



# Petworth Literary Festival 2024

A World Class Literary Festival in the South Downs

23 October - 3 November

Featuring...

**Pam Ayres**

**David Baddiel**

**Dame Judi Dench**

**Robert Harris**

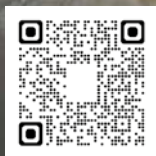
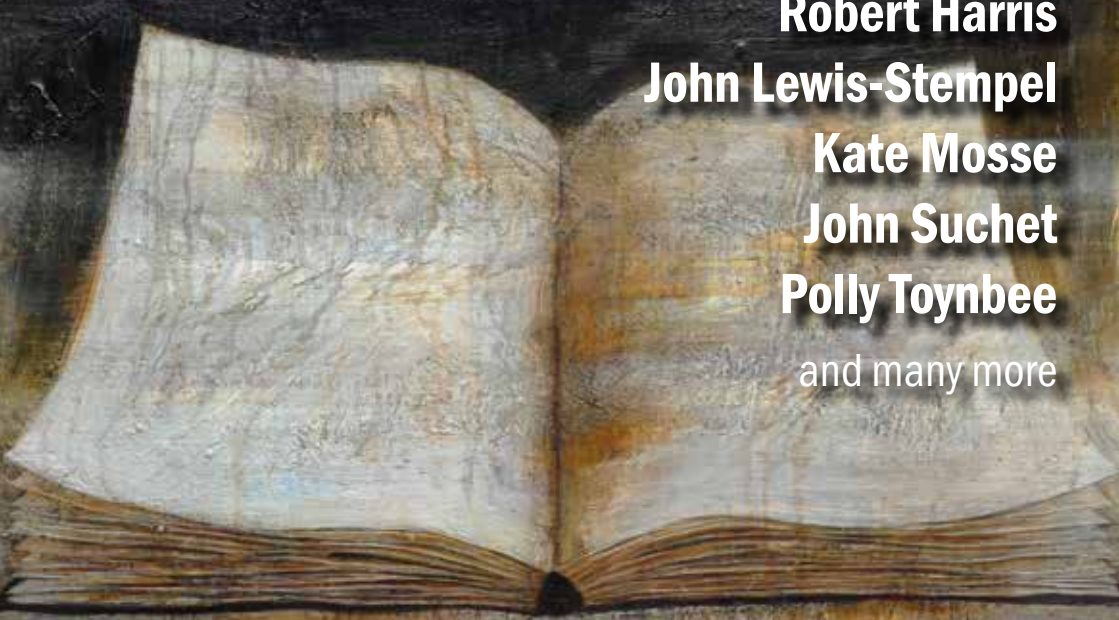
**John Lewis-Stempel**

**Kate Mosse**

**John Suchet**

**Polly Toynbee**

and many more



[www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk)

Principal Sponsor **Leconfield Estates**

Principal Corporate Sponsor **Sofas & Stuff**





In partnership

# The Petworth Proms

## Magical Musical Evenings

Four varied mini-concerts per evening, performed in the stunning state rooms of Petworth House.

Friday 18 - Sunday 20 October. 7.30pm  
£30 per person  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth)

## AT A GLANCE

### Wednesday 23 October

2.30pm **The Big Sing**  
7.30pm **Mike Hollow**

With pupils from Petworth Primary School  
The Covent Garden Murder (*book group event*)

St Mary's Church  
Sofas & Stuff

### Thursday 24 October

7.30pm **Melvyn Tan (piano)/Harriet Walter**

Seasons in Granada (*words & music*)

St Mary's Church

### Friday 25 October

12.00pm **Polly Toynbee**  
2.30pm **Tom Newton Dunn**  
5.00pm **Adam Szaomski**  
7.30pm **John Sweeney**

An Uneasy Inheritance  
Letters from Everest  
Napoleon: The Man Behind the Myth  
Murder in the Gulag: The Life & Death of Alexei Navalny

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Saturday 26 October

12.00pm **Helen Lederer**  
2.30pm **Kate Mosse with Greg Mosse**  
5.00pm **Iain Dale**  
7.30pm **Daisy Goodwin**

Not That I'm Bitter  
The Map of Bones and The Coming Storm  
British General Election Campaigns 1830-2019  
Diva (*also featuring soprano Josephine Goddard*)

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Sunday 27 October

12.00pm **Robert Harris**  
3.00pm **Judi Dench**

Precipice  
Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent

MRC  
MRC

### Monday 28 October

12.00pm **Carol Woolton**  
3.00pm **Gabriel Gatehouse**  
7.30pm **Richard Overy**

If Jewels Could Talk  
The Coming Storm  
Why War?

Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall

### Tuesday 29 October

12.00pm **James Holland**  
2.30pm **Hadley Freeman**  
5.00pm **Charlie Bigham**  
7.30pm **Clare Balding**

Cassino '44  
Good Girls  
Supper with Charlie Bigham  
Isle of Dogs

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Wednesday 30 October

12.00pm **John Suchet**  
2.30pm **Penelope Tree**  
5.00pm **Simon Heffer**  
7.30pm **Phil Manzanera**

In Search of Beethoven  
Piece of my Heart  
Scarcely English  
Revolución to Roxy

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Thursday 31 October

2.30pm **Edward Norfolk/Roger Morgan-Grenville**  
5.00pm **General Sir Richard Barrons**  
7.30pm **Tony Hawks**

The Return of the Grey Partridge  
War & Peace  
Persistent Wind

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Friday 1 November

12.00pm **Kathy Lette**  
2.30pm **Rory Cellan-Jones**  
6.00pm **Adrian Chiles**  
8.00pm **David Baddiel**

The Revenge Club  
Sophie from Romania  
The Curious Columns  
My Family

St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Saturday 2 November

10.30am **Christina Strang**  
1.30pm **Christina Strang**  
12.00pm **John Lewis-Stempel**  
2.30pm **Louise Minchin**  
5.00pm **David Hepworth**  
7.30pm **Liz Earle**

Handwriting Analysis: Workshop  
Handwriting Analysis: One-to-One Sessions  
England: A Natural History  
Isolation Island  
Hope I Get Old Before I Die  
A Better Second Half

Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church

### Sunday 3 November

10.30am **Christina Strang**  
2.00pm **Pam Ayres**  
4.30pm **Alexandra Harris**  
7.30pm **Leia Zhu**

Handwriting Analysis: One-to-One Sessions  
Collected Works  
The Rising Down  
Bows, Strings and Dreams

Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall  
Leconfield Hall

Cover image courtesy of artist Peter White | [www.peterwhite.org](http://www.peterwhite.org)

# BOOKING INFORMATION

All events will be held live only and will not be available to view online.

## Petworth Festival Box Office

Box office opens on

**Wednesday 25 September**

Online 24 hours a day [www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk)

**Phone: 01798 344 576** - between 10am - 1pm, closed Sundays

Petworth Literary Festival events frequently sell out, but any unsold tickets will be available to buy on the door 30 minutes before the start of the event.

Refunds are given only if an event is cancelled, or if it is sold out and we are able to resell the returned ticket(s).

Wheelchair/disabled customers please telephone 01798 344 576 to book available spaces.

