

Words by the Water

A Festival of Words and Ideas

celebrate

25

years

11 – 15 March, 2026

Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

wordsbythewaterkeswick.com

Bookends 

Welcome to our 25th anniversary festival



Once again we will gather to ponder, discuss, debate and be entertained by a rich mix of events in the welcoming environment of Keswick's Theatre by the Lake. As we celebrate 25 years since the festival first began, we present a packed and exceptionally strong programme to be enjoyed by all. Words by the Water will explore ideas around literature, history, environment, poetry and current affairs. We are delighted to welcome to Keswick such distinguished speakers as Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, Lee Child, Brian Bilston, Penny Mordaunt, Prue Leith, Tony Juniper, John Crace, Val McDermid, Mary Beard and Chris Bonington.

The festival will host smaller, more intimate events in the Circle Gallery and writing-related workshops in the Lamont Robinson room at the theatre. This year, we also welcome the Lakeland Book of the Year, which is hosting the Cumbrian Young Writers' Award. The award has been established to encourage creative writing among young people in the region.

Words by the Water is also collaborating with The Arts Society Cumbria who mark their 50th anniversary with a special event featuring art historian and TV presenter Bendor Grosvenor. The venerated artist Julian Cooper will discuss his life in art alongside an exhibition of his work in the Mezzanine and Circle Gallery. We also honour the artist Sheila Fell who devoted her career to painting Cumbrian landscapes.

It was with great sadness we bade farewell to Kay Dunbar, MBE, who passed away in August of 2025. As one of the founding members of Words by the Water, Kay was a passionate advocate for literacy and literature. Our thoughts are with her husband, Stephen, and her cherished family. In honour of her legacy and her dedication to nurturing new writers throughout her career, we have curated a special event celebrating Cumbrian women writers in Kay's memory. We hope you will join us there.

Enjoy browsing through the brochure. We look forward to a stimulating five days.

Leah Varnell, Festival Director



We are delighted to bring you the 25th Words by the Water festival and proud of the eclectic and fascinating selection of events in store. As ever, there are lots of Cumbrian interest talks and local authors among the line-up, including M.W. Craven, Sarah Hall and Kathleen Jones. There is an incredible range of literary talent in the county and we think it's important that Words by the Water represents that, while at the same time encouraging and developing talent through workshops and the Cumbrian Young Writers' Awards. We hope you agree and we look forward to seeing you at the Theatre by the Lake.

Lucy Matthews, Bookends Director and Festival Partner

In Memoriam

We are very sad to announce that Michael Geoffrey Baron MBE, formerly of Loweswater and Cockermouth, died peacefully in London in November 2025 aged 96. His prolific contribution to the arts in Cumbria included an instrumental role in establishing Words by the Water in Keswick 25 years ago. We will all miss his energy, determination, generous spirit and open-mindedness.

Words of Welcome from our Festival Presidents



It's an honour to welcome you back to what has been called 'the jewel of literary festivals' which continues to bring the world of literature to the heart of Cumbria. This year the list affirms the talent of Cumbria and celebrates a host of writers – historians, poets, novelists, travel writers and many, many more.

The festival would not happen without the hard work of Leah, Jane, and of course Gwenda and Lucy from Bookends. They all work tirelessly throughout the year with the team from Theatre by the Lake, led by Simon and Amy. But the festival is also in debt to the many local volunteers who generously give their time and wisdom from working as ushers to interviewing writers. With their continued support, this is a truly Cumbrian event which welcomes people from all over the world.

This year we are proud to team up with Lakeland Book of the Year Awards for our Cumbrian Young Writers' Award. The new branch of their charity will support the next generation of young Cumbrian writers.

With its talks, exhibitions and workshops, Words by the Water affirms the new landscape as Spring enters the Lake District. Enjoy browsing the brochure and I hope to meet you there.

Marie Elsa Bragg, Festival President

A special pre-festival event at Keswick Museum

Friday 6th March, 3pm

Keswick Museum



Paul Eastham

Paul Eastham

Secrets of the Hidden People

£8

Cumbrians are called the Hidden People because mainstream history claims their Celtic heritage was erased by Roman, Viking, Anglo-Saxon and Norman invasions. This succession of incomers certainly tried to drive Cumbrian culture underground over centuries of suppression and belittlement but ultimately failed. Paul Eastham reveals insights into Cumbria's deep Celtic past and unearths the Cumbrian character at the core.



Secrets of the Hidden People
(Fletcher Christian Books)

Booking Info

Tickets are £8 and can only be purchased from Bookends (017687 75277) or Keswick Museum (017687 73263).

Bookends



Photo Credit: Athina Taylor-Smith

1 Sophie Anderson & David Felton

Cumbrian Young Writers Awards

10.30am / MH / Free

Lakeland Book of the Year are collaborating with Words by the Water to launch a Cumbrian Young Writers' Award. The theme is 'Lost' and young writers up to the age of 18 are eligible. There are cash prizes. Poems and stories to be sent to info@lakelandbookoftheyear.co.uk

Usborne author Sophie Anderson will talk about her work and how she became a writer, and publisher David Felton will share how books get into print. Prize-winners will have their work read out and will meet the speakers.

Find all the competition details at lakelandbookoftheyear.co.uk

Sophie Anderson is an award-winning writer and storyteller whose books include *The Snow Girl*, *The House with Chicken Legs*, and *The Girl Who Speaks Bear*.


David Felton is the director of Inspired by Lakeland, and a recipient of the Holyer An Gof Children's Book of the Year award.

2 Thomas Bell

A Walking History of the Himalayan Landscape

1.30pm / MH / £13

Former Southeast Asia correspondent of the Daily Telegraph and political officer for the UN in Kathmandu, Thomas Bell explores the interplay between the land and the people who call the Himalaya home. Different forms of migrations, the impact of British imperialism, agriculture and environmental degradation are just some of the things he examines through four walks across the central Himalaya region of Nepal – one of the world's most enigmatic regions.

 **Human Nature**
(Haus Publishing)

 **Ticket Offer:
Exploration Package**

Buy a ticket for both Thomas Bell and Chris Bonington (Sunday, Main House, 4.30pm) for the special price of £20 (a saving of £6).

