL Fellow, Andrew O'Hagan, will study some of their favourite literary characters, and explore why literature matters so much to them.



MARIANNE ADAMS
FROM PLANNING TO PUBLISHING – THE NEWBIE GUIDE TO BECOMING A WRITER / 14.00-16.00

This whirlwind of a workshop is designed to deliver all the different stages of writing a book from the perspective of someone new to the industry. Full of practical advice and tips, this workshop will also warn you of the potential pitfalls, mistakes and disasters that can occur along the way, plus guidance of how to avoid them. All from personal experience!

KELLY FROST
THE KINGS HEAD / 19.00-20.00



A gang of girls called the Kings rule the bomb-struck streets of Finsbury Park. Armed with flick knives and fists, they do battle in dancehalls and on football fields. But with the authorities closing in and conscripted boys returning to claim what was once theirs, the Kings must ask if they're willing to pay the price of loyalty. Bound by wild friendship and brutal competition, these young women will do anything to carve a space for themselves from the wreckage. Debut novelist Kelly Frost will be in conversation with fellow author Sophie Cousens.

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

JANE EYRE GOTHIC REBEL
ONLINE VIDEO FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY / 10.00-11.30



Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is a classic example of defied convention. Acclaimed author Sara Collins, producer of the 2011 film adaptation Alison Owen, Victorian Literature expert Professor Sally Shuttleworth and critic Alex Clark discuss the spirit of rebellion found in its pages and what it is to be a child. This event contains discussion of sexual harassment within the novel so parental discretion is advised.

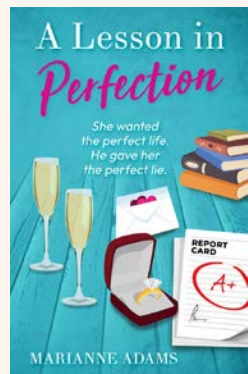


LIBRARY PROGRAMME

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MARIANNE ADAMS

A LESSON IN PERFECTION / 19:00-20:00



Marianne Adams is an English teacher and novelist, most recently completing her first two works of fiction *A Lesson in Perfection* and *A Lesson in Trust*. With over 15 years in education, both in the UK and her home in Jersey, a romantic comedy set in school seemed like the perfect choice for her debut novel. Marianne has recently set up her own tutoring business along with an English revision-based YouTube channel

to give her more time for writing, reading and walking on the beach, where you can often find her during inevitable writing blocks!

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

DR SETARA PRACHA

FREAKS AND FAIRYTALES

– LITERARY WORKSHOP / 14:00-16:00

In this workshop we explore characters from our childhood books, those familiar figures that began our reading adventures. Local literary guru, Dr Setara Pracha, invites you to spend an afternoon with a few monsters and creatures – while safe in the library. Authors include Margaret Cavendish, Emma Donoghue, Angela Carter, Christina Rossetti and of course, Mary Shelley. 'Are you sitting comfortably, then I will begin...'

MARK BRIDGEMAN

TRIAL BY JURY / 19:00-20:30



Guilty or innocent? Will you send a man to the gallows? You decide. Best-selling author Mark Bridgeman will be taking the part of judge, prosecution, and defence when he presents a real-life murder trial at this year's festival – in which

YOU the audience will become the jury! With a PRIZE for the winner, and a man's life in the balance this promises to be an event to remember. Silence in Court!

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

RESISTING SELF-CENSORSHIP / **ONLINE VIDEO FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY / 10.00-11.00**

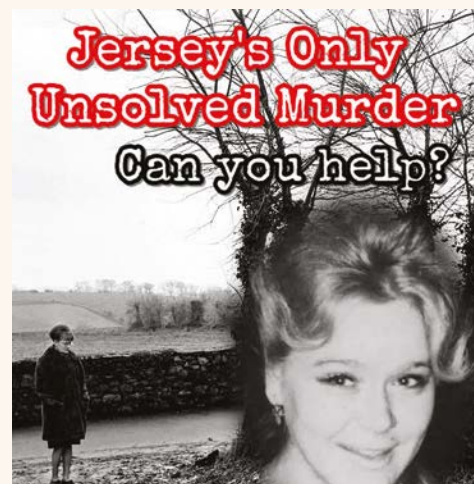
In the wake of George Floyd's murder and the resultant global Black Lives Matter protests, it has been clearer than ever before that the voices of some are prioritised to the exclusion of others. Index on Censorship and English PEN bring together a panel of writers who have committed to sharing their stories, to creating without compromise, and to inspiring others to do the same. Rachel Long, Elif Shafak, and Jacqueline Woodson explore what 'freedom' means in the culture of traditional publishing, and how writers today can change the future of literature. Chaired by Urvashi Butalia.

MARK BRIDGEMAN

THE TRAGEDY OF TUULA

– JERSEY'S ONLY UNSOLVED MURDER 19:00-20:00

Mark Bridgeman is currently writing and researching an upcoming book about the story behind Jersey's only unsolved murder – the tragic and mysterious death of 20-year-old Tuula Höök in 1966. Written with the full cooperation of Tuula's family in Finland, the States of Jersey Police, and the Jersey Evening Post, Mark hopes to finally solve the mystery behind the beautiful Finnish girl's death. Mark will discuss the background to the murder and the real story of the victim, Tuula, whose life was cut tragically short by an unknown killer who has escaped justice for more than half a century.



JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

JANE CREATON

A WORLD OF BOOKS – THE STORY

OF THESAURUS BOOKSHOP / 13.00-14.00



For over three decades, Thesaurus Bookshop was a book lover's paradise. It grew from a tiny room in Old Street, where customers had to use torches to navigate the shelves on cloudy days, to the magnificent three-floor 'Harrods of Bookshops' in Burrard Street. To mark the 25th anniversary of that shop's closure, Professor Jane Creaton shares the remarkable story of the bookshop her parents built into an Island institution. Drawing

on photographs, memorabilia and personal memories, she celebrates the legacy of Thesaurus, the fascinating characters connected to the shop and the importance of independent bookshops.

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

KENJI MORIMOTO

FERMENTATION DEMONSTRATION

10.00-11.00

Sponsored by Ogier



pickles into your everyday cooking with delicious, gut-healthy results.

Join third-culture cook and fermenting expert Kenji Morimoto for a demonstration on how simple it is to make flavourful, healthy ferments and use them in delicious, vibrant recipes. Pickles and ferments bring o much flavour and variety to meals and are easy to make, but can seem unachievable to many. Morimoto shows just how simple it is to introduce homemade ferments and

HELP! WE NEED A STORY / 11.00-11.30 /
suitable for children aged 4-8

Come along and listen to a special story time in the Children's Library and also at Communicare. Write your own story, design your own book cover and colour the picture of Artie the macaque and his jungle friends!

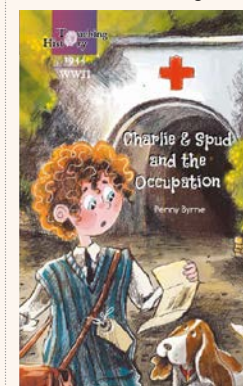


PENNY BYRNE

CHARLIE AND SPUD AND

THE OCCUPATION / 14.00-15.00

suitable for children aged 7-11



Would you be brave enough to travel back in time and experience the Occupation for yourself? Join local author Penny Byrne as she unlocks some of the secrets of life in Jersey during the Second World War in this fun, fact-packed event. Plus pick up invaluable tips on how to build your own time-travel story.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

We are delighted to offer a range of free schools events made possible by the kind support of the Roy Overland Charitable Trust

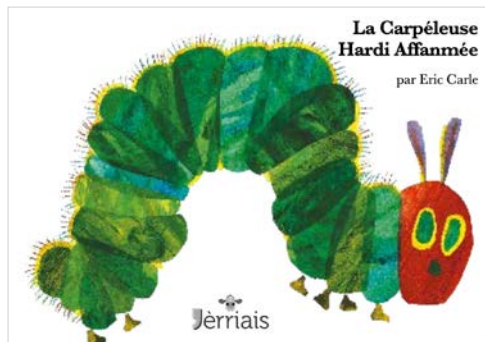
MONDAY 22-26 SEPTEMBER

JÉRRIAIS TEACHING SERVICE

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR – TOURING PRODUCTION

Primary schools / Reception-Year 2

We're bringing the excitement of live theatre to young learners with this dual language drama production in Jèrriais and English to celebrate the launch of the Jèrriais translation – *La Carpéleuse Hardi Affammée*. Since its publication in 1969, Eric Carle's best-known work, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, has eaten its way into the hearts of millions of children all over the world, been translated into more than 80 languages and has sold over 60 million copies.



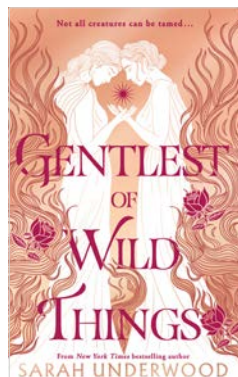
TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

SARAH UNDERWOOD

GENTLEST OF WILD THINGS

JCG / 11.00-12.00 / Years 11-13

Join Sarah Underwood as she discusses her dazzling new novel that deals with universal themes of grief, fate and love, set against a stunning world of Greek mythology and legends. It is her 'love letter to girlhood, to sisterhood, to mythology and magic, to the YA vampire novels I grew up reading, to my obsession with birds and cats and sheep and textiles arts, to disabled girls knowing their worth, to bravery, to perseverance, to the sea (again), and, above everything, to love.'



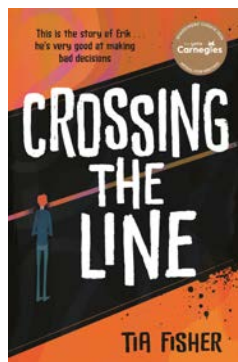
WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

TIA FISHER

CROSSING THE LINE

JCG / 11.00-12.00 / Years 9+10

Join Tia Fisher for a highly engaging event based on her powerful novel written in stunning free verse, exploring how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world and begins to make some bad – as well as ultimately good – decisions. This is a poignant story about seeking safety and asking for help in times of crisis.



JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

HELEN RUTTER

THE BOY WITH BIG DECISIONS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / Years 3-6



Comedian and actress Helen Rutter's first book was shortlisted for multiple awards. Her latest book, *The Boy with Big Decisions*, is fun and interactive, offering multiple pathways in a 'choose your own adventure' format. This will be reflected in a high-energy event in which the audience is invited to make decisions both for the story's main character and for Helen, highlighting the

book's core themes of empathy and kindness in a stand-up-comedy-style performance.

