

◆ CHARLESTON FESTIVAL ◆

WHERE BOOKS, IDEAS & CREATIVITY BLOOM

18-28 MAY 2018



INCLUDING:

Simon Armitage, David Attenborough, Clemency Burton-Hill, Evan Davis,
Robert Harris, Lubaina Himid, Alan Hollinghurst, Susie Orbach, Kamila Shamsie,
Ali Smith, Alexander McCall Smith, Jon Sopel, Claire Tomalin, Robert Webb

CHARLESTON.ORG.UK/FESTIVAL

AT A GLANCE

FRI 18 May 12.30pm	MAKING THE PLATES DANCE - Ali Smith	£16
FRI 18 May 3pm	MAKING HISTORY - Lubaina Himid with Jennifer Higgie	£16
FRI 18 May 5.30pm	EXHIBITION ROAD QUARTER - Tristram Hunt and Amanda Leveté	£16
FRI 18 May 7.30pm	THE SPARSHOLT AFFAIR - Alan Hollinghurst with Charlotte Mendelson	£20
SAT 19 May 12.30pm	OUTSIDERS - Lyndall Gordon with Joan Bakewell	£16
SAT 19 May 3pm	HEARTS, MINDS AND DEEDS - Helen Pankhurst and Jane Robinson with Arifa Akbar	£16
SAT 19 May 5.30pm	MUNICH - Robert Harris and David Dimbleby	£20
SAT 19 May 7.30pm	SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED - John Crace and Michael Frayn with Michael Farthing	£16
SUN 20 May 12.30pm	THE CREATION MYTH - Kathryn Harkup and Fiona Sampson with Christopher Frayling	£16
SUN 20 May 3pm	A LIFE OF HER OWN - Claire Tomalin with Claire Armitstead	£20
SUN 20 May 5.30pm	THE EXECUTOR - Blake Morrison with Hermione Lee	£16
SUN 20 May 7.30pm	VITA AND VIRGINIA - Chanya Button, Gemma Arterton and Juliet Nicolson	£20
MON 21 May 1.30pm	INSIDE THE VAULTS - David Kynaston	£16
MON 21 May 4pm	THE CHARLESTON-EFG JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES PRIZE - Sir David Attenborough	£30
TUE 22 May 5.30pm	MASTERPIECES - Clemency Burton-Hill and James Hamilton	£20
TUE 22 May 7.30pm	POST-TRUTH - Evan Davis, Anne McElvoy and Jonathan Freedland	£20
WED 23 May 12.30pm	TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION Barney Norris and Sigrid Rausing with Christina Patterson	£16
WED 23 May 3pm	LEFT BANK - Agnès Poirier with Lauren Elkin	£16
WED 23 May 5.30pm	HOW NOT TO BE A BOY - Robert Webb with Miranda Sawyer	£16
WED 23 May 7.30pm	ARNHEM - Antony Beevor	£20
THU 24 May 12.30pm	THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 50 TH ANNIVERSARY DEBATE Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, A.C. Grayling, Erica Wagner and Gaby Wood	£16
THU 24 May 3pm	IN BYRON'S WAKE - Miranda Seymour with Virginia Nicholson	£16
THU 24 May 5.30pm	THE UNACCOMPANIED - Simon Armitage with Kate Kellaway	£16
THU 24 May 7.30pm	CORRUPTED CURRENTS - Misha Glenny and Luke Harding	£16
FRI 25 May 12.30pm	CHANCE ENCOUNTERS - Amy Bloom and Sylvia Brownrigg with Diana Souhami	£16
FRI 25 May 3pm	STATES OF FREEDOM - Kamila Shamsie and Neel Mukherjee with Catherine Taylor	£16
FRI 25 May 5.30pm	THE INNER LEVEL - Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett with Caroline Lucas	£16
FRI 25 May 7.30pm	HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE - David France with Peter Tatchell	£16
SAT 26 May 12.30pm	WORLDS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN Aida Edemariam and Kevin Powers with Catherine Taylor	£16
SAT 26 May 3pm	THE MUSIC OF TIME - Hilary Spurling with Rachel Billington	£16
SAT 26 May 5.30pm	MAKING IT NEW - Bill Goldstein and Helen Smith with Frances Spalding	£16
SAT 26 May 7.30pm	ORLANDO REVISITED - Jeanette Winterson	£16
SUN 27 May 12.30pm	SHAPESHIFTERS - Gavin Francis	£16
SUN 27 May 3pm	IN THERAPY - Susie Orbach with Francesca Segal	£20
SUN 27 May 5.30pm	DESIGN AS AN ATTITUDE - Alice Rawsthorn with Cathy Newman	£16
SUN 27 May 7.30pm	CARRINGTON'S LETTERS - Anne Chisholm and Eve Best	£20
MON 28 May 12.30pm	ROOMS OF THEIR OWN - Mark Purcell and Nino Strachey with Dinah Casson	£16
MON 28 May 3pm	THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL - Amanda Craig and Meg Wolitzer	£16
MON 28 May 5.30pm	OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON - Jon Sopel	£20
MON 28 May 7.30pm	THE GOOD CHEER CLUB - Alexander McCall Smith with Nicolette Jones	£20

WELCOME

The Charleston Festival, now in its 29th year, is the home of lively conversation and a search for truth in the spirit of the Bloomsbury group. The artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant made Charleston a meeting place for some of the major creators and thinkers of the first half of the 20th century, including Leonard and Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, Lytton Strachey, Roger Fry and E.M. Forster.

In a period of exceptional political and social volatility, expect this Festival to feature heated agenda-setting debates, mirroring the impassioned discussions that took place at Charleston in the past.

As sexual politics dominate the media, Bloomsbury's association with feminism has never been more relevant. The Festival welcomes Lubaina Himid, latest winner of the Turner Prize; celebrates the centenary of women receiving the vote; marvels at Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; admires Ada Lovelace, 19th century computer pioneer; and we are inspired by brave women who took artistic and social risks.

Perpetuating Charleston's commitment to experimentation, Festival innovations

include Ali Smith's commission in response to Bloomsbury's Famous Women Dinner Service and a Man Booker Prize 50th anniversary debate. Jeanette Winterson's personal tribute to Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, in the novel's 90th year, anticipates our autumn programme which includes several events exploring gender fluidity.

We are delighted to announce that the 2018 Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize, awarded annually to an individual of exceptional talents across many disciplines, will be presented during the Festival to Sir David Attenborough.

In this exciting year, we are planning the opening of our new galleries, café, visitor facilities and auditorium. Our future activities and aspirations take their inspiration from the Charleston Festival's record as an artistic, intellectual and social meeting place.