3 Sarah Hall & Andrew Miller

Writing from the Land

3.30pm / MH / £13

Two of Britain's leading novelists discuss the practice and philosophy of landscape-based writing and their creative processes. Andrew Miller's latest novel, *The Land in Winter*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and Sarah Hall's latest title, *Helm*, was shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize. After several decades and dozens of books, what does it mean to be an author, and how are works produced? Andrew and Sarah will discuss life as a writer, the book industry today, where inspiration comes from, and a range of other topics.

 **The Land in Winter** (Sceptre)
Helm (Faber & Faber)



Photo Credit: Heather Chalker

4

Elly Griffiths & M. W. Craven

Creating the Perfect Crime

5.30pm / MH / £13

Expect blood and gore, frank discussion, anecdotes and lots of laughter as two titans of crime fiction meet. Cumbrian writer Mike Craven chats to Elly Griffiths, bestselling author of the Dr Ruth Galloway series. Elly will be talking about *Killing Time*, the second book featuring time travelling detective Ali Dawson and Mike will be chatting about Washington Poe's latest case in *The Final Vow*.



Final Vow (Constable)
Killing Time (Quercus)



Photo Credit: Paul Stuart Photography Ltd

5

Simon Armitage

An Evening with Poet Laureate Simon Armitage

7.30pm / MH / £16

Join the Poet Laureate for a lively evening of readings and audience Q&A to celebrate his two latest books. His gorgeous illustrated bestseller *Dwell* is playfully inspired by the Lost Gardens of Heligan, and his highly imaginative major new collection, *New Cemetery*, Simon Armitage makes peace with the dead. These luminous poems are as surprising as they are life-enhancing.

Suitable for ages 11+.



New Cemetery (Faber & Faber)
Dwell (Faber & Faber)



FE1

Darren Harper (workshop)

A Philosopher's Guide to Nature

10.30am-1pm / LR / £20

What does it mean to live in harmony with nature, both environmentally and existentially? Drawing on Arne Naess's ecology and Soga Ryojin's insight that 'we cannot rise above nature', we reflect on our place within the natural world. Through discussion and guided questions, we'll explore how we might reshape our ethical responsibilities to reimagine nature as something to which we belong.

FE2

Kerry Darbishire (workshop)

Unlocking your Story: Memoir, Prose, Poetry

2.30-5pm / LR / £20

By reading short pieces from biographies and poetry, participants will discover different approaches to writing memoir. Kerry will work with the senses – scent, taste, and sound, especially music. Working together, participants can choose to share their seedling writings. If you have a small object or photograph that means something to you, please bring it along.



6 Simon Francis Brown

The Vanishing Age of Sail

10.30am / St / £13

Simon Francis Brown reveals the rich, textured story behind the illustrated journals of Kelsick Wood, a Georgian shipbuilder in Maryport with a private passion for painting. In his highly visual presentation, Simon explores Britain of the early nineteenth century, an age of invention, industry and empire, and brings to life some of those who owned, crewed and commanded the vessels Kelsick built.

 **The Vanishing Age of Sail**
(Amberley)

7 Kathryn Ecclestone

Vera Brittain's Early Life:
A Different Story

12.15pm / St / £13

Feminist and pacifist Vera Brittain condemned her cosseted upbringing in the fashionable spa town of Buxton between 1905 and 1915 with remorseless fervour. Previous portrayals have failed to appreciate how this period shaped Brittain, a complicated, unusual young woman who became one of the 20th century's most important literary and political figures. Her family connections with the Holehird Estate at Windermere also gave her a deep love of the Lake District.

 **Testament of Lost Youth**
(Pen & Sword)

8 Stephen G Rae

Folklore of the
Lake District

2.15pm / St / £13

Druid, folklorist, and Bard of Cumberland, Stephen G. Rae invites us into the world of folklore in the Lake District and its surrounding counties. Explore the region's rich cultural heritage, its myths and legends, flora and fauna, and be introduced to the other-worldly beings that also inhabit it.

 **Folklore of the Lake District**
(The FolkLore Press)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



9

Tim Gregory

How Will the Atom
Save the World?

4.15pm / St / £13

We're at the start of an energy transition – replacing fossil fuels with clean power sources. Wind and solar are growing fast, but they're not always there when you need them. That's where nuclear shines: carbon-free, always-on, and scalable, it can power the world sustainably and plentifully.

Join Dr Tim Gregory — nuclear chemist at Sellafield and author of *Going Nuclear* — as he busts nuclear myths, and shares his vision for a future where the atom creates a prosperous and sustainable future for all.



Going Nuclear (Bodley Head)



10

The Lakeland
Dialect Society

The Grasmere
Dialect Plays

6.15pm / St / £13

Come and enjoy an extraordinary piece of Westmorland cultural heritage. Sue Wilkinson will introduce Eleanor Rawnsley's *Grasmere Dialect Plays*: a local and national sensation in the early 20th Century. Members of the Lakeland Dialect Society will recreate scenes from the play – entertaining and accessible to a 21st Century audience.



11

Stephen Cooper &
Zoe Gilbert

Chasing the Phantom

3.30pm / CG / £8

Stephen Cooper and Zoe Gilbert share the stories of war poet Nowell Oxland and Amy Hawthorn, the woman who saved his work for posterity. Their different journeys and research have culminated in a book that shares Oxland's work for the first time 110 years after his death and fills an important chapter in the history of Cumbrian place-writing. Robert Macfarlane has described *Chasing the Phantom* as 'a moving, valuable project of rescue and salvage.'



Chasing the Phantom
(Thorn & Haw Publications)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



12 Eleanor & Andrew Bradley

Shining a Light on Sheila Fell

11am / MH / £13

Join Eleanor and Andrew Bradley to hear about the joys and challenges of their quest to track down paintings by the artist Sheila Fell (1931-1979) which they photographed for inclusion in their richly illustrated catalogue raisonné of Fell's works. An important post-war artist, Fell lived in London for her entire adult life, but her inspiration was the West Cumbrian farmland of her childhood which she brought to life in powerful and expressive paintings.

