

# Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival



**DULVERTON**  
GATEWAY TO EXMOOR

Saturday 18 and  
Sunday 19 November 2023

**An Exmoor Festival for story-lovers of all ages!**



POLITICS • BIOGRAPHY • WINE • COUNTRYSIDE • FICTION • HUMOUR



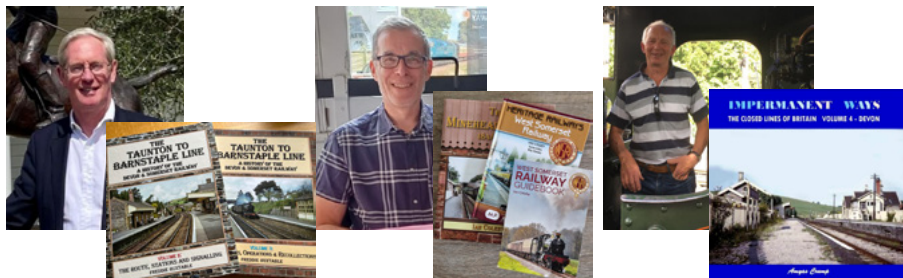
CREATIVITY • FARMING • SURVIVAL • HISTORY • RAILWAYS • WORKSHOPS

# SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER IN DULVERTON TOWN HALL

10.30 – 11.30

FREDDIE HUXTABLE, IAN COLEBY & AMYAS CRUMP

RAILWAYS



Historians and railway enthusiasts Freddie Huxtable *The Taunton to Barnstaple Line*, Ian Coleby *Tales of the West Somerset Railway* and Amyas Crump *Impermanent Ways: the Closed Lines of Britain* discuss the history of our local lost railways and the impact of Dr Beeching's controversial 1960's closures on the rail network in the South West.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

12.00 – 1.00

HANNAH RICHELL, JANET ELLIS & SARAH TURNER  
WITH POPPY FLAXMAN

BOOK CLUB



Best-selling fiction authors Hannah Richell *The River Home*, Janet Ellis (former *Blue Peter* presenter) *The Butcher's Hook* and Sarah Turner (*Instagram's* hugely popular @theunmumsymum) with debut novel *Stepping Up* discuss what brings them inspiration for their writing. In conversation with Poppy Flaxman, Manager of Waterstones Barnstaple.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

1.45 – 2.45

ANDREW LOWNIE & CATHERINE OSTLER WITH  
KATE LORD BROWN



Best-selling historical biographers Andrew Lownie and Catherine Ostler discuss Lownie's *Traitor King: The Scandalous Exile of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor* alongside Ostler's *The Duchess Countess*. These fascinating books examine Edward VIII following his abdication and Elizabeth Chudleigh, Duchess of Kingston, Countess of Bristol whose behaviour scandalised eighteenth century Britain. In conversation with historical novelist, Kate Lord Brown *The Perfume Garden*.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

3.30 – 4.30

HENRY JEFFREYS WITH WILLIAM SITWELL



Drinks expert, *The Critic* columnist and award-winning author Henry Jeffreys discusses his newly-released *Vines in a Cold Climate* looking at the people behind the remarkable revolution in English wine. In conversation with William Sitwell author of *Eggs or Anarchy*, one of Britain's leading food writers, restaurant critic for *The Telegraph*, *MasterChef* judge and host of the *Sitwell Supper Club* located at his Somerset home.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

5.15 – 6.15

## RACHEL JOHNSON WITH RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON



Award-winning writer, columnist and LBC presenter Rachel Johnson *Rake's Progress: My Political Midlife Crisis* discusses her fascinating life in the political arena. In conversation with *The Times* writer and celebrated art critic Rachel Campbell-Johnston *The Child's Elephant*.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

6.30 – 7.30

## THE FESTIVAL DRINKS PARTY



An invitation-only festival drinks party to be held in Dulverton Town Hall, to thank our many generous sponsors, speakers and volunteers for their invaluable support.