Nathaniel Hepburn, Charleston Director and Chief Executive

Diana Reich, Charleston Festival Artistic Director



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FRIDAY 18 MAY 12.30pm • Tickets £16

MAKING THE PLATES DANCE

Ali Smith

In a unique commission for the Charleston Festival, Ali Smith transforms *The Famous Women Dinner Service* - produced by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant for Kenneth Clark in 1932 - from decorative ceramics into creative prose: in her own words, "a free-form, free-wheeling, plate-spinning celebration of the Bloomsbury Dinner Service - its fruitfulness, its witty politic, its Woolfian routing of tradition and its brilliantly crafted, crafty reinterpretation of everything from notions of service to doing the dishes." Ali Smith's novel *How to Be Both* won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction. Her second novel in the seasonal quartet, *Winter*, was published last year.



© Axel Hesselberg

SUPPORTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

FRIDAY 18 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

MAKING HISTORY

Lubaina Himid with Jennifer Higgie

When Lubaina Himid's theatrical, witty and challenging works of art addressing colonial history and racism won last year's Turner Prize, the judges praised her "expansive and exuberant approach to painting, which combines satire and a sense of theatre." Born in Zanzibar, she was brought up in the UK by her mother and aunt. Her work includes *The Lancastrian Dinner Service*, a reflection on the slave trade. She discusses her "wilderness years" and all that she still hopes to express with Jennifer Higgie, Editorial Director of *frieze* magazine, who is adapting her novel *Bedlam* - based on the life of the artist Richard Dadd - for the screen.

SUPPORTED BY ART FUND



Naming the Money, 2004 by Lubaina Himid. Photo © Stuart Whipples

FRIDAY 18 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £16

EXHIBITION ROAD QUARTER

Tristram Hunt and Amanda Levete

The historic but dowdy aspect of Exhibition Road, home to our major national museums, has been transformed by the V&A's new porcelain-tiled courtyard leading down into a vast exhibition space. Instead of howls of protest for tampering with a traditional



site, it has been met with praise: "The whole is dynamic and sometimes balletic, its relationship with the old proceeding by contrast and sympathy" (*Observer*). RIBA Stirling Prize-winning architect Amanda Levete discusses the vision which inspired the new extension and the gripping stories behind its construction with V&A's Director, and former politician, Tristram Hunt, who describes his ambitions for the new exhibition spaces.



SUPPORTED BY NFU MUTUAL

FRIDAY 18 MAY

7.30pm • Tickets £20

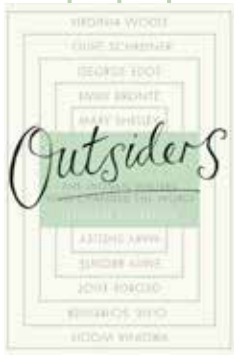
THE SPARSHOLT AFFAIR

Alan Hollinghurst

with Charlotte Mendelson

A new novel by the great prose-stylist Alan Hollinghurst inevitably leads to Booker Prize predictions. His sixth novel, *The Sparsholt Affair*, evokes the intimate relationships of a group of friends bound together by art, literature and love across three generations, from the Second World War to contemporary London. "*The Sparsholt Affair* is a sweeping and intimate masterpiece, full of sensual pleasures and observational wisdom" (Geoff Dyer, *Observer*). Alan Hollinghurst will discuss the novel and his writing career with Charlotte Mendelson, novelist, literary critic and author of *Rhapsody in Green*.





SATURDAY 19 MAY

12.30pm • Tickets £16

OUTSIDERS

Lyndall Gordon with Joan Bakewell

In her group biography Lyndall Gordon links five female novelists, Mary Shelley, Emily Brontë, George Eliot, Olive Schreiner and Virginia Woolf. Is their status as outsiders and the fact that all five were motherless during crucial periods of their development related to their genius? What is indisputable is that all five had crucial roles to play in writing women's voices into the history of the English-speaking world. Lyndall Gordon discusses what all five writers had in common and their unconventional lives with Joan Bakewell, pioneering broadcaster, journalist, novelist and memoirist.

SUPPORTED BY MERCHANT GOURMET

SATURDAY 19 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

HEARTS, MINDS AND DEEDS

Helen Pankhurst and Jane Robinson with Arifa Akbar

The centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which gave women who were householders and older than 30 the vote, is a reason for celebration as well as a determination to continue to campaign for women's causes. Jane Robinson's *Hearts and Minds* explores the history of the suffragists, ordinary people effecting extraordinary change; Helen Pankhurst's *Deeds Not Words* considers how female lives have changed over the past century and what remains to be achieved. Jane Robinson is the author of *Bluestockings*, a book about women's fight for an education. Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, is a women's rights activist. They discuss feminism past and present with Arifa Akbar, journalist, reviewer and Head of Content at Unbound.

SUPPORTED BY MAYFIELD SCHOOL



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SATURDAY 19 MAY

5.30pm • Tickets £20

MUNICH

Robert Harris and David Dimbleby

Robert Harris's *Munich* is history as a brilliantly imagined thriller set over the four days of the 1938 Munich Conference. It also controversially attempts to restore the reputation of Neville Chamberlain and asks whether he was an appeaser or simply playing for time. Robert Harris discusses this defining moment in British history with David Dimbleby, the BBC's most distinguished current affairs broadcaster and election night anchor, who has presented coverage of many state occasions on television. Robert Harris's bestselling novels include *Fatherland*, *Enigma*, *Archangel* and the Cicero trilogy, which has recently been adapted for the stage at the Royal Shakespeare Company to great acclaim.

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SATURDAY 19 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £16

SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

John Crace and Michael Frayn with Michael Farthing

Michael Frayn's illustrious career as a playwright (from *Noises Off* to *Copenhagen*) and novelist, including *Headlong*, *Spies* and *Skios*, began with witty columns in the *Guardian* and *Observer*. Intriguingly, he has returned to his roots in writing the short comic sketches of *Pocket Playhouse: Thirty Six Short Entertainments*. John Crace is writer of the *Guardian*'s parliamentary sketches and 'Digested Read', in both of which his nose for absurdity and humbug is unparalleled. Theresa May's distinctive, inflexible delivery has been remarked upon by all, but only John Crace coined the term 'Maybot'. *I, Maybot: The Rise and Fall* is a collection of his columns chronicling the PM's first year in office. They discuss farce and political satire with Michael Farthing, Chair of The Charleston Trust.

SUPPORTED BY NFU MUTUAL





SUNDAY 20 MAY 12.30pm • Tickets £16

THE CREATION MYTH

Kathryn Harkup and Fiona Sampson
with Christopher Frayling

Frankenstein, the monster imagined by an adolescent Mary Shelley in her novel published two hundred years ago, continues to fascinate in an age when the consequences of scientific research and intervention appear increasingly out of control.

Fiona Sampson's biography, *In Search of Mary Shelley*, tracks down the precocious girl and unconventional woman behind the monster. Kathryn Harkup's *Making the Monster* explores the gruesome scientific background behind Shelley's creation and the gothic novel's influence on cutting edge research. A chemist and author of *A is for Arsenic*, she knows whereof she speaks. Fiona Sampson is an award-winning poet, editor and translator. They discuss Shelley's monster with cultural historian Christopher Frayling, author of *Frankenstein's First Two Hundred Years*.