 **Sheila Fell, Catalogue Raisonné of Oil Paintings**
(Lund Humphreys)



**Ticket Offer:
Art Pass**

A £50 pass which includes a ticket for Andrew & Eleanor Bradley, Julian Cooper, Andrew Graham Dixon, Bendor Grosvenor and Stephen Matthews on sonnets inspired by Rembrandt's self-portraits (Sunday, Studio, 11am). A saving of £15.



Photo credit: Phil Ribby

13 Julian Cooper

The Art of Julian Cooper

1pm / MH / £13

Julian Cooper, the youngest of the Heaton Cooper dynasty of landscape painters, is an artist who has developed an international reputation as one of the most imaginative mountain painters of his generation. He will be in conversation with Marie Elsa Bragg. Julian's newly published book shows how often within his lifetime, his beloved Cumbrian mountain landscape is ever present.

 **The Art of Julian Cooper**
(Unicorn Publishing Group)




Photo credit: Aliona Adriansca

14 Andrew Graham Dixon

Vermeer: A New Vision

3pm / MH / £13

Leading art critic, broadcaster and historian Andrew Graham-Dixon sheds light on the elusive 17th century artist Johannes Vermeer of Delft whose paintings are some of the most sublime in the history of art. Drawing on newly uncovered archival material, he re-evaluates Vermeer, not as an isolated genius, but as a painter embedded in the radical, intellectual and political life of his time. He reveals surprising aspects of the artist's life, and opens our eyes to new ways of looking at his paintings.

 **Vermeer: A Life Lost and Found**
(Allen Lane)

Exhibition: The Art of Julian Cooper

9th March - 18th April at Theatre by the Lake
Circle Gallery & Mezzanine

We hope you can make time to visit this stunning exhibition of Julian Cooper's art during the festival.

Please note that the Circle Gallery will be closed at times during the festival for events.



15 Bendor Grosvenor

The Arts Society Cumbria
50th Anniversary Lecture

5pm / MH / £13

A Sense Sublime:
Wordsworth, Constable
and the Lakes

Art historian and broadcaster Dr Bendor Grosvenor explores how the dramatic scenery of the Lake District was one of the secret ingredients behind the emergence of British landscape painting in the 18th and 19th centuries. His new book is a frank reassessment of the history of British art that reveals how the art of this country has been created, what made it distinctive and why it took so long to emerge.



The Invention of British Art
(Elliott & Thompson)



Ticket Offer: Art Pass

A £50 pass which includes a ticket for Andrew & Eleanor Bradley, Julian Cooper, Andrew Graham Dixon, Bendor Grosvenor and Stephen Matthews on sonnets inspired by Rembrandt's self-portraits (Sunday, Studio, 11am). A saving of £15.



16 Brian Bilston

An Evening with
Brian Bilston

7.30pm / MH / £16

Get ready for an evening of comedy and laughter, as Brian Bilston takes us through the hows, whys and whats of reading, writing and enjoying poetry with his characteristic wit and charm. He will give us a whirlwind tour through the history of verse, and show us why human poetry will always triumph over attempts by AI.

Brian Bilston is one of the UK's most popular poets with several bestselling collections of poetry. His upcoming collection, *How to Lay an Egg with a Horse Inside*, is due in April.

There will be a 20-minute interval. The event finishes at 9.20pm with a book signing to follow.



How to Lay an Egg With a Horse Inside (Picador)



FE3 Barbara Renel (workshop)

Catalyst: a short form
fiction workshop

10.30am-1pm / LR / £20

Highlighting flash fiction, this workshop will appeal to writers of all short-form fiction. Chance will be the inspiration, the *Ching* the tool for generating new work. Participants will read, write, edit and discuss the short form, and might consider creating a zine.

Barbara Renel's short-form fiction has been widely anthologised. A collaboration with the illustrator Paul Taylor, titled *23*, is due in 2026.

FE4 Tom Palmer (workshop)

Writing Cumbrian History
for Children

2.30-5pm / LR / £20

Tom Palmer has written more than 60 books for children and is the author of three history novels set in Cumbria. Join him for an afternoon developing ideas for history stories set in the Lake District. Bring an idea, workshop it with other local authors and learn some tips about how to get published.

"Tom Palmer is a true reading hero and has been responsible for motivating many thousands of young people." **Booktrust**



Photo credit: Nancy Macdonald

17 Mike Jay

Free Radicals

10.30am / St / £13

Historian Mike Jay introduces us to the circle that formed around the radical doctor Thomas Beddoes in 1790s' Bristol. This included the young Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, Humphrey Davy and Tom Wedgwood. He was their mentor in medicine, German philosophy and politics; in turn, they participated in his pioneering researches into nitrous oxide (laughing gas), with which he hoped to revolutionise medicine.

 **Free Radicals**
(Yale University Press)

18 Philip Hoare

William Blake and the Sea Monster of Love

12.30pm / St / £13

Poet, painter, printer and visionary William Blake has inspired 200 years of art, poetry and protest. Weaving between the historical, cultural and personal, Philip Hoare reveals a web of creative minds inspired by Blake's genius. The artist draws together the natural world and metaphysical realms, merging the human, the animal and the spiritual, firing up 20th century artists, filmmakers, poets, writers and musicians including Derek Jarman and Paul Nash with his radical promise of freedom.

 **William Blake and the Sea Monsters of Love**
(4th Estate)

19 James Fox

Lost Arts and Vanishing Trades

2.30pm / St / £13

Historian and broadcaster James Fox meets some of the last remaining master craftspeople at work in Britain today. He steps inside the workshops of blacksmiths, wheelwrights, cutlers and coopers, bell-founders and watchmakers, revealing not only our past but another way of life that is in danger of vanishing altogether. He celebrates the enduring value of craft and the deep connection between our creative instincts and the material world. He explores how crafts connect us to the land and express regional identities and cultures.

