

Feedback for the Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival 2025

Authors and Speakers

Hannah Bourne-Taylor: Thank you for having me. Your festival was really impressive - and clearly full. Congratulations on a brilliant festival.

Carol Drinkwater: So, very briefly, I just want to say a huge thank you for your very generous hospitality, for ferrying and feeding and housing me. And, indeed, for inviting me to talk at the festival. It is a tiny moment I shall remember.

Iain Dale: Thank you so much for inviting me to speak. What an audience! I do hope I can come again!

Petroc Trelawny: Thanks for a brilliant day yesterday and for a very jolly dinner on Saturday. Very much hope our paths will cross again soon ... it was terrific to be in Dulverton.

Hannah Richell: Thank you so much for inviting me back to be part of the crime panel at the Dulverton Literary Festival. It was a pleasure to share the stage last night with the other crime authors. I love the atmosphere and spirit of the festival - it's always so engaged and friendly. One of the very best around. I loved it. What a gorgeous part of the world Dulverton is.

Andrew Lownie: Thanks so much for asking me again and your warm. Many congratulations on the growing success of the festival.

Kate Lord Brown: It's a joy seeing the Festival thriving year on year, and I'm very proud to be a part of it. You have done a brilliant job, and everyone from the town council to the volunteers are to be congratulated. All the authors we hosted had a wonderful time, and said how beautiful Dulverton is.

Penny Adie: You must be thrilled by the reception of your wonderful and inspiring Literary weekend. The buzz you created has been immense and I keep meeting people who comment on the success of it. I much enjoyed giving my talk and wanted to say a very big thank you for giving me a slot. I certainly had a lot of fun and the audience joined in the spirit of it which was terrific.

Ruth Hogan: Thank you so much for inviting us to the Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival, and for all the hard work that you and your team put in to make it such a brilliant event! It was very good to meet you. Lisa and I had a wonderful time. I really hope that we'll be back at some point in the future.

Kirstie Macleod: Thank you so much for the opportunity to share our book and the story of The Red Dress. We had a fabulous time, met lots of vibrant and interesting audience (who bought lots of books!) and loved experiencing a little of beautiful Dulverton itself.

Iain MacGregor: Thank you again for a wonderful festival experience. Well organised, great venue, exceptional author care and a really friendly, knowledgeable audience. Perfect ending to a long, 40-date speaking tour.

Hilary Bradt: Thanks so much for inviting me to Dulverton! It was such an enjoyable weekend with such a lovely engaged audience for our discussion. That makes all the difference when you know that people are really listening and enjoying what they hear. I loved the other talks I went to as well, and am full of admiration for what you have achieved. I know it nearly caused a nervous breakdown this year but please don't give up!

Joshua Levine: I'd like to thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality. The food was great, the company was delightful, and the event was really enjoyable. It is not often that I come home from a Festival so enthused - but this was a special case...! I'm sure the Festival will go from strength to strength.

Ruth Pavey: What a lovely experience, I really enjoyed meeting you, Rachel, Hannah, Catrina and the sympathetic audience. And it was a treat to be in pretty, if wet, Dulverton!

William Sitwell: Thanks so much. I much enjoyed it and it was great seeing you.

John Cornwell: Thank you, it was a highlight of my year...had dinner with Jonathan Dimbleby on Friday and we were both singing your praises.

Karen Minto: I just wanted to drop you a line to say what a fabulous event the Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival was! My husband and I attended several talks, and you and your team were brilliant. I am certain that there was a huge amount of work put into the event, but it looked effortless over the weekend itself. The atmosphere was wonderful, and the talks were excellent. Please pass on my thanks, and congratulations on such an amazing event.

Lisa Highton: It's a terrific festival and I'd love to come again.

Chloe Hadjimatheou: Thank you so much for inviting me. I had a lovely time - particularly in the evening round at your place. The food and wine were fantastic but even more so the company. It was a really wonderful evening. I wish I could have stayed longer.

Emma Bovill: Taking part in the Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival was a hugely positive experience from start to finish. Supported by fantastic volunteers we were welcomed to our venue (Dulverton Heritage Centre) where the set up was smooth and a warm audience then gathered to hear Kirstie Macleod share insights about The Red Dress project. There were superb questions posed, many books were sold and conversations about the talk and project were overheard in town afterwards. It was a privilege to be involved as facilitator of the talk and editor of the book. Staying on for a further evening event further proved what stellar festival this is.

Roger Hammond: I just wanted to congratulate you on the success of the fourth Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival, it was brilliant. To organise so many events in different locations over four days with so many contributors takes some doing. You are a force of nature. Thanks also for the opportunity to be part of it and be at the Meet the Local Author session. I caught up

with some friends, met some lovely new people and sold some books to raise funds for the MS Society.