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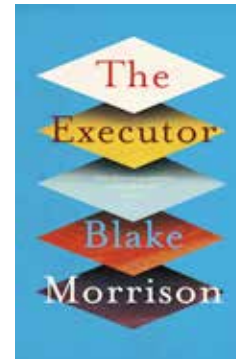
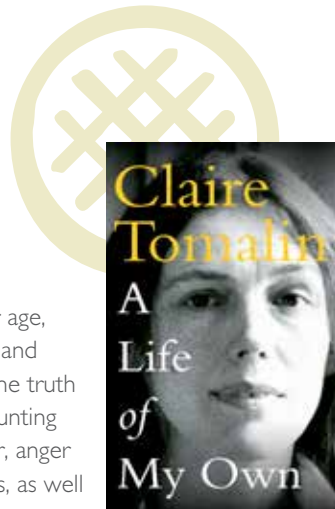
SUNDAY 20 MAY 3pm • Tickets £20

A LIFE OF HER OWN

Claire Tomalin with Claire Armitstead

One of the greatest and most insightful biographers of our age, Claire Tomalin turned the spotlight on herself in a moving and measured memoir published last year. Her adherence to the truth encompasses a difficult childhood, love affairs, infidelity, haunting tragedy, pressures of combining motherhood with a career, anger at the plight of families coping with children with disabilities, as well as her experiences at the centre of literary London. She discusses what it felt like to focus on herself rather than her usual subjects, which include Pepys, Hardy and Dickens, with Claire Armitstead, *Guardian* Associate Editor, Culture.

SUPPORTED BY CITY BOOKS



SUNDAY 20 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £16

THE EXECUTOR

Blake Morrison with Hermione Lee

At the heart of Blake Morrison's new novel *The Executor* are perennial questions: what matters most, the wishes of the living, or the dead, and how much we should reveal about a life well lived if it might damage reputations or close relationships. The novel revolves around the dilemma of a literary executor who discovers shocking and previously concealed facts about his recently deceased poet friend. Blake Morrison discusses the responsibilities

of executors and biographers with Hermione Lee, biographer of Virginia Woolf, currently writing a life of Tom Stoppard. Blake's work includes the memoir, *When Did You Last See Your Father?* and *As If* - a study of the James Bulger case. He is also a poet and critic.

SUPPORTED BY CITY BOOKS

SUNDAY 20 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £20

VITA AND VIRGINIA

Chanya Button, Gemma Arterton and Juliet Nicolson

Vita and Virginia, a new film due to be released this autumn, co-written by Eileen Atkins and Chanya Button, dramatises the decade-long love affair between Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf. The relationship provided one of the most artistically and emotionally fulfilling times in both women's lives. The film is set between 1927-1928, the period during which Woolf was inspired by her relationship with Sackville-West to write the Modernist masterpiece *Orlando*. Juliet Nicolson, granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West, discusses the relationships portrayed in the film with actress Gemma Arterton who plays Vita and Chanya Button, who directs the film. A privileged insight for the Charleston audience.

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MONDAY 21 MAY 1.30pm • Tickets £16

INSIDE THE VAULTS

David Kynaston

Bailouts, bubbles, swindles and devaluations: David Kynaston's authorised history of the Bank of England, otherwise known as the "Old Lady" - from the Bank's creation to the appointment of Mark Carney - is packed with drama. On the outside, nothing could appear more solid, but money doesn't recognise walls. For the greater part of its three centuries, the Bank has been "a great engine of State" (Adam Smith), with an increasingly high profile in recent years. Kynaston's entertaining history invites us inside the institution whose secretive ways were criticised by John Maynard Keynes.



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MONDAY 21 MAY 4pm • Tickets £30

THE CHARLESTON-EFG JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES PRIZE

CHARLESTON & EFG

JOHN
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Sir David Attenborough

Prior to the presentation of the fourth annual Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize, Sir David Attenborough will deliver an illustrated talk devised for the occasion:

Beauty and the Beasts

Can some animals be justifiably described as artists? Darwin and Wallace, the co-proposers of the theory of evolution, disagreed profoundly on the answer. Recent video evidence suggests which was right.

Like John Maynard Keynes, Sir David Attenborough is a man of many parts: he has uniquely brought both nature and the arts to countless millions through his natural history extravaganzas and as Controller of BBC2 television in the 1960s, commissioning programmes such as



Civilisation. Beginning with *Life on Earth* in 1979, his panoramic TV series have become the lens through which we now view nature and a significant spur to ending environmental destruction. The latest, *Blue Planet II*, was a major world cultural event in 2017. His current book, *Adventures of a Young Naturalist*, takes us back to his *Zoo Quest* days. He has had many species named after him.

SUPPORTED BY EFG PRIVATE BANK

The Prize was established to award an individual of exceptional talents in the spirit of John Maynard Keynes' work and legacy. The panel of advisors comprises: Dame Liz Forgan (Chair); Professor Simon Keynes; Professor Michael Proctor; Lord Robert Skidelsky and Helen Park-Weir (EFG International).

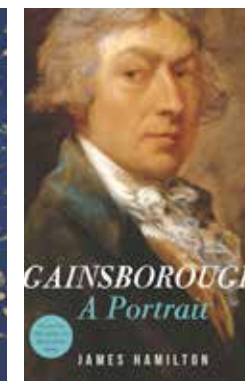
TUESDAY 22 MAY

5.30pm • Tickets £20

MASTERPIECES

Clemency Burton-Hill
and James Hamilton

A double bill of sublime classical music and art. Clemency Burton-Hill, an award-winning violinist, is also one of the UK's leading arts broadcasters and writers, presenting the Proms and Young Musician of the Year. She has distilled her love for classical music into a book, *The Age of Wonder*, which recommends an inspirational piece of music for every day of the year. James Hamilton's biography of Gainsborough was the art book of the year. He describes how a rumbustious secret life of partying drew the dazzlingly talented artist to prefer painting people rather than landscapes. James Hamilton is an art and cultural historian and author.



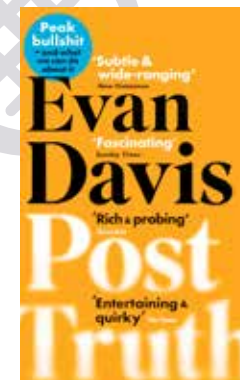
TUESDAY 22 MAY

7.30pm • Tickets £20

POST-TRUTH

Evan Davis, Anne McElvoy
and Jonathan Freedland

Never has there been more concern about dishonesty in public life. From the pre-referendum Brexit debate to President Trump's tweets, we hear constant talk of fake news. Our expert panel discusses how we have come to this and how we can navigate our way through spin, economy with the truth and media distortion. Evan Davis, presenter of *Newsnight*, *The Bottom Line* on Radio 4 and *Dragons' Den* on BBC2, is the author of *Post-Truth: Why We Have Reached Peak Bullshit and What We Can Do About It*. Anne McElvoy is Senior Editor at *The Economist* and an *Evening Standard* columnist and broadcaster. Jonathan Freedland is a *Guardian* columnist and author of *Kill the President* (written under the name Sam Boume).



