

The Lichfield Festival presents

third lichfield literature weekend



26 – 28 september 2008

in association with Best Western The George Hotel

www.lichfieldfestival.org

Welcome to the Lichfield Festival's third lichfield literature weekend.

A few things have changed. We have moved to September, we have events for families for the first time, and Lichfield Library and Beacon Park have been added as venues. We are also marking both the 2008 National Year of Reading and the Launch Weekend of the Cultural Olympiad. Open a book, open your mind, and join us as we keep Lichfield's strong literary heritage very much alive.

Richard Hawley
Festival Director

Sponsors



Trusts & Foundations

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The Lichfield Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support of all the authors and publishers represented.

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Lichfield literary dinner

The Remarkable Lives of Bill Deedes Stephen Robinson

Girl in a Blue Dress Gaynor Arnold

Drinks 7pm, dinner 7.30pm The George Hotel

£32 (three-courses, excl wine)

Bill Deedes reported alongside Evelyn Waugh from Abyssinia in the 1930s and was awarded the Military Cross for heroism in the Second World War; he was an MP and Cabinet Minister, and Margaret Thatcher made him a life peer; most enduring of all, his journalistic career spanned seven decades.

Charles Dickens provides the inspiration for *Girl in a Blue Dress*.

It is an ambitious and sympathetic fictional account of a Victorian celebrity marriage told from the point of view of a

famous author's estranged wife, and is the third novel from the small Birmingham publisher Tindal Street Press to have made it onto the Man Booker Prize long list.

Stephen Robinson, a former *Daily Telegraph* journalist, is Deedes' authorized biographer. Gaynor Arnold is a social worker by profession, and *Girl in a Blue Dress* is her first novel. They, and the remarkable characters they write about, should prove the most entertaining of dinner companions.



Box office: **01543 306276**

www.lichfieldfestival.org

friday 26 september

saturday 27 september

Stories from your Attic

Maria Whatton

10-11pm Adults & Families Lichfield Library

12-1pm Adults & Families Lichfield Library

2-3pm Adults Lichfield Library

FREE

Professional story-teller, Maria Whatton, invites adults and families to join her at Lichfield Library where she will be breathing life into the inanimate objects that are usually found loitering in loft spaces. Maria will be using artefacts that relate to domestic life, childhood and holidays from collections owned by Staffordshire County Council's museum, archive and library services to inspire stories that are a unique opportunity to "hear" voices from the past. Visitors are also welcome to bring in their own attic relics, possibly a photograph of a grandparent or an item that has belonged to a family member.

To ensure a place, please contact Lichfield Library 01543 510700



Information: **01543 306270**

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The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England

Ian Mortimer

12-1pm The George Hotel

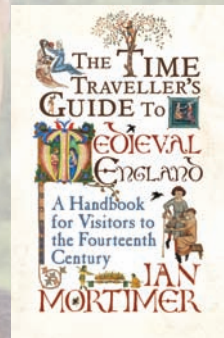
£5

Ian Mortimer is a campaigner for history as a “living thing” and time as a space in which to travel. In this “guide book” you will interact with the medieval period in an entirely new way. What are the first things you see on arrival at a medieval town? What do you smell? How will the locals take to you as a man or as a woman? What will you eat and how will you find somewhere to stay?

Written with passion as well as historical accuracy, this is social history at its most authentic and engaging.

Ian Mortimer was awarded the Alexander Prize (2004) by the Royal Historical Society for his work on the social history of medicine. He is the author of three medieval biographies.

“A narrative historian of exceptional gifts” *BBC History Magazine*



saturday 27 september

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saturday 27 september

Universe of Stone

Chartres Cathedral and the Triumph of the Medieval Mind

Philip Ball

2-3pm The George Hotel

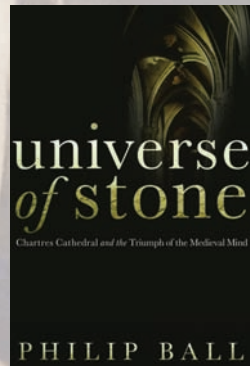
£5

In 12th-century Europe, Christian architects moved dramatically away from the claustrophobic and gloomy church buildings we now call Romanesque and began to build soaring, spacious monuments flooded with light from immense windows. The introduction of Gothic architecture had a profound effect, not just on the Church, but in the way some prominent Western intellectuals and theologians pictured the universe and humanity's relationship with it. In *Universe of Stone*, Philip Ball illuminates the medieval mind through a fully-illustrated study of the greatest architectural masterpiece of the period – Chartres Cathedral.

