**Saturday 14th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 1’s highlights include Huma Quereshi, Rob Percival, PJ Harvey, Adbulrazak Gurnah with Elif Shafak, and Marian Keyes. Komedia’s special comedy night Krater Comedy Club also guarantees a good night out, as well as the Queens Square Hub providing festival buzz and free entertainment.

Janice Hallett

Saturday 14 May, 10am–11am, Assembly Rooms

Author of The Appeal – Sunday Times Crime Book of the Year 2021 – Janice Hallett has been described as the modern-day Agatha Christie. Scala Radio's Penny Smith talks to Hallett about her phenomenal success, how she creates her ingenious and twisty plots, and introduces The Twyford Code, her dazzling and addictive new novel.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Saturday 14 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Harriet Evans

Saturday 14 May, 10am–11am, Literature Lounge

Harriet Evans has written 13 bestselling novels and worked for many years as an editor with authors such as Marian Keyes and Sue Townsend. In early 2020 she moved to Bath, where her family has lived for 200 years. Harriet will be talking to writer and broadcaster Francesa Beauman about her latest novel, The Beloved Girls, the sometimes strange life of being labeled a ‘women’s fiction’ author, the secrets of a long writing career, and living and writing in Bath.

We Are Family

Saturday 14 May, 10.30am–11.30am, Assembly Rooms

A trio of wise, warm and wonderful writers together in discussion about family – what we inherit, the stories that every family holds at its heart and how our relationships influence our health and happiness. Join bestselling psychotherapist Julia Samuel (Every Family Has a Story) and Clover Stroud, who writes movingly about the death of her sister Nell Gifford in The Red of My Blood, in conversation with acclaimed writer Cathy Rentzenbrink (Write It All Down).

Creative Writing: Saying more with less

Saturday 14 May, 11am–12.30pm, Persephone Books

Huma Qureshi introduces you to the short story form, what she loves so much about it and what she has learnt in the process of writing her own. Explore how to make an emotional impact, by adding depth and layers rather than length, in order to create a short story that resonates with readers long after the story has ended. Expect lively discussion about favourite short story writers, such as Alice Munro, Jhumpa Lahiri and Lucy Caldwell and write your own opening scenes with Huma's guidance.

Eating, Empathy and the Future of Meat

Saturday 14 May, 11am–12pm, The Forum Ballroom

We care for animals. We eat them. We struggle to make sense of the contradiction. Climate campaigners, beleaguered farmers and media commentators insist our meat consumption is either good or bad. Writer and campaigner Rob Percival (The Meat Paradox) brings us an even-handed and nuanced exploration of our complex moral relationships with other animals.

Bach: The Great Passion

Saturday 14 May, 11am-12.15pm, St Swithins

The St Matthew Passion is one of the greatest pieces of music ever written. But what was it like to play, sing and hear it for the first time? James Runcie talks about the imaginative research involved in writing his new novel The Great Passion, the story behind the inspiration, composition, rehearsal and first performance of Bach’s masterpiece in April 1727. This is an illustrated talk with musical accompaniment by brilliant young French violinist Irène Duval.

PJ Harvey with Max Porter – Orlam: A Conversation

Saturday 14 May, 12pm–1pm, Komedia

In this spoken-word PJ Harvey will recite poems from her new book, and join in conversation with renowned English writer Max Porter. Orlam reveals PJ Harvey as a gifted poet  whose formal skill, transforming eye and ear for the lyric line has produced a strange and moving poem like no other. Orlam is not only a remarkable coming-of-age tale, but the first full-length book written in the Dorset dialect for many decades.

Share Your Story with Cathy Rentzenbrink and Nikesh Shukla

Saturday 14 May, 12.30pm–1.30pm, Assembly Rooms

Telling stories helps us make sense of ourselves. Would you like to write but aren’t sure where to start? This special festival event brings together two bestselling authors Cathy Rentzenbrink (Write it All Down) and Nikesh Shukla (Your Story Matters) to inspire and steer you through the philosophical and practical challenges.

East Side Voices

Saturday 14 May, 12.30pm–1.30pm, Literature Lounge

Helena Lee, founder of the East Side Voices cultural salon and acting deputy editor of Harper’s Bazaar, presents this bold, first-of-its kind anthology, that explores a dazzling spectrum of experience from the East and Southeast Asian diaspora living in Britain today. She is joined by two anthology contributors: writer and musician Claire Kohda (Woman, Eating), and award-winning poet Will Harris (RENDANG).

Exploring Male Power and Privilege

Saturday 14 May, 1pm–2pm, Assembly Rooms

Broadcaster Justin Webb (The Gift of a Radio) and bestselling author Richard Beard (Sad Little Men) were both sent away from home as young boys to boarding school. Join them for a candid and deeply insightful discussion with broadcaster Mark Lawson, about the formative experiences of boyhood, the realities of British elite all-male boarding school life and its long-reaching consequences on the psyche of the men who often end up leading the country.

Dealing with Disaster

Saturday 14 May, 1.30pm–2.30pm, The Forum Ballroom

Professor Lucy Easthope is the UK’s leading disaster recovery authority. Her book When the Dust Settles is the gripping story of a life spent inside major disasters from Hillsborough and 9/11 to Grenfell and Covid. Anna Kent has delivered babies in war zones across the world and Frontline Midwife shares her extraordinary experiences as a nurse, midwife and mother. They talk to Claire Armitstead, The Guardian journalist and editor about life, loss and hope.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Saturday 14 May, 2-4pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

Female of the Species

Saturday 14 May, 3pm–4pm, Assembly Rooms

Join two brilliant women – broadcaster and journalist Mary Ann Sieghart and award-winning broadcaster and filmmaker Lucy Cooke – as they consider what it means to be female. The Authority Gap provides a fresh, provocative take on how to address systemic sexism to benefit everyone while Bitch blows sexist myths right out of biology. They talk to writer and comedian Viv Groskop (How to Own the Room) about overturning outdated binary expectations of bodies, brains, biology and behaviour.

Let’s Talk About Love

Saturday 14 May, 3pm–4pm, Literature Lounge

Huma Qureshi talks to journalist Natasha Lunn (Conversations on Love) about Things We Do Not Tell the People We Love, her breathtaking collection of stories about our most intimate relationships: the misunderstandings between families, the silences between friends and the dissonance between lovers.

Creative Writing: How to make writing part of your life

Saturday 14 May, 3pm–4.30pm, Persephone Books

Kick start your creativity with this encouraging and enjoyable workshop led by author and memoirist Cathy Rentzenbrink (Write It All Down) on how to develop a writing practice that will enrich your life and help you to write pretty much anything at all. All are welcome.

Homelands and Heartlands

Saturday 14 May, 3.30pm–4.45pm, Assembly Rooms

A conversation between two literary giants, this festival highlight features the Tanzanian-born Nobel Prize winner, Abdulrazak Gurnah, and the eminent Turkish-British novelist and activist, Elif Shafak. They form this unique pairing to discuss their prolific body of work alongside notions of home, Britishness, international fiction and post-colonial legacies. Chaired by journalist and editor, Boyd Tonkin.

The Life Inside: Andy West

Saturday 14 May, 4pm–5pm, The Forum Ballroom

Andy West teaches philosophy in prisons, listening as the inmates explore new ways to think about their situation. He also confronts his own inherited guilt: his father, uncle and brother all spent time in prison. He talks to Caroline Sanderson about The Life Inside, his wise and frequently funny debut book that blends memoir, storytelling and gentle philosophical questioning.

Shostakovich, Life Letters and Friendship

Saturday 14 May, 5pm-7pm, St Swithin's Church

Experience the intense emotional power of Shostakovich’s String Quartets as the Carducci Quartet paint an intimate portrait of the great composer through music and spoken word. Take a journey deep into Shostakovich’s psyche, as he walked a delicate tightrope balancing political pragmatism with personal expression against the backdrop of Josef Stalin’s tyrannical Soviet regime. Historical sources and letters from the composer to one of his closest confidantes are paired with extracts from contemporaneous quartets, painting a fascinating picture of how music offered a much-needed emotional outlet in the most difficult of times.