PATRICK KANE

HUMAN 2.0 – A CELEBRATION OF HUMAN BIONICS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / Years 5-8

This event will be speech-to-text facilitated – sponsored by Ogier



Patrick Kane has a revolutionary bionic arm – the I-Limb Pulse. Join him for a fascinating event about human bionics and learn how pioneering technological breakthroughs have truly changed lives. For some people, particularly those with disabilities, recent advances have crossed the realms of the purely imaginable and reached a place of possibility. People with paraplegia can walk again, those who are hearing-impaired can listen to even the faintest sounds, and some people with missing limbs can create beautiful works of art.

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

KATE PANKHURST

WE ARE ALL INVENTORS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / Years 1-3



Unleash your imagination and learn all about inventing! Kate Pankhurst is the bestselling author of internationally successful *Fantastically Great Women* series. This is the perfect introduction to inventing for the next generation of curious creators to encourage them to aim high and dream big. Kate

is a very experienced presenter for large-scale events and comes along with a big prop box.

TOM VAUGHAN

HERCULES – HERO TO ZERO

FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / Years 3-6

Tom Vaughan is the author of the bestselling *Hercules* series about a boy who discovers that his birth dad is none other than Zeus. This fast-moving highly-illustrated series is *Percy Jackson* meets *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Tom has visited numerous schools across the UK and his event is hilarious, interactive and educational. Be prepared for a fun quiz and to have your Greek mythology knowledge tested. You might even be invited onstage to dress up as a Greek god!



MAIN PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

SOPHIE COUSENS

SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP

CCA GALLERIES INTERNATIONAL / 11.00-13.00
£20 (includes book)

Sponsored by CCA Galleries International



Have you ever fancied penning a screenplay? What's the difference between writing a book and writing for the screen? Are you interested in knowing how an idea goes from script to screen? Join Sophie Cousens, New York Times bestselling author

and screenwriter of *This Time Next Year* (A No.1 film on Netflix) for a practical workshop on screenwriting.

WINE AND WRITE

CCA GALLERIES INTERNATIONAL / 14.00-16.00
£15 / To book a space please email:
ellen@jersefestivalofwords.org

Sponsored by CCA Galleries International



Join the effervescent poet Emilie Epperlein in a writing workshop which will offer the chance to get creative whilst enjoying a tippie. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to learn skills from a talented spoken word poet, switch off from your screen and enjoy meeting like-minded young writers. Our Wine

and Write workshop series offers a welcoming and relaxed environment and is open to all writing abilities regardless of previous experience. *Please note that the age bracket for this workshop is 18-30.*

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

LA CARPÉLEUSE HARDI AFFANMÉE – THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR BOOK LAUNCH / JERSEY ZOO

14.00-16.00 / FREE WITH ZOO ADMISSION PRICE

Join the Jërriais Teaching Service to celebrate the launch of the brand new Jërriais translation of Eric Carle's internationally bestselling picture book. There will be themed art and craft activities, dramatic readings of the story and a free copy of the book will be given to every family who attends.

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

STORIES IN THE PARK - MULTILINGUAL STORYTELLING / MILLENNIUM PARK

10.30-11.00 / FREE / for nursery/pre-schoolers

Sponsored by Ogier

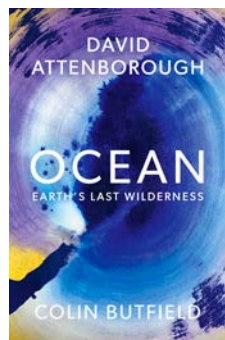
Come along and listen to some stories – in English, French, Portuguese, Polish and Romanian. Let's have some fun with books! There will be plenty of rugs, and books to share and take home. Experienced teacher and grandmother Annette Le Bail is a firm believer in the huge importance of reading and is hoping to demonstrate the joys of books for both little ones and those who read to them. Join Annette and friends - Penny Byrne, readers from Alliance Française and Hautlieu students and more.

COLIN BUTFIELD

OCEAN – EARTH'S LAST WILDERNESS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 18.00-19.00 / £9

This event will be speech-to-text facilitated
– Sponsored by Ogier



The ocean is the part of our world that can recover the fastest, and in our lifetime we could see a fully restored marine world, even richer and more spectacular than we could possibly hope, if we act now. Colin Butfield, long-time collaborator with Sir David Attenborough, will present an illustrated talk on their special project *Ocean* with excerpts from the film and voiceover from Sir David, followed by an audience Q&A. Butfield is

co-founder of Studio Silverback, Executive Producer of WWF's *Our Planet* project, and an advisor for the Earthshot Prize.

AN EVENING WITH BRIAN BILSTON

FREEDOM CENTRE / 20.00-21.00 / £15



Nine years ago, Brian Bilston began publishing short, pithy and often humorous poems on Twitter, which were instant hits. His poems were spread widely on social media, gaining him 400,000

followers and the title 'the Poet Laureate of Twitter'. Since then, he has published three collections of poems and a novel (*Diary of A Somebody*) that was shortlisted for the Costa Book Award. He is a tremendous performer and his year-round UK tour events always sell out.

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

STORIES IN THE PARK / MULTILINGUAL STORYTELLING / MILLENNIUM PARK / 10.30-11.00 FREE / for nursery/pre-schoolers

Sponsored by Ogier

Please see Wednesday listing for event details.