Philip Ball is a freelance science writer and Consultant Editor of *Nature* magazine. In addition to several books on science, he has also just published his first novel, *The Sun and Moon Corrupted*.

"One of our most versatile and gripping science writers" John Carey, *Sunday Times*

Information: 01543 306270



www.lichfieldfestival.org

Dissent over Descent

Steve Fuller

Creation or Evolution

Do We Have to Choose? Denis Alexander

4-5pm The George Hotel

£5

Some think intelligent design (ID) theory is merely the respectable face of Christian fundamentalism; others view evolution as the only sensible scientific world view. But ID has driven science for 500 years, while evolution derives from ancient ideas about our rootedness in nature and the transience of all life forms.

With a double Darwin centenary on the horizon, join us for this provocative discussion towards a deeper understanding of science's most vociferous debate as we turn expectation on its head with a non-Christian, social epistemologist arguing the case for ID theory on one side, and a scientist who believes passionately in both the Biblical doctrine of creation and the coherence of evolutionary theory on the other.

Steve Fuller is Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick. Denis Alexander is Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge.



saturday 27 september

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saturday 27 september

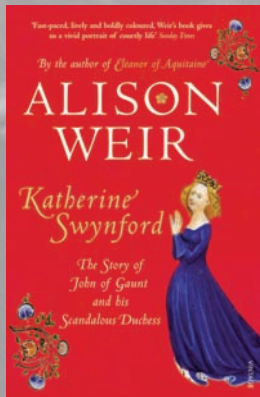
Katherine Swynford

The Story of John of Gaunt and his Scandalous Duchess

Alison Weir

6-7pm The George Hotel

£5



Inspired by Anya Seton's famous novel, *Katherine*, acclaimed historian Alison Weir has written the first full biography of one of the most beguiling and mysterious women in history. Beloved mistress to the charismatic John of Gaunt, Katherine Swynford was a controversial figure of her day and many people distrusted and resented her position as "Royal Mistress". But she was a powerful figure in her own right, the sister-in-law of Chaucer and a thoroughly modern woman. Every British monarch since 1461 and no fewer than five American presidents are descended from her.

Alison Weir is one of Britain's foremost popular historians. Her books include *Britain's Royal Families*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, *Mary, Queen of Scots* and, most recently, the novel *Innocent Traitor*.

Information: 01543 306270

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Downing Street Diary

Volume Two: With James Callaghan in No. 10

Bernard Donoughue

8-9.15pm The George Hotel

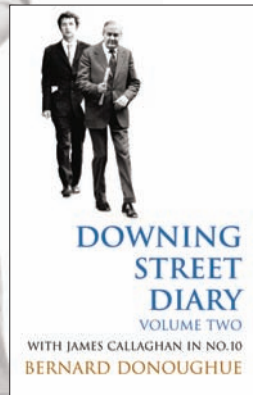
£5

An increasingly isolated Prime Minister whose economic policies are disintegrating, his parliamentary party rebelling, cabinet colleagues manoeuvring for succession, opinion polls slumping, and inflation surging... we could be mistaken for thinking we're discussing 2008 and not 1978.

The second volume of Lord Donoughue's *Downing Street Diary* covers the years 1976-79. This magisterial historic record gives an often minute by minute account of the tumultuous events unfolding within No. 10 as Britain plunged into the historic "Winter of Discontent".

Lord Donoughue taught at the London School of Economics from 1963 to 1974, when he became Senior Policy Advisor to Harold Wilson and then to James Callaghan.

"This is a diary on a Pepys scale" *Times Literary Supplement*



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saturday 27 september

sunday 28 september

Mr Toad's Prison Break

Adapted by Philip Holyman from

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

12.30 -1pm Beacon Park

2-2.30pm Beacon Park

FREE

Kenneth Grahame's classic story, telling the timeless adventures of Toad and the creatures of the riverbank, has been delighting families for generations. In a new production celebrating the novel's 100th anniversary, Toad's passion for new toys leads to escapades and clashes with the not-so-nice residents of the Wild Wood, not to mention a few stern words from his trusted friends. Will Ratty, Mole and Badger curb his behaviour or will Toad triumph again? Specially commissioned theatre suitable for all ages.