 **Craft Land** (Bodley Head)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



20 Klaus Dodds

The Fight for the Future of the Arctic

4.30pm / St / £13

Sea ice is declining, wildfires are burning and permafrost is thawing. Nowhere is the dual threat of climate change and geopolitical contest felt more strongly than the Arctic. Political scientist Klaus Dodds examines the state of the Arctic today showing how the region is turning into a space of experimentation for everything from Indigenous governance to subsea technology. The level of geopolitical competition is growing along with its associated environmental disruption. Countries including the United States, China, Russia are investing in the Arctic and consolidating their interests in strategic access, resource exploitation and alliance building.



Unfrozen

(Yale University Press)



Ticket Offer:

Environment Package

Buy a ticket for both Klaus Dodds and Tony Juniper on a fairer planet (Sunday, Main House, 2.30pm) for the special price of £20 (a saving of £6).



Photo credit Nathalie Lees

21 Ben Machell

Encounters with the Supernatural

6.15pm / St / £13

Settle into a darkened room (the Studio) to hear Times journalist Ben Machell's spine-chilling story of psychic phenomena and ghost sightings. He reveals information uncovered from the previously untapped case files of renowned paranormal investigator Tony Cornell who was a prominent figure in the investigations of ghosts and other paranormal activity in Britain in the second half of the 20th century. But what do these disturbing cases teach us about who we are, the anxieties that consume us, and how do the dead still find ways to make themselves known?



Chasing the Dark (Abacus)



22 Ruth Sutton

The Challenge of Self-Publishing

3.30-5.30pm / CG / £12

Ruth Sutton has self-published nine novels, with considerable success. Managing to publish your own work can be really rewarding but also daunting. Ruth will take participants through the process step-by-step, drawing on her own and others' experiences to find a route that avoids possible expensive and frustrating pitfalls. There will be a structured presentation, and built-in opportunities to think, check, share and plan. Participants should leave with some next steps determined by themselves for their particular circumstances.

Ruth Sutton's novels are all set in West Cumbria where she lives. Her stories reflect the industrial history of the area as well as its rugged landscape, between the mountains and the sea.

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



Photo credit: Nicky Johnston

23 Janina Ramirez

Legenda: The Women Who Shaped Europe

11am / MH / £13

Joan of Arc, Lady Godiva and Isabelle of Castile are familiar names and summaries of their achievements have been recited in the classroom for decades. But they and other medieval women have been misrepresented and their stories twisted and weaponised. At the same time, ground-breaking 18th and 19th-century women who blazed a trail through revolutionary Europe have been forgotten. Historian Janina Ramirez questions established narratives and searches for the real women behind the legends.

 **Legenda** (W.H. Allen)

24 Penny Mordaunt

Pomp and Circumstance

1pm / MH / £13

Former Secretary of State Penny Mordaunt celebrates the traditions and values that underpin British life in her latest book *Pomp and Circumstance*. An exploration of Britain's traditions – both the ancient and the new – reveals how coronations, national events and local customs provide stability, reinforce identity and foster resilience. Penny Mordaunt was a British Parliamentarian for 14 years, holding nine ministerial roles, four in Cabinet. She now works with global organisations to promote prosperity and security as well as with charitable and philanthropic endeavours to improve lives across the UK.

 **Pomp and Circumstance**
(Biteback Publishing)

25 Prue Leith

Being Old and Learning to Love It

3pm / MH / £13

Special Offer: Book (RRP £20) with ticket - £28

With her characteristic wit and no-nonsense charm, Prue Leith takes a spirited canter through the triumphs, challenges and surprises of ageing well. She speaks honestly about life as a modern woman in her eighties. Nothing is off limits. Alongside her experience on the Great British Bake Off, she tackles the big questions we all have about getting older – about time running out, dealing with grief, and her passionate belief in assisted dying – with the same frankness she brings to discussing finding love, the right time to retire, fashion, travel and gardening.

 **Being Old and Learning to Love It**
(Octopus Publishing)



26 John Crace

How Does This Government Thing Work?

5pm / MH / £13

Expect satire, sarcasm and savage wit from The Guardian's political diarist and columnist, John Crace. Across 14 years of Tory rule, he has seen it all: a bucket-load of sleaze and scandals, myriad questionable decisions, and an ever-revolving door of (un)impressive candidates trying to get themselves to the top of a sinking ship. But it doesn't stop in July 2024: the Labour Party has had a bumpy start, while the Tories regroup in opposition. Has the United Kingdom's political landscape changed once and for all?

 **The Bonfire of the Insanities**
(Guardian Faber Publishing)



27 Val McDermid

Hidden Murders

7.30pm / MH / £13

One of the UK's most successful novelists, Val McDermid's books have been translated into more than 40 languages and have sold around 19 million copies across the globe. Val will be discussing her life in writing alongside her latest Karen Pirie novel, *Silent Bones*, and *Winter*, her seasonal memoir exploring the cosy, picturesque and occasionally brutal charm of Scottish winters.



Silent Bones
(Sphere)
Winter
(Hodder & Stoughton)



FE5 Eileen Watson

Calligraphy Workshop

2.30-5pm / LR / £20

Eileen Watson will explore the basics of calligraphy using dip pen and ink. Providing all materials needed, participants will learn the basics of a modern calligraphy script with a pointed dip pen including learning letter forms and how to plan and produce beautiful calligraphy. Participants will create and take home small hand-crafted pieces.

Eileen started her career as a design apprentice, when dip pen and ink was still a key component. Keen to preserve the hand written word, she has practiced the art of calligraphy now for more than 45 years, blending a love of hand written script with Illustration and watercolour painting.





Photo credit: Rhys Farnham



28 Cathy Haynes

Marking Time

10.30am / St / £13

Start the festival day with former Time Keeper in Residence at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, Cathy Haynes as she goes in search of those patterns that once shaped the rhythm of our days. Today most of us rely on machines to mark the hours. Past generations would tell time by shadows shrinking, the midday glow over a mountaintop, the crowing of the rooster in the darkness. They noticed the flowers that close at noon, sensed how the quality of light changes at dusk, and marked time at night by the motion of the stars. Take some time to discover the simple, sensory joys of truly paying attention.