Ali Smith: Treasured Companions

Saturday 14 May, 5.30pm–6.45pm, Assembly Rooms

One of the nation’s most accomplished living novelists, Ali Smith will be in conversation with journalist and author, Arifa Akbar, about the inspiration for her latest book, Companion Piece, and the seasonal quartet of novels that wove fiction from life following Brexit. Accompanied by short readings selected by Smith, the event also explores her love of music, her life and work, as well as the value of hospitality in society and the importance of openness in our age.

Men on Love

Saturday 14 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Literature Lounge

Two exceptional voices in contemporary British fiction. Award-winning author Okechukwu Nzelu’s latest novel, Here Again Now is a spellbinding, tender and immensely uplifting tale about lovers, fathers and sons. Kasim Ali’s captivating debut, Good Intentions, is a powerful modern love story that deftly explores family obligation and racial prejudice alongside the flush of first love. They talk to Nikesh Shukla.

Pitch Perfect: Marian Keyes, Nina Stibbe and Lucy Mangan

Saturday 14 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Assembly Rooms

Three witty, wise and wickedly funny writers Marian Keyes (Again, Rachel), Nina Stibbe (One Day I Shall Astonish the World) and Lucy Mangan (Are We Having Fun Yet?) explore female friendship, old flames, family chaos and the absurd pitfalls of modern life with Claire Armitstead, The Guardian journalist and editor.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Saturday 14 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Speaking Volumes on Identity and Transformation

Saturday 14 May, 8pm–9pm, Assembly Rooms

Two trailblazers come together to talk about identity, imagination and human rights. Jay Bernard, Ted Hughes Award winning poet (Surge), performs their spoken word poetry and talks to Shon Faye, a former lawyer and bestselling author (The Transgender Issue: An Argument for Justice). The event showcases the groundbreaking live literary platform, Speaking Volumes, which supports under-represented voices. Chaired by The Guardian journalist and editor, Claire Armitstead.

Litwitchure with Abigail Bergstrom

Saturday 14 May, 8pm–9pm, Literature Lounge

Join author Abigail Bergstrom as she has her tarot read by Jen Cownie and Fiona Lensvelt (Wild Card) who also perform together as Litwitchure. The cards will guide the conversation as they explore the many captivating themes of Abigail's new book What a Shame, including friendship, consent, relationship breakdown and love. Expect the unexpected! There's no way of knowing what the cards will reveal.

Krater Comedy Club

Saturday 14 May, Doors 6.30pm // Show 8pm, Komedia

Kick-off your weekend with some proper good laughs and discover the best in live comedy, featuring three top stand-ups and one of the best comperes in the business! Previous alumni of Krater Comedy Club include the likes of Romesh Ranganathan, Tom Allen, Sarah Millican, Daliso Chaponda & Luisa Omielan to name just a few, so our stage really is the place to catch the comedy all-stars of tomorrow! Includes FREE entry to The Big Disco or Motorcity afterwards!

**Sunday 15th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 2’s highlights include Arifa Akbar, Marcus Brigstocke, Brian Bilston, Monica Ali, IF Opera and Karine Polwart with Dave Milligan. The Queens Square Hub provides a huge festival buzz and free entertainment.

Mark Haddon: A Writer’s Life

Sunday 15 May, 10am–11am, Assembly Rooms

A multi award-winning and bestselling author who has achieved international acclaim (The Porpoise, The Pier Falls, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time), Mark Haddon reflects on the writer’s life in a candid conversation with journalist and author, Arifa Akbar (Consumed: A Sister’s Story). After depression robbed him of the ability to write for 18 months, he talks about mental illness, heart surgery, working for the Samaritans, the joy and horror of social media, and the consolations of Papier Mâché.

Writing Lives with Stacey Halls and Cathy Rentzenbrink

Sunday 15 May, 10am–11am, Literature Lounge

First meeting as journalists over ten years ago, while working for The Bookseller magazine, writing about other people’s books, these two wonderful writers, Stacey Halls and Cathy Retzenbrink, have now published eight books between them. In this lively event, they will interview each other about how they made the leap into their writing careers, what they wish they’d known, and the highs and lows of writing life. Prepare to be inspired!

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Sunday 15 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Martin Bell: War & Peacekeeping

Sunday 15 May, 10.30am–11.30am, Assembly Rooms

Over six decades, Martin Bell, (War and Peacekeeping: Personal Reflections on Conflict and Lasting Peace) the finest war reporter of his generation, has stood in 18 war zones as a soldier, a reporter and a UNICEF ambassador. He looks back on our efforts to keep the peace since the end of the Second World War and considers the current darkening political landscape with broadcaster and journalist Mark Lawson.

Marcus Brigstocke’s Sunday Papers

Sunday 15 May, 11am–12pm, Komedia

Comedian Marcus Brigstocke brings his popular event to The Bath Festival for the first time! He will be joined by panelists, author and campaigner Dr Rachel Clarke, Channel 4 News journalist Symeon Brown and comedian Rachel Parris to review the news stories of the week. Listen as they tear apart the tabloids, play havoc with the headlines and blast the broadsheets; picking out the topical, heartwarming and funny stories of the day.

Charlotte Mendelson and Daisy Buchanan

Sunday 15 May, 12.30pm–1.30pm, Literature Lounge

Award-winning author Charlotte Mendelson’s new novel The Exhibitionist is a dazzling exploration of art, toxic family politics and queer desire. Careering is award-winning journalist and broadcaster Daisy Buchanan’s blisteringly funny and perceptive look at work, self-worth and womanhood. Claire Armitstead, The Guardian journalist and editor talks to them about exploring the hot mess that lies just beneath the surface of life.

Monarchy: Past, Present and Future

Sunday 15 May, 1pm–2pm, Assembly Rooms

There has never been a more apposite moment to consider the history and evolution of the British Monarchy – one of the most iconic and enduring institutions in the world, surviving centuries of rebellion, revolution and war as well as the shaping of our religious, political and cultural identity. Leading historian and joint chief curator at Historic Royal Palaces Tracy Borman (Crown & Sceptre) considers this extraordinary survivor at a pivotal point in British history.

Brian Bilston

Sunday 15 May, 1-2pm, Assembly Rooms

The unofficial Poet Laureate of Twitter, Brian Bilston comes to Bath to share some of his brilliant, touching and hilarious poems. His book Alexa, What Is There To Know About Love? features everything from romantic to familial love, as well as poems about reading and literature and the odd one about the subject causing many of us heartbreak: politics.

Rachel Parris in Conversation with Viv Groskop

Sunday 15 May, 1pm–2pm, Komedia

Over the course of a year, award-winning comedian and presenter Rachel Parris asked members of her live audiences for advice. Her new book, Advice from Strangers explores the resulting random gems of wisdom in ways that are both hilarious and heartbreaking. She talks to writer and comedian Viv Groskop (How to Own the Room) about the peculiarly human habit of giving and asking for advice. They consider the essentials of living in the modern world; dealing with everything from Tampons to Tories and from #hashtags to Staying Hydrated.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Sunday 15 May, 2-4pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

My Family and Other Memoirs

Sunday 15 May, 3pm–4pm, Assembly Rooms

What are the rigours and rewards of writing about the darker side of family life? How does an author navigate its ethics? Journalist and broadcaster, Christina Patterson (Outside,The Sky is Blue: A Family Memoir), talks to The Guardian critic and Costa Prize shortlisted author, Arifa Akbar (Consumed: A Sister’s Story), about grief, catharsis and pinning life and love on the page. Chaired by writer and broadcaster, Mark Lawson.

The Impact of Internet Influencers

Sunday 15 May, 3pm–4pm, Literature Lounge

In the ‘attention economy’, influencers are royalty and everyone from mumfluencers to governments want to build their online influence. But what murky secrets lurk behind the filtered selfies? Channel 4 reporter Symeon Brown (Get Rich or Die Trying) and digital strategist Olivia Yallop (Break the Internet) talk to Marisa Bate about influencer bootcamps, fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes and whether our digital rat race is costing us too much.