WEDNESDAY 23 MAY

12.30pm • Tickets £16

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Barney Norris and Sigrid Rausing
with Christina Patterson

Barney Norris's novel *Turning for Home* and Sigrid Rausing's memoir *Mayhem* both focus on family members who are in the grip of destructive forces that they cannot control: in the case of *Turning for Home*, the heart of the book contains a searing account of anorexia from the perspective of the young woman who is afflicted; *Mayhem* is Sigrid Rausing's account of the impact of her brother's long-term addiction and his wife's death. Is it less of a challenge to fictionalise traumatic experiences than to recount painful facts? Barney Norris's debut novel was *Five Rivers Met on a Wooded Plain*. He is also a playwright. Sigrid Rausing is a philanthropist and publisher. They discuss the impact of traumatic events on family members with Christina Patterson, author of *The Art of Not Falling Apart*.

SUPPORTED BY CITY BOOKS

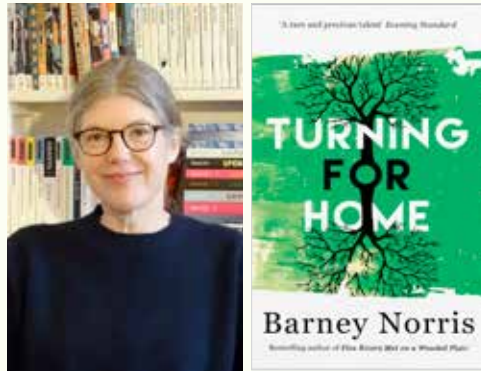


Photo © Tom Rausing

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

LEFT BANK

Agnès Poirier with Lauren Elkin

Agnès Poirier's book *Left Bank* is a celebration of art, passion and the resurgence of Paris from 1940 to 1950, after the horrors of the Occupation. It weaves together a captivating group of artists, intellectuals, writers and musicians, including Simone de Beauvoir, Miles Davis, Saul Bellow, Alberto Giacometti and James Baldwin. At the same time, London was struggling with repression and post-war deprivation. What does that tell us about Anglo-French opposites and how they are playing out in the era of Brexit and the #MeToo campaign?

Journalist and broadcaster

Agnès Poirier, who has a foot in both camps, discusses cross-Channel sympathies and antipathies with Lauren Elkin, author of *Flâneuse*.



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RICHARD & CRISTINA EMSLIE

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £16

HOW NOT TO BE A BOY

Robert Webb with Miranda Sawyer

Robert Webb's highly personal coming-of-age memoir about not fitting in and a crisis in early adulthood achieved the unusual combination of review plaudits as well as best-seller status. It is a poignant and often hilarious examination of the shifting sands of male identity, told against the backdrop of his own difficult upbringing and student years at Cambridge. "Quite simply brilliant, I (genuinely) cried. I (genuinely) laughed out loud. It's profound, touching, personal yet universal" (J.K. Rowling). Robert Webb discusses what it means to be a man in today's world with Miranda Sawyer, author of *Out of Time*.

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Photo © Matt Crockett

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £20

ARNHEM

Antony Beevor

The British fascination with heroic failure has clouded the story of Arnhem – the battle for the bridges leading to the Lower Rhine in 1944 – in myths. Antony Beevor, the distinguished military historian, has reconstructed the terrible reality of the fighting. It is a gripping account of an iconic moment in British and European history as well as an analysis of the cost of failure, which included pitiless German reprisals. Antony Beevor's previous bestselling books include *Berlin*, *D-Day*, *Ardennes 1944* and the multiple prize-winning *Stalingrad*.

SUPPORTED BY LANCING COLLEGE



Shuttle bus to/from Lewes train station 15

THURSDAY 24 MAY 12.30pm • Tickets £16

THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DEBATE

Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, A.C. Grayling, Erica Wagner and Gaby Wood

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is the premier UK literary award, generating worldwide attention and, from time to time, controversy. To celebrate 50 glorious years, we have created an opportunity to witness the selection process in action as three former judges advocate the winning books they chose, presided over by Gaby Wood, Literary Director of The Booker Prize Foundation. The final decision is up to the audience. Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, who was a judge in 2015, is the founding Publishing Director of The Indigo Press; A.C. Grayling, judge in 2003 and who chaired the Man Booker Prize judges in 2014, is a philosopher and writer; Erica Wagner, judge in 2002 and 2014, is the author of *Chief Engineer: The Man Who Built Brooklyn Bridge*; Gaby Wood was Head of Books on the *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.



Ellah Wakatama Allfrey © Andy Paradise; A.C. Grayling © Janie Airey; Erica Wagner © Olivia Beasley; Gaby Wood © Clara Molden

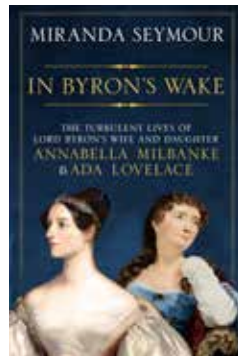
SUPPORTED BY THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

THURSDAY 24 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

IN BYRON'S WAKE

Miranda Seymour with Virginia Nicholson

Drawing on fascinating new material, Miranda Seymour reveals the ways in which, long after his death, Byron continued to shape the lives and reputations of both his estranged wife, Annabella Milbanke, and their daughter, the future Ada Lovelace who never knew her father. Contrary to her image as a conventional spurned wife, Lady Byron was one of the most progressive reformers of Victorian England. In adulthood, Ada Lovelace, a dedicated astronomer, extended Charles Babbage's mathematical calculations and proposed the theory of the general purpose computer we know today. Miranda Seymour discusses why two such remarkable women were haunted by the legacy of Lord Byron with Virginia Nicholson, who writes about the lives of twentieth century women.



SUPPORTED BY BEDE'S SCHOOL

THURSDAY 24 MAY

5.30pm • Tickets £16

THE UNACCOMPANIED

Simon Armitage

with Kate Kellaway

Simon Armitage is the poet of his generation as Auden was for the 30s and Larkin the 50s. Emerging in the late 80s, his Yorkshire street wit had, in the *Guardian's* words, "a game-changing influence on his contemporaries". He has gone on to write and perform in a range of forms including novels, non-fiction, drama, versions of the classics, and TV films. A great walker, he once busked the Pennine Way to make the book *Walking Home*. His new book, *The Unaccompanied*, returns to poetry, reflecting our world of unreliable seasons and unstable coordinates. He is the current Oxford Professor of Poetry. He discusses his work and writing career with Kate Kellaway, Poetry Editor of the *Observer*.

SUPPORTED BY BEDE'S SCHOOL



© Peter James Wilson

THURSDAY 24 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £16

CORRUPTED CURRENTS

Misha Glenny and Luke Harding

The hopes around the turn of the Millennium for a bright new world of ever-spreading democracy have been cruelly dashed.



