

5 – 9 June, 2024

Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

wordsbythewaterkeswick.com



Words of Welcome



It is thrilling to be ushering back the much-loved Words by the Water festival after a very difficult period. I am delighted to be working alongside Bookends as partners who have supported the festival for so many years. During the fallow period, it became clear that there is a great appetite for the festival (from the public, writers and the theatre) so we got our thinking caps on and are delighted to announce the return of Words by the Water. The line-up features some familiar faces and also new events such as live music and theatre alongside many interesting and varied discussions and debates. I can't wait to be back in Cumbria and hope to see many of you at the festival. Your support for this 'phoenix rising' festival is crucial if Words by the Water is to continue. And I hope this is just the start of a triumphant return!

Leah Varnell Festival Director



For over 20 years, selling books at the Words by the Water festival has been an annual highlight for Bookends. We know how much our customers look forward to the festival so we are now delighted to welcome it back to the community. We'll have a very different role this year, not only selling books but also organising and running the festival alongside Leah. We are thrilled to be working in partnership and believe this year will just be the start of a wonderful new era of Words by the Water.

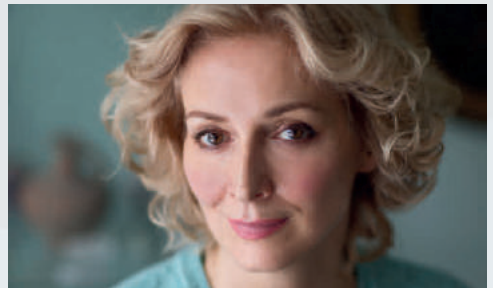
Lucy Matthews Bookends Director



Melvyn Bragg

Co-President of Words by the Water

I am thrilled that the festival is returning against the odds after a number of challenging years. It has been a very difficult time across the board in the arts and it is important for Cumbria that cultural events such as Words by the Water continue and thrive.



Marie-Elsa Bragg

Co-President of Words by the Water

I am looking forward to continuing in the role of president and know that the festival has a bright future. Leah and the team have lots of innovative and exciting plans moving forward and also will continue to deliver thought-provoking and interesting talks at Words by the Water. I am delighted to be part of the project as the festival grows and flourishes.



Official festival bookseller for over 20 years

After over 20 happy years of running the festival bookshop Bookends are now delighted to be joint partners of the Words by the Water festival. It's a joy to be back and to be more involved and we'd like to wish all festival-goers an interesting and inspiring time at Theatre by the Lake.

We look forward to seeing you at our festival bookshop and we hope you find time to visit our well-established independent bookshop in Keswick town centre. We stock a fantastic range of new books for all the family with a huge selection of Cumbrian books, maps, dvds, cards and prints.

All books featured at the Words by the Water festival will be available to buy at our festival bookshop and online at www.bookscumbria.com



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Festival Appetiser

Friday 10th May, 2pm

Main House



Credit: Kirsty Anderson

Alexander McCall Smith

Enjoy a tasty appetiser for the book festival when much-loved author Alexander McCall Smith takes centre stage at the theatre, a month before the main festival

Alexander McCall Smith

In conversation

£13

Enjoy an afternoon of sheer delight when worldwide best-selling author, Alexander McCall Smith discusses his brand new novel series, The Perfect Passion Company with BBC journalist Helen Millican. This new series has all the characteristic warmth, wit, and charm that we have come to expect from this master storyteller and follows the life of Katie as she takes on her cousin's dating agency in Edinburgh's New Town.

Alexander will also discuss his poetry, all the latest gossip from Mma Ramotswe and the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency in Botswana, and share his love of the characters from the 44 Scotland Scotland Street series. After their conversation, there will be plenty of time to meet Alexander and get your books signed



The Perfect Passion Company (Birlinn)



Susannah Gibson



Natalie Haynes

Susannah Gibson

The First Women's Movement

1	12 pm	Main House	£13
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In 18th century Britain, women had no power and no rights - all money and property belonged to their fathers or husbands. Susannah Gibson charts the struggles and achievements of a group of trailblazing women who risked their reputations to become public intellectuals. Burdened with ailing children and unsympathetic husbands, enduring sneers of contemporaries, they read, wrote and published their work. *Bluestockings* laid the essential foundations for future feminists to build upon.

 **Bluestockings** (John Murray)

Marie-Elsa Bragg, Blake Morrison & Peter Stanford

Does Evil Have a Face?

2	2 pm	Main House	£13
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Director of the Longford Trust Peter Stanford has written books about both the devil and angels and met Myra Hindley on a number of occasions in prison. Blake Morrison wrote about the young boys found guilty of the James Bulger murder. They are joining Festival President and priest Marie-Elsa Bragg to explore the concept of evil and wrestle with the question can people who commit awful crimes be rehabilitated and ultimately forgiven?

 **Sleeping Letters** (Vintage)

As If (Granta Books)

Judas: The Most Hated Name in History (John Murray)

Blake Morrison

Human Frailty

3	4 pm	Main House	£13
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Author and poet Blake Morrison shares his memories of the two sisters that he lost in recent years and examines sibling relationships in history and literature. He returns to his childhood to better understand his sister Gill's struggles with addiction, discovers the story behind his half-sister Josie and grapples with the hidden forces that shape all of our lives.