Monica Ali in conversation with Dr Rachel Clarke

Sunday 15 May, 3.30pm–4.30pm, Assembly Rooms

The bestselling Brick Lane author, Monica Ali, returns with Love Marriage, a heartbreaking and gripping new novel that tells the story of two junior doctors trying to understand each other. She talks to author and campaigner Dr Rachel Clarke (Breathtaking) about exploring the questions of who we are and how we love in today’s Britain with all the complications and contradictions of life, desire, marriage and family.

IF Opera Presents Tales from Chez Bullier in partnership with Viking

Sunday 15 May, 5pm or 7.30pm, The Guildhall

If Opera, born of Iford Arts, and now one of the most progressive and exciting opera ensembles anywhere, comes to the Bath Festival with a very special new show. Chez Bullier’s, a faded Parisian speakeasy, is home to a cast of characters with tales of love and laughter, tragedy and loss, whose stories sadden and gladden the heart, or even break it. Bullier’s host and compère takes us on a journey through their lives as we meet Ruggero and Magda, Mimi and Rodolfo, Hannah, the widow and a whole tapestry of delicious characters from operatic history. Featuring music by Puccini, Verdi, Lehar and others. Oliver Gooch conducts a small salon band alongside the 2022 If Opera ensemble who will perform for the first time under the company name, a prelude to the spectacular season at Belcombe Court in August. A unique and ravishing evening of stories and the most beautiful music imaginable.

Shean Shibe

Sunday 15 May, 5pm-6pm, St Swithin's Church

Hailed as the most exciting guitarist of his generation, Sean Shibe offers a kaleidoscopic programme ranging from South America to Spain and from Scotland to Germany and to Bach – the composer he performed to win his most recent Gramophone Award.

Building a Meaningful Life with Oliver Burkeman and Emma Gannon

Sunday 15 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Assembly Rooms

We live in an era of online distraction, overwhelm and seemingly constant uncertainty. Join writer Oliver Burkeman (Four Thousand Weeks) and writer and podcaster Emma Gannon ((Dis)connected) as they share refreshing and insightful perspectives on productivity, mortality and balance with Daisy Buchanan.

Georgia Pritchett and Abi Morgan:

Sunday 15 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Literature Lounge

Two Emmy award-winning writers Georgia Pritchett and Abi Morgan talk to Francesca Beauman about their joyful, tender and brutally honest new memoirs. Succession screenwriter and co-executive producer Georgia Pritchett (My Mess is a Bit of a Life) knows a thing or two about living with and sometimes thriving (sometimes not) with anxiety whilst The Iron Lady and Suffragette screenwriter Abi Morgan (This is not a Pity Memoir) returned home one June morning to find the man she loved lying on the bathroom floor.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Sunday 15 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

John Crace in conversation with Zoe Williams

Sunday 15 May, 6pm–7pm, Assembly Rooms

A Farewell to Calm: The New Normal Survival Guide sees the brilliantly acerbic parliamentary sketch writer John Crace present an infectiously funny selection of his finest recent pieces. Join him in conversation with fellow columnist at The Guardian, Zoe Williams, as they reflect on 18 months of bluster and bedlam, Brexit blithering and Covid confusion. Not to be missed.

Karine Polwart and Dave Milligan

Sunday 15 May, 7.30pm, Komedia

Seven-time winner at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Karine Polwart’s latest project is a collaboration with renowned jazz/folk pianist Dave Milligan. Piano and voice isn’t a combination you hear often in the folk idiom, and yet it can be just as potent, if not more so, than a full band, and the duo’s new album is just this – an intimate, stripped-back collection of songs performed entirely with voice and grand piano.

**Monday 16th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 3’s highlights include Classical Music Rising Star Laura Van Der Heijden, Ruth Milligon, Otto English, Alison MacLeod, Julia Armfield and a special concert from The Bath Festival Orchestra in the renowned Roman Baths. Also on offer is an accessible concert of the intense theatrical performance of 20th century opera classic La Voix Humaine.

Creating Compelling Characters with Jason Hewitt

Monday 16 May, 10am–12pm, BRLSI

Stories cannot exist without the people that inhabit them, and yet creating strong, believable characters can be a challenge. Acclaimed novelist Jason Hewitt (The Dynamite Room) will provide practical steps to help you create complex and fully formed characters that not only bring your story to life but also drive the narrative in fresh and exciting ways.  All are welcome.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Monday 16 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

Classical Music Rising Star: Laura Van Der Heijden

Monday 16 May, 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

Since winning BBC Young Musician of the year in 2012 Laura van der Heijden has developed an international career in recital, chamber music and concerto. Bach’s cello suites are among his best loved and provide the perfect framework for two 20th century works. Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson is now considered to be among the finest Black American composers of the 20th century and Imogen Holst was a major figure in British musical life.

Lunchtime Lecture: Nino Strachey – Young Bloomsbury

Monday 16 May, 1pm–2pm, BRLSI

Little has been written about the second-generation figures who, in the 1920s, tantalised the original Bloomsburies with their cross-dressing, captivating looks and provocative ideas. Head of Research for the National Trust, Nino Strachey (Young Bloomsbury), descended from a family at the heart of the Bloomsbury Group, shines a light on this extraordinarily colourful cast of talented and complicated characters.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Monday 16 May, 2pm-4pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Muse

Monday 16 May, 3.30–4.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Meet the unexpected, overlooked and forgotten models of art history. Far from the prevailing perception as passive, powerless models posing silently, muses have often played influential and active roles in the lives of the artists who immortalised them. Art historian and critic Ruth Millington talks to The Holburne Museum director Chris Stephens about the compelling true stories featuring incredible women who have inspired art history's masterpieces across the centuries.

The BBC at 100

Monday 16 May, 3.30pm–4.30pm, BRLSI

From the Great War to the culture wars, this global institution has helped define Britain.

Greg Ingham talks to professor and historian David Hendy (The BBC: A People’s History) about his captivating and compelling book that traces the BBC from its maverick beginnings through war, the creation of television, changing public taste, austerity and massive cultural change.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Monday 16 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Fake History: 10 Great Lies and how they shaped the world

Monday 16 May, 6pm–7pm, BRLSI

From the myths of the Second World War to the self-serving legends of ‘great men’, fake history is everywhere. Journalist and author Otto English tears apart the lies propagated by politicians and think tanks, grand narratives spun by populists and the media as well as the stories on your friend’s Facebook feeds. He talks to Greg Ingham about reclaiming the truth from those who have perverted it.

Alison Macleod on D.H. Lawrence

Monday 16 May, 6pm–7pm, The Holburne Museum

Lady Chatterley’s Lover, once entitled Tenderness, was banned as obscenity on its publication in 1928. Alison MacLeod will explore, with Richard Owen, her novel, Tenderness, based around the creation of D.H. Lawrence’s ‘scandalous’ story, from the wet ink of its creation to its trials and surprising aftermath. A Book of the Year for The New York Times and The Spectator.

Persephone Books Comes to Bath

Monday 16 May, 6-7pm, Persephone Books

The founder of publishing company Persephone Books, Nicola Beauman, will give an informal talk looking back at what will soon be 25 years of rediscovering and reprinting 20th-century women writers; she will also explain why, a year ago, the Persephone Bookshop came to Bath.

Mr B's Presents: Julia Armfield

Monday 16 May, 7pm–8pm, Mr B’s Emporium

When a submarine voyage goes wrong, Leah is lost thousands of feet under the ocean for weeks. The woman that emerges is a grotesque shell of her former self. Join us as we chat to Julia Armfield (Our Wives Under the Sea) about her unique, debut novel, part-horror, part-love story that embeds itself under your skin and refuses to leave.

Girls Support Girls

Monday 16 May. 7.45pm, Komedia

An all female line up curated by Girls Support Girls. Bringing a safe space for everyone to support and engage with a female-led creative collective. Girls Support Girls are pushing for more opportunities for local artists and providing larger promotional platforms to celebrate individuality for marginalised genders.

Bath Festival Orchestra

Monday 16 May, 8pm-9.15pm, The Roman Baths

An ocean-bound journey: four countries – all separated by water – bring forth a composer each, with four different sea-inspired musical pieces. The journey starts in Japan, with the rather well-known composer Toru Takemitsu and his work Toward the Sea (1981). This work was commissioned by Greenpeace for the Save the Whales campaign. The work, which exists in three different versions, is divided in three parts which are titled after Melville’s Moby Dick, or The Whale and serves as a homage to the sea.

