



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, a popular carvery restaurant, plus a magnificent Regency banqueting suite which caters for conferences, weddings and celebrations of up to 110 guests.



## Lichfield Literature Offers

### STAY

Stay overnight from  
£54 (single room)  
£74 (double room)  
includes full  
English breakfast  
9th - 11th Oct '09

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The Lichfield Festival presents

# lichfield literature



8-11 october 2009

in association with Best Western The George Hotel

[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

**Welcome to lichfield literature**, Lichfield Festival's autumnal celebration of the written and spoken word. After three successful years, we have a new alliterative name, we have expanded again to utilise another venue, Lichfield's Wade Street Church, and we run over four days for the first time. With a wide variety of events in intimate venues, this is a great opportunity to get up close to some of England's foremost writers and thinkers. We are proud to continue Lichfield's strong literary history and, on behalf of the Festival team, I look forward to welcoming you here this October.

**Richard Hawley**  
Festival Director

#### Sponsors



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Rosie's Helping Hands



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

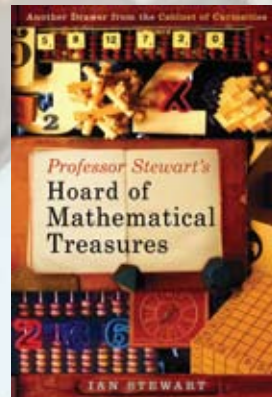
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## Professor Stewart's Hoard of Mathematical Treasures

Ian Stewart

6-7pm Wade Street Church

£5



Do you know how to organise chaos? How matter balances anti-matter? How to turn a sphere inside out without creasing it? Why you can't comb a hairy ball? How to calculate pi by observing the stars?

Ian Stewart's, Professor of mathematics and the University of Warwick, is one of the world's most beloved popular writers on the subject. His latest miscellany for the general reader is a magical mix of games, puzzles, paradoxes, brainteasers, and riddles, mingled with forays into ancient and modern mathematical thought, appallingly hilarious mathematical jokes, and enquiries into the great mathematical challenges of the present and past.

It also answers all those questions. Mind-stretching, enlightening and endlessly amusing, Professor Stewart's new entertainment will stimulate, delight, and enthrall. And he offers no less in person.

Box office: **01543 306270**

[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

**thursday 8 october**

thursday 8 october

## In the Shadow of Crows

David Charles Manners

8–9pm Wade Street Church

£5



When Bindra contracts leprosy, she is driven from her home in the Himalayan foothills with her two sons and goes in quest of salvation; David's first journey to India is a search for solace following devastating loss. As these individual journeys progress their stories are woven together, cultural differences are dissolved and an extraordinary relationship forms which forges unanticipated changes in both their lives. The result is a remarkable account of love and loss, a lyrical ode to the wonderful and terrible beauty of India, and a masterly meditation on the interweaving of separate lives.

David Charles Manners teaches yoga at Glyndebourne Opera. He was raised in Lichfield, lives in Sussex but travels to India frequently, where he has a home in the hills of North Bengal.

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## The Very Hungry Caterpillar

UV puppet show

Based on the children's classic by Eric Carle, original music by Michael Klymko

11am–11.30am Wade Street Church

£2

12.30–1.00pm Wade Street Church

£2

2–2.30pm Wade Street Church

£2

4.30–5.00pm Wade Street Church

£2

**“One Sunday morning the warm sun came up and – pop! – out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar.”**

Since its first publication in 1969, Eric Carle's story has delighted children and adults across the world. Join us as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Carle's classic picture book in a special glow-in-the-dark puppet performance. When the lights go down, as if by magic characters appear and disappear in the darkness. See the tiny caterpillar grow bigger and bigger. Watch what happens when he falls asleep and see how he has changed when he wakes up.

*All children will receive a Caterpillar Craft kit to take away with them.*



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friday 9 october

friday 9 october

## The Other Half Lives Sophie Hannah

6–7pm Lichfield Library

Aiden Seed confides in his new love that he killed a woman named Mary Trelease, but the Mary Trelease his love knows is still very much alive... *The Other Half Lives* is the latest dark and many-layered psychological suspense novel from the critically acclaimed and increasingly popular Sophie Hannah. It promises you'll never look at a picture hook the same way again.

Peter Robinson's new collection of short stories is not short of intrigue, and includes a novella featuring the early career of his popular character DCI Banks. The ten other stories show Robinson's work in its many facets: from mysteries set in the Second World War to unexpected poker players.