 **Two Sisters** (Borough Press)

Polly Toynbee

The Class System and the Myth of Mobility

4	6 pm	Main House	£13
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Guardian journalist Polly Toynbee grew up in a prosperous left wing family that vocally rejected social injustice. Polly examines her ancestors— including Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, Jessica Mitford and Bertrand Russell, and features ancestral home Castle Howard as a backdrop—and the guilt of privilege, arguing for an honest conversation about class in Britain.

 **An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals** (Atlantic Books)

Natalie Haynes

Greek Goddesses in all their Glory

5	8 pm	Main House	£13
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Classicist, comedian and host of Radio 4's *Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics*, travels through history to explore the role and power of Greek goddesses. From Athene, goddess of war and wisdom, Aphrodite, goddess of sex and desire to the long-suffering Persephone, form part of the cast of mighty women who are celebrated in mythology.

 **Divine Might** (Macmillan)

Esther Rutter

All Before Me

6	10.30am	Studio	£13
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Join Esther Rutter on a search for belonging in the Wordsworths' Lake District, exploring the power that creativity, community, and landscape can have to change our lives. Esther shares her experience of a mental breakdown in Japan and subsequent recovery during her time living and working at Dove Cottage, comparing life there in the twenty-first century with historical perspectives on Grasmere's particular *genius loci*.


 **All Before Me** (Macmillan)

Hugo Greenhalgh

A Twilight World

7	12.30pm	Studio	£13
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For 60 years, unable to live as openly gay, before the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, civil servant at the Board of Trade, Mr George Lucas led a double life. When Mr Lucas died in 2014, he left his diaries to journalist Hugo Greenhalgh who combines these indiscreet diary entries over the course of the 1960s with his own experiences as a gay man growing up.

 **The Diaries of Mr Lucas: Notes from a Lost Gay Life** (Atlantic)

Polly Atkin

Beyond the Nature Cure: On Not Getting Better

8	2.30 pm	Studio	£13
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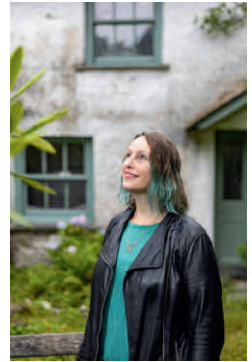
The idea that time in nature can cure all ills is ubiquitous, but what happens when it doesn't? Where does it leave nature if we expect it to fix us? Drawing on her memoir of living with chronic illness in the Lake District, Polly Atkin asks how we can develop a relationship with nature which is not transactional, and learn to live better with ourselves and the natural world.

 **Some of Us Just Fall** (Sceptre)

Self and Identity



Esther Rutter



Polly Atkin

Peter Cave

Owning up: What philosophy and philosophers can teach us about ourselves

9	4.30pm	Studio	£13
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'Tis better to be a dissatisfied Socrates than a satisfied pig' wrote John Stuart Mill; indeed, great philosophers often tell us how to live well - witness Socrates, Spinoza, Nietzsche and Sartre, but their remedies conflict. Peter Cave reveals some underlying themes, connecting to other writers from Lao Tzu to Lewis Carroll; Sappho to Simone de Beauvoir; Simone Weil to Samuel Beckett.

 **How to Think Like a Philosopher** (Bloomsbury)

North Cumbria Stanza

Song of Myself

10	6pm	Studio	£6
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Poetry is a rich, vibrant medium for self-exploration and reflection. Poet and editor Kelly Davis hosts a reading by the Poetry Society's North Cumbria Stanza Group, including Kathleen Jones, Ilse Pedler, Kerry Darbishire, Elizabeth Stott, Shelagh Brown, Susan Cartwright-Smith, Jean Hill and Luke Bateman with guest readers Ros Edwards and Phil Hewitson. Hear Cumbrian poets question identity and belonging.



Sally Coulthard



Alex Niven



Garrett M. Graff



Harriet Baker

Sally Coulthard

A Brief History of the Countryside in 100 Objects

11	10am	Main House	£13
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The things left behind provide connections to our rural past. From farming tools to children’s toys and domestic objects, the everyday items of the past reveal fascinating insights into an often-forgotten way of life. Birth, death, celebration, work, crime, play, medicine, beliefs, diet and our relationship with nature can all be read from these remnants of our past. Sally Coulthard has published over twenty-five books and she also writes for Country Living

 **A Brief History of the Countryside in 100 Objects** (HarperCollins)

Alex Niven

Will The North Rise Again?

