



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  
7th - 10th Oct '10

### DINE

Buy one meal in the  
carvery restaurant and  
get one half price!  
You will receive a  
voucher with your  
literature event tickets

Bird Street, Lichfield WS13 6PR

T: 01543 414822 W: [www.thegeorgelichfield.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgelichfield.co.uk)

The Lichfield Festival presents

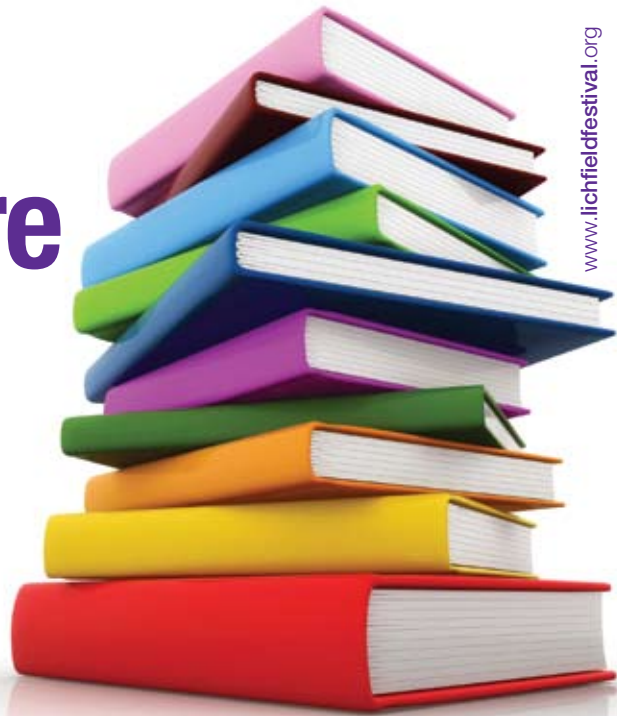
# lichfield literature

5-10 october 2010

In association with  
Best Western The George Hotel

Festival Partner

**Tempest Ford Lichfield**



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

WHATCAR?  
CAR OF THE YEAR 2009

CAR OF THE YEAR

WHATCAR?  
CAR OF THE YEAR 2009

BEST SUPERMINI

The award winning Ford Fiesta.  
Don't just take our word for it....  
....book a test drive now



Tempest Ford Lichfield

St. John St., Lichfield WS13 6PB

01543 414451 www.tempest-ford.co.uk



**Welcome to lichfield literature.** This year we continue to expand our programme not only with more authors but also with tea, cake, Danish pastries and the odd glass of wine or two. We welcome Liz Kessler as our first Author in Residence and our first children's author. We also mark National Poetry Day, Children's Book Week and the anniversaries of Elizabeth Gaskell, Agatha Christie, Galileo and Roald Dahl. If you're looking for something more participatory, we have our first Literary Quiz Night and a new series of creative writing talks to help you on the way to your own author event in a few years time!

So join us in celebrating our fifth birthday in style with politicians, actors, scientists, comedians and historians, keeping Lichfield's literary heritage well and truly alive. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fiona Stuart  
Festival Director

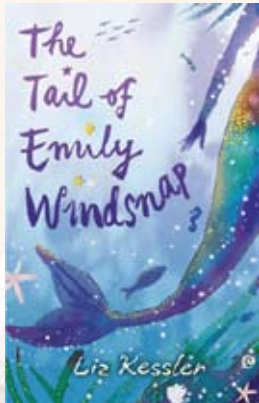
#### Sponsors



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

Details are correct at time of publication. Lichfield Festival reserves the right to change or cancel the advertised programme. Every attempt has been made to credit photographers. Brochure designed by Yellow: [www.yellow-design.co.uk](http://www.yellow-design.co.uk). Printed by John Price Printers. Lichfield Festival Ltd. Registered in England No.1592012 Charity No.512201

## Liz Kessler



The first author-in-residence at lichfield literature is a writer for children who has created two enduring lead characters: Emily Windsnap lives on a boat and it doesn't take long for her to realise she is half girl, half mermaid. Philippa Fisher's world changes when she discovers she has a fairy godsister.