 **The Fullness of Time**
(Bloomsbury Publishing)

29 Luke Barley

Reviving Ancient Woodlands

12.30pm / St / £13

Ancient woods are Britain's richest habitats: rare fragments of our landscape that teem with life from soil to canopy. Their story has always been one of interdependence with people. Now, as ever, these woods – including remnants of the primeval 'wildwood' – need the thoughtful intervention of humans to survive. With more than 20 years' experience of rehabilitating ancient woodland in the Lake District and beyond, senior advisor on trees and woodland for the National Trust, Luke Barley takes us deep into the woods to reveal majestic oaks, freshly coppiced hazels and endangered limes.

 **Ancient**
(Profile Books)

30 Marian Boswall

What is Regenerative Gardening?

2.30pm / St / £13

Leading landscape designer Marian Boswall, who has worked on some of the UK's most ambitious regenerative landscape projects, shares her wisdom on improving and replenishing biodiversity through our gardens. Her book *The Kindest Garden* recently won Garden Book of the Year at the GMG Awards. Regenerative gardening is about making an active contribution to the health of the planet. Drawing on lessons from farmers, foresters, re-wilders and nature itself, Marian Boswall shares her deep understanding of soil, water, ecosystems, materials, energy and planting – all key elements to creating a garden that is both a beautiful sanctuary and also a place where nature can thrive.

 **The Kindest Garden**
(Frances Lincoln)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



Photo credit: Devika Bilimoria



31 Monisha Rajesh

Around the World by Night Train

4.30pm / St / £13

The thrill of sleeper trains – headlamps ablaze, passengers boarding after sunset and leaving before sunrise – inspired Monisha Rajesh to take a new journey around the world. From Austria’s Nightjet to Scotland’s Caledonian Sleeper and Finland’s Santa Claus Express, she invites us aboard the world’s most awe-inspiring trains. As people search for slower and more environmentally friendly ways to travel, journeys on night trains filled with moonlit landscapes, cosy compartments and quirky companions are in the midst of a renaissance.

 **Moonlight Express**
(Bloomsbury Publishing)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



Ilse Pedler



Hilary Watson



Alice Willitts

32 Ben Aitken

Unsung Cities

6.15pm / St / £13

Sit back and celebrate the quiet brilliance of unfashionable places with Ben Aitken. The author of Times bestselling *A Chip Shop in Poznan* spent a year visiting 12 of the least popular spots in the UK and Ireland. Instead of partying in Prague or cruising the canals of Amsterdam he chose skiing in Sunderland, football in Wrexham and jellied eels in Chelmsford. His motivation? To uncover the gems and have a nice time. He discovered that anywhere – like anyone – can be interesting and enjoyable if approached in the right fashion.

 **Sh'tty Breaks**
(Icon Books)



FE6 Poetry Breakfast

Free Event
Booking Essential

10-11.30am / CG / Free

Buy a coffee and a croissant (or tea and toast) at the Spotlight cafe, mingle with other poets and share your love of poetry. This is a relaxed opportunity to read one of your own poems, or to read a favourite poem by another poet. There may be time to read more than one poem, so be prepared.

**FE7 Ilse Pedler
Hilary Watson
Alice Willitts**

Thrutopia:
Writing the Future

3.30-5.30pm / CG / £12

So much current ecopoetry focuses on destruction and despair. In this workshop, we'll introduce the concept of thrutopia and a way of writing about a future that is thriving, desirable and possible. We'll lead a series of exercises and prompts to activate curiosity, exercise the imagination and show how thrutopian poems can guide transformation.



33 Penny Bradshaw

New Perspectives on Beatrix Potter

11am / MH / £13

Penny Bradshaw reflects on how reading across Beatrix Potter's writings – from her early journals to books and essays published at the end of her career – offers new perspectives on this popular children's author. Fresh angles on familiar Potter themes and topics are revealed and light is cast on more uncharted corners of her imagination. Penny reads Potter's work against the backdrop of a momentous 70-year period of British history and explores key themes including a sustained and perceptive engagement with the natural environment.



An A-Z of Beatrix Potter
(Bloomsbury Academic)



Photo credit: Lezli-Bos

34 Sarah Vine

How Not To Be A Political Wife

1pm / MH / £13

Journalist, previous political insider, and former wife of Michael Gove, Sarah Vine, spills the beans from her memoir. For nearly two decades Sarah Vine was inside the rooms of government, a sanctioned eavesdropper on the rise and fall of the 'Cameron' style of Conservatism. She reveals how politics not only shaped her personal life, from glamorous Ibiza holidays to fraught confrontations at government events and she reflects on class, ambition, loyalty, and the emotional cost of living in the political spotlight.



How Not to Be a Political Wife (HarperCollins)



photo credit: Sigrid Estrada

35 Lee Child

Mission to Uncover the Truth

3pm / MH / £13

We welcome one of the world's leading thriller writers, Lee Child, to the shores of Derwentwater. Previously a television director, union organiser, theatre technician, and law student, Lee Child was fired and on the dole when he hatched a scheme to write a bestselling novel. His first book *Killing Floor* went on to win worldwide acclaim, and he joins us at the festival to discuss the 30th book in the series.

His popular drifter and crime solver Jack Reacher stumbles into the worst kind of trouble as a mystery man slips a note into his coat pocket. Lee Child will explore the latest thriller and discuss the history of his maverick character.



Exit Strategy (Bantam)



Photo credit: Caterina Turroni and Lion TV



Photo credit: Nina Sobin



36 Mary Beard & Raphael Cormack

Curious Facts from History

5pm / MH / £13

Historian and classicist Mary Beard points to the surprising connections between antiquity and the present in her latest work *Talking Classics*. From revolutionaries to dictators, Bob Dylan to Beyoncé, she joins forces with the varied modern characters who have been transfixed by the ancient world. She is joined by her son, specialist in Arabic culture and the occult, Raphael Cormack, to discuss his latest work *Holy Men of the Electromagnetic Age* which explores spiritualists, clairvoyants, fakirs, Theosophists, mind readers, and Jinn in the interwar period.