12	12pm	Main House	£13
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How did England’s North become a place of lost potential and broken dreams? Telling the story of the North in the last few decades, Alex, a native Northerner, searches for answers to some of the big questions at the forefront of British politics and society today, touching on issues including the North/South divide, austerity, the impact of Brexit and the collapse of Labour’s ‘Red Wall’ and calls for regional devolution

 **The North Will Rise Again: In Search of the Future in Northern Heartlands** (Bloomsbury)

Garrett M. Graff

Commemorating D Day

13	2pm	Main House	£8
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D Day, 6th June, 1944 was a critical turning point in World War 2. As that day fades from living memory, what did it feel like to be there and to live through it? Eminent American journalist and historian, Garrett M. Graff has gathered hundreds of US, Canadian, UK, French and German voices to tell the story of that historic day - from military personnel to nurses to French villagers and German defenders, to Churchill and to Roosevelt. **In a Zoom event**, live from Vermont, New England, Garrett will be in conversation about his book, and will share several audio clips.

 **D Day, An Oral History** (Octopus Books)

Harriet Baker

Rural Hours

14	4pm	Main House	£13
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Harriet Baker explores the radical and creative potential of rural places in the story of three very different women who moved to the countryside and were forever changed by it. Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Townsend Warner and Rosamond Lehmann emerge as passionate, visionary writers following periods of creative uncertainty and private disappointment when these pioneering writers are invigorated by new landscapes, personal freedom and creative prose.

 **Rural Hours** (Allen Lane)



Daisy Dunn



Robin Ince

Daisy Dunn

A New History of the Ancient World through Women

15	6pm	Main House	£13
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For centuries, men have written histories of the ancient world filled with warlords, emperors and kings. They have been far more comfortable describing mythical heroines than real ones. Daisy Dunn inverts this tradition to reveal that women of the ancient world, from Artemisia and Agrippina to Zenobia, and the many nameless in between, were every bit as interesting as Penelope and Helen of Troy.

 **The Missing Thread** (Weidenfeld and Nicolson)

Robin Ince

A Lifelong Love of Books and Bookshops

16	8pm	Main House	£13
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Comedian and Radio 4 broadcaster, Robin Ince takes us on a journey across Britain to over 100 bookshops as he explores his lifelong love of bookshops in the UK, from Wigtown to Penzance; from Swansea to Margate and there might just be a nod to Cumbrian shops. Robin tries to find out just why he can never have enough books.

 **Bibliomaniac: An Obsessive's Tour of the Bookshops of Britain** (Atlantic Books)



Bookcase Day

Bookcase is a secondhand and antiquarian bookshop in Carlisle. It publishes books of local interest.

Michael Mullett

Faith and Religion in the Lake Counties

17	10.30am	Studio	£13
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Professor Michael Mullett has written the first authoritative history of religion in Cumbria for seventy-five years. It is a rich and detailed account that reveals much of the individuality of the area from the times of the Romans, through the Viking settlements, the age of the monasteries, the power of the Anglican church and the spread of Quakerism and non-conformism.

Ros Roberts

James Durden: The Keswick Painter

18	12.30pm	Studio	£13
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James Durden was an important landscape artist and portrait painter of the early twentieth century. Some of his finest works are to be found in Keswick Museum. Ros Roberts has investigated an archive of family memorabilia and press cuttings to reveal the life and work of this talented painter. She also tells the story of his daughter Betty, who was his model and an artist in her own right.

David Crackanthorpe

William Crackanthorpe, His Irish & Grand Tours in Napoleonic Wartime

19	2.30pm	Studio	£13
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A bundle of letters and diaries in a discarded trunk in the stables at Newbiggin Hall contained an account of the 22 year old William Crackanthorpe's travels through an impoverished Ireland and a war-torn Europe. He visited all the great cities and met the exiled Napoleon on Elba. His descendant, David recounts this epic tour.



Steve Uglow



Penn Allen

Penn Allen

The Lost Garden of Loughrigg

20	4.30pm	Studio	£13
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Penn Allen discovered a bundle of diaries and letters that revealed the Lost Garden of Loughrigg. They had been written by her great grandfather, Charles Hough, and by plant collectors, William Purdom and Reginald Farrer. As she read through these treasures she found a long-buried tale of friendships, adventures, losses and ultimately passionate love that contributed to the creation of a unique house and garden.

Steve Uglow

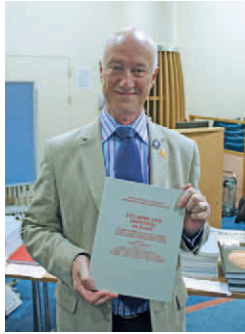
The Story of Seatoller

21	6pm	Studio	£13
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Borrowdale has been a secret valley, originally managed by the church and then by a monarchy merely interested in what minerals could be extracted. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, landlords, especially for Seatoller, were notable for their absence. The families were Cumberland statesmen, independent and proud of it. Having lived there for over ten years, Steve Uglow has come to know and respect the valley, its people and their history.



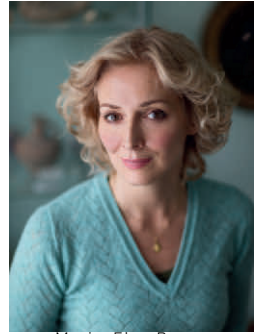
Chris Mullin



David Breeze



M. W. Craven



Marie-Elsa Bragg

Chris Mullin

Error of Judgement – The Truth about the Birmingham Bombings

22	12pm	Main House	£13
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On November 22 1974, the IRA planted bombs in two Birmingham pubs, killing 21 people and injuring almost 200 others. The six men convicted were later found to be innocent. Fifty years on Chris Mullin talks about his republished book, Error of Judgement and its implications for British justice.