Canapés provided by The Bridge Inn, Dulverton  
Award-Winning English Sparkling Wine from Wellhayes Vineyard, Clayhanger  
Cocktails provided by The Sip Shed, Uplowman

# SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER IN DULVERTON TOWN HALL

10.30 – 11.30

DENNIS COATH



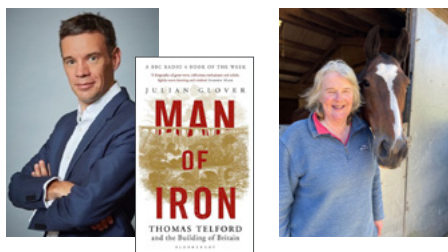
HUMOUR

In a career spanning over 40 years, retired *ITV* sports reporter Dennis Coath has interviewed sporting legends including Muhammad Ali, Ayrton Senna and Sir Alex Ferguson. In his book *Rats, Pies and Pigeon Poo* he recounts entertaining anecdotes from his professional life, and offers helpful tips for up-and-coming reporters. Be prepared to laugh out loud!

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

12.00 – 1.00

JULIAN GLOVER WITH VICTORIA EVELEIGH



OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Writer, former SPAD to David Cameron and author of the Government's *Landscapes Review: National Parks and AONBs* and *Man of Iron: Thomas Telford and the Building of Britain*, Julian Glover chats with Victoria Eveleigh - Exmoor farmer, writer, trustee of the Exmoor Society and member of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network. Together they will ask the controversial question 'What is our countryside for?' A fascinating topic for discussion with an Exmoor audience.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)



1.30 – 2.30

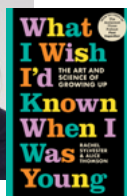
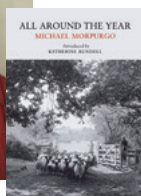
ALBERT READ & HARRY BORDEN WITH  
MIRANDA TAYLOR

Writer and *Condé Nast* Managing Director Albert Read *The Imagination Muscle* and celebrity photographer Harry Borden *On Divorce* and *Survivor: A portrait of the survivors of the Holocaust* discuss creativity in its many forms and how to enhance your own imagination. In conversation with travel writer and editor Miranda Taylor.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

3.15 – 4.15

MICHAEL MORPURGO WITH ALICE THOMSON



Michael Morpurgo needs no introduction as one of the UK's most celebrated and admired writers; books such as *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful* and *Why The Whales Came* have inspired generations of children and have been adapted into internationally acclaimed films. *All Around The Year*, released in 2023, recounts the farming year on his Devonshire farm. In conversation with writer and interviewer journalist Alice Thomson *What I Wish I'd Known When I Was Young*.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

4.15 – 4.30

## DULVERTON EXMOOR LITERARY FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPETITION AWARDS CEREMONY



Historical fiction author, Kate Lord Brown, will again kindly judge the entries of this year's Festival Children's Writing Competition (see later in the programme for the terms and conditions of entry). She will read out the winning entry and Michael Morpurgo will present the prizes to the Winner and Runners Up.

5.15 – 6.15

## JOHN HUDSON & BELINDA KIRK WITH HILARY BRADT



The UK's top military survival expert John Hudson *How to Survive: Lessons for Everyday Life from the Extreme World* compares stories of challenge and adventure with British explorer Belinda Kirk *Adventure Revolution: The Life-Changing Power of Choosing Challenge*, approved by Bear Grylls as "A powerful reminder that adventure truly is a state of mind". In conversation with internationally renowned publisher and travel writer Hilary Bradt, founder of the *Bradt Travel Guides*.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)

# SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

### IN DULVERTON LIBRARY

1.30 – 2.30

#### PRESENTATION & PLANNING A PICTURE BOOK WITH ANNABEL COLLIS

Suitable for adults and children age 12+ (10 spaces available)



Have you ever dreamt of writing and illustrating a children's book? Annabel Collis *You Can't Catch Me* will explain how she develops her ideas into story boards, dummy books and creates artwork. There will be time for questions to discuss your ideas and an opportunity to plot and plan your own story to develop in the future.