SANDRA NOEL

INTO THE UNDER – POETRY READING & CHAT / EYECAN SOCIAL CLUB / 11.00-12.00 / FREE

Sponsored by Ogier

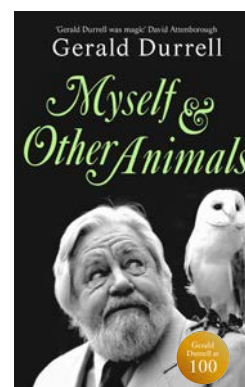
Sandra Noel is a Jersey poet with a passion for nature and the ocean. A year-round sea swimmer, Sandra is often seen with tow float, dry-robe and iPad. Her poems appear in various online and print magazines. Her debut collection *Into the Under* was published in July 2024 by Yaffle Publishing. EYECAN provides social and community-based support to Islanders living with sight impairment. This includes a weekly Social Club on a Thursday that has been running for many years.

LEE DURRELL

MYSELF AND OTHER ANIMALS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 18.00-19.00 / £9

Supported by Durrell



Myself and Other Animals is a new book mosaicked from unpublished autobiographies and extracts from Gerald Durrell's work and archives. The result is an extraordinary journey through Durrell's life in his own words, edited and introduced by his widow Lee. Moving from India to England and then to the always sun-lit Corfu, this is the unvarnished story of one of Britain's most beloved conservationists. Discussing Gerald

Durrell's legacy and their adventures together, Lee Durrell will be in conversation with Rod McLoughlin.

AN AUDIENCE WITH PETER JAMES & ELLY GRIFFITHS

FREEDOM CENTRE / 20.00-21.00 / £12

Sponsored by Titan Wealth



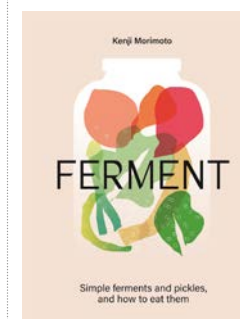
Peter James and Elly Griffiths are two of the biggest names in the crime-writing genre. Queen Camilla announced recently that Peter James's Roy Grace is her favourite fictional detective, and Peter hints that there just might be a royal element to the new Roy Grace out in October... This year also sees the first book in Elly Griffiths's ambitious new series *The Frozen People*, which brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'cold case'. Join Peter and Elly for what promises to be a scintillating night of crime chat with a sprinkling of royal secrets.

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

KENJI MORIMOTO

FERMENTATION WORKSHOP & LUNCH

JCG / 11.00-14.30 / £85 – ticket price includes a litre jar of kimchi, cooked lunch and a hardback copy of *Ferment*



Pickles and ferments bring so much flavour and variety to meals and are easy to make but can seem unachievable to many. Discover how simple it is to use flavourful, healthy ferments in delicious, vibrant recipes with third-culture cook and fermenting expert Kenji Morimoto. In this special workshop you will learn to make cornshop kimchi and then go on to cook chicken or tofu masala. Kenji will expertly guide you throughout the process and demonstrate how to introduce homemade miso, kimchi, sauerkraut, kombucha, quick pickles and more into your everyday cooking.



MAIN PROGRAMME

JEAN TRELEVEN

THE JOURNAL OF JEAN CHEVALIER

MEMBERS' ROOM - SOCIÉTÉ / 13.00-14.00 / FREE



Jean Chevalier lived in St Helier's Royal Square throughout the Civil War. He became so concerned by events in 1642, that he started a journal. Although a Royalist and supporter of the ruling De Carterets, he was never afraid to comment when he felt mistakes were being made. The original, in the

French of the day, was published by the Société Jersiaise in 9 volumes between 1906-1914. It has now been translated by Stéphanie Nicolle, former Attorney General, and is nearing publication.

MÊLI-MÊLO

JÈRRIAIS SINGING WORKSHOP

THE BLUE NOTE / 18.00-19.00 / £6

Celebrate Jersey's precious native language in this singalong with Jèrriais band Mêli-Mêlo. Learn some classics – such as an upbeat version of Jersey's official anthem, Man Beau P'tit Jèrri (Beautiful Jersey) – as well as some new and quirky songs that showcase our Island's rich linguistic heritage. Join in and have fun whilst learning or, if you prefer, simply come along, listen and enjoy! No prior knowledge of Jèrriais is necessary.



AURELIE BOAS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DYING

FREEDOM CENTRE / 18.00-19.00 / £10



Simon Boas touched many people's lives – most of all with his attitude to his untimely death and through his musings on how to live deeply and how to die well. In this



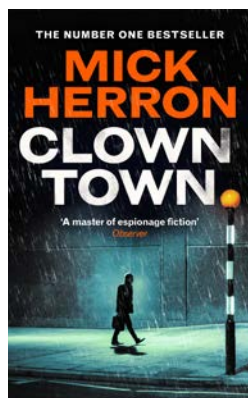
event, his widow Aurelie will be in conversation with Simon's friend, and fellow writer, Sam Le Quesne. They will touch on *A Beginner's Guide to Dying*, but will mainly explore Aurelie's journey – openly and honestly – from Simon's cancer diagnosis, to preparing for his death, through to her ongoing grief and all of its unexpected stages.