‘One of the greatest feats ever achieved by an investigative reporter.’ Sebastian Faulks

 **Error of Judgement** (Octopus Books)

David Breeze

The Chainsaw Massacre

23	2pm	Main House	£13
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The cutting down of the Sycamore Gap tree on Hadrian’s Wall in September 2023 caused widespread shock in Britain and beyond, and for many was felt as a personal loss. The tree had become the iconic view of Hadrian’s Wall. In a positive response to this sad event, Professor David Breeze invited 80 friends and colleagues to nominate their favourite view of the Wall- a testimony to the affection many hold for this evocative Roman frontier.


 **Hadrian’s Wall in our Time** (Archaeopress Publishing)

M. W. Craven

The Mercy Chair - are you sitting comfortably?

24	4pm	Main House	£13
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Join Sunday Times bestselling M. W. Craven as he discusses his sixth Washington Poe novel, *The Mercy Chair*, to be published on June 6th. Mike won the *Crime Writers’ Association Gold Dagger* in 2019, the *Ian Fleming Steel Dagger* in 2022 and the *Theakston Crime Novel of the Year 2023*. Discover why Mike’s Cumbrian-set crime fiction wins so many awards, has been translated into 27 languages and why Poe’s sidekick, Tilly Bradshaw invariably steals the limelight.

 **The Mercy Chair** (Little Brown)

Marie-Elsa Bragg

Sleeping Letters

25	6pm	Main House	£13
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In the last few years we have been plunged into division and isolation, with a pandemic, multiple wars and the effects of climate change. In the face of these disasters and drawing on personal stories, Marie-Elsa Bragg will explore how we can renew our Spiritual lives in difficult times. In *Sleeping Letters* Marie-Elsa Bragg enters spiritual retreat and finds that through prose, poetry and ritual she is able to face the night her mother died by suicide, when she was just six.

 **Sleeping Letters** (Vintage)

Friday 7th June Main House



David & Ben Crystal

David & Ben Crystal Everyday Shakespeare

26 8pm	Main House	£13
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Join the Bard and revel in the joy of language in this lively and hugely entertaining show when Ben and David talk about how their new book differs from other Shakespeare anthologies, by selecting lines from the lesser known plays and poems that relate to everyday life. How did they set about the task? How is the book being used? These and other questions are explored in a lively and light-hearted son-and-father dialogue.



Everyday Shakespeare (Chambers)



Friday 7th June Spotlight Café

Poetry Breakfast

27 10am	Spotlight Café	FREE
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Buy yourself a delicious early morning croissant and steaming cup of coffee in the cafe and then join us for a free event celebrating poetry. You can either read a poem that you have written or share your favourite poem to celebrate words and creativity. *Poetry Breakfast* is always a popular event so booking is essential.

Friday 7th June Circle Gallery



Christopher Burns

Christopher Burns *Mrs Pulaska and Other Stories*

28 3pm	Circle Gallery	£6
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Join Elizabeth Stott in an informal discussion with the acclaimed fiction writer Christopher Burns, whose new collection is published this month. In these 17 stories intelligent but conflicted characters must face crises across a wide range of times and settings. *Mrs Pulaska and Other Stories* is an ambitious, challenging work that demonstrates the author's mastery of the short story form.



Mrs Pulaska and Other Stories (Salt)

Clare Mulley

Agent Zo

29	10.30am	Studio	£13
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Award-winning historian Clare Mulley tells the incredible story of Elżbieta Zawacka, the WW2 female resistance fighter Agent Zo. Secretly trained by the special forces in the British countryside, she was parachuted behind enemy lines into Nazi-occupied Poland. Hunted by the Gestapo, who arrested her entire family, she took a leading role in the Warsaw Uprising and the liberation of Poland.

 **Agent Zo** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)

Ina Christova

The Fabergé Girl

30	12.30pm	Studio	£13
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Bulgarian writer Ina Christova's debut novel is based on the true story of Alma Pihl, the only female jewellery designer at the House of Fabergé during the age of silver culture in St Petersburg. Several of Alma's most famous creations, including the Winter Egg, were exhibited at the acclaimed V&A exhibition in 2021. Ina's tale is a haunting and evocative account of one of Russia's darkest periods of history at the turn of the twentieth century.

 **The Fabergé Girl** (East West Publishing)

Rebecca Wilson

Ten Renaissance Women Ahead of Their Time

31	2.30pm	Studio	£13
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The term 'feminist' would have been anachronistic in the Tudor period, but Cumbrian author Rebecca Wilson explores the lives of ten women, from Catherine Parr to Margaret Beaufort, who lived their lives in such a way that challenged their patriarchal world. These Renaissance women, from the high born to the merchant class, were rule breakers and stand out against a backdrop of domestic servitude.