La Voix Humaine

Monday 16 May, 8pm-9m, Secret Location

This event is the only performance which is accessible for wheelchair users.

A co-production between Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera commissioned for Festival of Voice. A woman is on the phone to her lover who is ending their relationship. Her devastation unfolds before our eyes as we, the audience, eavesdrop on her despair in the confines of her home. Taking place in an apartment in Bath, Director David Pountney has taken a 20th century opera classic and created an intense theatrical experience. La voix humaine is opera up-close, intimate and unrestrained. Bookers will receive confirmation of the venue prior to the festival.

**Tuesday 17th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 4’s highlights include Carrie Etter, Lucy Ward, George Monbiot, Kris Hallenga, John Grindrod and Penguin Micheal Joseph Proof Party. Much loved star Jess Gilam brings her ensemble to perform an explosive concert at Komedia.

Writing Workshop: Publishing Your Poetry with Carrie Etter

Tuesday 17 May, 10am–12pm, BRLSI

Ever wanted to publish your poems in magazines but didn't know where to start? Or perhaps you've published some and are interested in publishing a pamphlet or book of your poems? In this two-hour session, widely published poet Carrie Etter will address how to analyse magazines to find the best fit for your work, writing cover letters, keeping records, and much more.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Tuesday 17 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Classical Music Rising Star Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

Tuesday 17 May, 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

At 19 years of age Jeneba is the third member of the extraordinary Kanneh-Mason family to reach the final stages of BBC Young Musician of the Year. Still a student at the Royal College of Music she is already developing a remarkable career including a debut at the 2021 BBC Proms with Chineké Orchestra. Her programme ranges from the elegance of Mozart to the virtuoso fireworks of Scriabin and Liszt.

Lunchtime Lecture: The Joy of Science

Tuesday 17 May, 1pm–2pm, BRLSI

Today’s world is complex and unpredictable and trying to make the best decisions is far from easy, so join physicist and bestselling author Jim Al-Khalili as he invites us to engage with the world as scientists do, exploring eight key features of the scientific method, such as the role of doubt, the pros and cons of simplification and the importance of evidence-based thinking.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Tuesday 17 May, 2pm-4pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

The Empress and The English Doctor

Tuesday 17 May, 3.30pm–4.30pm, BRLSI

As smallpox ravaged her empire and threatened her court, Catherine the Great took the momentous decision to summon the Quaker physician, Thomas Dimsdale, from Hertford to St Petersburg to carry out a secret mission that would transform both their lives. Caroline Sanderson talks to writer Lucy Ward about this extraordinary story of Enlightenment ideals, female leadership and the fight to promote science over superstition.

English Garden Eccentrics

Tuesday 17 May, 3.30-4.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Renowned landscape architect and author Todd Longstaffe-Gowan reveals a fascinating array of obscure and eccentric English garden-makers who, between the 17th and 18th centuries created intensely personal and idiosyncratic gardens incorporating miniature mountains, exotic animals, excavated caves and shaped topiaries. Come and be inspired to add some eccentricity to your own gardens!

George Monbiot

Tuesday 17 May, 5pm–6pm, Komedia

Regenesis is a breathtaking vision of a new future for food and humanity. Farming is the world's greatest cause of environmental destruction – and the one we are least prepared to discuss. Writer and environmental campaigner George Monbiot talks to Max Porter about his inspiring vision of a new future for agriculture and how new discoveries could allow us to grow more food with less farming, transforming our relationship with the living planet.

Kris Hallenga: Coppafeel

Tuesday 17 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Walcot House

Kris Hallenga founded breast cancer awareness charity Coppafeel, following her untreatable stage 4 diagnosis at 23. She talks to cancer campaigner and author Emma Campbell, about her first book How to Glitter a Turd, their shared experiences and how despite dire adversity great things can follow difficult diagnoses.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Tuesday 17 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Butler to the World: Britain’s National Decline

Tuesday 17 May, 6pm–7pm, BRLSI

Moneyland author Oliver Bullough’s new book Butler to the World is a sizzling and incendiary story of our national decline. Join him as he reveals the devastating facts behind Britain’s dirty financial secrets, corrupt politics and moral guilt while directly challenging the UK to clean up its act. This event is a must for anyone who cares about our reputation in the world today.

Iconicon: Contemporary British Buildings

Tuesday 17 May, 6 -7pm The Holburne Museum

Wimpey homes. Millennium monuments. Wind farms. Spectacular skyscrapers. Self-confessed architecture geek John Grindrod takes us on an enthralling, witty and engaging journey round the Britain we have created since 1980: the horrors and delights, the triumphs and failures.

Penguin Michael Joseph Proof Party

Tuesday 17 May, 6pm–7pm, Francis Hotel4

Penguin Michael Joseph publishes some of the world’s most popular authors. Get ahead of the game at this special event where you’ll meet two of their biggest 2023 debut authors and take home proofs months ahead of publication. Writer and bookseller Francesca Beauman talks to Fran Littlewood and Katie Lumsden about their respective debuts: Amazing Grace Adams and The Secrets of Hartwood Hall.

Ticket includes a glass of wine or soft drink and a goodie bag of limited edition proofs

La Voix Humaine

Tuesday 17 May, 6pm-7pm, Secret Location

A co-production between Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera commissioned for Festival of Voice. A woman is on the phone to her lover who is ending their relationship. Her devastation unfolds before our eyes as we, the audience, eavesdrop on her despair in the confines of her home. Taking place in an apartment in Bath, Director David Pountney has taken a 20th century opera classic and created an intense theatrical experience. La voix humaine is opera up-close, intimate and unrestrained. Bookers will receive confirmation of the venue prior to the festival.

Bath to Fleet Street

Tuesday 17 May, 6.30-7.30pm Dorothy House Bookshop

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear Geoff Ellis talk about his career as a press photographer, showcased in his book, Bath to Fleet Street, with images from his personal archive. A nostalgic look at life through Geoff's lens with pictures and anecdotes from his time as a young press photographer in Bath in the 1950s, troubled times in Northern Ireland through to Fleet Street power struggles.

Mr B's Presents: Luke Healy

Tuesday 17 May, 7pm–8pm, Mr B’s Emporium

Luke Healy has shared a train with Serbian cheese-smugglers, hiked 2660 miles from Mexico to Canada, and is conveniently talented at capturing his experiences in comic form. Join us as we chat about Luke’s incredible journeys and his dazzlingly funny and honest work as the graphic artist of new novel The Con Artists and brilliant works like Americana and How to Survive in the North.

Rugby, Dementia and the Fight of My Life

Tuesday 17 May, 8pm–9pm, Walcot House

Steve Thompson (Unforgettable) is a hero to many for his illustrious career, not least the part he played in England’s 2003 Rugby World Cup victory. Steve, however, remembers nothing of that win due to an early onset dementia diagnosis in his early 40s, largely attributed to the insane physical nature of the sport he owes so much to. He talks to Bath Rugby’s Club President John Hall about his life in rugby and his hopes and fears for the future.

Jess Gillam Ensemble

Tuesday 17 May, 8pm, Komedia

Programme includes music by CPE Bach, John Harle, James Blake, JS Bach, Piazzolla and Will Gregory. Jess Gillam is a musical force of nature. Passionate about inspiring and bringing joy to people through music, Jess invites audiences on journeys of musical discovery through her electrifying performances and eclectic programming. The Jess Gillam Ensemble is made up of an incredible group of musicians from a wide range of musical backgrounds but with roots in classical music. This promises to be an explosive concert designed to showcase the diversity, dynamism and versatility of the saxophone, and to inspire audiences to reflect, dance and smile!