Liz Kessler studied English at Loughborough University, has worked as a teacher and a journalist, and has an MA in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University. After a year touring Europe in a camper van, she now lives in St Ives, Cornwall. Her books have been translated into 20 languages and sales have exceeded two million copies.

During Thursday and Friday Liz will be working with children in schools. If you would like your school to be involved, please contact Jennifer Smith on 01543 306275.

**"Liz Kessler is a master storyteller"** Angels & Urchins

Box office: 01543 306270

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

saturday 9 october  
**The Big Read: Philippa Fisher's  
 Fairy Godsister**  
 Liz Kessler

10am Lichfield Library  
 Free (but ticket needed)

(Orion)

Philippa tries and fails to summon a fairy, but is taken aback when the new girl at school, Daisy, announces that she is her fairy godmother – or godsister, since they are the same age. Daisy is not best pleased with Philippa, but she has a mission to fulfill and is obliged to stick with her until she has granted her three wishes.

Free copies of this book are available around the city from September. This is your chance to meet the author.

Box office: 01543 306270



thursday 7 october  
**The New Generation**  
 Angela Topping

Various schools

(Salt)

Vampires, witches, fairies, wizards and mermaids: you will meet them all in Angela Topping's poems. In this delightful collection she shares her wicked sense of humour about school and celebrates festivals, families and nature. Once you have entered Topping's world of magic and mystery you will never want to leave.

To celebrate National Poetry Day, Angela is reading her work at various local schools.

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

**thursday 7 october Creative Writing Event 1**

## The writing process

**3-4pm** Lichfield Library **£2**

The 20 authors featured in *Onwards: Stories from the Warwick MA in Writing* are described by novelist A L Kennedy as “intelligent, imaginative and tenacious people, every one of them... The visions and the voices here are filled, perhaps appropriately, with a sense of terrifying promise.’ Some of the writers, and their tutors, talk about how they write and also read from their work.

**thursday 7 october Creative Writing Event 2**

## How to get published and write for children

**7-8pm** Lichfield Library **£2**

Join our first author-in-residence for an insider’s guide to getting your work published and writing for a young audience. Published in 20 languages and with over 2 million book sales behind her, the creator of Emily Windsnap and Philippa Fisher provides a fascinating insight into the world of books and shares her secrets on writing for children.

Liz Kessler studied English at Loughborough University, has worked as a teacher and a journalist and has an MA in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University. After taking a year off to travel around Europe in a camper van, Liz now lives in St Ives, Cornwall.

Box office: **01543 306270**[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)**saturday 9 october Creative Writing Event 3**

## Young writers drop-in

**11am-1pm** Lichfield Library **Free** (but ticket needed)

Naomi Alsop is a Midlands-based author, poet and educator. Throughout the summer holidays she has been working with local children on a range of creative writing activities. Naomi will be available to offer advice to young writers, give feedback on their work and answer any questions you may have about a career in writing. So bring along your stories, poems and ideas! Lichfield Festival Young Poet Laureate Anya Perry will also be on hand to discuss her experiences of writing.

**sunday 10 october Creative Writing Event 4**

## Do you have a novel in you?

**3.30-4.30pm** Lichfield Cathedral Visitors’ Centre **£2**

Creating convincing plots and great characters is at the heart of a good book. Join local author and Arvon tutor, Catherine Fox for this talk on developing a novel from start to finish. From having an initial idea to approaching an agent, Catherine will give invaluable guidance on how to bring your work to life and get it published.

Catherine Fox is a novelist and freelance journalist. Her novels are: *Angels and Men*, *The Benefits of Passion* and *Love for the Lost* (all Penguin).