## Format of Events

Unless otherwise stated, each event will consist of a 40 - 45-minute presentation from the author followed by an opportunity for the audience to participate in a Q&A session.

After each event audience members may purchase the books and have them signed by the author at the Petworth Bookshop's pop-up shop in the venue.

## Book Group Event

**Mike Hollow - The Covent Garden Murder on 23 October**

If you wish to attend the Book Group Event (23 October) we ask that you read the book in advance.

## Concessions

Our 18 and under £5 concessionary rate has now been extended to students in full-time education.

A valid student card should be shown at the event.

## Festival Venues

**Leconfield Hall**, Market Square, Petworth GU28 0AH  
**Midhurst Rother College**, North St, Midhurst GU29 9DT  
**Sofas & Stuff**, The Dairy, Tripp Hill Farm Buildings, Fittleworth RH20 1ER  
**St Mary's Church**, Petworth GU28 0AD

Please see the Festival Venues page at [www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk) for more information including parking and accessibility.

There are no intervals at any events unless otherwise stated. All venues have toilet facilities.

To ensure the safety of our audiences, staff and authors we ask that you do not attend events if you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.

## Parking

Use the Pound Street Car Park, Petworth GU28 0AP for the Leconfield Hall and St Mary's Church. It is situated with just a 2-minute walk from the Leconfield Hall and 5 minutes from St Mary's Church, or there is additional free car parking at the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre (GU28 0ET). There is ample parking at Midhurst Rother College, with disabled access and easy access to the venue. There is also parking outside of the show rooms at Sofas & Stuff, where Petworth Festival car parking attendants will direct you to parking bays.

## Terms & Conditions

Refunds are not given unless the event is cancelled, or if it is sold out and we are able to resell the returned tickets. The information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to subsequent alterations.

Please see the website

[www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk)

for the latest information on all events, sponsorship & supporter opportunities and much, much more.



# Welcome to the Petworth Literary Festival 2024

## *Enlightening conversations, wisdom, and wit*

What a joy the Petworth Literary Festival has proved to be. When we first toyed with the idea we thought we could perhaps stretch to a dozen events over a long weekend without exhausting the appeal of a new entry to the Petworth diary. Over a dozen years later we are struggling to contain the festival to within a fortnight such is the interest that has been expressed in and around Petworth for events that both celebrate and drill down into fascinating pieces of writing whether fiction or otherwise.

This year's programme is quite possibly the most wide-ranging yet. It is certainly the most stellar given the number of authors who a great majority of you will already know of or recognise. There will be much to think about, there will be much to chew over, and there will be a good deal of laughter as well as 'post-match' conversation. Do join in on every level. It's so exciting being able to welcome these fascinating people to our doorsteps here in West Sussex...

**Stewart Collins** Artistic Director

# Petworth Bookshop

Independent Booksellers

The very best new books.  
Games, puzzles, journals, stationery & LPs  
Next day ordering on a huge range of titles  
Rare, Out of Print & Library services

The Old Bakery, Golden Square, Petworth, W.Sussex. GU28 0AP  
tel: 01798 342082 email: [petworthbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:petworthbookshop@gmail.com)



# The Petworth Proms

## Magical Musical Evenings

### The Petworth Proms

Friday 18, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October 7.30pm, Petworth House Church Lodge, Petworth

Don't forget to join us for **The Petworth Proms** on Friday 18, Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 October. A perfect union of superb music in a series of beautiful locations at Petworth House.

Over the course of the evening, you will hear a sequence of four mini concerts performed by stellar musicians from our prestigious partner **The Royal Academy of Music**. We will be joined by harpist Bonnie Scott, the voice and guitar of The Juno Duo, pianist Milda Daunoraite and The Marylebone Saxophone Trio.

Your journey will follow a route that takes in four of the beautiful state rooms of Petworth House; The Grand Staircase, The Square Dining Room, the North Gallery and Chapel. After the second mini-concert 'interval' drinks will be available in The Marble Hall and North Gallery.

**Please note, the same programme will be performed on each of the three evenings. Enter via the Petworth House Church Lodge entrance next to St Mary's Church, Petworth for this event.**

**Tickets: Adults £30 / 18 & under £5**



## The Big Sing

Wednesday 23 October - 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

The Literary Festival kicks off with a first for Petworth: *The Big Sing* in which every pupil from Petworth Primary will join us in St Mary's Church to perform music specially created over the preceding two days with composer Richard Taylor, the texts being created by the pupils themselves and inspired by Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile*.

**Tickets: FREE, but please book via the website**



## BOOK GROUP EVENT

with **Mike Hollow** – *The Covent Garden Murder*

Wednesday 23 October - 7.30pm, Sofas & Stuff, Fittleworth

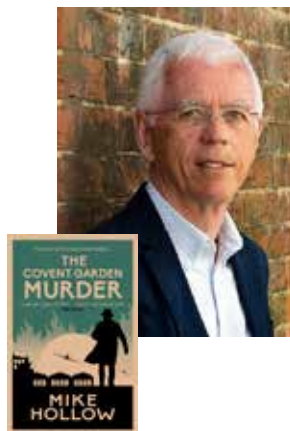
*Read the book, meet the author, discuss the book...*

Mike Hollow joins us in the luxury setting of the Sofas & Stuff showroom at Fittleworth, where he will talk about the latest in his *Blitz Detective* series, *The Covent Garden Murder*.

The set up: it's December 1940. When a daylight air raid hits the Prince Albert Theatre on Drury Lane, rescuers find a man dying in the wreckage. But it wasn't the bomb that caused his fatal injuries...

If you wish to attend the Book Group Event (23 October) we ask that you read the book in advance. The book can be purchased from **The Petworth Bookshop**, 1 Golden Square, Petworth GU29 0AP

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Seasons in Granada

**Melvyn Tan** (piano) with **Dame Harriet Walter**

Thursday 24 October - 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

The Literary Festival carries on where the summer festival left off with a celebration of wonderful music and wonderful words. With evocative texts from *Virginia Woolf*, *Laurie Lee* and *Federico Garcia Lorca*, and music by *Albeniz*, *Granados* and *Ravel*, let yourself be led by pianist Melvyn Tan and acclaimed actress Dame Harriet Walker (*Succession*, *Killing Eve*, *Ted Lasso*) into a world of reflections and impressions of a Spain on the brink of a disastrous civil war.

There is no interval at this event.