Free, but booking in advance necessary



Have a Wild weekend...

Saturday 27 September 9.30-10am and 11.30am-12pm **Meet the characters**, Lichfield Library.

Thursday 24 – Saturday 27 September **Wind in the Willows Exhibition**, Lichfield Library Gallery.

Information: **01543 306270**

www.lichfieldfestival.org

The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth

Frances Wilson

2-3pm The George Hotel

£5



Often presented as a self-effacing virgin or sacrificial saint, Dorothy Wordsworth was a talented writer and an exceptional woman. Both William Wordsworth and Coleridge lifted phrases from her writing for their own use, and she was described by Thomas Quincey as the “very wildest... person I have ever known”. In her beautifully told biography, Frances Wilson brings Dorothy to life in all her complexity, uncovering the rich emotional life of a woman who suffered the jealousy of a discarded mistress and, eventually, insanity.

Frances Wilson is the author of *Literary Seductions*, which was praised by Alain de Botton as “psychologically rich and wise”, and *The Courtesan’s Revenge*.

“Frances Wilson is not only a first-rate scholar but also a wonderful storyteller” *Mail on Sunday*

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sunday 28 september

sunday 28 september

Churchill's Wizards

The British Genius for Deception 1914-1945

Nicholas Rankin

4-5pm The George Hotel

£5

Native cunning is the key that links Churchill's wizards, creative people using their skills to help their country in a struggle for survival. The two World Wars recruited widely from the nation's pool of artists and scientists, film and theatre people, novelists and naturalists, as well as daredevils, commandos and the Home Guard who disguised machine-gun posts as gentlemen's toilets or genteel tea-rooms. *Churchill's Wizards* is a thrilling work of popular military history which traces the four pillars of 20th-century British deception: camouflage, propaganda, secret intelligence and special forces.

Nicholas Rankin has tracked down the brave and high-spirited writers, producers and show-biz people who helped the armed forces to win what Churchill called "the war of the Unknown Warriors".



Information: 01543 306270

www.lichfieldfestival.org

Secrets of the Sea In Tasmania

Adventures at the End of the World
Nicholas Shakespeare

6-7pm The George Hotel

£5

Tasmania has played a crucial role in both of Nicholas Shakespeare's most recent works. In *Secrets of the Sea* it is the setting for a novel filled with beauty and danger. Young Alex Dove is torn away from Tasmania following the death of his parents, but on his return is drawn into the eccentric and often hilarious dynamics of island life.

In Tasmania is a fascinating history of two turbulent centuries in this apparently idyllic place. Shakespeare effortlessly weaves history with a kaleidoscope of stories featuring a cast of unlikely characters from Errol Flynn to the King of Iceland.

Nicholas Shakespeare is the author of *The Vision of Elena Silves*, winner of the Somerset Maugham Award, and *The Dancer Upstairs*, American Libraries Association best novel of 1997, as well as an acclaimed biography of Bruce Chatwin.



sunday 28 september

Box office: **01543 306276**

www.lichfieldfestival.org

Tallis Scholars

Journey through Advent to Christmas

Lichfield Cathedral
Friday 5 December 2008



THE
LICHFIELD
FESTIVAL

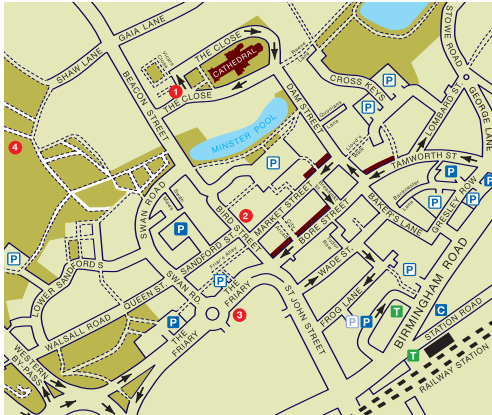
in association with

LICHFIELD
Cathedral †

On sale Monday 8 September

Box Office 01543 306 276

www.lichfieldfestival.org



Key

- ❶ Literature weekend box office ❷ The George Hotel
- ❸ Lichfield Library ❹ Beacon Park

- P Long & short stay parking *Up to 12 hours*
- P Short stay parking *Up to 4 hours*
- P Short stay parking *Saturdays only*
- C Coach Park T Taxi Rank ➔ One way street
- On-street parking *for Disabled badge holders*

*Please note. Car parking on Sundays is often free.
There is free parking for the disabled at every car park.*



By road: The A38 and A5 connect near Lichfield and give direct access to the motorway network – M6 Toll, M42, M50, M40, M5/6 and M1.