Talking Classics

(Profile Books)

Holy Men of the Electromagnetic Age

(C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd)

37 Chris Mullin with Alan Johnson

The Meeting of (former) Ministers

7.30pm / MH / £16

A unique pairing of political insight and perspective as two former Labour ministers meet. No longer in the tent, but not quite out of it, celebrated diarist Chris Mullin gives his take on the 12 turbulent years since he left parliament, recounting events from the fall of New Labour to the death of the Queen with his trademark wit and a keen eye for the absurd. Chris Mullin will be in conversation with parliamentary colleague, former home secretary and award-winning writer Alan Johnson, who will recount stories from his own time as an MP.



Didn't You Use to be Chris Mullin? (Biteback)

Harold Wilson
(Swift Press)

FE8

Ellie Wood (workshop)

Writing Lake District Fiction

10.30am-1pm / LR / £20

Join author Ellie Wood for a workshop on writing Lake District fiction. Ellie has written three novels published by HarperCollins and this session will explore the importance of setting and how to create a strong sense of place.



The Hotel at the Heart of the Lakes (HarperNorth)

FE9

Andrew Wilson (workshop)

Crime Writing: Where to begin?

2.30-5pm / LR / £20

Have you always wanted to learn how to write a crime novel? How do you go about plotting? How do you keep the reader turning the pages? Andrew Wilson has written seven crime novels, including four featuring Agatha Christie as detective. He is also a biographer, novelist and journalist. His books include biographies of Patricia Highsmith, Alexander McQueen, Sylvia Plath and, most recently, Marilyn Monroe. He shares the secrets of the crime-writing trade.



photo credit Paul Musso

38 Deborah Cohen

How the Internet Hijacked our Health

10.30am / St / £13

Want to track your blood sugar? Your heart rate? Your sleep? You can. Everything is a click away but who is regulating this? Medical journalist, former Science Editor for ITV News and Health Correspondent for BBC Newsnight, Dr Deborah Cohen examines the new landscape of healthcare online. From mental wellbeing influencers promoting untested therapies, to entrepreneurs promoting alternative remedies, the advice seems to make sense. These self-styled experts don't know us or our medical history, they don't owe us a duty of care, and they are rarely either qualified or impartial. So why do we trust them?



Bad Influence (One World)

39 Oliver Bullough

Into the World of Money Laundering

12.30pm / St / £13

How do organised criminals move dirty money around the globe? How do they escape the eyes of law enforcement? And how do they turn their ill-gotten income into legitimately recognised wealth? Investigative journalist Oliver Bullough exposes a sophisticated international operation that connects illegal logging in Papua New Guinea, real estate purchases in Vancouver, terrorism in the Middle East and capital flight from China. He also reveals that there may, in fact, be a way to stop crime from paying – if only we are prepared to enter the tunnel at the heart of the global economy and see where it leads . . .



Everybody Loves Our Dollars
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson)

40 Arthur Snell

Life on a Warmer Planet

2.30pm / St / £13

Historian and former British diplomat Arthur Snell delivers an account of the geopolitics of climate change. Within our lifetimes, rising temperatures, sea levels and scarcity will inevitably drive conflict and mass migration globally. Natural disasters and the battle for rare minerals essential for clean energy will shake the established world order to its core. When the rain wrecks India's ability to grow rice, the heat makes building impossible in Saudi Arabia, wildfires rage through America's most populated regions, and huge areas of highly fertile land in Russia are exposed by the melting ice, what will living on a warmer planet actually look like?



Elemental
(Headline)

Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



Photo credit: Sean McConaghy



Photo credit: Buster Grey Juno



41 Aimee Donnellan

Ozempic – What We Know

4.30pm / St / £13

Aimee Donnellan tells the inside story of the race to develop Ozempic – the world’s first truly effective and safe obesity drug – and its potentially revolutionary effects on public health. She reveals how the success of Ozempic and subsequent weight loss injections are disrupting industries – from healthcare to fast food to fashion. Aimee forecasts the future of weight loss medications and examines what their explosive popularity tells us about our ideals of beauty, the lengths to which people will go in order to become thin, the current state of healthcare and the inner workings of the pharmaceutical industry. Are these drugs too good to be true?

 **Off the Scales** (4th Estate)

42 Zakia Sewell

Myth Folklore and the Quest for a Hidden Britain

6.15pm / St / £13

Zakia Sewell is on a mission to discover an alternative spirit in Britain. She finds it in folk songs, ancient legends, Celtic seasonal rites and the mystic stone circles that punctuate our landscape. The DJ and broadcaster’s quest begins at sun rise on the spring equinox over Glastonbury Tor, where she meets neopagans reclaiming traditions from our pre-Christian past. At summer’s peak during Notting Hill Carnival she hears cultural echoes that passed along the slave trade routes from the Caribbean, and in the depths of a Cornish winter Zakia Sewell considers whether today’s folk revival could unite our increasingly divided country.

 **Finding Albion** (Hodder Press)



Studio Day Ticket - £50 for 5 events



43 Anthony Seldon

A Pilgrimage of Peace

10.30am / MH / £13

In 2021, distinguished historian, educator and commentator, Anthony Seldon set out on a 1,000km walk tracing the historic route of the Western Front. His inspiration – a World War I soldier who dreamed of a ‘Via Sacra’ to commemorate the war dead and stand as a marker for the triumph of peace. In 2024 Anthony Seldon set out to walk a new 1,300 km route from where World War I ended to Auschwitz. He passed through towns and heard stories of people who resisted in the face of unimaginable brutality during World War 2. He reflects on these ‘figures of light’ and their uplifting stories and asks how we can draw on their lives to build a better and more peaceful world.

 **The Path of Light**
(Atlantic Books)

44 Cumbrian Women Writers

A Charity Event in Memory of Kay Dunbar

12.30pm / MH / £10

Words by the Water founder Kay Dunbar OBE sadly passed away last year following years of living with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a debilitating illness which robbed her of her enjoyment of and participation in literary festivals in the final years of her life.

Alongside her husband Stephen Bristow, Kay started the Words by the Water festival at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick 25 years ago and was incredibly supportive of all writers and especially the Cumbrian writing community.

This panel event will look at the range and legacy of female Cumbrian writers and discuss who has been particularly influential to them personally. Marie Elsa Bragg, Kelly Davies, Sarah Hall and Kathleen Jones will take part in the discussion.