**Tickets: Adults £32, £22, £10 / 18 & under £5**

*This event ends at approximately 8.45pm*

## Polly Toynbee – An Uneasy Inheritance (My Family and Other Radicals)

In conversation with **Matt Stadlen**

**Friday 25 October – 12 noon, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

One of our most respected, prolific and razor-sharp voices in social commentary, *Guardian* columnist and broadcaster Polly Toynbee, has written a colourful and entertaining examination of her own family, a family that contains everyone from the Glenconners to Jessica Mitford to Bertrand Russell and features the ancestral home Castle Howard as a backdrop. She uses her forebears as the prism through which to examine the state of class in Britain.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**



## Tom Newton Dunn – Letters from Everest

In conversation with **Stewart Collins**

**Friday 25 October – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

Former Political Editor of *The Sun* and *Times Radio* journalist Tom Newton Dunn - the great-great-nephew of George Mallory - recently discovered a collection of personal letters written by the climbing legend hidden in a drawer. They reveal extraordinary insights into the life of the man who, on the 8th of June 1924, was last seen through a telescope on the upper slopes of Mount Everest, then never seen alive again. In 1999, his body was found below the ridge where he was last seen.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Adam Zamoyski – Napoleon: The Man Behind the Myth

In conversation with **Max Egremont**

**Friday 25 October – 5.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

Hard on the heels of Ridley Scott's movie *Napoleon*, many scenes from which were filmed in Petworth House, Max Egremont interviews Adam Zamoyski, the author of *Napoleon*, a landmark new biography that presents the man behind the many myths. Was he a god-like genius, Romantic avatar, megalomaniac monster, compulsive warmonger or just a nasty little dictator? Adam Zamoyski argues he was none of these things - merely a man and a strangely ordinary one at that...

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## John Sweeney – Murder in the Gulag: The Life and Death of Alexei Navalny

In conversation with **Con Coughlin**

**Friday 25 October – 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

We feature one of this year's most explosive titles. The award-winning journalist John Sweeney goes behind the headlines to reveal what really happened to the ill-fated Russian opposition leader. He tells *Alexei Navalny's* extraordinary life story in technicolour detail, from his childhood summers spent with his grandparents in the shadow of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine to his untimely death at the age of 47, cut down in his prime.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**

**This event is generously supported by The Anonymous Book Club**



## Helen Lederer – Not That I'm Bitter

In conversation with **Sophia Money-Coutts**

**Saturday 26 October – 12 noon, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

Helen Lederer is one of the generation of comedy stars who emerged from the 'alternative comedy' world of the '80s. Since that date she has been an ever-present part of comedy royalty with her multiple TV roles and of course her stand out stand-up routines. In her brand-new memoir, she brilliantly tells that story, warts, disasters, and all...

*'The comedy legend lifts the lid on 40 years as one of Britain's funniest women in her memoir, Not That I'm Bitter. A terrific read, beautifully written, full of funny moments.'* ITV Good Morning Britain

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**

**This event is generously supported by Caroline & Scott Greenhalgh**



Photo credit Sarah Lee/The Guardian



## Voices in Nature with the Arts Society West Sussex

The Arts Society West Sussex are delighted to welcome back the inspirational poet Antosh Wojcik to run workshops with thirteen of our local primary schools.

Our theme this year, is **Voices in Nature** where every voice counts. Our focus is on raising awareness of the importance of protecting wildlife and our beautiful natural surroundings.

Our children's voices will be captured in soundscapes and digital anthologies which can be shared with wider audiences.

## Kate Mosse with Greg Mosse – The Map of Bones and The Coming Storm

In conversation with **Seni Glaister**

**Saturday 26 October – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

Husband and wife writers Kate and Greg Mosse talk about their latest books and the dynamic of living with a fellow writer. Plenty to talk about there!

A tireless advocate of creative writing and women's fiction in particular, Kate's *The Map of Bones* is set both in the 17th and 19th centuries and is the fourth part of The Joubert Family Chronicles. Greg's *The Coming Storm* is the hotly anticipated sequel to the 2022 *Sunday Times* Thriller of the Year, *The Coming Darkness*, with a canvas that stretches from the streets of Paris to the mighty Aswan Dam.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**

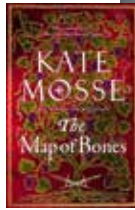


Photo Ruth Crafer



## Iain Dale – British General Election Campaigns 1830-2019

In conversation with **Andrew Billen**

**Saturday 26 October – 5.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

Having just have emerged from a landmark general election, journalist and leading LBC broadcaster Iain Dale reflects both on this and on his fascinating study of general elections over the last 200 years and the impact they have had on our lives. Joined for his Petworth conversation by *The Times*' Andrew Billen, Iain has written or edited more than fifty books including *Kings and Queens*, *The Presidents*, *The Prime Ministers*, *On This Day in Politics* and *Why Can't We All Just Get Along*.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**



Photo: Steve Ullathorne

## Daisy Goodwin – Diva

In conversation with **Wasfi Kani** and featuring soprano **Josephine Goddard**

**Saturday 26 October – 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth**

In the glittering and ruthlessly competitive world of opera, Maria Callas was known simply as *la divina*: the divine one, the toast of the grandest opera houses in the world.

We are joined by soprano Josephine Goddard and accompanist Terry Allbright to illustrate Daisy Goodwin's new, fictionalised portrayal of Callas. In *Diva*, author, TV producer and presenter Daisy Goodwin brings to life a woman whose extraordinary talent, unremitting drive and natural chic made her a legend.

**Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5**

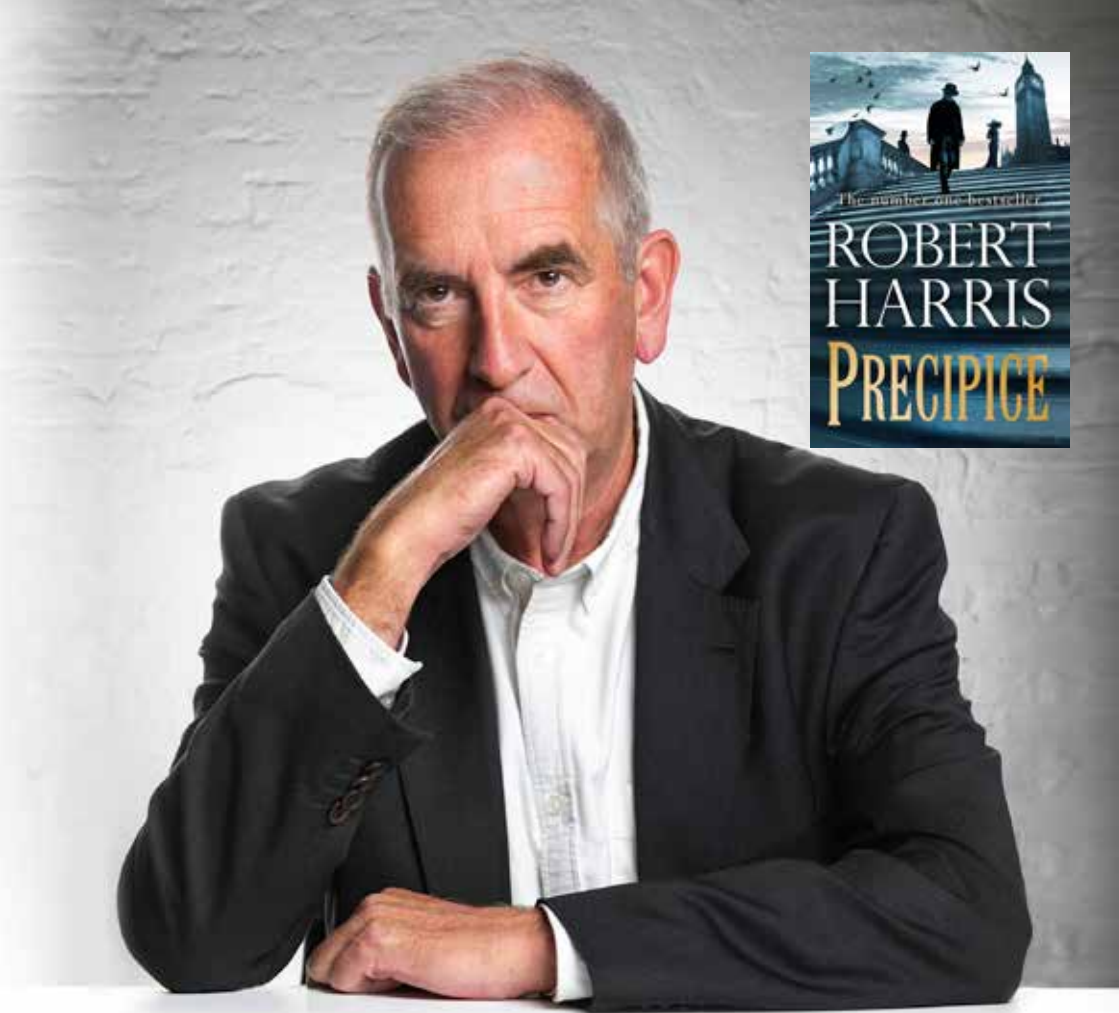


Photo: Nick Gregan

## Robert Harris – Precipice

In conversation with **Manveen Rana**

**Sunday 27 October – 12 noon, Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst**

The first of a huge double bill at Rother College. We welcome Robert Harris to talk about *Precipice*, the latest novel in which he seamlessly weaves fact and fiction in a way that no writer does better.

It's Summer 1914 and the world is on the brink of catastrophe. In London, 26-year-old Venetia Stanley is having an affair with the Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, a man more than twice her age. As Asquith reluctantly leads the country into war, a young intelligence officer is assigned to investigate a leak of top-secret documents – and suddenly what was sexual intrigue becomes a matter of national security that will alter the course of political history.

**Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5**

**This event is generously supported by The Stephen Bartlett Trust**

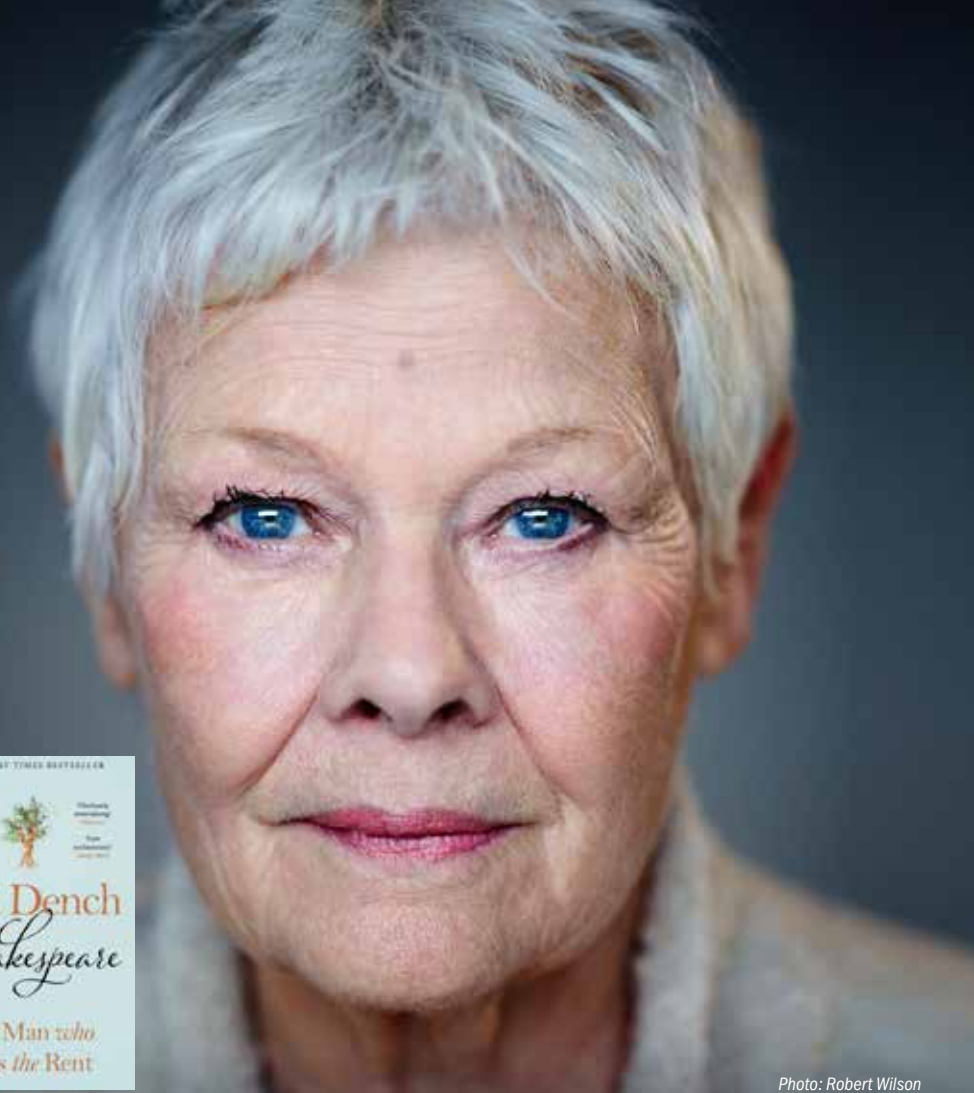


Photo: Robert Wilson

## Dame Judi Dench – Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent

In conversation with **Douglas Rae**

**Sunday 27 October – 3.00pm, Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst**

Taking a curtain call with a live snake in her wig, cavorting naked through the Warwickshire countryside painted green, acting opposite a child with a pumpkin on his head... these are just a few of the things Dame Judi Dench has done in the name of Shakespeare.

Douglas Rae spends an intoxicating hour with the legend of stage and screen focusing on her love of Shakespeare's canon, but ranging as far and wide as her astounding career would suggest!

Dame Judi will not be doing a signing session at this event, but signed copies of her book will be available to buy from the Petworth Bookshop stand at the venue.

**Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5**

**This event is generously supported by Tina & Gordon Owen CBE**

## Carol Woolton – If Jewels Could Talk

In conversation with **Geoffrey Munn**

**Monday 28 October – 12 noon, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

Last year we were treated to a brilliantly entertaining encounter as Carol Woolton interviewed *Antiques Roadshow* stalwart Geoffrey Munn about his memoir *Touch of Gold*. This year the tables are turned with the avuncular Munn quizzing the author, broadcaster and former jewellery director of *British Vogue* about *If Jewels Could Talk*.

Whatever time of the earth you're born into, jewellery is the great connector from the past to the future. Woolton has identified seven pieces that resonate throughout history, including the bead, hoop, ring, charm and head ornament, and written their histories.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Gabriel Gatehouse – The Coming Storm

In conversation with **Matt Stadlen**

**Monday 28 October – 3.00pm, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

When a crowd stormed the US Capitol on 6 January 2021, it looked like an attempt by a mob of crazed Trump supporters to overturn the election. But their failure wasn't the wild finale of a chaotic Trump presidency. It was only the beginning.