 **Tudor Feminists** (Pen and Sword)

Women in History



Clare Mulley

Stephen Matthews

Yaara Lahav Gregory & Nick Bilbrough

A Tale of Two Yaaras - A Personal Exploration of Israel and Palestine

32	4.30pm	Studio	£13
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Novelist Yaara Lahav Gregory grew up on a kibbutz in Israel and her latest work, a coming-of-age story, explores the political landscape of Israel in the 60's-80's. Yaara will be in conversation with Nick Bilbrough, founder of *The Hands Up Project* which connects children around the world with young people in Palestine. He will profile Yaara - a 16-year-old girl in Gaza through film of her activities over the years. Is there more than a name that connects these two women?


 **Night Swimming in Jordan** (Cinnamon Press)

Stephen Matthews

Gwen John: A Life in Sonnets

33	6pm	Studio	£13
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Augustus John felt his sister, Gwen, was the greater artist and one of the greatest female artists of all times. In a series of fifty sonnets describing fifty of her works, Stephen Matthews portrays the life and artistic personality of a deeply introspective artist.

 **Gwen John: A Life in Sonnets** (Bookcase)



David Crystal



David Kynaston



Conn Iggulden



Luke Harding

Credit Jonathan Ring

David Crystal

Disappearing dialects - or not?

34	10am	Main House	£13
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In a recent book, *The Disappearing Dictionary*, Honorary Professor of Linguistics at Bangor University, David Crystal tells the remarkable story behind the first English Dialect Dictionary, compiled by Joseph Wright over a century ago. In this talk he describes local Cumbrian words found within, and asks the question: 'Are they still being used?' David hopes the audience will provide some answers.


 **The Disappearing Dictionary** (Macmillan Print on Demand)

David Kynaston

Britain 1962-1965

35	12pm	Main House	£13
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The early sixties in Britain as only David Kynaston can tell us. From the coming of the Beatles to a sex scandal that rocked the Tory government to the arrival at No 10 of Harold Wilson, a very different kind of PM. Drawing upon diaries, newspapers and first-hand recollections from all walks of life, David explores key events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Big Freeze, JFK's assassination, Churchill's funeral, as well as the stories of everyday people living through this history.

 **A Northern Wind** (Bloomsbury)

Conn Iggulden

Nero

36	2pm	Main House	£13
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Join master storyteller Conn Iggulden, one of the most successful writers of historical fiction today, who will be talking about *Nero*, the first in an epic new trilogy about the tyrant of Rome. Follow Agrippina, great-granddaughter of the first Emperor, Augustus and sister to its cruellest Emperor, Tiberius and her fierce fight to survive the notorious reigns of Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius as she seeks to secure absolute power for her young son.

 **Nero** (Michael Joseph)

Luke Harding

Human Stories of the War in Ukraine

37	4pm	Main House	£13
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Author and Guardian journalist Luke Harding explores the grim reality and human cost of this ongoing war examining the two key players - Volodymyr Zelenskiy and Vladimir Putin and the ideological, religious and personal reasons behind Putin's decision to invade. He confronts a crucial question: which side will prevail in this terrible war?

(Author royalties will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.)

 **Invasion: Russia's Bloody War and Ukraine's Fight for Survival** (Guardian Faber)



Liz Grand



Marie-Elsa Bragg

Noddy, Big-Ears and Lashings of Controversy - The Secret Life of Enid Blyton

performed by **On a Role Theatre Company**

38	7.30pm	Main House	£16
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Everybody of a certain age has read an Enid Blyton book. She was loved by children but vilified by the BBC, teachers, critics and librarians. Despite being banned for 30 years, she sold over 600 million books. She was accused of being a bigot and a racist, and her love-life was peppered with several affairs including one with her children’s nanny. She died of Alzheimer’s in 1968 aged 71, and was mourned by millions worldwide.

Performance Time - 100 minutes, including 20 minute interval.

Liz Grand plays this remarkable and controversial woman and brings you her story.

www.onarole.co.uk



John Little

Marie-Elsa Bragg (workshop)
Spirituality and Creative Writing

FE1	10.00am-12.30pm	Lamont Robinson Room	£20
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Every writer, beginner or experienced, needs to return to the source of creativity for the first draft of their next project. Using lectures and private creative exercises, this workshop will explore literary and monastic methods that help us ‘get out of the way’ and follow what is often described as the river of creativity.

Rev Marie-Elsa Bragg is a priest in the Diocese of London, author and broadcaster. Her first novel *Towards Mellbreak* is a novel about Cumbrian hill farmers living in close relationship to nature; her second book *Sleeping Letters* is poetry and prose, facing her mother’s suicide and her recent chapters of Theology are written alongside paintings and sculptures.

There will be a 15-minute break during the workshop.

John Little (workshop)
Standing in their Shoes

FE2	2.30-5pm	Lamont Robinson Room	£20
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Authentic historical fiction should stand a reader in the shoes of men and women long dead, seeing their world as they did. Often there are gaps in the narrative and evidence. This workshop aims to demonstrate how to reconstruct a plausible version of the past, and then how to self-publish it.