MICK HERRON & WILL SMITH

SLOW HORSES TO CLOWN TOWN

FREEDOM CENTRE / 20.00-21.00 / £18

Sponsored by HIGHVERN



Mick Herron is the #1 Sunday Times bestselling author of the *Slough House* thrillers, which are the basis of the huge hit Apple TV+ drama thriller series *Slow Horses*, starring Gary Oldman as the irascible Jackson Lamb. September sees the publication of *Clown Town*, the ninth book in Mick Herron's critically acclaimed, 2.5 million+ copy selling series. Mick

will be joined by award-winning (multiple Emmys and Writer Guild Awards) Will Smith, who is the creator and showrunner of *Slow Horses*, as well as a stand-up comedian, screenwriter, novelist, actor and producer.

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

REAL IN THE PARK / MILLENNIUM PARK

10.00-12.00 / FREE

REAL in the Park is a fun, free outdoor event for families with babies and young children aged 0-5. Join us for play-based activities designed to support early language and literacy. REAL stands for Raising Early Achievement in Literacy – a programme that helps parents and carers build their children's confidence with words, books, and communication through everyday experiences. Come along, enjoy the fresh air and fun, and discover ways to support your child's learning and development through play!

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

WENDY JENKINS

CULTIVATING A CREATIVE LIFE – A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM / 10.00-12.00 / £20

Are you looking for a bit more cheer and purpose in your life? This energising and uplifting workshop is designed to help you reconnect with your creativity in a way that feels truly fulfilling. Come ready to chat about the things that hold you back creatively and discover ways to reclaim more meaningful moments in your days. By making a personal inspiration booklet to take away, you'll explore what lights you up, uncovering ways to instantly boost your creativity.



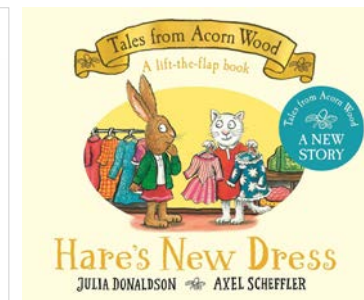
AXEL SCHEFFLER

DRAWING & STORYTELLING

FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / £9

suitable for children aged 3+

Celebrate 25 Years of *Tales from Acorn Wood*! Join Axel Scheffler, legendary illustrator of children's classic *The Gruffalo* (which has sold over 17.5 million copies, in 105 countries throughout the world) as he draws some of his most famous characters. He will be introducing his delightful new books *Welcome* and *Hare's New Dress* and combining his illustrations with wonderful storytelling.



KATHRYN HARKUP

V IS FOR VENOM / JERSEY ARTS CENTRE

10.30-11.30 / £9

This event will be bsl interpreted – sponsored by Ogier



popularity of poisons and the macabre.

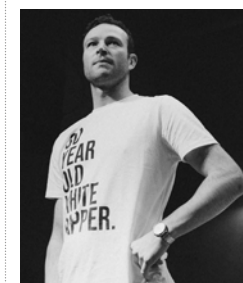
Fourteen novels... fourteen poisons... don't be fooled into thinking that everything within the pages of Agatha Christie's books was fiction... Former chemist Kathryn Harkup explores the scientific facts behind the deadly chemicals in Christie's novels. What is the history of their use in real-life murder cases both at the time the novels were written and today? Join Harkup for a riveting talk in which she delves into the enduring

CHRISTIAN FOLEY

THE ODDSOCKTOPUS

MILLENNIUM PARK / 11.30-12.30 / FREE

Sponsored by Switch



cartoons. Expect rocket speed riddles and have a go at rapping over your own rhythms. Through this high-tempo performance blending song, story and poetry, expect to learn a love of language whatever age you are.

Come and hear Christian Foley's debut picture book, *The Oddsocktopus*, inspired by growing up by the sea in Jersey, performed live. But that's not all. Expect rap remixes of rhymes you thought you knew (Nursery Grime). Expect to marvel at superhero poems or be animated by songs about your favourite

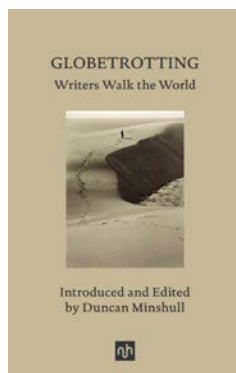
MAIN PROGRAMME

DUNCAN MINSHULL

GLOBETROTTING: WRITERS WALK THE WORLD – A WALKING EVENT

STARTS AND FINISHES AT THE FREEDOM CENTRE

11.00-12.30 / £10

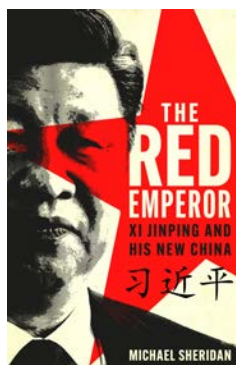


Come along for an amble in the nearby leafy surrounds of Howard Davis Park, with Duncan Minshull. Enjoy the morning views and hear Duncan read extracts from his latest book about the writers who have traversed every continent from the 1500s to the present day – follow in the footsteps of various men and women travellers, those strollers and marchers, the rational and the outlandish. En route, Duncan will also

be asking his fellow footers about the joys of pedestrian travel. Why do you go walking?