**Wednesday 18th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 5’s highlights include Classical Music Rising Star Ariel Lanyi, Patrick Mackie, Francesca Beauman, a free Bath Arts Workshop, Susan Stokes-Chapman, poets from Lyra Festival and exciting music performances from the Tallis Scholars at Bath Abbey and contemporary jazz band Empirical at Walcot House.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Wednesday 18 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Katherine Rundell on John Donne

Wednesday 18 May, 10.30–11.30am, BRLSI

In his myriad lives John Donne was a scholar of law, a sea adventurer, a priest, an MP – and perhaps the greatest love poet in the history of the English language. Join celebrated author and scholar Katherine Rundell as she introduces us to Super-Infinite, her sparkling and very modern biography that brings him and his poems to life.

Classical Music Rising Star Ariel Lanyi

Wednesday 18 May, 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

Ariel Lanyi announced his presence as a major musical talent as a prize winner in the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition in 2021 where he performed Brahms with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Andrew Manze. He has also performed at the Wigmore Hall and at the Marlboro Festival.

Lunchtime Lecture: Latitude with Nicholas Crane

Wednesday 18 May, 1pm–2pm, BRLSI

In 1735, 12 men boarded ships bound for South America with the mission to discover the true shape of the Earth. Beset by egos and disease, storms and earthquakes, mutiny and murder, they struggled for ten years to reach the single figure they sought. Award-winning writer, geographer and broadcaster Nicholas Crane presents this epic story of survival and science.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Wednesday 18 May, 2pm-4pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Greek Myths Retold

Wednesday 18 May, 3.30pm–4.30pm, BRLSI

Myths have long held readers fascinated. Jennifer Saint’s Elektra is a lyrical retelling of the three women at the heart of the cursed House of Atreus and Sarvat Hasin’s The Dark Giant reimagines the story of Orpheus & Eurydice, exploring the consuming effects of using a lover as a muse. They talk to Judith Robinson about their fresh takes on ancient tales.

Mozart in Motion: Patrick Mackie

Wednesday 18 May, 3.30-4.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Patrick Mackie’s ‘Mozart in Motion’ allows us to look at this extraordinary composer anew. The biographical narrative is illuminated by examination of the composition and social environment of a series of masterpieces through Mozart’s life which reveal a musician in dialogue with culture at its most sweepingly progressive, when Europe was caught between two historical worlds. Alistair Hogarth performs musical examples to set Patrick’s beautiful writing in context.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Wednesday 18 May , 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

In Search of Mary Seacole

Wednesday 18 May, 6pm–7pm, The Holburne Museum

This wonderful, illustrated talk sees acclaimed writer Helen Rappaport describe her extraordinary discovery in 2003, of the lost painting of British-Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole that now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery. She’ll explore just how modern the painting was for its time, unravel the enigma of the totally unknown artist and detail her journey to shine a light on the real Mary Seacole, largely forgotten following her death in 1881.

The Literary Almanac

Wednesday 18 May, 6-7pm, Persephone Books

Author and bookseller Francesca Beauman talks about her latest book, The Literary Almanac: A Year of Seasonal Reading. Hear her suggestions about what, and what not to read during the month of May and beyond, and then contribute your own. Because ‘to everything there is a season’ and books are no exception. The perfect way to help solve the dilemma of What To Read Next.

Bath Spa Anthology Readings

Wednesday 18 May, 6-7pm, Forum Coffee House

A stimulating evening brought to you by the diverse and tenacious 2020 cohort of Bath Spa University’s Creative Writing MA, whose work is gathered together in their self-produced anthology. Enjoy readings from a cross-section of poets, novelists, memoirists and experimental writers and also take the chance to talk to them about their experiences of the Bath Spa Creative Writing MA programme.

La Voix Humaine

Wednesday 18 May, 6pm-7pm, Secret Location

A co-production between Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera commissioned for Festival of Voice. A woman is on the phone to her lover who is ending their relationship. Her devastation unfolds before our eyes as we, the audience, eavesdrop on her despair in the confines of her home. Taking place in an apartment in Bath, Director David Pountney has taken a 20th century opera classic and created an intense theatrical experience. La voix humaine is opera up-close, intimate and unrestrained. Bookers will receive confirmation of the venue prior to the festival.

Before We Go

Wednesday 18 May, 6.30pm–7.30pm, Dorothy House Bookshop

Bath Arts Workshop, Counterculture In The 1970s is a candid and hilarious account of how a rowdy, inventive counterculture exploded upon our 18th-century city.  In the words of co-author Jennie Potter-Barrie: ‘It was outrageous to many, hilarious, irreverent, hard work and brilliant fun. Now we look back and ask if we changed anything other than ourselves.’ Come meet the authors, Victoria Forbes Adam and Phil Shepherd and join the conversation!

The Tallis Scholars

Wednesday 18 May, 7pm-8.30pm, Bath Abbey

Peerless in this repertoire, The Tallis Scholars offer us a fascinating programme of music by composers who worked in the Sistine Chapel and wrote for the choir there . Wonderful mass settings by Palestrina are interweaved amongst a programme which includes Allegri’s unforgettable ‘Miserere’, as well as other ravishing works of contemporaneous Renaissance polyphony.

Mr B's Presents: Susan Stokes-Chapman

Wednesday 18 May, 7pm–8pm, Mr B’s Emporium

Join us in conversation with debut author Susan Stokes-Chapman as she talks about her instant bestseller. The year is 1799, and Dora is living under the thumb of her oppressive uncle, an antiques dealer who has just acquired an ancient Greek vase by questionable methods. Full of mystery, romance and rich with heady atmosphere, Pandora is the kind of book you put everything on hold to read.

Empirical

Wednesday 18 May, 7.30pm, Walcot House

Empirical are one of the most admired and unique bands in contemporary jazz and will be bringing their award-winning sounds to this year’s festival. The ensemble compromises of Nathaniel Facey alto sax, Tom Farmer double bass, Lewis Wright vibraphone and Shane Forbes drums.

Lyra Comes To Bath

Wednesday 18 May, 8pm–9.15pm, Forum Coffee House

Bristol’s exhilarating new poetry festival brings together local, national and international poets with the aim of showcasing poetry in the widest range of forms. Three of Lyra’s poets will delight and intrigue in a special Bath Festival performance: Tom Sastry (selected by Carol Ann Duffy as Laureate’s Choice poet), Rebecca Tantony, author of three collections and Beth Calverley, founder of The Poetry Machine. Hosted by the Lyra Festival directors, Lucy English and Danny Pandolfi.

Aaron Akugbo and John Kitchen

Wednesday 18 May, 9.30pm-10.30pm, Bath Abbey

Aaron Akugbo, Trumpet

John Kitchen, Organ

Tomasi: Sainte Semaine a Cuzco

Damase: Trois prières

Messiaen: Apparition de l’Eglise éternelle

Telemann: Methodische Sonate

Callaerts: Toccata in E minor

Friedman: Solus

Cecilia McDowall: Celebration

Florence Price: Adoration

Bach: Trumpet & Organ Concerto D major BWV 972

**Thursday 19th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 6’s highlights include Classical Music Rising Star Irene Duval, Nick Butter, Sam Fowles, Celia Paul, Tade Thompson, Bob Stanley, alongside genre crashing band Snazzback and the Lydian Collective as well as our annual classical Concert for the People of Bath.

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 6’s highlights include Classical Music Rising Star Irene Duval, Nick Butter, Sam Fowles, Celia Paul, Tade Thompson, Bob Stanley, alongside genre crashing band Snazzback and the Lydian Collective as well as our annual classical Concert for the People of Bath.

Writing Workshop: Nature Writing, An Introduction with Stephen Moss

Thursday 19 May, 10am–12pm, BRLSI

How do we translate our experiences of the natural world onto the page? What techniques can we use to do so? And why do we want to do it in the first place? In this practical workshop, aimed at beginners, award-winning author and naturalist Stephen Moss, course leader of the MA Nature and Travel Writing at Bath Spa University, looks at the different ways we can turn experience into prose, via a simple writing exercise which you will then share with the group.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Thursday 19 May , 10am-12pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

Classical Music Rising Star Irene Duval and Sam Armstrong

Thursday 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

Irène Duval, violin

Sam Armstrong, piano

Hahn: Romance in A

Poulenc: Sonata for violin and piano

Fauré: Andante, Op.75

Fauré: Berceuse, Op.16

Saint-Saens: Berceuse, Op.38

Enescu: Sonata No.2 in F minor, Op.6

A fitting programme for a budding violin virtuoso. George Enescu was a brilliant violinist in his own right and his music concludes a ravishing French programme which includes the beautiful melodies of Fauré and Hahn as well as the charm and wittiness of Poulenc – one of the 20th century’s most endearing composers.