Dr John Little was head of history in two schools, and has written fifteen books, both factual and fiction. His *The Testimony of Sal Madge* was runner-up in the fiction category of the 2020 Lakeland Book of the Year Awards. He writes well-researched historical novels set in Cumbria, as well as some non fiction. Currently he is working on a novel set in Maryport.

There will be a 15-minute break during the workshop.

Matthew Appleby

How to be a Cricket Fan

39	10.30am	Studio	£13
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As told by his son, this is the story of Keswick eccentric Edgar Appleby's journey from cricketing backwaters to entertaining the stars and becoming a leading authority on the game. Most people love sport but this is the tale of the ultimate sports fan long before the internet made it easy to find out everything.

 **How to be a Cricket Fan: A Life in 50 Artefacts from WG to Wisden** (Pitch Publishing)

Richard Askwith

Twenty Years of *Feet in the Clouds*

40	12.30pm	Studio	£13
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In 2004, Richard Askwith published what was expected to be a very niche memoir, about his passion for the then obscure sport of fell-running. Two decades later, *Feet in the Clouds* is recognised as a modern classic, and fell-running is far from obscure. To mark the launch of an updated anniversary edition, the author reflects on 20 years of change, in the sport, in the fells, in publishing, and in his sporting life.

 **Feet in the Clouds** (Quarto Publishing PLC)

Helen Rebanks

A Memoir About Motherhood, Food and Love

41	2.30pm	Studio	£13
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This portrait of life at Helen Rebanks' Lake District farmhouse beautifully captures the unsung work of keeping a home and raising a family. Helen is a farmer, businesswoman, teacher, conservationist and a working mother. Living at her innovative Cumbrian farm, shared with 500 sheep, 50 cattle, 20 chickens, six sheepdogs and two ponies, as well as a husband and four children, Helen tells us honestly, caringly, with no frills attached, about the non-stop work involved in keeping a farm going and raising a family.

 **The Farmer's Wife** (Faber)

On Our Doorstep



Helen Rebanks

Richard Askwith

Ann Lingard

The Edge of the Solway

42	4.30pm	Studio	£13
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From sandstone cliffs to saltmarshes and mudflats, peatlands and ports, the margins of the Solway Firth are ever-changing. Ann Lingard's illustrated talk draws on her experiences with the people and creatures she meets while wandering and wading along the edgelands.

 **The Fresh and the Salt** (Birlinn)

Angela Locke

Tamarisk: Love and War in France

43	6pm	Studio	£13
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On the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, Angela Locke talks about her 43 year journey to write her latest novel, inspired by research into the final years of World War 2, France's recovery from Occupation, and interviews with survivors. Tamarisk, seeming indestructible, grows again along the sea margins in Normandy, and symbolises the triumph of love and the human spirit, the major theme of the book.

 **Tamarisk: Love and War in France** (Collective Ink)



Kathryn Hughes



Kerry Irving



Stuart Maconie



Bookshop Band

Kathryn Hughes

Catland

44	10 am	Main House	£13
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Some called it a craze, to others it was a cult. In her new book *Catland: Feline Enchantment and the Making of the Modern World*, award-winning historian Kathryn Hughes talks about how Edwardian Britain fell in love with cats and the role illustrator Louis Wain played in changing them from reviled pest controllers to adored family members. *Catland*, part-biography, part-social history is a fascinating and fabulous unravelling of our cat obsession.



Catland: Feline Enchantment and the Making of the Modern World (HarperCollins)

Kerry Irving

Forever Max

45	12 pm	Main House	£13
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The heartwarming, inspiring final chapter in the life of Max the miracle dog. Shortly after a traumatic car accident, Kerry Irving who lives in Keswick, met Max, a springer spaniel who completely changed his life. Max was a source of inspiration to countless others around the world, with hundreds of thousands of pounds being raised in his name. His was truly a life well lived. *Forever Max* sees Kerry and Max take on their final adventures around the Lake District, from providing joy to those stuck inside through lockdown to adjusting to Max's twilight years. Kerry will be joined on stage by spaniels Harry, Paddy and Tally.



Forever Max (Harper Collins)

Stuart Maconie

The Full English

46	2 pm	Main House	£13
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Join Stuart Maconie on an entertaining journey through England, walking in the footsteps of J.B. Priestley's classic 1930s travelogue, *English Journey*, exploring our national identity and how it has evolved over the last century. He examines our past and present, uncovering local heroes and secret histories, deftly weaving history and politics into his observations. Discover the shifting and diverse nature of England, and question what kind of country we want to be.



The Full English: A Journey in Search of a Country and its People (Harper Collins)

Bookshop Band

Festival Finale

47	4 pm	Main House	£13
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Step into the enchanting world of The Bookshop Band, where the songs unfold like chapters in a grand literary saga. Ivor Novello-nominated composers, Beth Porter and Ben Please, write songs inspired by books and have performed concerts in bookshops world-wide. They are about to release their 14th studio album, *Emerge, Return*, produced by Pete Townshend of The Who and featuring songs inspired by Margaret Atwood, Philip Pullman and Robert Macfarlane amongst others.