MICHAEL SHERIDAN

THE RED EMPEROR – XI JINPING AND THE NEW CHINA



FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / £9

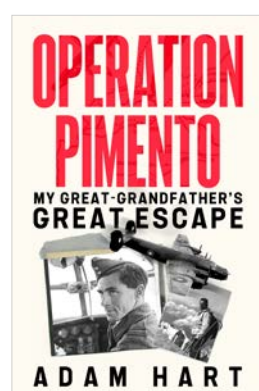
Supported by JICAS

A loner and a risk-taker, Xi Jinping is the most consequential leader of our time. Join Sean Dettman for a discussion with leading expert and correspondent on China and the Far East, Michael Sheridan. Drawing on decades of first-hand reporting, Sheridan will shed new light on the history and politics of China and the 'red emperor', who aims to dominate world trade, to defeat Western democracy and to make China the supreme power in the East.

ADAM HART

OPERATION PIMENTO

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 12.30-13.30 / £9



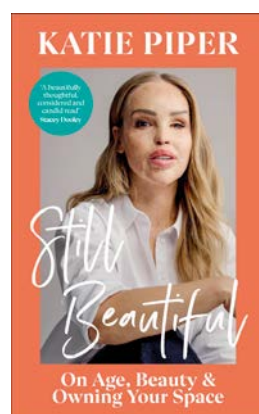
Operation Pimento is a thrilling and moving account of RAF Squadron Leader Frank Griffiths' remarkable escape from the Nazis after his plane was shot down over occupied France – as told by his great-grandson, Adam Hart – who, during his gap year, retraced Frank's steps throughout Europe. There, he met the descendants of the people who'd hidden Frank away in order to help him escape the Nazis. Join Hart in conversation with Ben Queree, as he recounts both journeys – a riveting story of danger, bravery and legacy.

KATIE PIPER

STILL BEAUTIFUL

FREEDOM CENTRE / 14.00-15.00 / £15

Sponsored by Oakglan Wealth



When a life-threatening acid-attack left Katie Piper physically and visibly scarred at just 24, her approach to ageing was irrevocably changed and she now sees each passing year as a reminder of the privilege of being alive. Over a decade on, the bestselling author, inspirational speaker, TV presenter and charity campaigner discusses with Festival Chair Lucy Cotter what it means to age well within a world that has

too often made women feel irrelevant or invisible for going through the natural ageing process. This event will be speech-to-text facilitated thanks to Ogier.

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

PAUL DARROCH

ILLUSTRATED TALES OF JERSEY

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM

14.00-15.00 / £6



Jersey's landscape and history are steeped in its folklore and legends. Local author Paul Darroch explores a multitude of mysterious myths and strange tales from centuries past. He will reveal the legends surrounding a dragon that ruled Jersey, a long-lost bridge to Normandy, the giant storm hound that preyed on Bouley

Bay, the manor under the sea, and many more strange and remarkable stories.

CHRISTIAN FOLEY

THE ODDSOCKTOPUS

MILLENNIUM PARK / 14.00-15.00 / FREE

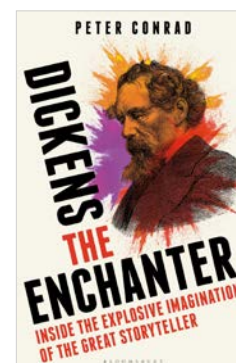
Sponsored by Switch

Please see previous listing for event details.

PETER CONRAD

DICKENS THE ENCHANTER

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 14.30-15.30 / £9



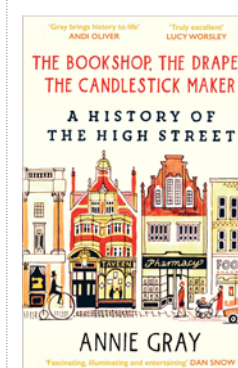
Former journalist and JCG Librarian Anu Ananth-Huggler talks to one of the greatest cultural critics of our time – Peter Conrad – about his latest book *Dickens the Enchanter* – an examination and exploration of the most powerful and potent imagination in literature. Conrad argues that Charles Dickens alone rivals Shakespeare and, in many ways, betters him. He critically and brilliantly charts how the forces of creation and destruction meet in Dickens, who, ultimately, in the unfinished murder mystery of Edwin Drood, was destroyed by his own creative genius.

DR ANNIE GRAY

THE BOOKSHOP, THE DRAPER, THE CANDLESTICK MAKER

FREEDOM CENTRE / 16.00-17.00 / £9

Sponsored by Soroptimist International Jersey



Dr Annie Gray is resident food historian on BBC Radio 4's *The Kitchen Cabinet* as well as being a regular contributor to *Saturday Kitchen*. In this event, she will take us down the high street through the ages, from medieval marketplaces to the purpose-built concrete precincts of the twentieth century. Peeping through the windows of tailors, tearooms and grocers, we'll explore everything from the

toys of yesteryear - where curiosities were sold for adults, not children - to the birth of brands we shop at today.

This event will be BSL interpreted thanks to Ogier.

BEYOND THE BINARY

PANEL EVENT / JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM / 16.00-17.00 / £6

Join a panel discussion with Kaye Nicholson, Dr Adam Perchard, Katie Bastiman and Dean Conrad, as they explore portrayals of gender fluidity in the literary and allied arts – ranging from medieval manuscripts and Japanese play-scripts, through nineteenth and twentieth century classics, to contemporary writings and performance texts. Together, the panel will discuss the appearance of gender-diverse characters, evaluate variations in representation through history and between cultures, and consider what we might draw from depictions of bodies and minds that exist beyond the binary.