Box office: **01543 306270**[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

tuesday 5 october

Lichfield literature launch event

## Jo Brand

### Can't Stand Up For Sitting Down

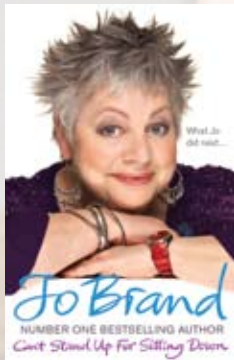
The Charter Suite, Moor Hall Hotel & Spa **£12**

(Headline)

**6.30-7.30pm:** Come and have a drink beforehand

**7.30-8.30pm:** Listen to Jo talking about her new book

**8.30pm onwards:** Stay and meet Jo at the book signing and have a drink in the bar



Following the huge success of *Look Back In Hunger*, this second volume of Jo Brand's enthralling life story is fantastically diverse and laugh-out-loud funny.

It is the late '80s, comedy is the new rock and roll and Jo's success on *Friday Night Live* has landed her a prime-time TV show of her own. She finds herself in demand as an outspoken, funny commentator on life's foibles and silliness, appears on *Question Time* and writes two national newspaper columns while the tabloids pursue her relentlessly for her outspoken views.

She marries and becomes a mother, appears on *Countdown*, *Parkinson* and *Trinny and Susannah*, as well as learning to rally drive and playing the organ at the Royal Albert Hall. An absorbing read, full of hilarious stories and fascinating insight into one of Britain's best-loved comedians.

Moor Hall Hotel and Spa is in Moor Hall Drive, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield B75 6LN

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## Between the Sheets: The Literary Liaisons of Nine 20th Century Women Writers

### Lesley McDowell

**10-11am** The George Hotel **£5**

(Duckworth)

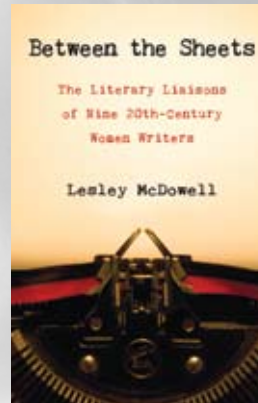
Why did a gifted writer like Sylvia Plath stumble into a marriage that drove her to suicide? Why did Hilda Doolittle want to marry Ezra Pound when she was attracted to women? Why did Simone De Beauvoir pimp for Jean-Paul Sartre?

The story of each of these relationships between female writers and their male literary partners is far from straightforward, but each relationship provokes the same question: would these women have become the writers they did without the experience of their own particular literary relationship? Drawn from writers' diaries, letters, and journals, *Between the Sheets* explores nine famous literary liaisons of the 20th century.

Lesley McDowell is an author and critic living in Glasgow. She has written for *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Sunday Herald* and *The Scotsman*. Her first novel, *The Picnic*, was published in 2007.

**Morning Coffee Deal: 11am – Coffee and a Danish for £2.50 in the ground floor lounge.**

Box office: 01543 306270



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

thursday 7 october

thursday 7 october

## Precious – A True Story

Precious Williams

11.45am-12.45pm The George Hotel £5

(Bloomsbury)

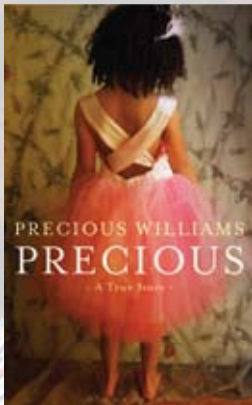
“Where are you from?” is a question Precious Williams finds hard to answer. In 1971 her mother placed an advert in *Nursery World*: “Private foster parents required for a three-month-old baby.”

Precious writes: “My mother arrives, a haughty Nigerian woman in a convertible with a Moses basket on the seat beside her, setting the net curtains in this all-white council estate twitching... she returns to London with an empty basket beside her.”

*Precious* is the story of growing up black in a white community, of struggling to find an identity that fits. Painfully honest, swerving from farce to tragedy, *Precious* has a spirit that refuses to be crushed.