Luke Harding and Misha Glenny are two of our most fearless guides to the new dystopia, uncovering the links between large-scale financial fraud, corrupt politics and violent nationalisms. Misha Glenny reported the Balkan Wars in the early 1990s. His book, *McMafia*, on which the BBC fictional TV drama is based, charts the worldwide tentacles of organised crime. Luke Harding was the *Guardian's* Russian Correspondent from 2007 to his deportation in 2011. His book *Collusion* expertly traces the links between Putin's Russia and the Trump team.

SUPPORTED BY BRIGHTON COLLEGE



FRIDAY 25 MAY

12.30pm • Tickets £16

CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

Amy Bloom and Sylvia Brownrigg
with Diana Souhami

The current White House lets it all hang out, but in the past it was far more discreet. Amy Bloom's intimate and informative novel, *White Houses*, reveals the secret, scandalous love of Eleanor Roosevelt for her longtime friend and companion, Lorena Hickok. They met when Hickok, at the time the most recognised female journalist in America, was sent to interview the wife of the Presidential candidate. Sylvia Brownrigg's *Pages for Her* centres around an unexpected reunion between the two women, one now a wife and mother, who are irrepressibly drawn to each other again many years after their campus romance. "Mesmerising" (Helen Dunmore). They discuss past and present sexual mores with Diana Souhami, winner of the Whitbread Award for Biography for *Selkirk's Island* who is currently writing about lesbians and Modernism.

SUPPORTED BY CHARLOTTE STREET HOTEL



FRIDAY 25 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

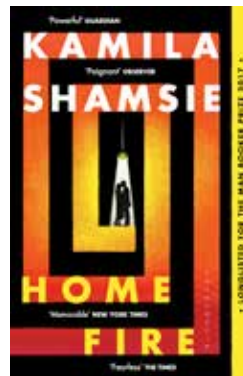
STATES OF FREEDOM

Kamila Shamsie and Neel Mukherjee
with Catherine Taylor

Kamila Shamsie's ambitious novel *Home Fire*, a contemporary re-imagining of Sophocles's tragedy *Antigone*, is a literary thriller about prejudice, the slide into radicalisation and an expansive love story. "The standout book of the year" (*Observer*). "Brave and brilliant" (*The Sunday Times*). Neel Mukherjee's *A State of Freedom*, set in contemporary India, is a novel about displacement, migration and society's inequalities. "A powerful, troubling novel" (Sarah Waters). They discuss the ability of fiction to interpret the turbulent times in which we live and to make us re-think pre-conceived ideas with Catherine Taylor, freelance critic and journalist, former Deputy Director of English PEN.



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FRIDAY 25 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £16

THE INNER LEVEL

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett with Caroline Lucas

The sequel to the global phenomenon *The Spirit Level*, one of the most influential publications of the past decade, Wilkinson and Pickett's new book, *The Inner Level*, explores the psychological impact of inequality on individuals and demonstrates that it makes social relations more stressful. Conversely, it shows that societies based on sharing and reciprocity produce much higher levels of well being. Like its predecessor, *The Inner Level*, based on empirical evidence, will reframe the debate about inequality. They discuss the implications of their findings with Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP. Wilkinson is Honorary Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London.



Pickett is Professor of Epidemiology and Research Champion for Justice and Equality at the University of York.

SUPPORTED BY VIVA MAGAZINES



FRIDAY 25 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £16

HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE

David France with Peter Tatchell

Winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction 2017, David France's *How to Survive a Plague* is a riveting, powerful and profoundly moving story of the AIDS epidemic and the unlikely grassroots alliance of gay activists, doctors, public health officials and research scientists whose campaigning led to the development of drugs which transformed HIV from a mostly fatal infection to a mostly manageable disease. "A masterpiece of intimate storytelling with moral purpose" (Andrew Solomon). David France is also the author of *Our Fathers*, about the Catholic abuse scandal, which was made into a film. He discusses the stories behind the campaign with Peter Tatchell, Human Rights Activist.

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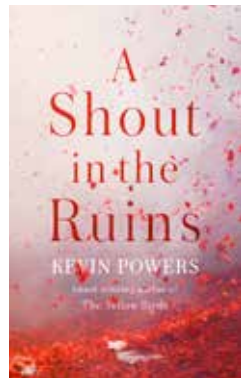
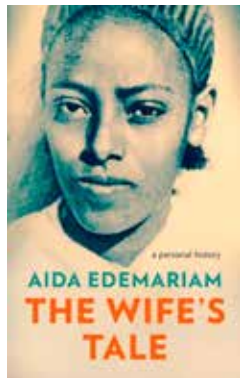
SATURDAY 26 MAY

12.30pm • Tickets £16

WORLDS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Aida Edemariam and Kevin Powers
with Catherine Taylor

Kevin Powers and Aida Edemariam bring personal perspectives to their new books. Kevin Powers' novel, *A Shout in the Ruins*, takes place in his native Virginia before, during and after the American Civil War. It is a return to the battlefields for the former soldier who served with the US army in Iraq and won the Guardian First Book Award for his debut novel, *The Yellow Birds*. Aida Edemariam's *The Wife's Tale* is a history of her indomitable Ethiopian grandmother, married at ten, who endured civil war and revolution. They discuss the theme of their books – random violence and survival, against the backdrop of tumultuous event - with Catherine Taylor, critic and journalist, former Deputy Director of English PEN.



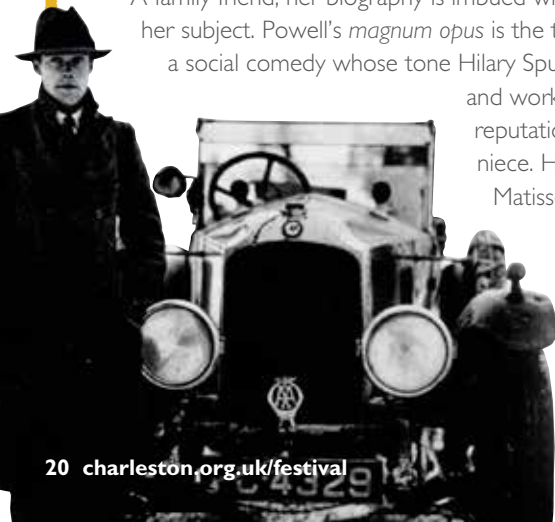
SATURDAY 26 MAY 3pm • Tickets £16

THE MUSIC OF TIME

Hilary Spurling with Rachel Billington

Anthony Powell, the Proustian literary chronicler of his culture and time - a raffish mid-20th century British aristocratic milieu - has found his ideal biographer in Hilary Spurling. A family friend, her biography is imbued with wit, intelligence and ironic affection for her subject. Powell's *magnum opus* is the twelve-volume *A Dance to the Music of Time*, a social comedy whose tone Hilary Spurling adapts to animate his life, relationships and work. She discusses the waxing and waning of his reputation with novelist Rachel Billington, Powell's niece. Hilary Spurling is the acclaimed biographer of Matisse and numerous other lives.