Authors have agreed to waive their fees, and all ticket proceeds from this event will go to the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association, a charity which supports those living with PSPA, as Kay did for many years.


45 Tony Juniper

How a Fairer World will save the Planet

2.30pm / MH / £13

From soil loss to wildfires, degraded rivers, mass migration and conflict, the environmental crisis is here – and it's set to get much worse. While billionaires build remote bunkers and make plans for colonies on Mars, climate collapse impacts the most vulnerable among us first and hardest.

Chair of Natural England and a Fellow of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Tony Juniper claims inequality isn't just about who suffers the consequences. It is the main obstacle blocking action and it has been for decades.

 **Just Earth: How a Fairer World Will Save the Planet**
(Bloomsbury Publishing)

 **Ticket Offer:**
Environment Package

Buy a ticket for both Tony Juniper and Klaus Dodds on the future of the Arctic (Thursday, Studio, 4.30pm) for the special price of £20 (a saving of £6).



46

**Sir Chris
Bonington**

Festival Finale: Sir Chris Bonington in conversation with Marie Elsa Bragg

4.30pm / MH / £13

We are so honoured and proud to welcome Sir Chris Bonington to our festival this year. He will be in conversation with longtime friend Marie Elsa Bragg, talking about his years in the Lake District and of a lifetime amongst the mountains of the world. Chris will talk about his book *Everest The Hard Way* and the significance of the 50th anniversary of the 1975 South-West face climb, which saw Britons on the summit of Everest after a 50 year struggle following the first expeditions in the 1920s. Chris talks openly, honestly and personally about his experiences. This will be a talk not to be missed.



Everest The Hard Way
(Vertebrate Publishing)



**Ticket Offer:
Exploration Package**

Buy a ticket for both Chris Bonington and Thomas Bell on the history of Himalayan walking (Wednesday, Main House, 1.30pm) for the special price of £20 (a saving of £6).



FE10

**Heather Page
(workshop)**

Bitesize Bookbinding

2.30 - 5.00pm / LR / £25

Coptic binding is one of the oldest methods of bookbinding, originating in the 2nd century. Traditionally covered in leather, most modern interpretations leave the spine exposed to allow flexibility.

Long stitch binding is a traditional non-adhesive method, creating a binding that is both flexible and attractive. This workshop will focus on one of these methods.

Heather Page has been working as a bookbinder for the past 10 years working on new editions of books and the restoration of older ones. She continues producing and repairing beautiful books in her new bindery in West Cumbria.





47 Stephen Matthews

Sonnets after Works by Rembrandt

11am / St / £13

Rembrandt's self portraits are a unique autobiography. They trace the inner life of one of the world's greatest artists. Stephen Matthews reviews Rembrandt's life in a series of sonnets based on his self portraits and other pictures. They show how his life changed from the enthusiasm and confidence of his early years to the doubt and despair of a bankrupt who'd experienced the death of his wife, his mistress and all his children.

 **Sonnets after Works by Rembrandt** (Bookcase)



**Ticket Offer:
Art Pass**

A £50 pass which includes a ticket for Stephen Matthews plus the 4 art events on Thursday; Andrew & Eleanor Bradley, Julian Cooper, Andrew Graham Dixon and Bendor Grosvenor.



48 Andrew Wilson

Marilyn Monroe: A Life in 100 takes

1pm / St / £13

Published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Marilyn Monroe, Andrew Wilson's new biography of the star contains a wealth of unpublished new archival material. The award-winning biographer of Patricia Highsmith and Alexander McQueen talks about how the girl born Norma Jeane transformed herself into an icon and unpicks the truth about her mysterious death at the age of 36.

 **I Wanna Be Loved By You** (Simon & Schuster)



49 Fern Riddell

Victoria's Secret

3pm / St / £13

Cultural historian and broadcaster Fern Riddell explores Queen Victoria's controversial and intimate relationship with her personal attendant John Brown and its legacy. Fern Riddell re-examines everything we thought we knew about one of Britain's most iconic women. Unearthing groundbreaking new evidence, she challenges the prevalent image of Victoria as a grieving widow and presents the woman behind the Crown in all her complexity.

 **Victoria's Secret** (Ebury Press)

Studio Day Ticket - £40 for 4 events



Photo credit: Julia Grassl

Born to a Southern US clan where masculinity and physical violence were intertwined, Jarred McGinnis discusses the legends, secrets and scars that shaped his family line with novelist Sarah Hall. He also considers the impact of the near-fatal accident that resulted in him becoming a wheelchair user, and his loves within the context of care and of the particular vulnerability that comes from being a parent with a disability.

With a PhD in artificial intelligence, Jarred McGinnis is co-founder of The Special Relationship and an associate writer for Spread the Word, a fellow of the London Library Emerging Writers' Programme.

50 Jarred McGinnis

Family Matters:
Jarred McGinnis in
conversation with
Sarah Hall

5pm / St / £13



There is No Meant to Be
(Harvill)



**FE11 Becky's Storytime
with Digby**

Free Event
Booking Essential

10.30-11am / CG / Free

Storyteller Becky Cole and her friend Digby return to the festival with another selection of stories for under-6s to enjoy. A fun, lively and free event for your little ones!



Official festival
bookseller for
25 years

Bookends are delighted to be returning as both co-organisers and booksellers of the Words by the Water festival. We'd like to wish all festival goers an interesting and inspiring time at the 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 at our festival bookshop and online at www.wordsbypthewaterkeswick.com



66 Main Street, Keswick, CA12 5DX

017687 75277 | bookendskeswick@aol.com | www.bookscumbria.com

Booking your tickets & other information

Ticket Purchase

Ticket options available for Words by the Water 2026 include

- Individual event or workshop tickets, as priced in the programme
- Studio Day Tickets, which grant access to all Studio events on specific themed days at either £50 (5 events) per day or £40 (4 events on Sunday)
- Festival Passes grant access to all Main House events and are £250 (for all Wednesday to Sunday Main House events) or £90 (Saturday and Sunday only Main House events)

How to Book

Priority booking for **Members** of Theatre by the Lake opens at noon on Monday 5th January.