Precious Williams has been a contributing editor at *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle* and *The Mail on Sunday*. Her personal essays and celebrity interviews have also appeared in the *Telegraph*, *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

Box office: 01543 306270



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

## lichfield literature Quiz Night

8pm Darnford Moors Golf Club £3pp

Do you know all there is to know about Agatha Christie? Have you an intimate knowledge of Catherine Cookson's inner workings? Are you a Bronte buff? A Dickens diehard? A sucker for Shakespeare or a Great Gatsby geek? Questions easier than those but all on a literary theme will be the order of the day at our first Lichfield Literature Quiz night. Come with a team ready made, or come alone and join a team, and test your literary knowledge. Questions will be tailored to all levels of bookishness across the genres, so there will truly be something for everyone. There are only two vitally important things you need to remember: 1. The quiz master is always right. 2. If in doubt, refer to rule 1. See you there!

Maximum team size: 6 people

Darnford Moors Golf Club is in Darnford Lane, Lichfield WS14 9JG

Quiz Night

Box office: 01543 306270

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

thursday 7 october

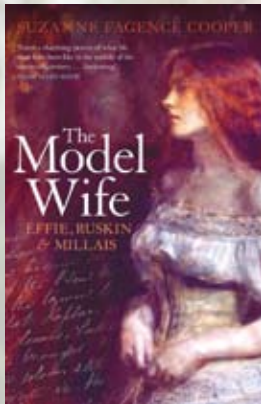
friday 8 october

## The Model Wife: Effie, Ruskin and Millais

Suzanne Fagence-Cooper

11am-12noon The George Hotel £5

(Duckworth)



Effie Gray, a renowned beauty and socialite, was at the centre of Victorian England's most scandalous love triangle, involving two giants of the art world. Married at 19 to the much older John Ruskin, the leading art critic of the time, she found herself trapped in a loveless and unconsummated union with a husband who was to claim that "her person was not formed to excite passion". Then, on a trip to Scotland during which John Everett Millais, Ruskin's acclaimed protégé, was supposed to paint her husband's portrait, she and Millais fell in love. This was to result in public disgrace, but also in a long and happy second marriage.

Suzanne Fagence Cooper is a research fellow and curator at the V&A. She has already written several books and essays on the period and is a consultant for the BBC. She gained exclusive access to Effie's extensive and previously unseen letters and diaries in order to write this book.

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## Control

John Macken

3-4pm Lichfield Library £5

(Bantam Press)



Both victims had the tips of their fingers removed with a hacksaw. The killer is sending a message and wants his next victim to know who they are – and be very afraid. But beside the gruesome nature of their deaths there is no obvious connection between the two victims.

Reuben Maitland, freshly returned to GeneCrime, must investigate the case. The forensics come in, DNA is sampled, the clues begin to mount up. Then Reuben's young son, Joshua, is snatched from his pram...

John Macken, the author of three previous books featuring Reuben Maitland, marks the 120th anniversary of Agatha Christie's birth by reflecting on writing crime fiction in general and his own books in particular. John Macken is the pen name of endocrinologist Prof Chris McCabe, who will be contributing to the panel discussion *The New Optimists* on Saturday.

Box office: 01543 306270

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

friday 8 october

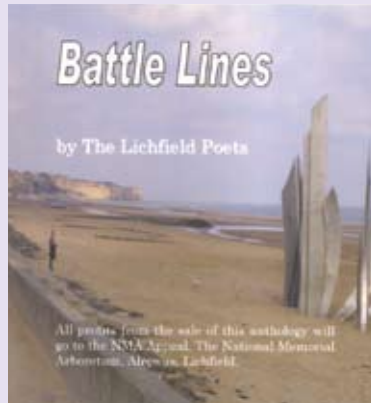
friday 8 october

## Battle Lines

### The Lichfield Poets

7-8pm Lichfield Library £3

(The Lichfield Press)



The Lichfield Poets have produced their latest anthology to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War and the 95th anniversary of Anzac Day.

This collection of original poems and prose created by the members of the group focuses on the many interpretations of the word “battle”, whether on a battlefield or in a private setting; indeed some entries are written from personal experience. They have also aimed to provide some more light-hearted poems on the subject of life in general.