"Achingly good" **The New York Times**
 "An inspiration" **Pete Townshend**

thebookshopband.co.uk

Journeys



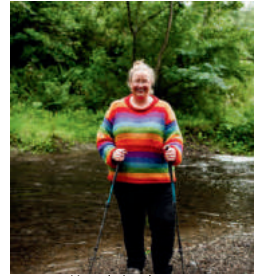
Tom Chesshyre



Julie Casson



Kenneth Wilson



Kerri Andrews

Tom Chesshyre

The Rambling Reporter

48	10.15am	Studio	£13
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Setting off from Penrith with a notebook, a backpack and a spring in his step, travel journalist and author of a dozen books, Tom Chesshyre took to the trails of the Lakes, indulging his love of the region formed as a teenager. His aim? To explore as a casual rambler... and be very nosy along the way. In that 379 mile hike he takes in the remotest parts and he's not obsessed by bagging Wainwrights.

 **Lost in the Lakes** (Summersdale)

Julie Casson

Sorrows and Joys of a Trip to Switzerland

49	12.15pm	Studio	£13
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With wit and candour, Julie Casson gives an intimate account of her husband Nigel's journey to Dignitas in Zurich, where he staged his final triumph over motor neurone disease. A successful businessman and a father, Yorkshireman Nigel makes the 800-mile trip with characteristic indefatigability, along with his shrewd wife, whose much-loved book *Die Smiling* was serialised by a national newspaper.

 **Die Smiling** (Canbury Press)

Kenneth Wilson

The Highway Cello

50	2.15pm	Studio	£13
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Kenneth Wilson straps his cello to the back of a fifty-year-old Dawes Galaxy bike, and cycles from Hadrian's Wall to Rome, performing every day en route. *Highway Cello* is about the 1800 mile journey, together with the music and the mishaps along the way. This event also includes a live cello performance. Through the medium of travel and cello, of encounter and exhaustion, of people and places, Kenneth discovers what life is really all about.

This event includes a live cello performance.

 **Highway Cello** (City Village Books)

Kerri Andrews

Way Makers and Wanderers

51	4.15pm	Studio	£13
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Join Kerri Andrews, author of *Wanderers* and editor of *Way Makers*, on a journey through 300 years of women's walking history, moving from the eighteenth century to the present day, and across poetry, letters, diaries, novels and more, tracing a long tradition of women's walking literature. There will be Lakeland favourites as well as less familiar figures.

 **Way Makers** (Reaktion Books)

Kathleen Jones (workshop)

Real Lives, True Stories

FE3	10.00am-12.30pm	Lamont Robinson Room	£20
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How do you write about someone's life so that it's as compelling as fiction? When you have a whole life to write about, where do you begin? This workshop will explore different ways to construct a narrative out of your own life or someone else's, and how memory and imagination can combine to produce fully-rounded characters and vivid events.

Kathleen Jones was born and brought up in the Lake District and now lives in Penrith. She has published 17 books – biography, fiction and poetry – and won several awards including the Barclays Bank Prize for biography. Two of her books were Top 10 Sunday Times best-sellers. Kathleen taught Creative Writing and Women's Studies for a number of universities and is a regular performer and workshop leader at literature festivals around Britain. She is currently a judge for the Lakeland Book of the Year.

There will be a 15-minute break during the workshop.

Katie Hale (workshop)

Poetry - Wonder & Whimsy

FE4	2.30-5pm	Lamont Robinson Room	£20
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Poetry can be factually true, but it can also be imaginatively and emotionally true, and there can be real power in creating alternative versions of events. This is a workshop exploring the 'what if' in poetry. You'll be encouraged to daydream, to step aside from the busyness of everyday life, and indulge curiosity, wonder, and a touch of the whimsical.

Katie Hale is the author of two novels, *The Edge of Solitude* and *My Name is Monster*, and won a 2021 Northern Debut Award for her poetry collection, *White Ghosts*. She is a MacDowell Fellow, and winner of the Gulliver Travel Grant, Palette Poetry Prize, and Northern Writers' Award. She also mentors emerging writers through the Writing Squad.

There will be a 15-minute break during the workshop.



Kathleen Jones



Katie Hale

Thank you to...

Festival Curators: Leah Varnell, Lucy, Gwenda and Stephen Matthews.

Technical Support: Chris Edwards

Programme Production: Bryony Tilsley

Our venue host Theatre by the Lake and all their fantastic team.

Catherine Fairfield at Appletrees Guest House
appletreeskeswick.com

George at Merienda
merienda.co.uk

Darren Kierman
kierweb.co.uk

Thankyou to all our volunteers, drivers, advisors and chairpersons and of course authors and performers without whom the festival would not be possible.

Booking your tickets & other information

There are a variety of ticket options available for Words by the Water 2024.

Festival Passes - ££90 - £160

Festival Passes are for Main House events only.