Lunchtime Lecture: Tutankhamun at 100

Thursday 19 May, 1pm–2pm, BRLSI

Acclaimed Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson (Tutankhamun’s Trumpet: The Story of Ancient Egypt in 100 Objects) re-evaluates the fascinating and fractious life of the young Pharaoh through the objects he was buried with. A wide-ranging exploration of ancient Egyptian culture, its extraordinary development, remarkable flourishing and lasting impact.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Thursday 19th May, 2pm-4pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

La Voix Humaine

Thursday 19 May, 3pm-4pm, Secret Location

A co-production between Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera commissioned for Festival of Voice. A woman is on the phone to her lover who is ending their relationship. Her devastation unfolds before our eyes as we, the audience, eavesdrop on her despair in the confines of her home. Taking place in an apartment in Bath, Director David Pountney has taken a 20th century opera classic and created an intense theatrical experience. La voix humaine is opera up-close, intimate and unrestrained. Bookers will receive confirmation of the venue prior to the festival.

Delusions and Diagnosis: From Mediaeval Times to Present Day

Thursday 19 May, 3.30pm–4.30pm, BRLSI

In this special event writer and producer Victoria Shepherd (A History of Delusions) and writer and former consultant neurologist Jules Montague (The Imaginary Patient) explore the implications behind diagnostic labels, the stories of collective anxieties and traumas, the history behind illness and our current modern maladies. They speak to Judith Robinson.

Constable: A Portrait

Thursday 19 May, 3.30-4.30pm, The Holburne Museum

The revolutionary 19th-century landscape painter John Constable is one of Britain's best-loved but perhaps least understood artists. Art and cultural historian James Hamilton (Constable: A Portrait) reveals a complex, troubled man, explodes previous mythologies and establishes him in his proper context as a giant of European art.

Nick Butter: Running the World

Thursday 19 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Walcot House

Athlete and adventurer Nick Butter is no ordinary runner having set himself the extraordinary challenge of running a marathon in every country in the world. 196 marathons, 5,130 miles in 674 days. He talks to Bex Band, adventurer and author of Three Stripes South, about their thirst for adventures, testing human endurance and the power of movement.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Thursday 19 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

British Democracy on Trial

Thursday 19 May, 6pm–7pm, BRLSI

Our media happily lies to us. Our politicians brazenly break the rules. Public law barrister Sam Fowles (Overruled: Our Vanishing Democracy in 8 Cases) has experience of holding the government to account at the highest level, including taking the Prime Minister to court with the Gina Miller case. He talks to writer and economic commentator Grace Blakeley about how we can and must fight for what’s ours.

Letters to Gwen John

Thursday 19 May, 6-7pm, The Holburne Museum

Acclaimed painter, Celia Paul has felt a lifelong connection to the artist Gwen John. Letters to Gwen John is a unique combination of imagined correspondence and insightful artistic biography, interspersed with original artworks. She talks to The Holburne Museum director Chris Stephens about the extraordinary parallels in their lives and work.

The Picador Proof Party

Thursday 19 May, 6pm–7pm, Francis Hotel

To celebrate 50 years of Picador Books, join us at this exclusive proof event to hear about some of Picador’s most exciting upcoming releases and take home a goodie bag full of early copies. On the panel will be Booker-shortlisted author Jim Crace, debut novelist Nell Stevens, and acclaimed poet James Conor Patterson. This event will be chaired by Salma Begum from the Picador editorial team. Ticket includes a glass of wine or soft drink and a goodie bag of limited edition proofs.

History of Cleveland Pools

Thursday 19 May, 6.30-7.30pm, Dorothy House Bookshop

Bath’s hidden jewel, built in the Georgian period, is a unique open air bathing facility on the river in the city. Join research historian for the Pools, Dr Linda Watts (Swimming Through History) as she explores the Pools’ 200 years of remarkable history and celebrates the fact that these wonderful heritage buildings are finally being restored for the community of Bath and beyond to enjoy.

La Voix Humaine

Thursday 19 May, 7pm-8pm, Secret Location

A co-production between Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera commissioned for Festival of Voice. A woman is on the phone to her lover who is ending their relationship. Her devastation unfolds before our eyes as we, the audience, eavesdrop on her despair in the confines of her home. Taking place in an apartment in Bath, Director David Pountney has taken a 20th century opera classic and created an intense theatrical experience. La voix humaine is opera up-close, intimate and unrestrained. Bookers will receive confirmation of the venue prior to the festival.

Mr B's Presents: Tade Thompson

Thursday 19 May, 7pm–8pm, Mr B’s Emporium

Join pioneering sci-fi writer and Rosewater trilogy author Tade Thompson, as we discuss his triumphant new space opera thriller Far From the Light of Heaven. When colony ship Ragtime arrives from light-years away, it is discovered that some of its sleeping passengers will never wake. This heart-pounding story of humanity’s interstellar future is told with imagination and immediacy.

Snazzback and Lydian Collective

Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm, Komedia

A night of explosive genre-crashing jazz. Snazzback are a Bristol-based collective, focused on creating collaborative compositions tied together through a constant stream of improvisation and an infectious looseness. London-based instrumental jazz/fusion four-piece Lydian Collective are proving themselves a musical tour de force with their hypnotic rhythms.

Concert for the People of Bath

Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm-9.30pm, The Forum

Copland: Fanfare for the Common Man

Mozart: Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat major K495

Janacek Sinfonietta

Ceremonial Fanfare

Haydn: Trumpet Concerto in E flat major

John Williams: Olympic Fanfare and Theme

The Band of the Royal Marines School of Music joins Bath Philharmonia in Janáček’s astonishing ‘Sinfonietta’ with its 25 brass players and Copland’s iconic ‘Fanfare for the Common Man’. The sparkling evening is completed by two concertos performed by two of today’s most brilliant young brass soloists.

The Birth Of Pop

Thursday 19 May, 8pm–9pm, Walcot House

Musician and writer Bob Stanley talks to his friend, journalist Pete Paphides about Let’s Do It, his new book that tells the fascinating history of pop before rock and roll. They’ll bring this eclectic and evolving world to life – from ragtime, blues and jazz to Broadway, country and crooning – guaranteed to remind you why you fell in love with pop in the first place.

**Friday 20th May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 7’s highlights include Classical Music Rising Star Ryan Corbett, Emma Smith, Frances Spalding, Kojo Karam, Natasha Brown and Anna Whitehouse hosts Lucy Beaumont, Isy Suttie Jessica Jones and Helen Thorn for a big women’s ‘night out’.

Writing Workshop: The Art of Pitching with Blake Friedmann

Friday 20 May, 10am–12pm, BRLSI

Writing a novel? Have a great idea for a memoir, or nonfiction narrative? How can you give your finished manuscript the best shot at publication with a winning pitch? Join three Blake Friedmann Literary Agency book agents as they take you through which elements of your story have the best pitching potential, how to pitch so your book appeals to publishers and agents, and how to define your USP as the author. A comprehensive and friendly workshop.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Friday 20 May, 10am-12pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Classical Music Rising Star Ryan Corbett

Friday 20 May, 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

A remarkable virtuoso Ryan Corbett won the Royal Overseas League competition in 2021, an accolade to launch a major career. He mixes baroque, romantic and contemporary music in his programmes, which have a freshness and brilliance which mark him out as a star of the future.

Lunchtime Lecture: A History of Books and their Readers

Friday 20 May, 1pm–2pm, BRLSI

Bestselling author (This is Shakespeare) and academic Emma Smith is here to talk about Portable Magic, her illuminating book that reveals the unexpected and unseen consequences of our love affair with books. She’ll explore the rise of the mass-market paperback, dismantle the myth that print began with Gutenberg and propose new definitions of a ‘classic’ book.