The Lichfield Poets will be reading from this new publication as well as other recent original works.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal for the NMA at Alrewas, Lichfield.

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## lichfield literary dinner

### Roy Hattersley

Drinks 7pm, dinner 7.30pm The George Hotel £36 (three-courses, excl wine)

Roy Hattersley is the consummate dinner companion – he wears his erudition lightly, and brings wit and warmth to his investigations into history, politics and the nature of Englishness. A Member of Parliament from 1964 until 1997, latterly as deputy leader of the Labour Party, he has been a columnist in *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail*, *Punch*, *The Spectator* and *The Daily Express* and has written 22 books. The two most recent are *David Lloyd George: The Great Outsider*, and *In Search Of England* (both published by Little, Brown). His brand new biography of Lloyd George has been described as “beautifully written and wonderfully readable”, while *In Search of England* is “an unapologetic love story, a paean of praise for all the fascinating variety and flavour of England’s places and people”.



Box office: 01543 306270

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

friday 8 october

saturday 9 october

## She-Wolves: The Women Who Ruled England Before Elizabeth

Helen Castor

10-11am The George Hotel £5

(Faber & Faber)

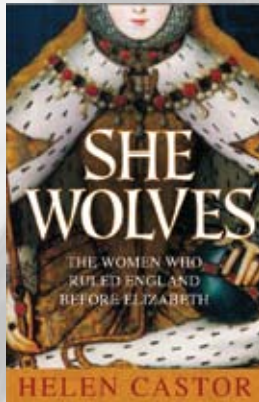
Helen Castor has long been fascinated by the exercise of power: how rulers rule and why people obey them. And in the Middle Ages – the period in which Dr Castor specializes – power was inherently and inescapably male. That, at least, was the theory.

Seven extraordinary women ruled England during the 500 years between the Conquest and the end of the 16th Century. Dr Castor's aim is to evoke these vanished worlds in a compelling combination of the personal and the political.

Helen Castor is a Fellow in History at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. She is the author of *Blood And Roses* which won the Beatrice White Prize in 2006 for outstanding scholarly work in the field of English Literature.

**Morning Coffee Deal: 11am – Coffee and a Danish for £2.50 in the ground floor lounge.**

Box office: 01543 306270



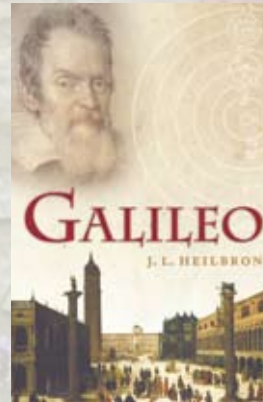
[www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

## Galileo

John Heilbron

11.45am-12.45pm The George Hotel £5

(Oxford University Press)



Box office: 01543 306270

It is 400 years since Galileo published *The Starry Messenger*. Presenting to the world his remarkable observations – the craters of the moon, the satellites of Jupiter – using the recently invented telescope he changed forever our idea of the perfection of the heavens and the centrality of the Earth in the universe. The appearance of this little book is regarded as one of the great moments in the history of science.

To celebrate International Galileo Year this major new biography of Galileo offers a fresh and much more rounded view of the great scientist.

John Heilbron, Professor of History Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley and Honorary Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, is a distinguished historian of science.

**“A masterpiece... It far surpasses all previous biographies of Galileo. Impeccable scholarship.”** Nick Jardine, Professor of the History and Philosophy of Sciences, Cambridge University.

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

saturday 9 october

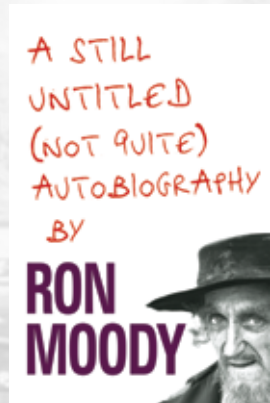
saturday 9 october

## A Still Untitled, (Not Quite) Autobiography

Ron Moody

2-3pm The George Hotel £5

(JR Books Ltd)



Actor Ron Moody has enthralled generations with his masterly performance as Fagin in both the stage and film versions of *Oliver!*, one of the great classics of British theatre and cinema. Planning to become an academic, he first took to the boards when he was a student at the London School of Economics, writing and performing in student reviews. But his comedic talent and ability to create a string of eccentric and original characters quickly caught the attention of West End producers, who recognised his very special skills.