You've borrowed their books – now's the chance to meet the authors.



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## The Price of Love Peter Robinson

£6 (incl a glass of wine)



[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

This event is sold out

## lichfield literary dinner

**Into Danger:** Risking Your Life for Work  
Kate Adie

Drinks 7pm, dinner 7.30pm The George Hotel

£36 (three-courses, excl wine)

Kate Adie has won awards for her coverage of the US bombing of Tripoli and the brutal end of the Chinese students' demonstration in Tiananmen Square in Beijing; she has reported on conflicts from the invasion of Iraq to four years of war in the Balkans and the first Gulf War.

The presenter of BBC Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent* is the author of four books. *Into Danger* is a response to her curiosity about people who are attracted to danger. Why, when so many are fearful of anything beyond their daily routine, are others drawn towards situations or professions which put them in regular peril of their lives?

Join one of the most fearless journalists of our age in the safety of the elegant Garrick Room.



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friday 9 october

saturday 10 october

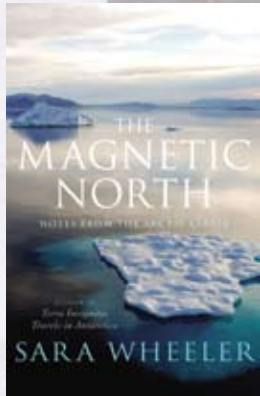
## The Magnetic North

Notes from the Arctic Circle

Sara Wheeler

11.30am–12.30pm The George Hotel

£5



In many ways the Arctic acts as a magnifying glass for ongoing global tensions. There is the paradox that those who live furthest from the sources of man's contamination of the planet are the ones most affected by it. And there is the fact that the Inuit people had evolved a near-perfect model of energy renewal before the forces of acculturation took hold.

These are just some of the issues Sara Wheeler reveals and highlights as a result of her circumpolar journey through Siberia and Alaska.

For the past 15 years Sara has been working as a writer and editor.

She is also the author of the highly-acclaimed *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica*, and has contributed to a wide range of newspapers, magazines and radio programmes.

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[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

## Open Mic

Calling local authors

12–1.30pm Wade Street Church

FREE

Open Mic events are more usually associated with folk music or stand-up comedy clubs. Here is one for local authors. Whether you are a novelist, poet, playwright, essayist or non-fiction writer, published or not, young or old, this is a chance to share your writing with others, read it aloud, talk about why you do what you do, and find out what challenges and delights other writers. You never know who might be in the audience.

If you would like to take part, please email the lichfield literature director via [info@lichfieldfestival.org](mailto:info@lichfieldfestival.org)

Box office: 01543 306270

[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

saturday 10 october

saturday 10 october

## Franklin

Tragic Hero of Polar Navigation  
Andrew Lambert

1.30–2.30pm The George Hotel

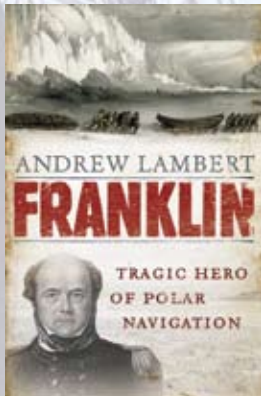
£5

In 1845, Captain Sir John Franklin led a large, well equipped expedition to complete the conquest of the Canadian Arctic: to find the fabled North West Passage connecting the North Atlantic to the North Pacific. Yet Franklin, his ships and men were fated never to return. The cause of their loss remains a mystery.

Andrew Lambert, Professor of Naval History at King's College, London, whose highly successful history of the British Navy, *War at Sea*, was broadcast on BBC2, re-examines the life and the evidence with his customary brilliance and authority. He discovers a new Franklin: a character far more complex, and more truly heroic, than previous histories have allowed.

**"The outstanding naval historian of his generation"** David Cannadine

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## The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth

Frances Wilson

2.30–3.30pm Wade Street Church

£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.

Due to illness, Frances Wilson was unable to speak at last year's event.

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

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[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

saturday 10 october

saturday 10 october

## Rewriting British History

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and Lichfield's place in it  
Lawrence Goldman

3.45–4.45pm The George Hotel

£5



*The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, or *ODNB*, is an illustrated collection of more than 57,000 specially written biographies of the men and women from around the world who have created and shaped the Britain we live in today. First published in 1900, its latest edition is available both in a multi-volume set of books or online. It is the work of more than 10,000 specialist contributors, many of whom are world authorities in their field. As the biggest ever collaborative research project in the humanities, it provides endless fascination for those interested both in the broad sweep of British history and in the personal quirks of those who have lived through it.