SUPPORTED BY NIRA WRIGHT



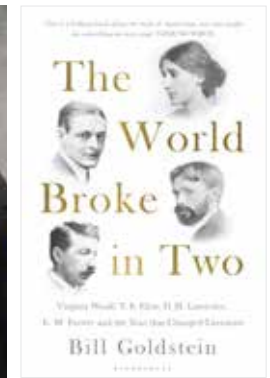
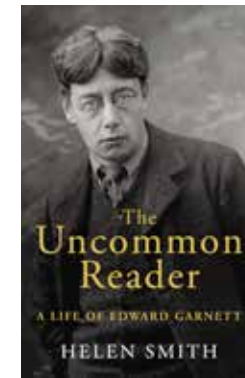
SATURDAY 26 MAY

5.30pm • Tickets £16

MAKING IT NEW

Bill Goldstein and Helen Smith
with Frances Spalding

The Modernist Movement flourished due to enlightened editors and critics as well as innovative writers. Helen Smith's *The Uncommon Reader* is an absorbing portrait of Edward Garnett (father of David Garnett) who, in his role as critic and publisher's reader, was responsible for nurturing the talents of a constellation of our greatest authors. The book brings to life his intimate and sometimes stormy relationships with writers such as Joseph Conrad and D.H. Lawrence. Bill Goldstein's *The World Broke in Two* sheds light on the intertwined lives of Woolf, Eliot, Forster and Lawrence and their extraordinary literary achievements in 1922, which he regards as the birth year of Modernism. They discuss the interplay of writers and critics in the history of Modernism with Frances Spalding, art historian and biographer.



SATURDAY 26 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £16

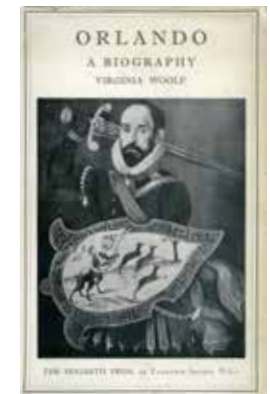
ORLANDO REVISITED

Jeanette Winterson

Orlando, the most playful and witty of Virginia Woolf's novels, has an irresistible appeal for Jeanette Winterson. Time travelling and gender bending, Woolf was writing out of her intense attachment to Vita Sackville-West. Vita's son, Nigel Nicolson, called it "the longest love letter in history." "The novel pretends to be a biography. It pretends to be history. It is truth and fiction muddled together. It broke all the rules" (Winterson). On the 90th anniversary of *Orlando's* publication, Jeanette Winterson will talk about writing, politics, women, sex and pleasure, and explain why *Orlando*, "about a boy who's a girl who's a girl who's a boy" made her believe "I can do this" and changed her life.

Jeanette Winterson is one of our most inventive novelists as well as a memoirist.

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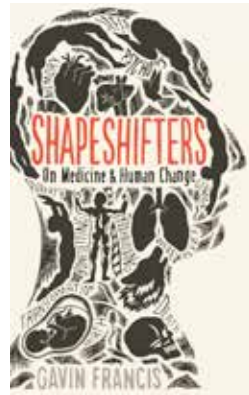


SUNDAY 27 MAY 12.30pm • Tickets £16

SHAPESHIFTERS

Gavin Francis

The compelling concept of transformation is both ancient (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) and topical. Gavin Francis follows the phenomenal international success of *Adventures in Human Being* with *Shapeshifters*, a book about medicine and human change which could not be more timely in this transgender age. Mixing case studies with observations about history, art, literature, myth and magic, the book covers inevitable body changes, such as puberty, and self-imposed changes such as cosmetic surgery and tattooing.



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SUNDAY 27 MAY

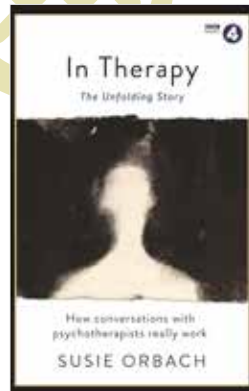
3pm • Tickets £20

IN THERAPY

Susie Orbach

with Francesca Segal

Susie Orbach's *In Therapy: The Unfolding Story*, based on a very popular BBC radio series, explores the process of therapy through dramatised case studies. It reveals as much about what is going on in the mind of the person behind the couch as it does the emotional dilemmas of the clients. Susie Orbach's other books include the groundbreaking *Fat is a Feminist Issue*, *What Do Women Want* and *Bodies*. It is not for nothing that *The New York Times* referred to her as "Probably the most famous psychotherapist to have set up couch in Britain since Freud." She discusses what happens in therapy with Francesca Segal, author of *The Awkward Age*, a novel about contemporary family disruption.



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SUNDAY 27 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £16

DESIGN AS AN ATTITUDE

Alice Rawsthorn with Cathy Newman

Design is one of the most powerful forces in our lives, often without our knowledge, yet it is frequently dismissed as superficial. Alice Rawsthorn, award-winning design critic and author, is a passionate advocate for design's potential to change our lives for the better. Her new book, *Design as an Attitude*, highlights the most important and exciting developments in modern design, from tackling the environmental crises and climate change to ensuring that new technologies such as artificial intelligence will be harnessed to deliver social benefits. She discusses her belief in design as a force for improving the way we live with Cathy Newman, Channel 4 News presenter.

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SUNDAY 27 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £20

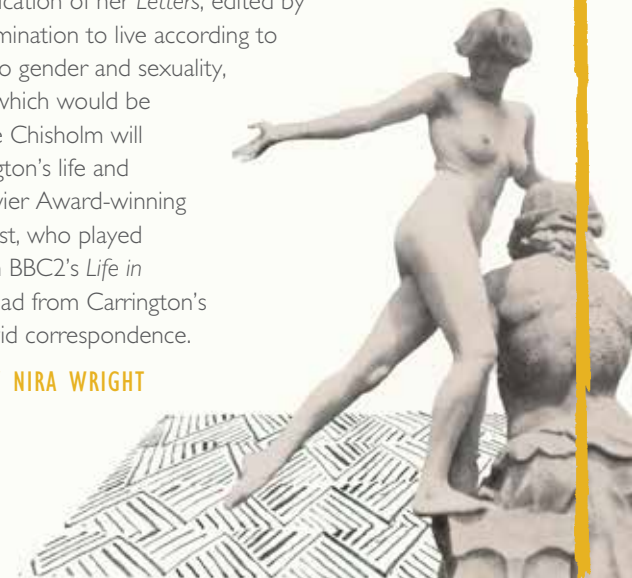
CARRINGTON'S LETTERS

Anne Chisholm and Eve Best

The artist Dora Carrington was considered a Bloomsbury outsider yet she lived at its heart as the companion of the homosexual writer Lytton Strachey and killed herself when he died. The publication of her *Letters*, edited by Anne Chisholm, reveals that in her determination to live according to her own nature and in her fluid attitude to gender and sexuality, she challenged conventions in a manner which would be considered controversial even now. Anne Chisholm will

discuss Carrington's life and work, and Olivier Award-winning actress Eve Best, who played Vanessa Bell in BBC2's *Life in Squares*, will read from Carrington's prolific and vivid correspondence.