Publishing during the run-up to the 2024 US presidential election, the former International Editor of *Newsnight* Gabriel Gatehouse's *The Coming Storm* explores the wild rise of conspiracy culture in the US, and the radical new politics it is helping to create.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



Photo: Jeff Overs

## Richard Overy – Why War?

In conversation with **John Holmes**

**Monday 28 October – 7.30pm, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

Repeatedly humans have foresworn war, have understood its appalling risks, and have wished to create more pacific, productive societies. And yet almost inevitably circumstances emerge under which war once more seems inevitable or even desirable.

One of the UK's foremost military historians, Richard Overy, has written a challenging and timely book. Studying every facet of war from biology to belief, psychology to security, Overy allows readers to understand the many contradictory or self-reinforcing ways in which warfare can appear to be a legitimate option.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



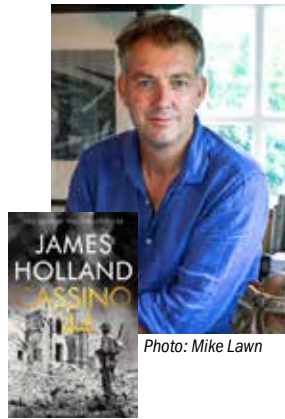
## James Holland – Cassino ‘44

In conversation with **David Soskin**

**Tuesday 29 October – 12 noon, St Mary’s Church, Petworth**

Co-founder and co-chair of the annual Chalke History Festival James Holland discusses his visceral account of World War II’s attritional Italian campaign, brought to vivid life by diaries, letters and contemporary sources. There is no such thing as an easy victory in war but after triumph in Tunisia, the sweeping success of the Sicilian invasion, and with the Italian surrender, the Allies were confident that they would be in Rome before Christmas 1943. Instead, Hitler ordered his forces to dig in and fight for every yard, thus setting the stage for one of the grimmest campaigns of the Second World War.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Hadley Freeman – Good Girls

In conversation with **Ava Glass**

**Tuesday 29 October – 2.30pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth**

*Good Girls* is a searing memoir from the *Sunday Times* journalist Hadley Freeman about one of the most misunderstood mental illnesses. From the ages of fourteen to seventeen, Freeman lived in psychiatric wards after developing anorexia nervosa. For the next twenty years, she grappled with various forms of self-destructive behaviour as the condition mutated and persisted. Combining personal experience with deep reporting, her profoundly honest and hopeful story details a long journey to recovery.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Charlie Bigham – Supper with Charlie Bigham

In conversation with **Matthew Fort**

**Tuesday 29 October – 5.00pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth**

The Literary Festival enters the world of the kitchen... Charlie Bigham founded his food business in 1996. It now operates out of two large kitchens in London and Somerset making a range of oven-ready food sold in more than 2,000 shops across the UK and eaten by 1 million keen cooks every week. He joins us both to talk about his staple recipes - including classics such as fish pie, chicken tikka and lasagne - and his hugely successful independent food brand.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Clare Balding – Isle of Dogs

In conversation with **Stewart Collins**

**Tuesday 29 October – 7.30pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth**

It’s always a joy to welcome a ‘national treasure’ and in Clare Balding we certainly have one as she joins us to share her love for our canine friends. National stories are often told through our politics and through our monarchy, but BAFTA-winning Clare’s tale shows how contemporary Britain is also shaped by its dogs and how they form such an intrinsic part in so many of our lives.

**Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5**

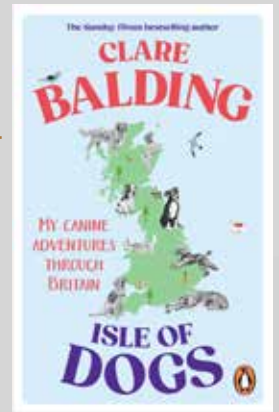


Photo: Owen James Vincent



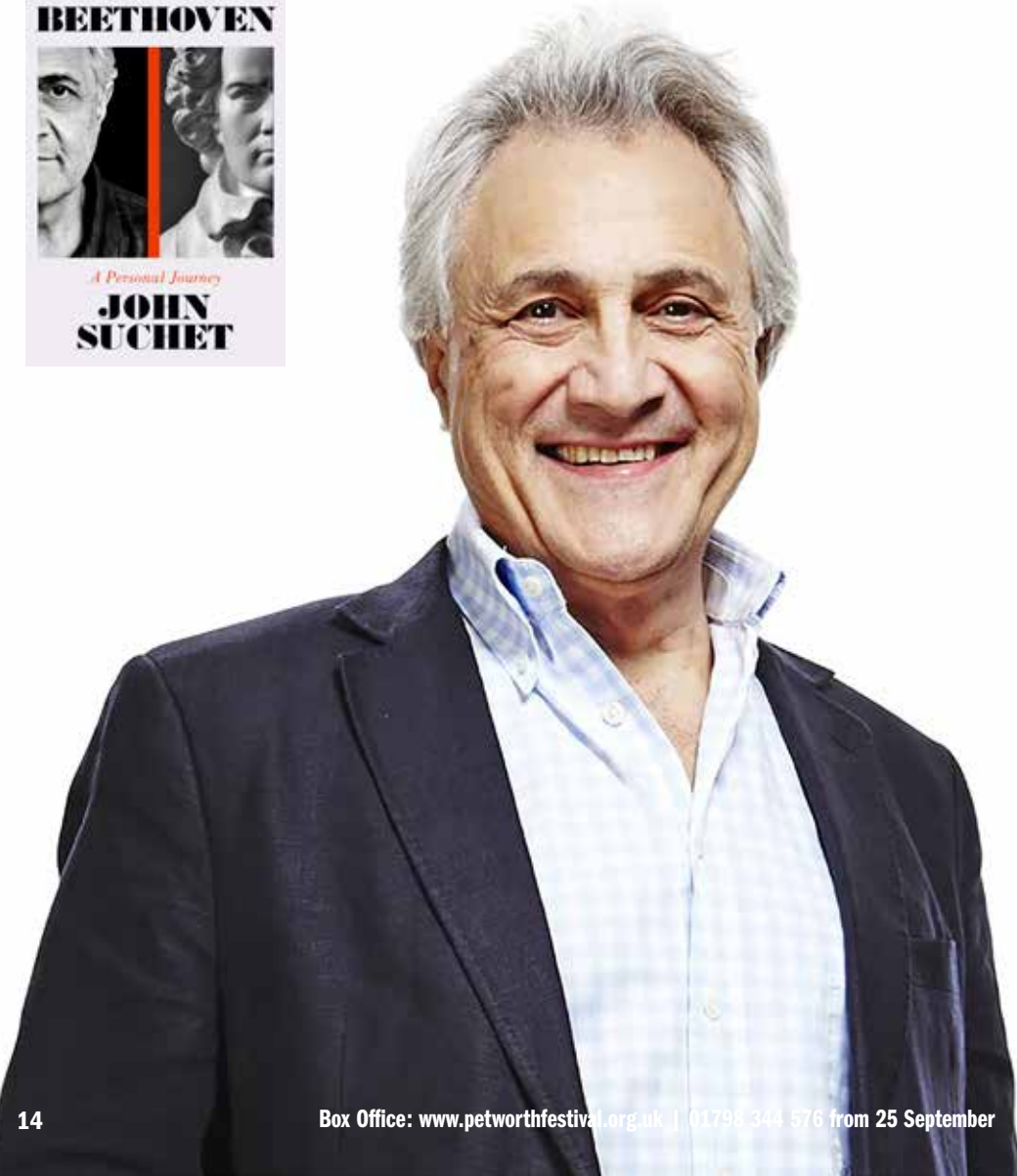
## John Suchet – In Search of Beethoven

Wednesday 30 October – 12 noon, St Mary’s Church, Petworth

Beethoven has been John Suchet’s abiding passion throughout his life. Now the author, journalist, radio and TV presenter has produced a part biography, part memoir and part travelogue that describes how Beethoven has travelled with him throughout the ups and downs of a life as a foreign correspondent and as an aficionado of the troubled composer’s remarkable life and music.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**

**This event is generously supported by the Lavender family in memory of their beloved parents Jo & Peter**



## Penelope Tree – Piece of My Heart

In conversation with **Suzi Feay**

Wednesday 30 October – 2.30pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth

Vogue cover model, face of the Swinging Sixties, and David Bailey’s muse, Penelope Tree was discovered aged 16 at Truman Capote’s legendary 1966 *Black and White Ball*. She became one of the style icons of the decade being described by John Lennon as “Hot, hot, hot! Smart, smart, smart!” Just how smart comes across brilliantly in *Piece of my Heart*, an honest and strikingly moving exploration of what it takes to make it in the fashion industry - a coming-of-age story peopled with larger than life characters from high society, fashion, music, and film.

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Simon Heffer – Scarcely English: An A to Z of Assaults on our Language

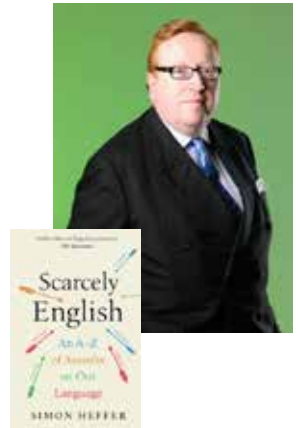
In conversation with **Lucasta Miller**

Wednesday 30 October – 5.00pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth

Where do you stand on the contemporary use of English and its almost daily revisions, updates and additions? Language has evolved throughout history and usually for good reasons, but Simon Heffer maintains that in recent years, it has been subject to grave assault, egged on by social media and the ubiquity and velocity of the internet.

Simon Heffer’s A to Z runs through a whole litany of common confusions and lazy expressions, and bemoans some truly awful neologisms, ‘infotainment’ and ‘funwashing’ among them. And can you really answer the question ‘How are you?’ with the words ‘I’m good’?

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Phil Manzanera – Revolución to Roxy

In conversation with **Jojo Silva**

Wednesday 30 October – 7.30pm, St Mary’s Church, Petworth

As the lead guitarist of seminal 70s band Roxy Music, Phil Manzanera will need little introduction. His life on the road is one of legend, but his background is every bit as fascinating...

*“I’ve written a memoir that spans my 50s childhood in Cuba, Hawaii and Venezuela, when everything seemed in the brightest technicolour, to monochrome but very cool 60s London and the start of [my] music career. Roxy Music is an important part of the story but my family history is every bit as fascinating: I’m proud to be related to the most famous 17<sup>th</sup> century Sephardic Jewish pirate of the Caribbean, a British spy and an Italian opera musician.”*

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**



## Edward Norfolk & Roger Morgan-Grenville – The Return of the Grey Partridge

In conversation with Katherine Bergen

Thursday 31 October – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

Across Britain, modern farming methods have proved disastrous for biodiversity, potentially as damaging as climate change. Half of our species are in decline. On the South Downs, the Grey Partridge seemed to be on the brink of local extinction.

Twenty years on the Grey Partridge is back. Over 2,000 of them. *The Return of the Grey Partridge* tells the wonderful story of how the whole ecosystem can benefit from the re-naturing process central to new farming practices on the Arundel Estate.

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



Photo: Erin Hopkins

## General Sir Richard Barrons – War and Peace

In conversation with Manveen Rana

Thursday 31 October – 5.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

General Barrons was Commander of Joint Forces Command from April 2013 until his retirement three years later. Having served in Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan he is uniquely placed to offer a first-hand perspective on *War and Peace*, an inescapable part of human existence since long before Tolstoy was writing. His recently published memoir looks at the real-life horror of war, leadership, the element of 'surprise' in warfare, technology, relations with government and the Ministry of Defence, and much more...

Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5

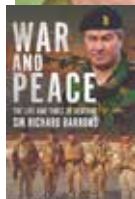


Photo: Harland Quarrington/MoD/Crown Co/PA



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## Tony Hawks – Persistent Wind

In conversation with Stewart Collins

Thursday 31 October – 7.30pm,  
St Mary's Church, Petworth

Anyone who contributes to Radio 4's *Just a Minute* has at least to be considered as a national treasure; Tony Hawks deserves that status and is unquestionably one of our most loved comedians. *Persistent Wind* is his first work of fiction, his previous bestsellers having been very much based in reality - *Round Ireland with a Fridge* and *Playing the Moldovans at Tennis*.

And as Stephen Fry puts it... 'Hurrah! Tony has finally matured enough to stop doing daft things to win bets and apply his comedic skills to fiction.'

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5

This event is generously supported by Gail & Tim Drew

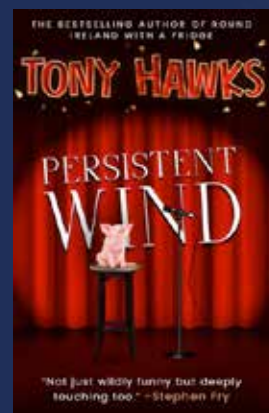


Photo: Carl Pendle

## Kathy Lette – The Revenge Club

In conversation with Jane Warren

Friday 1 November - 12 noon, St Mary's Church, Petworth

We sample the delicious and occasionally outrageous wit of the internationally bestselling author Kathy Lette.

The stars of *The Revenge Club* - Matilda, Jo, Penny and Cressy - are all women at the top of their game; so imagine their surprise when they start to be personally overlooked and professionally pushed aside by less-qualified men.

"For fifty years, [Kathy Lette] has articulated - with outrageous candour and an infallibly observant eye - the best and worst bits of being female." Annabel Crab. Lette's (!) now see what she thinks about men...

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



## Rory Cellan-Jones – Sophie from Romania

In conversation with Matt Stadlen

Friday 1 November – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

Rory Cellan-Jones was the BBC's Technology Correspondent. He retired in 2021 after 40 years with the corporation having been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

In January 2022, Rory's family said goodbye to their beloved dog Cabbage. Rory had become inseparable from her during daily pandemic walks which alleviated his symptoms. A year later, Rory and his wife Diane spotted a dog listing for 'a kind girl who loves everybody and is looking for her forever home'. Sophie arrived in London from Central Europe on 17 December. *Sophie from Romania* follows the touching journey of Sophie's adoption and so much more.