Walking Tour: Bath on Screen

Friday 20 May, 2-4pm, Meet at No1 Royal Crescent

Bath has long been used as a scenic backdrop for films and TV shows. Screen tourism is a major factor in attracting visitors to the city, and production companies contribute around £2m a year to the local economy. This entertaining tour, created by Bath Walking Tours and led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, covers recent large-scale filming in the city, including for Seasons 1 and 2 of Bridgerton, a new adaptation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion and Wonka, a prequel to the famous Roald Dahl story. The tour also takes in filming locations for classic older movies such as The Duchess and Les Miserables, and a 1960s thriller about a smallpox epidemic in Bath.

Dinner with Joseph Johnson

Friday 20 May, 3.30-4.30pm, BRLSI

Award-winning biographer Daisy Hay has captured an extraordinary portrait of a changing nation, focusing on publisher and bookseller Joseph Johnson whose weekly dinner gatherings in late 18th-century London saw guests including William Wordsworth, Mary Woolstonecraft, Samuel Coleridge and Joseph Priestley join him for brilliant, unpredictable and profound conversation. She talks to Caroline Sanderson about this radical age.

English Art Between Two World Wars

Friday 20 May, 3.30-4.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Leading art critic and biographer, Frances Spalding (The Real and the Romantic) takes a fresh look at this richly diverse period in English art, focusing on artists including Stanley Spencer and Eric Ravilious as well as previously overlooked painters such as Winifred Knights and Evelyn Dunbar and illuminating the intriguing alliances that fed into the creativity of the interwar years.

Walking Tour: The Great Spa Town

Friday 20 May, 5.30-7.30pm, Meet at Kingsdown Parade Square

In 2021 Bath gained a rare second UNESCO World Heritage Site listing as one of The Great Spa Towns of Europe. This revealing walking tour by Fred Mawer Tours focuses on Bath’s fascinating spa history. You will learn about the city’s naturally hot springs, and how everyone from the poor to royalty came to Bath seeking cures for all sorts of ailments by bathing in and drinking the thermal waters. The tour, led by professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides, also reveals historic hospices and hospitals where pilgrims and patients heading to the baths stayed, and looks at après-spa attractions designed to keep visitors entertained in Georgian times when Bath was a fashionable health resort.

Understanding Our History

Friday 20 May, 6pm–7pm, BRLSI

Thomas Harding’s new book White Debt is both an interrogation into the choices of his ancestors, whom he discovered had made money from plantations, and a quest to learn more about Britain’s role in slavery. Uncommon Wealth is Kojo Koram’s blistering uncovering of the scandal of Britain’s cynical self-interest in the aftermath of decolonisation. They talk to Romesh Vaitilingam about the cultural, financial, moral and political legacy we have been left with.

Travels in Mythical and Modern Greece

Friday 20 May, 6-7pm, The Holburne Museum

Join author and Time Out publisher Peter Fiennes (A Thing of Beauty) as he tells of his journeys on the trail of the Greek myths, exploring the modern relevance of Theseus, Hera and Pandora and discovering what’s to be found now at the places where heroes fought and gods once quarrelled.

Mr B's presents: Natasha Brown

Friday 20 May, 7pm–8pm, Mr B’s Emporium

Join Natasha Brown as we discuss her arresting debut novel, Assembly, a taut, elegant and unflinching study of race and privilege in modern Britain. Assembly’s young Black narrator is a high-flying city banker poised to marry into England’s elite – but over the course of a weekend garden party she's forced to ask, is this version of herself worth the cost?

Women On Top – The Big Night Out

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm–9.15pm, The Forum

Lockdown life has left us all in need of a big night out. Come and join five furiously funny women for a festival extravaganza packed with confessions, comedy and chaos. Anna Whitehouse (Underbelly) hosts Lucy Beaumont (Drinking Custard), Isy Suttie (Jane is Trying), Jessica Jones (Own It) and Helen Thorn (Get Divorced, Be Happy). Their brilliant books shine a light on the highs and lows of womanhood; from friendships and self-love to infertility, parenting small children and divorce. Bring your mates and prepare to get involved on the night!

Drumming with Colin Currie Group and Synergy Vocals

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm-8.45pm, Bath Abbey

Drumming with Colin Currie Group and Synergy Vocals: Drumming is a percussion epic! Led by Colin Currie, the hand-picked ensemble was formed in 2006 for a performance of Drumming at the BBC Proms to celebrate the 70th birthday of Steve Reich. The ensemble specialises in the music of Steve Reich. In Drumming, Reich is deeply motivated by African drumming traditions and you can feel this in every thunderous beat of the hour-long piece. The stunning musicianship of the Colin Currie Group has performed Drumming around the world. They have expanded their repertoire to include many of Reich’s most popular works, including Music for 18 Musicians, Sextet, Tehillim and Music for Pieces of Wood.

Mad Dog Mcrea

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm, Komedia

In constant demand and having played just about every festival and two-bit, jibe-arsed dive in Christendom, Mad Dog Mcrea are, in every sense of the word, a live band. Matched with the unshakable dedication of their massive and “loyal-to-the-hilt” fan base – Mad Dog Mcrea are more than just a very popular, festival act – with five albums under their belts, they are serious and acclaimed recording artists too. December 2019 saw Mad Dog Mcrea release a 5-track EP titled ‘It’s a Sign’. The famous purple happy bus is fired up and ready for action, and there’s room for you – jump aboard!

**Saturday 21st May**

The annual world-renowned festival, celebrating books and music in a beautiful city, will run from Friday 13 May to Saturday 21 May 2022, with a series of citywide live events. Day 8 - the final day - highlights are as follows: Impressive Adam Rutherford in conversation with David Olugosa, much loved Elizabeth Day, new participatory fashion event with Kat Farmer and Boho boutique, comedian Phil Wang, much acclaimed pianist Jeremy Denk, new talent Ione Gamble, empowering Torrey Peters and the finale of Public Service Broadcasting at The Forum to bring to a close the books and music fiesta.

Adam Rutherford in Conversation with David Olusoga

Saturday 21 May, 10am–11am, Komedia

Eugenics is a little understood area of science that has seen attempts by the powerful throughout history to dictate reproduction. Adam Rutherford (Control) is joined by David Olusoga (Black and British) for an enlightening and important overview of the uses and abuses of gene editing as they unpick the scientific, political, moral and cultural strands, considering not only its dark history but its troubling present.

Elizabeth Day

Saturday 21 May, 10am–11am, Walcot House

Award-winning journalist, podcaster and broadcaster, Elizabeth Day talks to writer and bookseller Francesca Beauman about her exhilarating novel, Magpie, a tense, twisting, brilliantly written novel about mothers and children, envy and possession, and the dangers of getting everything you've ever dreamed of.

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Memoirs of a Working Class Reader

Saturday 21 May, 11am–12pm, Bath Forum Ballroom

Growing up with a single book meant that writer and publisher Mark Hodkinson (No One Round Here Reads Tolstoy) had to take care of every page. Now, with 3,500 books on his shelf, he reflects on his days when reading wasn’t encouraged, and what led him to create his own burrow of books. Join him and writer Joanna Nadin as they delve deeper into working classes voices and the power of storytelling for all.

Jonian Ilias Kadesha, violin

Saturday 21 May, 11am-12pm, The Holburne Museum

Telemann Fantasia No.1 in B-flat major

Kurtág Signs, Games and Messages

Enescu “Menetrier” (the fiddler)

Helena Winkelman Ciaccona

Schnittke Fuga

Bach D minor Partita no.2

Bach’s D minor Partita concludes with the famous ‘Chaconne’, regarded as an ultimate test of a violinist’s musicianship and technique. It concludes a remarkable programme which begins with music by Bach’s great rival Telemann and then interleaves short, aphoristic movements by the Hungarian Gyorgy Kurtág with a fascinating set of short 20th century works for solo violin. Kadesha is a charismatic performer and promises something special to conclude the Holburne series.

Kat Farmer

Saturday 21 May, 12.30pm–1.30pm, Walcot House

Kat Farmer is an Instagram style guru, stylist and TV star loved for her funny, self-deprecating style and fashion flair. Join Kat and Bath in Fashion’s Sarah Baker as they talk about Get Changed and enjoy some interactive styling fun where Kat will show you how to look instantly fabulous using a rail of clothes kindly supplied by the independent Boho boutique.