Lawrence Goldman, the ODNB's current editor, is a Fellow and Tutor in History at St. Peter's College, Oxford.

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[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

## The Fraud Barbara Ewing

5–6pm Wade Street Church

£5



It is 1763. As candles flicker in the falling dusk along Pall Mall, Filippo di Vecellio, fêted portrait painter from Florence, and his beautiful wife, Angelica, entertain the cream of London's art world in their fashionable London home, with Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough among the guests, and William Hogarth a disapproving observer. Little is known of Filippo's past or his family – except in the shadows sits his sister, Francesca, who watches, and listens, and waits. For beneath the opulence and success, the house in Pall Mall conceals a swarm of secrets, corruption and lies.

Barbara Ewing is a New Zealand-born actress and author who lives in London. She has a university degree in English and Maori, and won the Bancroft Gold Medal at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

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[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

saturday 10 october

sat  
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## The Hidden Tobias Hill

6.15–7.15pm The George Hotel

£5

In Sparta, southern Greece, a close-knit team of archaeologists dig for the buried traces of a formidable ancient power. A latecomer, Ben Mercer, finds himself drawn to the brilliance and charisma of the group: the double-edged friendship of his countryman Jason, the unsettling beauty of the women, Natsuko and Eleschen, and the menace of Max and Eberhard, who idealise the extremes of the ancient Spartans.

Written with astonishing grace and power, *The Hidden* is a novel of the secrets we keep, the ties that bind us and the true cost of fulfilling our desires. Tobias Hill, author of *The Cryptographer* and a writer of poetry as well as fiction, appeared at the first lichfield literature weekend. We welcome his return.



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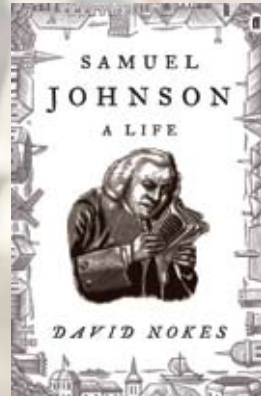
## Samuel Johnson

A Life

David Nokes

8–9pm The George Hotel

£6



Born weak and half-blind, shambolic and poverty-stricken, Samuel Johnson came to be the most admired and most quoted man in the 18th century, as well as the first media celebrity.

In this hugely engaging biography, David Nokes looks beyond Johnson's remarkable public persona and beyond the figure that Boswell to some extent created. He looks at Johnson's shame at having to leave Oxford for lack of funds and shows a man who gave a quarter of the government pension he received to the poor, filling his home with the blind and destitute.

David Nokes is Professor at King's College, London. His book *Jonathan Swift, A Hypocrite Reversed* won the James Tait Black Prize in 1985. His adaptation of *Clarissa* for BBC TV was nominated for a BAFTA in 1991.

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sat  
urday 10 october

sunday 11 october

## House of Treason

The Rise and Fall of a Tudor Dynasty  
Robert Hutchinson

2-3pm The George Hotel

£5



Robert Hutchinson made his debut as a popular historian with the critically acclaimed and commercially successful *Last Days of Henry VIII*. His biography of Sir Francis Walsingham, *Elizabeth's Spymaster*, was published in 2006 and he came to Lichfield in that year to talk about it.

This new biography works as both a sequel and "prequel" to his existing books, telling the dramatic story of the Dukes of Norfolk. The richest and most powerful noble family in Britain, after the king himself, they regarded themselves as the power behind the throne and regularly tried to act as "kingmakers". The rise and fall of this mighty dynasty sheds new light on the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII and Elizabeth, as well as providing enormous entertainment.

**"The narrative is compelling and horrible... It is a riveting story, splendidly told"** *Daily Telegraph*

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## Voodoo Histories

The Role of the Conspiracy Theory in Shaping Modern History  
David Aaronovitch

4-5pm The George Hotel

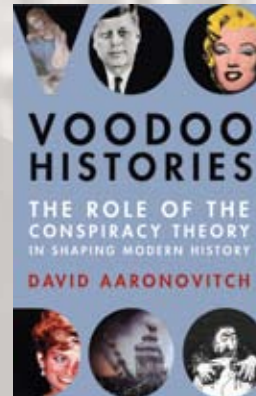
£6

Join journalist and broadcaster David Aaronovitch as he carefully probes and explodes a dozen of the major conspiracy theories of the modern era. In doing so, he looks at why our age is obsessed by the idea of conspiracy, asks why quality newspapers and serious TV channels are prepared to give these theories credence, and outlines his argument for a true scepticism: one based on a thorough knowledge of history and a strong dose of common sense.