3-Day Festival Pass - grants entry to all Main House events from Wednesday 5th June-Friday 7th June inclusive - £160 for 16 events

Weekend Festival Pass - grants entry to all Main House events on Saturday 8th June and Sunday 9th June - £90 for 9 events

Studio Day Tickets - £40-50

Studio Day Tickets are also available and grant access to all events in the Studio on one specific themed day.

When to book

Public booking opens at noon on **Monday 22nd April**.

The box office is open Monday to Saturday, noon - 7.30pm (or 5pm when there is no evening show).

How to book

Book online at theatrebythelake.com.

Book by phone on 01768 774411.

Book in person at Theatre by the Lake during box office hours.

Payment methods

Cash, credit or debit cards (Mastercard/ Visa/ Switch/Delta/Electron/Maestro) are accepted or cheques made payable to Theatre by the Lake.

We encourage audiences to use e-tickets and download them to their phones before they arrive as this helps avoid queues at the box office.

Refund and exchange policy

If you inform the Theatre by the Lake box office at least 48 hours before an event, we will exchange your tickets for another Words by the Water 2024 event (subject to availability). There is a £1.50 fee per ticket for this service.

If an event is cancelled you can exchange your ticket for another event at this year's festival - subject to availability. There will be no charge for this. If you don't wish to exchange you are entitled to a refund of the ticket's value. (NB for day tickets or a Festival Pass, this will be a proportion of the ticket value)

Getting to Theatre by the Lake

To locate the theatre and find out about car parking and transport links please go to the theatre's website:

theatrebythelake.com/location

The address of the theatre is:

Theatre by the Lake

Lakeside

Keswick

Cumbria

CA12 5DJ

Parking charges apply.

Terms & Conditions

The right is reserved to substitute speakers and vary the advertised programme if necessary. All information is correct at the time of going to press. Please refer to our website (wordsbythewaterkeswick.com) for full details of our policy on cancellations, ticket refunds and exchanges, and on lost tickets.





Matthew Appleby



Ann Lingard



Michael Mullet



Ina Christova

Credit Charlotte Knee



Angela Locke



Ros Roberts

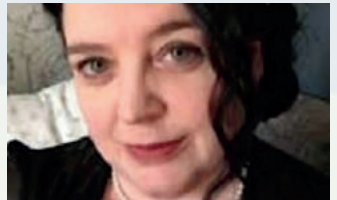


Kelly Davis

Credit Clare Park



Blake Morrison



Rebecca Wilson

Your festival planner

Wednesday 5th June

Main House

1	Susannah Gibson	12pm
2	Bragg, Morrison & Stanford	2pm
3	Blake Morrison	4pm
4	Polly Toynbee	6pm
5	Natalie Haynes	8pm

Studio

6	Esther Rutter	10.30am
7	Hugo Greenhalgh	12.30pm
8	Polly Atkin	2.30pm
9	Peter Cave	4.30pm
10	North Cumbria Stanza	6pm

Thursday 6th June

Main House

11	Sally Coulthard	10am
12	Alex Niven	12pm
13	Garrett M. Graff	2pm
14	Harriet Baker	4pm
15	Daisy Dunn	6pm
16	Robin Ince	8pm

Studio

17	Michael Mullett	10.30am
18	Ros Roberts	12.30pm
19	David Crackanthorpe	2.30pm
20	Penn Allen	4.30pm
21	Steve Uglow	6pm

Friday 7th June

Main House

22	Chris Mullin	12pm
23	David Breeze	2pm
24	M. W. Craven	4pm
25	Marie-Elsa Bragg	6pm
26	David & Ben Crystal	8pm

Spotlight Café / Circle Gallery

27	Poetry Breakfast	10am
28	Christopher Burns	3pm

Friday 7th June

Studio

29	Clare Mulley	10.30am
30	Ina Christova	12.30pm
31	Rebecca Wilson	2.30pm
32	Lahav Gregory & Bilbrough	4.30pm
33	Stephen Matthews	6pm

Saturday 8th June

Main House

34	David Crystal	10am
35	David Kynaston	12pm
36	Conn Iggulden	2pm
37	Luke Harding	4pm
38	On a Role Theatre	7.30pm

Studio

39	Matthew Appleby	10.30am
40	Richard Askwith	12.30pm
41	Helen Rebanks	2.30pm
42	Ann Lingard	4.30pm
43	Angela Locke	6pm

Lamont Robinson Room

FE1	Marie-Elsa Bragg (workshop)	10am
FE2	John Little (workshop)	2.30pm

Sunday 9th June

Main House

44	Kathryn Hughes	10am
45	Kerry Irving	12pm
46	Stuart Maconie	2pm
47	Bookshop Band	4pm

Studio

48	Tom Chesshyre	10.15am
49	Julie Casson	12.15pm
50	Kenneth Wilson	2.15pm
51	Kerri Andrews	4.15pm

Lamont Robinson Room

FE3	Kathleen Jones (workshop)	10am
FE4	Katie Hale (workshop)	2.30pm