Phil Wang

Saturday 21 May, 1pm–2pm, Komedia

‘But where are you really from?' – comedian Phil Wang has been asked this question so many times he's finally written a book about it, Sidesplitter. Born in Stoke-on-Trent, raised in Malaysia, and educated in Bath – 'a spa town for people who find Cheltenham too ethnic' – he has an acutely perceptive take on what it means to be from two places at once. In conversation with comedian and podcaster Pierre Novellie this is guaranteed to be a wry, witty and candid reflection on race and belonging.

Jendella Benson and Lizzie Damilola Blackburn

Saturday 21 May, 1.30pm–2.30pm, Bath Forum Ballroom

Hope and Glory and Yinka, Where is Your Huzband? have already received stunning endorsements from writers including Candice Carty-Williams and Marian Keyes. These two immensely talented authors talk to writer Joanna Nadin about their irresistible debut novels that delve into loss, love, friendship and family chaos.

First Casualty

Saturday 21 May, 1.30pm–2.30pm, BRLSI

The Orwell Prize-winning author and war reporter Toby Harnden has written a gripping account of the six-day battle that began the War in Afghanistan following 9/11. He talks to Greg Ingham about his unprecedented access to the CIA, SBS and US Special Forces and how the haunting foretelling the battle contained – unreliable allies, ethnic rivalries and suicide attacks – was ignored, fuelling the 20-year conflict that was to come.

Walking Tour: Bath Blitz

Saturday 21 May, 2pm-4pm, Meet at Orange Grove

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Bath. On two moonlit nights in April 1942 more than 400 people in the city were killed and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Join Bath Walking Tours to discover why the Georgian city was targeted by the Luftwaffe. Professional Blue Badge Tourist Guides will lead you around the city centre and other bomb-affected sites, including the Royal Crescent, Circus and Assembly Rooms. See reconstructed and restored buildings, bomb craters and shrapnel damage, and hear about air raid shelters, child evacuees and the aftermath.

Claire Fuller and Sarah Moss

Saturday 21 May, 2.30pm–3.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Join two of our very best contemporary novelists in conversation. Claire Fuller (Unsettled Ground) won the Costa Award in 2021 and award-winning Sarah Moss’s latest novel, The Fell, asks probing questions about the place the world has become since March 2020. Tackling themes ranging from rural poverty, otherness and isolation to resilience, human connection and hope, this is guaranteed to be a conversation full of empathy, insight and intelligence. They talk to Judith Robinson.

Jeremy Denk: Bach's Well-tempered Clavier & Every Good Boy Does Fine

Saturday 21 May, 2.30pm-4.30pm, St Swithin's Church

Jeremy Denk is one of today’s most stimulating musicians. A pianist of remarkable brilliance, he is also a superb writer. In this event, specially curated for the Bath Festival, he performs the first book of Bach’s ‘Well Tempered Clavier’. He interleaves the music with readings from his new book ‘Every Good Boy Does Fine’ which describes his personal and musical growth from precocious child musician to major international musical performer including remarkable insights on how music and performance work at the highest level.

Bella Mackie

Saturday 21 May, 3pm-4pm, Walcot House

Bella Mackie’s deliciously dark and funny debut novel, How to Kill Your Family, was partly inspired by her childhood love of true crime. She talks to Anna Whitehouse about her beguiling anti-hero, serial killer Grace Bernard – and discusses her scorchingly black satire about family dysfunction and the media’s obsession with murder.

Poor Little Sick Girls

Saturday 21 May, 4pm–5pm, Bath Forum Ballroom

Ione Gamble interrogates the fetishisation of female illness, living with disability, fourth-wave feminism and our toxic preoccupation with self-love. Ione’s breathtaking debut memoir offers a confronting and honest account of her experience navigating our culture whilst living with chronic illness. She talks to Marisa Bate.

Raymond Antrobus

Saturday 21 May, 4pm–5pm, BRLSI

Join poetry sensation Raymond Antrobus as he reads from All the Names Given, a deeply evocative collection that explores language, miscommunication, place and memory. A special chance to see the winner of the Ted Hughes award, Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year and the first ever poet to be awarded the Rathbones Folio Prize.

Belle Nash and the Bath Souffle

Saturday 21 May, 4.30pm–5.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Hailed by Matthew Parris as a work of ‘genius, part Dickensian, part modern; incisive, outlandish and hilarious’, Belle Nash and the Bath Soufflé is the first of The Gay Street Chronicles. Author William Keeling, a former Financial Times foreign correspondent, talks to Alasdair McWhirter about his entertaining new series of satirical historical novels set in Bath.

Torrey Peters in conversation with Elizabeth Day

Saturday 21 May, 5.30pm–6.30pm, Walcot House

Ground-breaking US author Torrey Peters burst on to the literary scene last year with her original, provocative and witty debut novel, Detransition Baby, a modern comedy of errors following the lives of three trans and cis women living in New York. She joins Elizabeth Day to talk about her uniquely trans take on love, motherhood and families in the 21st century.

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Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in An American City

Saturday 21 May, 6.30pm–7.30pm, BRLSI

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Andrea Elliott of The New York Times makes a special festival appearance to talk to Marion Milne about Invisible Child: the riveting, unforgettable story of a girl, Dasani, whose indomitable spirit is tested by homelessness, poverty, and racism in an unequal America. Selected as an Obama Favourite Book of the Year 2021.

Around the World in 10 Books

Saturday 21 May, 6.30pm–7.30pm, The Holburne Museum

Publisher and writer Scott Pack and lecturer and writer Judith Robinson are back with their literary world tour, by now a firm festival favourite. Join them as they travel the globe, introducing you to international literary gems. Scott and Judith will discuss ten carefully selected books, many of them published in translation, helping you to discover amazing writers and stories from around the world.

Public Service Broadcasting (plus support)

Saturday 21 May, 7.30pm, The Forum

There’s a strong thematic concept to Public Service Broadcasting’s fourth album, Bright Magic; possibly their most ambitious undertaking yet, it brings the listener to the heart of the largest cultural hub in Europe – Berlin, exploring the city’s post-war journey. An album in three parts – Building A City / Building A Myth / Bright Magic – it’s not just about one city, but all centres of human interaction and community which allow the free exchange and cross-pollination of ideas. Public Service Broadcasting are simply magical live and have been “teaching the lessons of the past through the music of the future” with fascinating visuals for more than a decade now. 2013’s debut album Inform – Educate – Entertain used archival samples from the British Film Institute as audio-portals to the Battle Of Britain, the summit of Everest and beyond. Two years later, The Race For Space used similar methods to laud the superpowers’ rivalry and heroism in orbit and on the Moon. In 2017, joined by voices including Manic Street Preachers’ James Dean Bradfield, Every Valley was a moving exploration of community and memory via the rise and fall of the British coal industry. Pointedly topical in its analyses, it reached number four on the UK charts.

Krater Comedy Club

Saturday 21 May, Doors 6.30pm // Show 8pm, Komedia

Kick-off your weekend with some proper good laughs and discover the best in live comedy, featuring three top stand-ups and one of the best comperes in the business! Previous alumni of Krater Comedy Club include the likes of Romesh Ranganathan, Tom Allen, Sarah Millican, Daliso Chaponda & Luisa Omielan to name just a few, so our stage really is the place to catch the comedy all-stars of tomorrow! Includes FREE entry to The Big Disco or Motorcity afterwards!

Consone Quartet

Saturday 21 May, 8pm-10pm, St Swithin's Church

Haydn String Quartet in D major Op. 71 No. 2 in D major

Mendelssohn String Quartet No.5 in E flat major Op. 44 No. 3

Mozart String Quintet in G minor K.516

Mozart’s G minor String Quintet contains some of his most emotionally charged music, with a slow movement that bares the composer’s innermost feelings of anguish. It is preceded with one of Haydn’s most sparkling quartets, and a work by Mendelssohn which places him squarely in the first rank of string quartet composers.