In this highly original and idiosyncratic memoir, he looks back on those early days, describing in frank and fascinating detail the twists and turns of his career, the people he met and worked with, and the performances that led up to *Oliver!*

**Afternoon Tea Deal: 3pm – Join Ron for tea in the downstairs lounge – Tea and cake for £2.50**

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## The New Optimists: Scientists View Tomorrow's World & What It Means To Us

Edited by Dr Keith Richards with a foreword by Jenny Uglow

3.45-4.45pm The George Hotel £5

(Linus Publishing)

In the late 18th century, a small group of scientists gathered in Birmingham to form the Lunar Society. Their vision changed the face of the world.

Today's inheritors of this vision – over 80 medics, life scientists, engineers, chemists, computer and digital media scientists, environmental and energy experts – have combined in *The New Optimists* to share their view of the world and what the future holds.

*The New Optimists* takes us on an exhilarating journey into the minds of some of the UK's leading scientists, and reveals just how much is happening in our research centres and universities, driving towards the common good.

Panel discussion featuring endocrinologist Prof Chris McCabe, immune cell biologist Prof Janet Lord and Deputy Director of the Centre for Forensic Linguistics, Dr Tim Grant. In the chair is Nick Booth.

Box office: 01543 306270



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

saturday 9 october

saturday 9 october

## The Cranford Companion Sue Birtwistle & Susie Conklin

5.15-6.15pm The George Hotel £5

(Bloomsbury)



The thriving Cheshire town of Cranford is on the brink of momentous change, with the imminent arrival of the railways and the threat it brings to the established way of life. In this glorious book published to coincide with Elizabeth Gaskell's bicentenary, Sue and Susie explain how Gaskell's timeless stories were interwoven to create their dramatization. The authors invite their readers to join Miss Matty and her friends for a guided tour round their bustling neighbourhood, before discovering how the production team recreated the costumes, landscapes and decor of an 1840s town.

The authors are the duo behind the BBC adaptation of *Cranford* – the original five-part series broadcast in November/December 2007 and the two-part *Cranford Special* broadcast during Christmas 2009 – which was watched by 10 million viewers and was nominated for or won 19 UK and international awards, including ten Baftas, eight Emmys and three Golden Globes.

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## Bluestockings: The Remarkable Story of the First Women to Fight for an Education Jane Robinson

7-8pm The George Hotel £5

(Penguin)



In 1869, when five women enrolled at university for the first time in British history, the average female brain was thought to be 150 grams lighter than a man's. Doctors warned that if women studied too hard their wombs would wither and die. When the Cambridge Senate held a vote on whether women students should be allowed official membership of the university, there was a full-scale riot. By the 1930s, women were emerging from universities as anything from aviation engineers to professional academics.

*Bluestockings* tells an inspiring story – of defiance and determination, of colourful eccentricity and at times heartbreaking loneliness.

Jane Robinson read English at Oxford, and her books have established her as an engaging social historian with an appreciative eye for eccentricity.

**"A gem of a book. Social history of the best kind"** The Sunday Times

Box office: 01543 306270

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

saturday 9 october

saturday 9 october

## A Very British Revolution: The Expenses Scandal and How to Save Our Democracy

Martin Bell

8.30-9.30pm The George Hotel £5

(Icon Books)

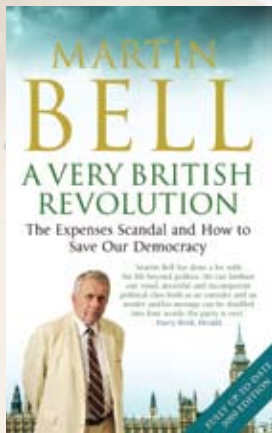
The revelations over MPs' expenses that began in May 2009 ranged from petty thieving to outright fraud and sparked a crisis in confidence unprecedented in modern times. Ordinary men and women with political views across the spectrum were in turns amused, incredulous, shocked and then angry as the disclosures revealed Westminster's culture of corruption as never before.