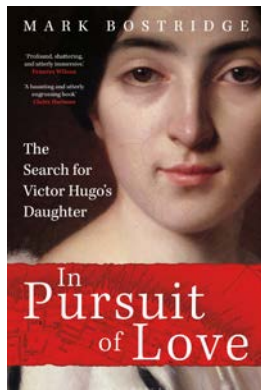


MAIN PROGRAMME

MARK BOSTRIDGE

IN PURSUIT OF LOVE – IN SEARCH OF VICTOR HUGO'S DAUGHTER

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 16.30-17.30 / £9



In 1863, the daughter of the most famous writer in the world (Victor Hugo) suddenly leaves her family's home in the Channel Islands, bound for Nova Scotia. Adèle Hugo, in pursuit of a young British soldier who has rejected her, travels from Normandy to the Caribbean Islands. Mark Bostridge's book is part memoir and part travelogue, as he follows her reckless journey of unrequited

love and weaves into the story episodes of his own emotional life. The event will be chaired by Richard Pedley.

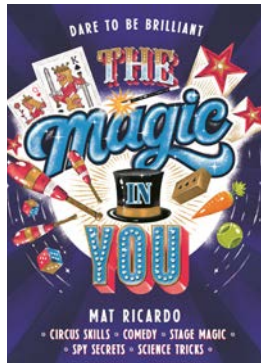
MAT RICARDO

THE MAGIC IN YOU / FREEDOM CENTRE

18.00-19.00 / £9

Supported by Zedra

Join the world's most critically acclaimed variety artist Mat Ricardo for a hilarious and unmissable one-man show full of circus tricks, magic and big laughs for all ages. Mat will be introducing his children's book *The Magic in You* and sharing his tips and tricks on boosting your confidence to become a superstar entertainer! Mat Ricardo learned his craft as a street performer in London's famous Covent Garden, before travelling the world's theatres, cabaret clubs and festivals to become the most globally successful variety comedian.

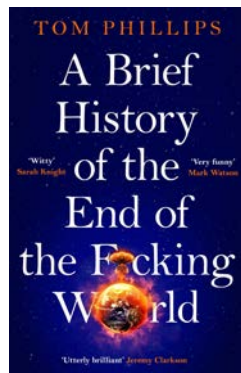


TOM PHILLIPS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE END OF THE F*CKING WORLD

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 18.30-19.30 / £9

Do you feel like we're living in the end times? Does it seem like everything is on fire, and one disaster follows another? You're not the first to feel that way. If there's one thing that people throughout the ages have agreed on, it's that history wasn't going to be around much longer. Festival stalwart Andrew Davey will be in conversation with Tom Phillips, discussing how we live in a world where catastrophe is always looming but how – ultimately, and surprisingly – we can find hope in it.



HELEN LEDERER

NOT THAT I'M BITTER

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 20.30-21.30 / £12



Join writer Kelly Frost as she discusses Helen Lederer's journey from being what her mother called a 'show-off' to becoming a trailblazer in the male-dominated world of alternative comedy. Lederer is best known as Catriona, the dippy journalist in the TV series *Absolutely Fabulous* – although, her stay in the *Big Brother* house caused a different kind of notoriety. They'll dip into Lederer's memoir – a mix of joy, sadness, hilarity and startling self-revelation, woven together with a witty narrative that delivers real punch.

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

TEA ON MARS AND GUESTS

POETRY MEETS IMPROV JAZZ / FREEDOM CENTRE

20.30-21.30 / £12



Come along for a memorable evening of never-to-be-repeated moments – combining talented performance poets with the spirit of improvised jazz. Get ready for headlining poet Christian Foley, who makes it up as he goes along... lauded by stars like 50 Cent and Lin Manuel Miranda, internationally acclaimed writer and performer Dr Adam Perchard, and emotive poet Alanna Rice whose writing is rooted in her Caribbean heritage.

Tea on Mars features original compositions by Martin Coxshall in collaboration with an ensemble of creative, fun and magical musicians.

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

CHRISTINE BUCKLAND

'TIME TO WRITE' WORKSHOP

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM

10.00-12.00 / £20 / Participants should be 18+

This workshop explores the impulse to write, as well as opportunities to observe, to listen and to collect ideas for creative writing. So, if you've ever had the urge, even if it's only been a paragraph or page that you have written and been delighted with, then come along and explore your creative talent. There will be discussion and collaborative working, as well as extended time to write and create at your own pace.

NANETTE REGAN

MINI ILLUSTRATED BOOK WORKSHOP

HARBOUR GALLERY JERSEY

10.30-12.30 / £20 / Participants should be 16+



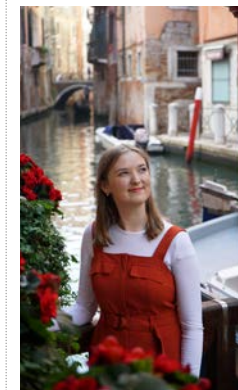
Join children's book illustrator Nanette Regan for a playful, hands-on workshop. Through fast and fun drawing games, you'll explore the creative process behind illustrating children's books. With a focus on spontaneity and creative mess-making rather than polished

technique, you'll use pens, paper, scissors and tape (all provided) to create your own rough and wonky mini book. Some drawing experience is helpful, but enthusiasm matters more!