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



Photo: Lily Richards

## Adrian Chiles – The Curious Columns

In conversation with Stewart Collins

Friday 1 November – 6.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

The chances are pretty high that you will have encountered Adrian Chiles. Over a long career he has fronted ITV's football coverage, co-presented *Daybreak*, launched multiple BBC shows including *The One Show*, and presented documentaries and documentary series.

In *The Curious Columns* we find the much-loved broadcaster musing on the sacred and the profane, the whimsical and the bizarre, offering his idiosyncratic take on self-checkouts, speeding tickets, the correct duration of a hug, and discovering he has a naked doppelgänger on *OnlyFans*.... A bright, bemused tour of British life, delivering offbeat truths and a comforting blast of humour and warmth for baffling times.

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5

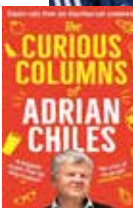


Photo: Alicia Canter

## David Baddiel – My Family

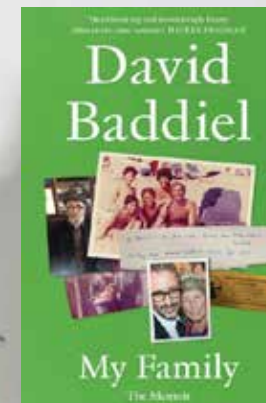
In conversation with Matt Stadlen

Friday 1 November – 8.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

The hugely versatile author, comedian and podcaster David Baddiel has recently published a searingly honest, funny and moving family memoir which exposes his mother's idiosyncratic sex life and his father's dementia to the same affectionate scrutiny.

On the surface, David Baddiel's childhood was fairly standard: that of a lower-middle-class Jewish family living in an ordinary house in Dollis Hill, north-west London. But all was not as it seemed... Baddiel's is a story that is at times tender, sweet, and sad... but one in which laughter is a permanent presence.

Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5



## Christina Strang - Handwriting Analysis

Workshop: Saturday 2 November - 10.30am to 12.30pm, Leconfield Hall

A remarkable success when she first visited us in 2023, the renowned graphologist Christina Strang again invites you to delve into the intriguing world of handwriting analysis. Her extraordinary expertise lies in the decoding of human behaviour and personality through the lens of handwriting – an art and a science, that both fascinates and enlightens. In her 2-hour workshop, Christina will show you how the psychological analysis of handwriting can give insights into attitude, motivations and relationships of people. Her profound understanding of the nuances of handwriting not only highlights the admirable aspects of one's personality but can also indicate untapped skills and abilities.

Tickets: Adults £15



## Christina Strang – Handwriting Analysis

One-to-One Sessions: Saturday 2 November, 1.30pm to 4.30pm & Sunday 3 November, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Leconfield Hall

An opportunity to decode maybe unknown aspects of your personality through your handwriting. Christine will be offering 10–15-minute one-to-one sessions throughout the afternoon and again on Sunday 3 November.

Tickets: Adults £8

## John Lewis-Stempel – England: A Natural History

In conversation with Emily Jeffery

Saturday 2 November – 12 noon, St Mary's Church, Petworth

England's landscape is iconic. A tapestry of distinctive habitats that together make up a country unique for its rich diversity of flora and fauna. Concentrating on each habitat in turn, 'Britain's finest living nature writer' (*The Times*) John Lewis-Stempel's *England: A Natural History* leads us from estuary to park, chalk downland to woodland, river to field, village to moor, lake to heath, fen to coastal cliffs, - a book that is unquestionably his magnum opus.

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



## Louise Minchin – Isolation Island

In conversation with Seni Glaister

Saturday 2 November – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

Attention anyone who loves a bit of a reality TV! The renowned broadcaster Louise Minchin, most famous for her twenty year stint on BBC Breakfast's red sofa, has produced a tense, addictive thriller - part *Love Island*, part *Traitors*, part *Big Brother* - and set within the world of hidden cameras and celebrity egos. When a contestant, locked away on a remote Scottish island winds up dead it soon becomes clear that the players are not just fighting for the prize, but also for their lives...

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



Photo: Yana Auda



## David Hepworth – Hope I Get Old Before I Die

Saturday 2 November – 5.00pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

When Paul McCartney closed *Live Aid* in July 1985 rock's Grand Old Man was forty-three years old. The following forty years have shown that he - and many others of his generation - were just getting started. As live performance began to take over from records, the big names of the 60s and 70s exploited the age of spectacle that *Live Aid* had ushered in to enjoy laps of honour that continue to go strong long after everyone else has retired.

David Hepworth has been right alongside these leading characters as the editor of *Smash Hits*, *Q*, *Mojo* and *The Word* and one of the presenters of the legendary *Old Grey Whistle Test*. Come and hear some of those remarkable stories...