National coach travel information: telephone 01543 308209

By train: Direct rail services to Lichfield are operated by Central Trains and Virgin Trains, and via Birmingham by Silverlink and Chiltern Railways. Information: call 08457 484950 or go to www.rail.co.uk and www.thetrainline.co.uk

By air: Birmingham International Airport (30 minutes drive) and East Midlands Airport (40 minutes drive)

How & where to book

In person: Literature weekend box office, 7 The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD
(opening hours Monday to Friday 10am-4pm)

By post: Complete both sides of booking form and return to address above

By phone: 01543 306276 (Monday to Friday 10am-4pm). If not booking in person, your tickets will be sent to you for a 50p charge. All bookings are dealt with in order of receipt. Reserved tickets must be paid for within 5 working days or no later than 30 minutes before the start of an event, whichever is the sooner. There are on-the-door sales at each venue, subject to availability.

How to pay

Cheques should be made payable to Lichfield Festival Ltd. We are pleased to accept credit card bookings by telephone or in person. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Solo, Switch, Electron, Maestro. NOT Amex. Please give your card number, issue number (Switch only), expiry date, name and address, and signature strip number (last three digits on back of card).

Refunds

Please check your tickets as soon as you receive them, as the Festival cannot refund money or exchange tickets except in the case of a cancelled performance.

Disabled

Free ticket for companion or support worker to disabled patrons.

Date/time	Author	No. of tickets	Ticket price	Total ticket price	Box office use
			£	£	
			£	£	
			£	£	
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			£	£	
			Admin/postage	£0.50	
			Total	£	



Please fill in your details below

Title	First Name/Initials	Surname
Address		
Postcode		
Daytime telephone		Evening telephone
Email		
I enclose a cheque for £		(payable to Lichfield Festival Ltd)
or please debit by card Visa/Mastercard/Switch/Solo/Electron/Maestro		
Card number		
Expiry date	Valid from	Issue no (Switch only)
Cardholder's signature		Signature strip number

Please tick if you would like further information on The Lichfield Festival

Time	Event	Venue
Friday 26 September		
7.30pm	lichfield literary dinner	George Hotel
Saturday 27 September		
10am	Stories from your Attic: Adults & Families	Lichfield Library
12pm	Ian Mortimer The Time Traveller's Guide	George Hotel
12pm	Stories from your Attic: Adults & Families	Lichfield Library
2pm	Philip Ball Universe of Stone	George Hotel
2pm	Stories from your Attic: Adults	Lichfield Library
4pm	Steve Fuller & Denis Alexander	George Hotel
6pm	Alison Weir Katherine Swynford	George Hotel
8pm	Bernard Donoghue Downing Street Diary	George Hotel
Sunday 28 September		
12.30pm	Mr Toad's Prison Break	Beacon Park
2pm	Frances Wilson Dorothy Wordsworth	George Hotel
2pm	Mr Toad's Prison Break	Beacon Park
4pm	Nicholas Rankin Churchill's Wizards	George Hotel
6pm	Nicholas Shakespeare Secrets & In Tasmania	George Hotel

Best Western

W The George Hotel

The George is a charming 18th century former coaching inn situated in the heart of Lichfield, just a 5 minute walk from Lichfield Cathedral and the Garrick theatre. There are 45 ensuite bedrooms, a cosy lounge bar which is open all day for morning coffee, bar snacks and afternoon teas, plus a magnificent Regency banqueting room which caters for conferences, weddings and celebrations of up to 110 guests.



Lichfield Literature Weekend visitors can stay overnight at The George for just £50 (single room), £68 (standard double room on Friday & Sunday) and £83 (Saturday), including full English breakfast.

Best Western The George Hotel, Bird Street, Lichfield, WS13 6PR

T: 01543 414822 W: www.thegeorgelichfield.co.uk E: mail@thegeorgelichfield.co.uk

 Best Western The George Hotel is part of Webb Hotels & Travel www.webbhotehandtravel.co.uk