Public Booking opens at noon on Monday 12th January.

- Book online at theatrebythelake.com. You will also be directed to the theatre's website if you click on 'Buy Tickets' on wordsbythewaterkeswick.com
- Book by phone on 01768 774411.
- Book in person at the Theatre by the Lake during box office hours- Monday to Saturday, 10am - 7.30pm (or 5pm when there is no evening show)

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. Tickets booked up to 14 days in advance can be posted out for a charge of £1.50. Tickets booked within 14 days of the performance date will be held for collection from the Box Office.

Payment methods

Please book using credit or debit cards (Mastercard/ Visa/Switch/Delta/Electron/Maestro) or cash.

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 2026 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.

Please note that the Lakeside car park can be extremely busy. Please allow plenty of time for parking, especially at the weekend.

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.

Thank you to...

Festival Curators: Leah Varnell, Jane Fitzgerald, Lucy Matthews and Gwenda 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 Cherian at Merienda
merienda.co.uk

Darren Kierman
kierweb.co.uk

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

Thank you to our Festival Patrons. Their support makes the festival possible.



M.W. Craven



Elizabeth Fisher



Sarah Hall



Natalie Haynes



Alan Johnson



Karen Jones



Michael McGregor



Tom Palmer



Peter Stanford



Chris Wadsworth

M.W. Craven is a bestselling author and recipient of the 2019 Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger, the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger, the Theakston Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year, and the Capital Crime Fingerprint Award for Best Crime Novel.

Dr Elizabeth Fisher is Principal of Higham Hall College near Cockermouth and has worked as a curator in museums, galleries and academia for more than 25 years. An expert in the history of contemporary and C20th art and institutions, her specialist interest is in rural, experimental and creative practice-based learning and art that engages our relationship to nature.

Sarah Hall is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. She has been hailed as “a writer of show-stopping genius”. Twice shortlisted for the Booker Prize, she is the only author to have won the BBC National Short Story Award twice.

Natalie Haynes is a writer, comedian and broadcaster. Her novels and non-fiction titles have been published to great acclaim. She was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020, and her non-fiction book *Pandora's Jar* reached number 2 in the New York Times Bestseller chart.

Alan Johnson served as Home Secretary after filling a wide variety of cabinet positions in both the Blair and Brown governments. He has written a trilogy of memoirs and of thrillers, His biography of Harold Wilson won the prize of ‘Best Biography’ at the Westminster Book Awards.

Karen Jones is responsible for business development within the Institute of the Arts at the University of Cumbria. She has over 25 years of experience in supporting new creative business start-ups, organising showcase events and exhibitions, and mentoring graduates.

Michael McGregor is The Robert Woof Director of the Wordsworth Trust, which runs Wordsworth Grasmere, one of the UK's leading literary heritage attractions. He has worked in the museum and heritage sector for more than 30 years and was a judge for the 2025 Lakeland Book of the Year.

Tom Palmer is a prolific children's author. Having struggled significantly with reading as a child, Booktrust describe Tom as “...a true reading hero...responsible for motivating many thousands of young people to get into books”. Three of his books are set in Cumbria.

Peter Stanford is a writer, journalist, broadcaster and prison reform campaigner. His books include biographies and writings on the cultural significance of religious ideas. He writes for the Daily and Sunday Telegraph titles and The Tablet. He is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4.

Chris Wadsworth founded the Castlegate House Gallery and was director until 2012. Now a writer, curator and collector of the arts, Words by the Water has shaped her writing life, given her lasting friendships, interesting connections and exciting opportunities.

Your festival planner

Wednesday 11th March

Main House

1	Sophie Anderson	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Thomas Bell	1.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Sarah Hall & Andrew Miller	3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Elly Griffiths & M. W. Craven	5.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Simon Armitage	7.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Studio

6	Simon Francis Brown	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Kathryn Ecclestone	12.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Stephen G Rae	2.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Tim Gregory	4.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Sue Wilkinson	6.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Circle Gallery

11	Stephen Cooper & Zoe Gilbert	3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lamont Robinson

FE1	Darren Harper (workshop)	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
FE2	Kerry Darbyshire (workshop)	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thursday 12th March

Main House

12	Andrew & Eleanor Bradley	11am	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Julian Cooper	1pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Andrew Graham-Dixon	3pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Bendor Grosvenor	5pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Brian Bilston	7.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Studio

17	Mike Jay	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Philip Hoare	12.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	James Fox	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Klaus Dodds	4.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Ben Machell	6.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Circle Gallery

22	Ruth Sutton	3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lamont Robinson

FE3	Barbara Renel (workshop)	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
FE4	Tom Palmer (workshop)	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Friday 13th March

Main House

23	Janina Ramirez	11am	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Penny Mordaunt	1pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Prue Leith	3pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	John Crace	5pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Val McDermid	7.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Studio

28	Cathy Haynes	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Luke Barley	12.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Marian Boswall	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Monisha Rajesh	4.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Ben Aitken	6.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lamont Robinson

FE5	Eileen Watson (workshop)	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Circle Gallery

FE6	Poetry Breakfast	10am	<input type="checkbox"/>
FE7	Pedler, Watson & Willitts	3.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saturday 14th March

Main House

33	Penny Bradshaw	11am	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Sarah Vine	1pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Lee Child	3pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Mary Beard & Raphael Cormack	5pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Ian Leslie & Alan Johnson	7.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Studio

38	Deborah Cohen	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Oliver Bullough	12.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	Arthur Snell	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Aimee Donnellan	4.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	Zakia Sewell	6.15pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lamont Robinson

FE8	Ellie Wood	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
FE9	Andrew Wilson	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your festival planner

Sunday 15th March

Main House

43	Anthony Seldon	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Cumbrian Women Writers	12.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Tony Juniper	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
46	Chris Bonington	4.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Studio

47	Stephen Matthews	11am	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	Andrew Wilson	1pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	Fern Riddell	3pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
50	Jarred McGinnis	5pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lamont Robinson

FE10	Heather Page (workshop)	2.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Circle Gallery

FE11	Becky's Storytime with Digby	10.30am	<input type="checkbox"/>
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