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



Photo: Imogen Hepworth



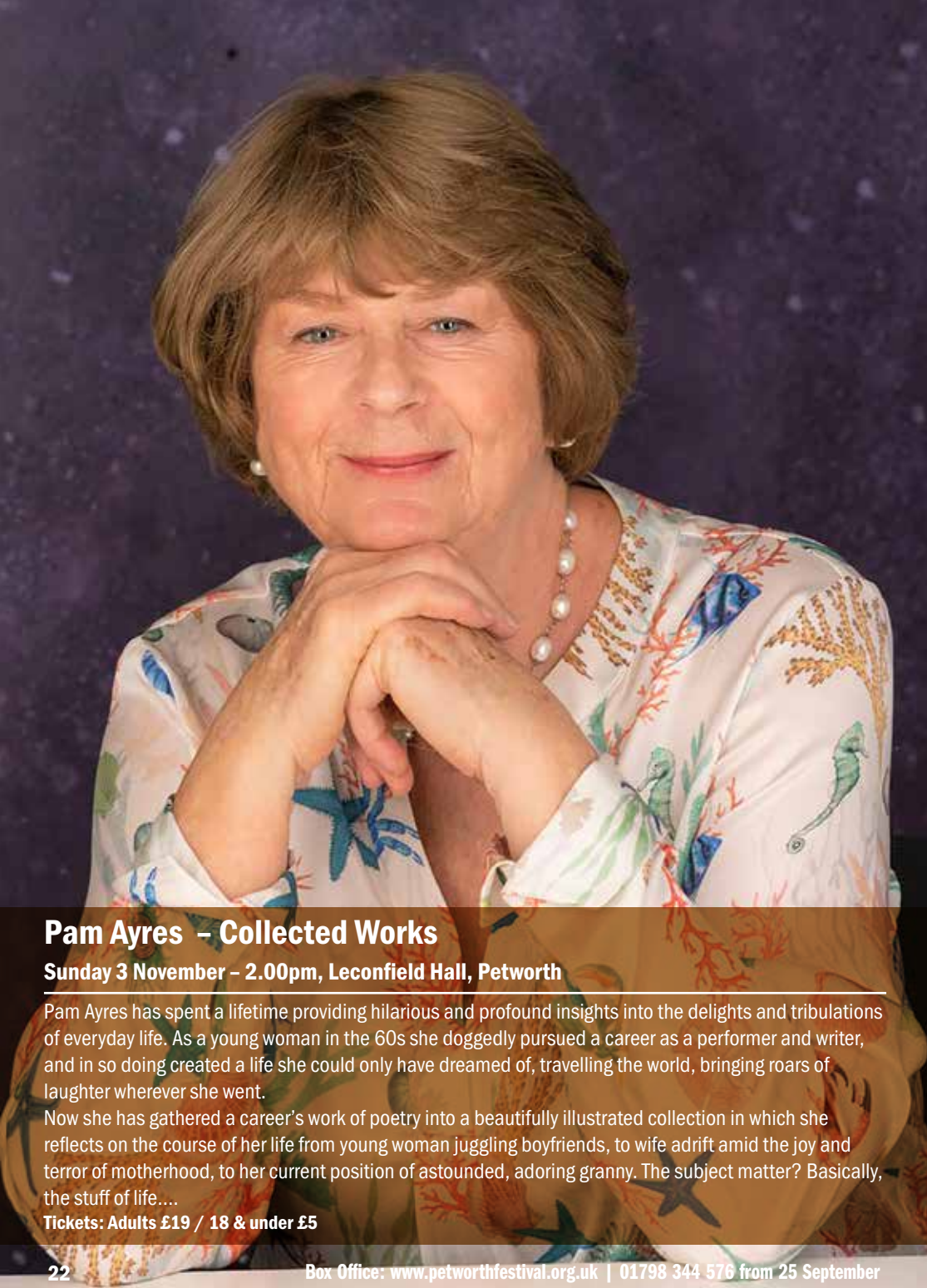
## Liz Earle – A Better Second Half

In conversation with Manveen Rana

Saturday 2 November – 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Petworth

Liz Earle has written over 35 books on beauty, nutrition, and wellbeing and is regularly seen on ITV's *This Morning*. In *A Better Second Half*, she shows us how to future-proof our health in midlife and beyond. Part a retrospective of her life and part a brilliant, distillation of self-help, Liz puts forward what we need to do to live and age well through midlife and beyond. *A Better Second Half* shares important information on the gut-brain axis, nutri-genomics, the efficacy of high intensity weight training, the pros and cons of low carb diets and much, much more.

Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5



## Pam Ayres – Collected Works

**Sunday 3 November – 2.00pm, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

Pam Ayres has spent a lifetime providing hilarious and profound insights into the delights and tribulations of everyday life. As a young woman in the 60s she doggedly pursued a career as a performer and writer, and in so doing created a life she could only have dreamed of, travelling the world, bringing roars of laughter wherever she went.

Now she has gathered a career's work of poetry into a beautifully illustrated collection in which she reflects on the course of her life from young woman juggling boyfriends, to wife adrift amid the joy and terror of motherhood, to her current position of astounded, adoring granny. The subject matter? Basically, the stuff of life....

**Tickets: Adults £19 / 18 & under £5**

## Alexandra Harris – The Rising Down

In conversation with **James Simpson**

**Sunday 3 November – 4.30pm, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

When the celebrated critic and cultural historian Alexandra Harris returned to her childhood home of West Sussex, she realised that she barely knew the place at all. As she probed beneath the surface, excavating layers of archival records and everyday objects, bringing a lifetime's reading to bear on the place where she started, hundreds of unexpected stories and hypnotic voices emerged from the area's past. Who has stood here; what did they see? Join Alexandra as she shares her new in-depth love and understanding of West Sussex as it was...

**Tickets: Adults £13.50 / 18 & under £5**



## Leia Zhu – Bows, Strings and Dreams

In conversation with **Stewart Collins**

**Sunday 3 November – 7.30pm, Leconfield Hall, Petworth**

Aged a mere 16 but already 12 years into her career, virtuoso violinist Leia Zhu commands the stage as Artist-in-Residence with the London Mozart Players, as the youngest musician to be included as Classic FM's 30 brilliant young musicians under the age of 30, and as a *BBC Music Magazine* Rising Star.

With her violin in tow to tease us with some enchanting examples of her playing, Leia brings down the curtain on this year's Literary Festival talking about the astonishing journey of 'the violin girl' striving to realise her dreams.

**Tickets: Adults £16 / 18 & under £5**



Photo: Zhutek

## Petworth Festival is actively looking to strengthen the festival's Board of Trustees

**Could you join the Board of the Petworth Festival to help with fundraising?**

As a charity our income comes as much from generous local support and local business sponsorship as from ticket income. We are now seeking a new trustee with experience and capability of generating financial support.

If you would like more information and are happy to start a conversation to see whether you might be able to help - please get in touch before the end of September via email [info@petworthfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@petworthfestival.org.uk)

## PETWORTH FESTIVAL 2025 DATES!

**Petworth Summer Festival 17 July – 2 August 2025**

**Petworth Literary Festival 29 October – 9 November 2025**

## OUR INTERVIEWERS:

**Katherine Bergen** Journalist with *Daily Telegraph*, *The Spectator* and *Wall Street Journal*.

**Andrew Billen** Feature writer *The Times*.

**Stewart Collins** Artistic Director Petworth Festival.

**Con Coughlin** Journalist and author, currently *The Daily Telegraph's* Defence Editor.

**Max Egremont** Historian and Petworth Festival President.

**Suzi Feay** Literary journalist and TV and radio critic for *FT Weekend*.

**Seni Glaister** Novelist, founder & former CEO The Book People, founder of WeFiFo (We Find Food).

**Ava Glass** Former civil servant and journalist now dubbed 'the new queen of spy fiction' (*The Guardian*).

**John Holmes** Former diplomat and Chair of the Electoral Commission.

**Emily Jeffery** BBC Radio Sussex Sunday morning presenter.

**Wasfi Kani** Honorary Fellow of RIBA & St Hilda's College, Oxford & founder Grange Park Opera.

**Lucasta Miller** Author and literary journalist.

**Sophia Money-Coutts** Former Features Editor *Tatler* and novelist.

**Geoffrey Munn** Jewellery expert and *Antiques Roadshow* presenter.

**Douglas Rae** Executive producer of Ecosse Films and Petworth Festival Board member.

**Manveen Rana** Journalist and broadcaster.

**Jojo Silva** Radio presenter and host of the *Early Breakfast show* on Capital Xtra.

**James Simpson** Poet and prize-winner in the Thomas Hardy Society's James Gibson Memorial Poetry Competition.

**David Soskin** Senior business executive, government policy advisor and supporter of History Reclaimed.

**Matt Stadlen** Broadcaster and freelance journalist.

## WHO'S WHO

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The Petworth Festival is extremely grateful to the following and those who wish to remain anonymous, who at the time of going to press have already sponsored the Petworth Literary Festival. If you would like information about sponsoring either the Literary or Summer Festival, please contact [stella@petworthfestival.org.uk](mailto:stella@petworthfestival.org.uk)

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