SUPPORTED BY NIRA WRIGHT



MONDAY 28 MAY 12.30pm • Tickets £16

ROOMS OF THEIR OWN

Mark Purcell and Nino Strachey with Dinah Casson

Mark Purcell's *The Country House Library* and Nino Strachey's *Rooms of their Own* both explore the interiors of some remarkable houses in relation to the preoccupations and tastes of their inhabitants. Mark Purcell, Director of Research at Cambridge University Library, covers the past 2,000 years in his boundlessly informative and entertaining survey of private book collections and their frequently obsessive owners. Nino Strachey, Head of Research at the National Trust, provides a fascinating slant on Bloomsbury through the prism of some of its living spaces - Knole, Sissinghurst and Monk's House – in her book, *Rooms of their Own*. She is descended from a family at the centre of Bloomsbury. They discuss whether books or décor furnish a room with Dinah Casson, whose design company specialises in museum installations.

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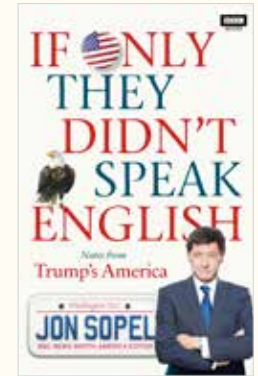
MONDAY 28 MAY 5.30pm • Tickets £20

OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

Jon Sopel

When Jon Sopel stood up to question President Trump at a press conference in February 2017, Trump, on hearing that Sopel represents the BBC, uttered "Here's another beauty". Since then it's been downhill all the way. So much so that Jon Sopel now believes we need to start thinking of the USA as a truly foreign country, hence his new book, *If Only They Didn't Speak English*. Jon Sopel's distinguished career at the BBC includes stints as the Paris Correspondent and Chief Political Correspondent. He has been North America Editor since 2014. His lucid, impassioned reports from a country we no longer know are required viewing.

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MONDAY 28 MAY

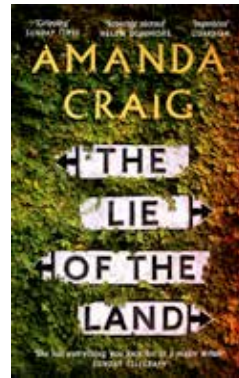
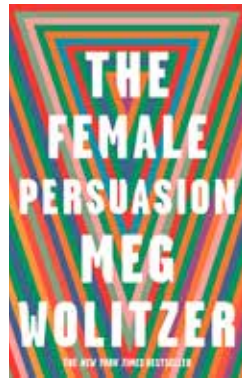
3pm • Tickets £16

THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL

Amanda Craig and Meg Wolitzer

Amanda Craig's *The Lie of the Land* is a state-of-the-nation novel which dissects modern marriage, the divided society and the interplay between money and desire, all woven into a suspenseful plot. Meg Wolitzer has built her reputation by tapping into the zeitgeist, particularly as it relates to women. Author of the bestselling *The Interestings*, as well as *The Wife* (coming out as a film this year) and *The Uncoupling*, her new novel, *The Female Persuasion*, is already making waves. In a writer-to-writer conversation, they discuss their books and the way we live now in the UK and the States.

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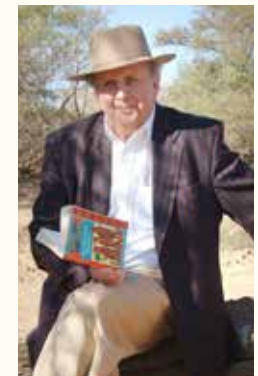
© Chris Watt MONDAY 28 MAY 7.30pm • Tickets £20

THE GOOD CHEER CLUB

Alexander McCall Smith with Nicolette Jones

Alexander McCall Smith is one of our most versatile men of letters. He simultaneously maintains five series of novels for adults and five for children, plus many one-off titles and a roster of academic books relating to his role as Emeritus Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh University. But first among equals are *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* stories (18 books and counting), featuring Precious Ramotswa in a bucolic Botswana. The latest Precious book is *The House of Unexpected Sisters*. Away from his desk, he plays bassoon in The Really Terrible Orchestra and has bought the Cairns of Coll islets to be preserved unspoilt for posterity. He discusses his multi-faceted career with Nicolette Jones, writer, critic and professional chair of literary events.