KATIE BASTIMAN

MICHELANGELO AND MACHIAVELLI: THE LESSER-KNOWN WORKS

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 10.30-11.30 / £9

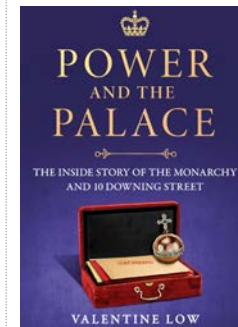


As two of the biggest names of the Italian Renaissance, Michelangelo Buonarroti and Niccolò Machiavelli are both renowned for their greatest works. But aside from 'David', the Sistine Chapel ceiling, and 'The Prince', both figures made fascinating contributions to the literary scene. Through analysis of Michelangelo's lyric poetry and Machiavelli's comedy plays, this talk will reveal a new dimension to these famous (and, perhaps, infamous) Renaissance men. Katie Bastiman is a local scholar of Italian literature as well as a teacher, writer, and musician.

VALENTINE LOW

POWER AND THE PALACE

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 12.30-13.30 / £9



Valentine Low will be in conversation with Festival Chair Lucy Cotter discussing his new book *Power and the Palace*, which rewrites our understanding of the political power of the monarchy. Valentine Low is the former royal correspondent at The Times who has been writing about the royal family for over a quarter of a century. Come along for a 'lift the lid' discussion on the intimate relationship between the sovereign and the government – the all-important relationship at the heart of our constitution.



MAIN PROGRAMME

DREENA COLLINS

PEROTINE – ON THE TRAIL OF THE GUERNSEY MARTYRS

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM

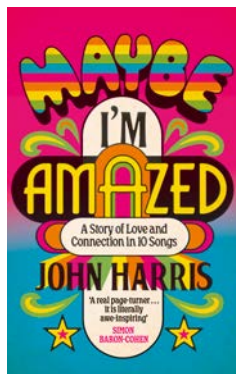
14.00-15.00 / £6

The Guernsey martyrs were three 'ordinary' Protestant women. Brought to trial in 1556, their remarkable story is full of twists and trauma. Yet, while these events were first recorded by John Foxe in 1563, modern retellings have been surprisingly few. Local author Dreena Collins has spent the last two years researching and writing her forthcoming historical novel inspired by their trial, 'Perotine'. Join Dreena as she explains the research process used to add colour and authenticity to this retelling, and unfolds their harrowing story.

JOHN HARRIS

MAYBE I'M AMAZED – A STORY OF LOVE AND CONNECTION IN 10 SONGS

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 14.30-15.30 / £9



Obsessed with music as a child and then pursuing a career in music journalism – John Harris had no idea that he was preparing himself for the greatest challenge of his life. When his son James was diagnosed with autism aged three, music became their main form of communication. Join Harris as he discusses with Chris Stone the struggles of raising an autistic child in a prejudiced world, and how uncovering a hidden history

of neurodivergence and creativity cast new light on why music speaks so powerfully to the human mind.

JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2025

GERAINT JENNINGS

BOUQU'TÉES D'BLIUES BÈNACL'YES BILIEUSES / JERSEY ARTS CENTRE

MARIA RITCHIE ROOM / 16.00-17.00 / £6



What are the challenges of translating *Tintin* into Jèrriais? Geraint Jennings will give some insights into the work-in-progress of making these much-loved comic books available in the Island's own language, adding to the many translations that have

been undertaken worldwide. What are the strategies and challenges involved in translating for the strip layout? Besides the discussion there will be some readings from the works. Geraint Jennings spent many years teaching Jèrriais in schools. He now works for Jersey Heritage, promoting Jèrriais and providing translations.

DEBORAH ALMA

POETRY PRESCRIPTION

JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 16.30-17.30 / £9



The *Poetry Prescription* series is eight fun, clever and stylish books all giving poetic cures for life's ailments. There is a book for every type of reader, providing whatever help they need, whether that's encouragement, inspiration, or a quiet moment of reflection. Join Deborah Alma in

conversation with local poet Juliette Hart, discussing her journey from the Emergency Poet to the Poetry Pharmacy, dispensing prescriptions of poetry. The event will also include a live poetry consultation and some readings from the anthologies.

'FESTIVAL-ZONE' DEALS

We are grateful to all local businesses who have offered to partner with us. All deals are offered to festival attendees with a valid Jersey Festival of Words 2025 ticket.



Sweet Spot Jersey:

10% off any purchase



Pizza Express:

FREE dough balls or soft drink (available as take-away)



Krafty J's:

20% discount



Cooper + Co:

FREE coffee at 57 Halkett Place. 50 vouchers will be given away with book sales between 24th and 27th



Banjo:

Complimentary welcome drink when dining at Banjo



Samphire:

FREE souffle dessert for any diners dining from A La Carte menu during lunchtime



Not pictured

Ommaroo Hotel:

10% discount off a meal with a £15 minimum spend



Not pictured

Pomme d'Or Hotel:

10% discount offered on all food and drink in Cafe Bar



All featured businesses are offering DEALS for Festival-goers between Sept 19-28!

All festival details and ticket bookings are available at www.jerseyfestivalofwords.org

A NOTE ON FESTIVAL ORGANISERS

Jersey Festival of Words is run by the Jersey Literary Festival Association, a registered charity organisation.

The JLFA is chaired by Lucy Cotter. Also on the organising committee are Lucy Layton (vice-chair), Marnie Baudains (secretary), Andy Le Seilleur (treasurer), Pippa Le Quesne (director), Paul Bisson, Ellen Baker (assistant), Lauren Hallam (data officer), Chris Bright, Jo Olszewski, Alanna Rice and Richard Pedley.

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