Drawing on his experience as an MP and as a member of the Committee on Standards and Privileges, Martin Bell explains how the expenses crisis arose and lays out his prescription for healing the deep wounds inflicted by the scandal.

Martin Bell OBE is one of the best-known and most highly regarded names in British television journalism. As a BBC reporter he has covered foreign assignments in more than 80 countries and eleven wars, and in 1997 became the first independent MP to be elected to Parliament since 1950.

**"Bell doesn't mince his words condemning the 'corrupt' politicians who have lost our trust because they pick our pockets"** Sunday Herald

Box office: 01543 306270



www.lichfieldfestival.org

## Slave: From book to stage and screen

Mende Nazer and Damien Lewis

12noon-1pm The George Hotel £5

(Virago)



Mende Nazer's happy childhood was cruelly cut short at the age of 12 when the Mujahidin rode into her Sudanese village to murder and rape, burn down the buildings and abduct the children to sell them into slavery. She was sold to an Arab woman in Khartoum and stripped of her name and her freedom.

This shocking insight into the modern day slave trade has recently been adapted into a Channel4/Slate Films drama (*I Am Slave*) and a stage show that premieres in November and transfers to the West End in 2011.

Mende, recipient of the CECRA Human Rights Award in 2002, is joined by co-writer and award-winning documentary maker Damien Lewis and director Caroline Clegg (Feelgood Theatre Productions) to talk about adapting for stage and screen.

A percentage of ticket sales will go to Mende Nazer Foundation to help build a new school in her home village.

**"All the clichés of such survival stories... are inadequate to describe the emotional impact of her eventual deliverance"** Observer

Box office: 01543 306270

www.lichfieldfestival.org

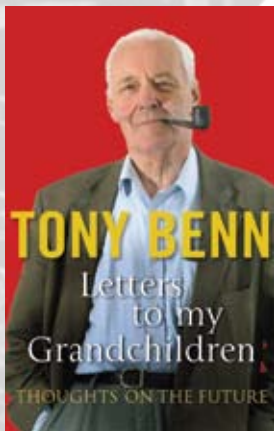
sunday 10 october

## Letters To My Grandchildren

Tony Benn

2-3pm The George Hotel £7

(Hutchinson)



**“Two flames have burned from the beginning of time - the flame of anger against injustice and the flame of hope. If this book serves its purpose it will fan both flames.”** – Tony Benn

Tony Benn’s twin messages – of hope, and of anger against injustice – have always appealed to the young and idealistic. In these letters to his ten grandchildren and their generation, Benn uses his wealth of experience to encourage them to question everything as they cope with the challenges they will face.

Tony Benn entered the House of Commons in 1950 and with Ted Heath held the record for post-war service as an MP. He held four cabinet posts and twice contended the leadership of the Labour Party, of which he has also been chairman. His many books include eight individual volumes of diaries.

**Afternoon Tea Deal: 3pm – Join Tony for tea in the downstairs lounge – Tea and cake for £2.50**

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## The Last Englishman: The Double Life of

Arthur Ransome

Roland Chambers

4-5pm The George Hotel £5

(Faber & Faber)



Arthur Ransome was, from 1930 to the early 1960s, what J. K. Rowling is today: the much-loved author of a series of children’s books which shaped the imagination of a generation. Long before *Swallows and Amazons* was published, however, there had been another Arthur Ransome, famous for different reasons. Between 1917 and 1924, as Russian correspondent for the *Daily News* and *Manchester Guardian*, he was an uncritical apologist for the Bolshevik regime, and was conducting a love affair with Evgenia Shelepina, private secretary to Leon Trotsky.