Audience Members

Hayley Sampson: What a triumph!! Just incredible and the feedback from everyone I chatted to was amazing.

Jane Erith: Well, what a weekend! It was a real tour de force of amazing variety and interest. So many subjects and points of view, with something for everyone. You did an incredible job - and I can hear you saying that you couldn't have done it without your splendid team - but the minutiae of an event like that need a mastermind holding it all together, and that was you. Thank you so much. Dulverton is fortunate to have you!

Sam Thomson: What a brilliant event! I really enjoyed the two sessions that I came to & have heard brilliant feedback from lots of people who enjoyed the festival and loved the buzz it brought into Dulverton.

Stephanie Blackmore: Thank you for another amazing Literary Festival and for persuading such a brilliant and diverse range of authors to venture down to Exmoor. How lucky Dulverton is to have you.

Jane Thorpe: A tour de force and we enjoyed the excellent Literary Lunch and all the brilliant talks we attended.

Pauline Richards: I'm in awe! A beautifully organised event, so well thought out and it ran seamlessly. A great selection of speakers and interesting topics.

Jo Daughtry: What a weekend it was, you must be thrilled with how it all went, so many happy enthusiastic and complimentary people around!

Melanie Williams: Meticulously organised and brilliantly executed!

Lindsey Rowe: The Literary Festival was amazing. My family and I were thrilled to attend. Our grateful thanks to Ali Pegrum for putting together such an enjoyable programme.

Elaine Cole: I had to write to you to say that myself and a friend who came to hear the interview with Chloe Hadjimatheou re The Salt Path found that it was more than very interesting! Thoroughly enjoyed it. As a first timer at this event, it certainly won't be the last. Thank you. Looking forward to next year!

Jackie Follett Davies: The festival was incredibly well-organised, and the speakers were all fascinating. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Meriel Forsyth: I just wanted to say thank you for all your hard work organising such a great Literary Festival in Dulverton. We enjoyed all the events we had booked for and are already looking forward to next year's festival. Congratulations.

Andrew Welch: A note of appreciation: I had not been to the Festival before but thoroughly enjoyed the Petroc and Tamsin event and Penny's, too. A lovely atmosphere, a good turn out to both and great to see the queues for Petroc to sign his books - and terrific that Trelawny's Cornwall sold out! Thank you very much indeed, I shall be back next year.

Polly Saltau: Yet another brilliant Festival programme. A huge thank you for bringing such a diverse selection of speakers and subjects together. We really enjoyed the whole experience and were hopping from one event to another! Very well done, looking forward to next year...

Karen Plum (Event Photographer): Firstly, may I say a huge Thank You to all the volunteers who looked after me so well during the weekend. A very special group of people who really transmitted that friendliness and welcome to everyone they came into contact with. It was a joy and I felt proud to be a small part of the team. Full disclosure - this was my first Literary Festival so I don't know what others are like. I felt I was at an extended family gathering, there were hugs, joy, laughter, friends catching up. The warmth radiated from the venues as people were clearly enjoying themselves and enjoying being part of a big Dulverton event. What a lovely town!

Sponsors

Exmoor News: Well done today. This event gets better and better!

Exmoor Magazine: I'd like say a huge thank you and well done to Ali Pegrum from Visit Dulverton for yet another brilliant Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival. It's an enormous undertaking. This is now firmly established as a gem in Exmoor's crown. It gets better every year.

I had the pleasure of attending two events. Jane Austen is and always will be my favourite writer so that was of course my first pick, in the Town Hall. It did not disappoint!

Next, it was up to the church for the sell-out interview with investigative journalist Chloe Hadjimatheou from the Observer. Chloe was interviewed by Rachel Johnson and gave us a detailed insight into how she discovered the truth behind certain aspects of the 'memoir', The Salt Path. An hour disappeared in what felt like five minutes. I urge you - if you did miss it - to let this be a testament to the quality of the festival and to become a Festival Friend. You'll be supporting an important cultural fixture and being a Friend will also help you secure your seats early for any events you don't want to miss next time.

Once again, well done to Ali and to Dulverton. Bravo!

Ware Construction: We are so glad to be a part of the festival and that it was again successful and continues to develop

Tozers Solicitors: Delighted the event was a success and we are interested in supporting next year.

Rothwell & Dunworth: I really enjoyed supporting this year's book festival. It was a huge success!!

Jackson-Stops Estate Agents: It was a pleasure supporting the literary festival and I am pleased it all went so well.