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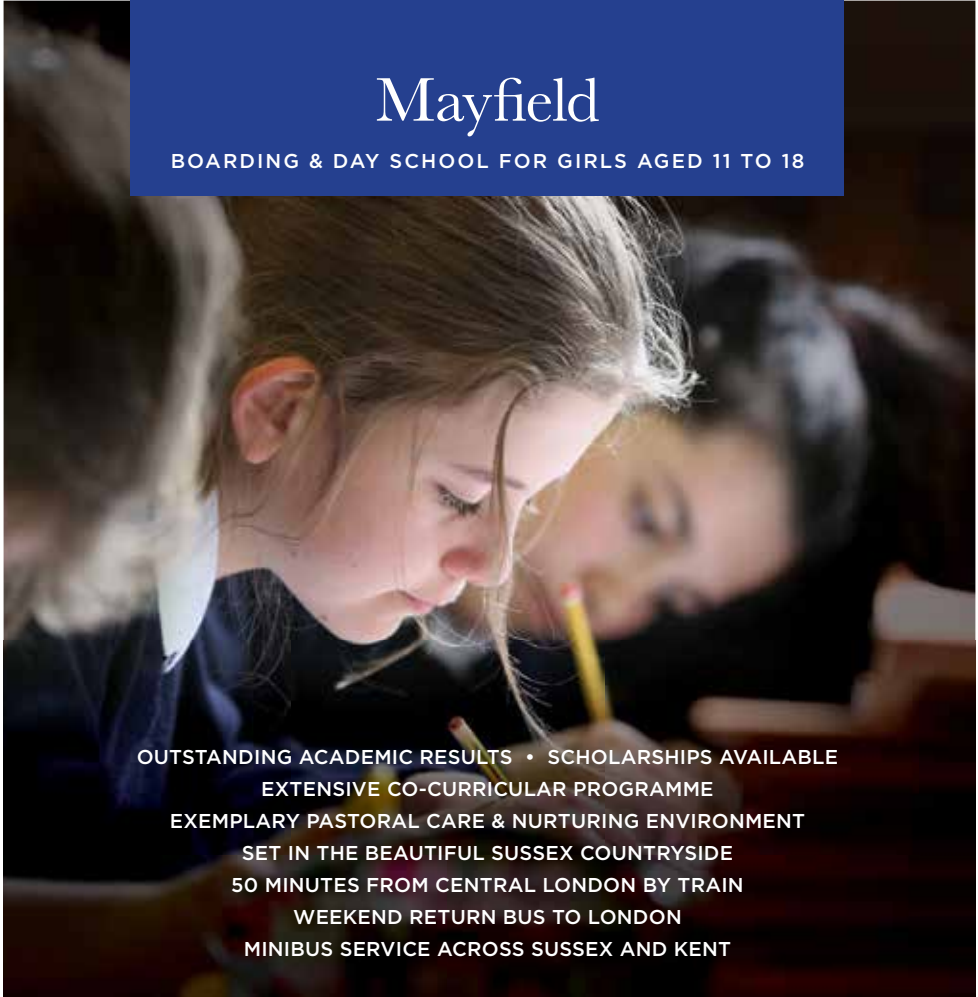
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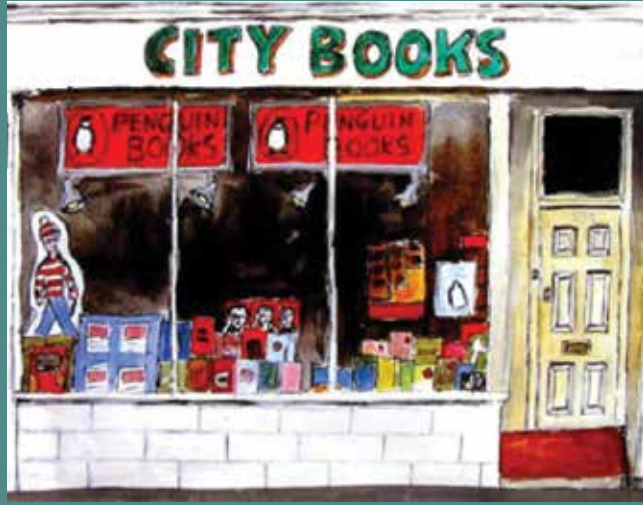
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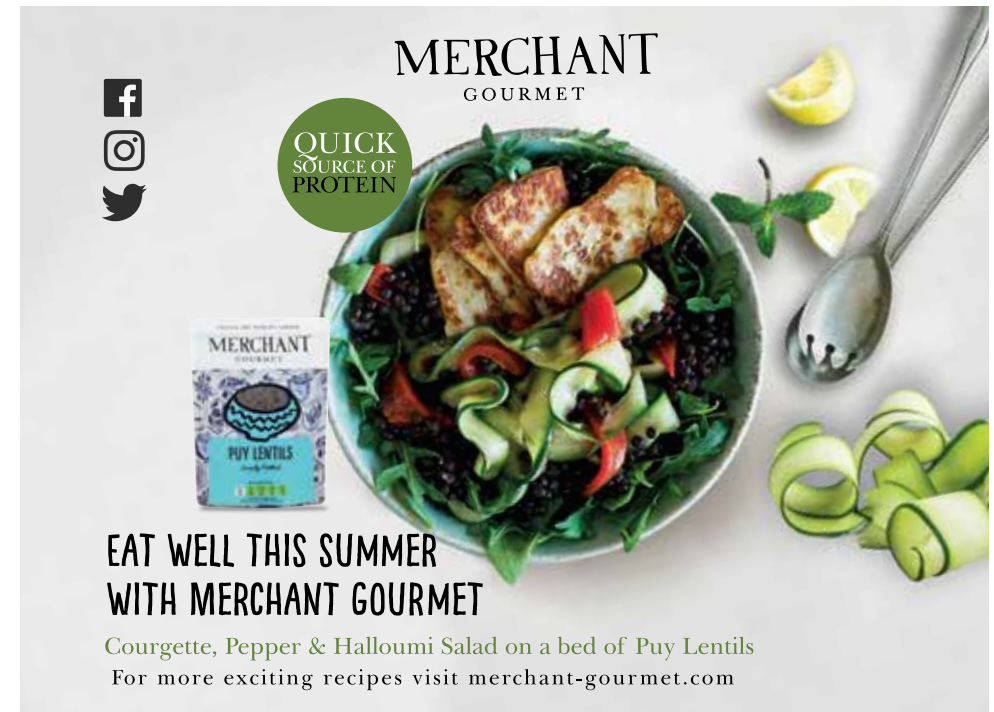
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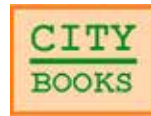
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HOW TO BOOK

Festival tickets on sale from 19 February

Online (24hrs): charleston.org.uk/festival

By phone: 01323 815150
(Mon to Fri, 10am to 5pm)

Priority booking (12 to 16 February)

Friends and Omega members can book Festival tickets before they go on sale to the general public. Booking forms to be submitted by post or email to Charleston, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LL, or festivals@charleston.org.uk. Forms can be downloaded from the Festival website from 6 February.

Become a Friend

Friends membership starts at just £40 (or £25 for under 26s). For further details call 01323 815151 or email friends@charleston.org.uk.

PRICES

Individual Tickets

Prices are listed beside each event.

Day Tickets

Fri 18 May	£60	Fri 25 May	£55
Sat 19 May	£60	Sat 26 May	£55
Sun 20 May	£65	Sun 27 May	£65
Wed 23 May	£60	Mon 28 May	£65
Thu 24 May	£55		

All Events Ticket: £515

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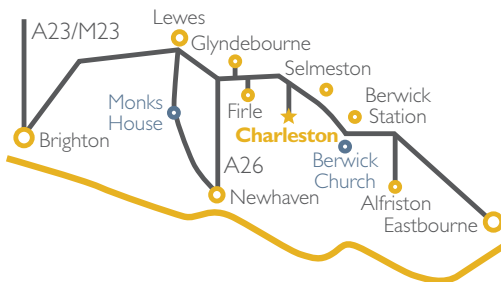
GETTING HERE

Charleston is halfway between Brighton and Eastbourne, only 6 miles east of Lewes, off the A27.

Give yourself plenty of time: Access to Charleston is via a single lane farm road and traffic flow will be controlled at peak times. We recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes before each event.

Minibus shuttle service: Cuckmere Community Bus run a shuttle bus service from Lewes train station direct to Charleston for all events. For timetables and fares, visit charleston.org.uk/festivals.

Rail: Services run regularly from London Victoria, Brighton and Eastbourne to Lewes station. Taxis are available at Lewes station.



By road: Look out for signs along the A27. Car parking is in adjacent fields so practical footwear is recommended. As on-site parking is limited, please consider car sharing or using the minibus shuttle service.

Local information: For accommodation and other local information contact the Lewes Tourist Information Centre on 01273 483448.

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For up-to-date information on all events, please refer to our website. The information in the brochure was correct at the time of printing. Charleston reserves the right to alter the programme if necessary. © 2018 The Charleston Trust. Photographs © Axel Hesselberg unless otherwise stated. Design by www.wheeldesign.co.uk. Print by MCR Media mcrmedia.co.uk

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