David is a writer, broadcaster and commentator on international politics and the media. He writes for *The Times* Comment page on Tuesdays. He has previously written for *The Guardian*, *The Observer* and *The Independent*, winning numerous accolades, including Columnist of the Year 2003 and the 2001 Orwell prize for journalism.

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sunday 11 october

## Booksellers and the Sale of Knowledge

### Matthew Yeo

6–7pm The George Hotel

£5

“My name’s Matthew Yeo, I’m from Lichfield in Staffordshire, and I’m doing a PhD in the History of the Book.” With these words Matthew came to the nation’s attention as captain of Manchester University’s winning team in the controversial 2009 *University Challenge* series on BBC2.

Now teaching history at Charterhouse, he has recently submitted his thesis on the early history of Chetham’s Library, the oldest public library in the English-speaking world, and its early suppliers, London booksellers like Robert Littlebury.

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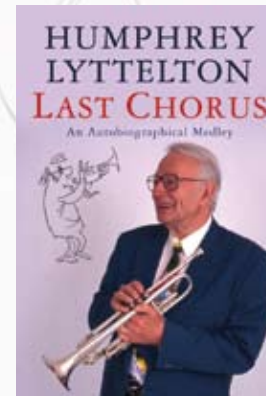
## Last Chorus

An Autobiographical Memory

Humphrey Lyttelton, compiled and edited by Stephen Lyttelton

8–9pm The George Hotel

£5



His son, Stephen, introduces Humph’s sparkling autobiographical kaleidoscope of memories, anecdotes, and entertaining stories from his colourful life, from his childhood as the son of a famous Eton Housemaster, through to his role as the irrepressible chairman of *I’m Sorry I Haven’t a Clue*.

A Renaissance man – musician, writer, cartoonist, calligrapher and broadcaster – Humph was descended from a long line of land-owning, political, literary, clerical, scholastic and literary forebears. One of his more notorious relatives was executed for his part in the Gunpowder Plot. *Last Chorus* draws on some of Humph’s long-lost autobiographical writings, as well a wealth of other material, including his never-before-seen private diaries, plus cartoons.

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**How & where to book**

**In person:** lichfield literature 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 306270 (Monday to Friday 10am–4pm)

**Online:** www.lichfieldfestival.org

A single 50p charge per booking will be added to cover administration fees unless paying in cash. Tickets purchased online will be kept for collection from the festival office or on the door at the event. 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.

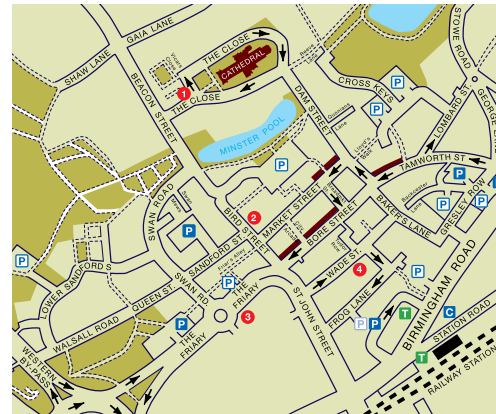


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				<b>Total</b>	£

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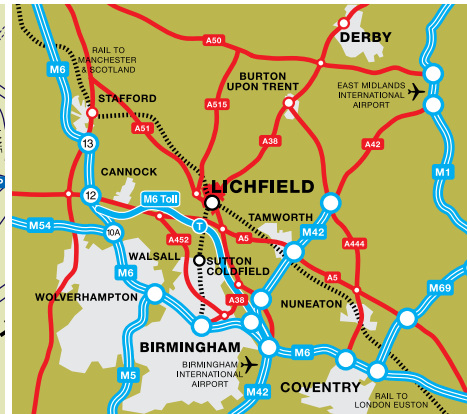
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**Key**

- 1 Lichfield Literature box office      2 The George Hotel
- 3 Lichfield Library      4 Wade Street Church
- 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     $\rightarrow$  One way street
- On-street parking *for Disabled badge holders*

*Please note: 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 412121

**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](http://www.rail.co.uk) and [www.thetrainline.co.uk](http://www.thetrainline.co.uk)

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