**BOOK TICKETS >**

2.45 – 3.45

#### CHILDREN'S CREATIVE WRITING & ILLUSTRATING WORKSHOP WITH ANNABEL COLLIS

Family workshop for children aged 4+ (10 child spaces available)



Annabel will read one of her stories and you will then have the chance to plot your own story and create a piece of artwork using an exciting variety of collage materials (all supplied). Annabel is passionate about children's books and encouraging children's creativity and reading skills. A fun, family activity.

Up to two children must be accompanied by an adult with free admission.

**BOOK TICKETS >**



4.00 – 5.30

## CHILDREN'S "ACTIVE WRITING" WORKSHOP WITH JAMES GILLAM OF FABULA ARTS

Family workshop for children aged 6+ (15 child spaces available)



The Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival is delighted to be working this year with Fabula Arts, a local company that believes in the importance of an education that encourages children's inherent creativity.

Join in this fun, inspirational festival workshop with Fabula Arts founder James Gillam to compose your own exciting story, with opportunities throughout to act out your characters and plot.

Up to two children must be accompanied by an adult with free admission.

[BOOK TICKETS >](#)



# THE DULVERTON EXMOOR LITERARY FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPETITION 2023

**WRITE A STORY ABOUT LIFE ON A FARM IN UP TO 500 WORDS!**

Write your own story about farming, farm animals or farm life in as many words as you like – but no more than 500.

We don't mind about perfect spelling and grammar, just let your imagination fly and have fun! If you enjoy pictures, you can illustrate your story too.

Why not think about the incredible landscape, animals and people who live on our local farms here on Exmoor?

Enjoy writing something original with a great plot, characters and language.

Write a story you'd love to read!

## **RULES OF ENTRY**

The competition is open to children aged 12 and under at the time of writing.

Final entries to be submitted by 31 October 2023.

Email your entry to: **hello@visitdulverton.com**

or put it in the special named box in Dulverton Post Office.

Please include the name and contact details of an adult we can get in touch with to invite the shortlisted entries to the awards ceremony.

Entries cannot be returned so please keep a copy. The Judge's decision is final.

## **PRIZES AND AWARDS CEREMONY**

Prizes of Waterstone's vouchers will be awarded to the Winner and Runners Up at the Awards Ceremony at 4.15pm on Sunday 19 November at the Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival in Dulverton Town Hall.

The prizes will be presented by **Michael Morpurgo!**

The winning entry will be read out at the ceremony by the Competition Judge, historical fiction author, Kate Lord Brown.

All of the winning stories will be published on the Visit Dulverton website  
**visitdulverton.com**

# INFORMATION & TICKETS:

## Online booking only via:

**[visitdulverton.com/dulverton-exmoor-literary-festival](https://visitdulverton.com/dulverton-exmoor-literary-festival)**

## Press enquiries and Box Office queries to:

Ali Pegrum, Festival Director

**[hello@visitdulverton.com](mailto:hello@visitdulverton.com)** or 07785 901017

## Ticket prices:

Festival talks – adult ticket: £12

Festival talks – child ticket (under 17): £6

Saturday workshops (age 17+): £12

Saturday workshops (under 17): £6

Tickets to be purchased **ONLINE ONLY** via the above link. The total ticket price may include a small booking fee. Tickets may be available to purchase in the Town Hall on the day, but pre-booking is wise to avoid disappointment. No concessions.

## Accessibility:

The weekend literary festival talks will take place in the first floor Main Hall at Dulverton Town Hall, which can be accessed via a passenger lift.

The Saturday festival writing and illustration workshops will take place on the ground floor of Dulverton Library with no accessibility issues.

## Refreshments:

The Town Hall bar will be open in the Main Hall on the first floor for hot and cold drinks between talks throughout the weekend programme.

Please take the opportunity to visit one of Dulverton's excellent pubs, restaurants or tea rooms whilst in our charming town

**[visitdulverton.com/eat-drink](https://visitdulverton.com/eat-drink)**

## Bookshop and Book Signing:

Waterstones Barnstaple will be setting up the festival popup bookshop in the Entrance Hall and speakers' books will be available for signing and purchase after each talk – the perfect opportunity to buy a dedicated book as a Christmas gift!

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Dulverton Town Hall & Library, Fore Street, Dulverton, Exmoor TA22 9EX