Roland Chambers won a Jerwood award from the Royal Society of Literature for this book which draws on his experience both as a children’s author and as a private investigator specialising in Russian politics and business.

Box office: 01543 306270

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

## Storyteller: The Life of Roald Dahl

### Donald Sturrock

5.45-6.45pm The George Hotel £5

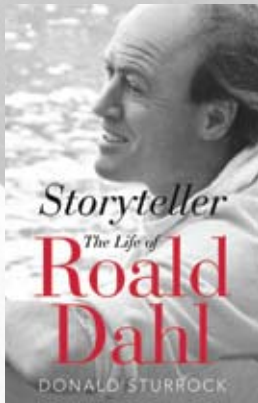
(HarperCollins)

Roald Dahl pushed children's literature into new and uncharted territory. On the 20th anniversary of his death, his popularity around the globe continues to grow and worldwide sales of his books have now topped 100 million.

The man behind the stories, however, remains an enigma. A single-minded adventurer, an eternal child, Dahl's public persona was characterised by his blunt opinions on taboo subjects. In this masterly biography which has been read on BBC Radio 4, Donald Sturrock draws on a huge range of source material that has become available since Dahl's death.

Donald Sturrock directed the acclaimed BBC television version of his own adaptation of Dahl's *Little Red Riding Hood* with Danny DeVito and Julie Walters. He is the artistic director of the Roald Dahl Foundation.

Box office: 01543 306270



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

## Shakespeare On Toast

### Ben Crystal

7.30-8.30pm The George Hotel £5

(Icon Books)

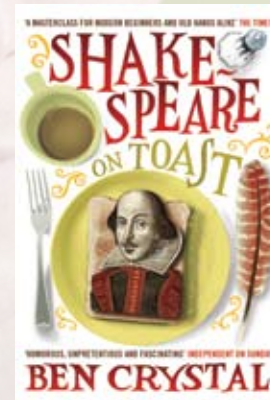
Who's afraid of William Shakespeare..? We all are, according to Ben Crystal. *Shakespeare On Toast* is set to knock the stuffing from the staid old myth of Shakespeare, revealing the man and his plays for what they really are: modern, thrilling and uplifting drama.

By explaining the universality and timelessness of Shakespeare's appeal, how to unravel the poetry and understand its impact on our language today, Ben shows how, if Shakespeare were alive today, he would be writing scripts for *Eastenders* and *Coronation Street* rather than for elite theatre-goers.

Ben Crystal is an actor and writer. With his father, David Crystal, he co-authored the internationally acclaimed bestseller *Shakespeare's Words* and *The Shakespeare Miscellany*.

**"This is a brilliantly enjoyable, light-hearted look at Shakespeare which dispels the myths and makes him accessible to all. I love it!"**  
Dame Judi Dench

Box office: 01543 306270



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

**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.

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

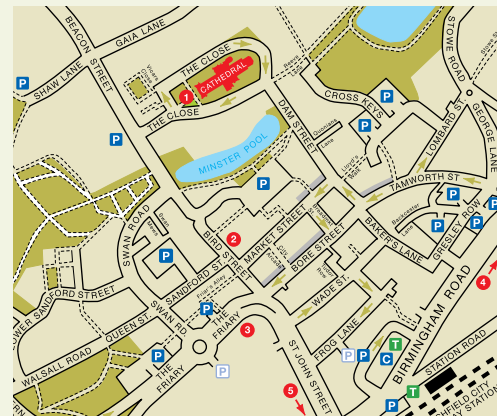


Literature weekend box office: 7 The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD, Tel: 01543 306270

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



Key

- 1 Lichfield Literature box office
- 2 The George Hotel
- 3 Lichfield Library
- 4 Darnford Moors Golf Club
- 5 Moor Hall Hotel & Spa
- P Long & short stay parking *Up to 12 hours*
- P Short stay parking *Up to 4 hours*
- P Short stay parking *Weekends only only*
- C Coach Park
- T Taxi Rank
- ➔ 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)