

WELCOME TO THE THIRD FAVERSHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL taking place in various of the town's historic venues: the Old Brewery Store, Guildhall, Alexander Centre, The Limes and Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre's 15th-century function room, as well as the newer Arden Theatre. There's a packed programme of events from 19 to 23 February, plus writing workshops and local author readings on the 15th & 16th.

Opening night on 19 February celebrates Kent cheese and ale in the company of raconteur cheesemonger Ned Palmer. Will Self returns to Faversham and other headline events include Melvyn Bragg, Jenny Eclair, Lemn Sissay, Dame Joan Bakewell, Ken Livingstone and Sarah Perry.

The programme I hope has something for everyone. As usual, lots of great nature writers, including the inspirational Tim Dee on spring and bird migration, plus Kent nature writers Katherine May, Caroline Crampton, Lara Maiklem and Caroline Greville.

Politics features strongly on the programme with Jack Straw discussing the Middle East; Gavin Esler on Brexit; plus talks on the refugee crisis, Trump and the USA, and hard-hitting political fictions addressing dictatorship, genocide and writing in exile.

Fiction highlights include the much-acclaimed historical debut by Sara Collins; Naomi Wood and Elizabeth Macneal writing on the Bauhaus and Pre-Raphaelite art movements; Lee Rourke on mother-son relationships and grief; Maggie Gee and William Shaw on crime in Kent; and much more. Taking fiction on the road, Peter Fiennes and travel writer Sara Wheeler discuss the literary greats of Britain and Russia.

For music lovers, I'm very excited to feature Stephen Morris from Joy Division and New Order; and Tracey Thorn from Everything But the Girl. For football fans, a wonderful account of the game on the theme of class.

Exciting new additions to the programme - Abbey Physic Garden will be hosting a session on mental health with local author Stephen Gillatt; plus an all-day poetry hub in The Limes on Saturday 22nd, with special guest poet Luke Wright - a whole day of poetry plus our now regular Friday-night Poetry Slam.

There's events and activities for children and young adults, and an unmissable event for all the family with much-loved author Michael Rosen telling funny stories, funny poems and, of course, pulling funny faces! I hope you enjoy the festival.

AMANDA DACKOMBE
Festival Director

UNDER-11 AND UNDER-18 SHORT STORY WINNERS
SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY - PRESENTATION
ALEXANDER CENTRE, MAYOR'S PARLOUR 10.30am

ALL AGES
SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, ALEXANDER CENTRE
Michael Rosen 11am-12noon
The much-loved author on the importance of play, silly poetry and *What's So Special About Dickens?* An event for all the family. **£7**

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, GUILDHALL
Crafts and stories 11am-2pm
All welcome. Breakfast drinks and nibbles will be served. **Free**

YOUNG ADULT
SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, ARDEN THEATRE
The Art of Short Fiction 11am - 12 noon
Flash fiction, short stories, prose poems: all seem to be thriving these days. Three young specialists in the short form read extracts from their work and discuss their methods. 11am-12noon **£5**



SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, ALEXANDER CENTRE
Day pass **£5** for YA events in the Mayor's Parlour

Telling Stories through Characters 12.30-1.30pm
Create an exciting, fully formed character to drive the plot and hook the reader. With Carina Buckley.

Poetry and Climate Change 2 - 3pm
Poetry workshop on global issues, with Galway poet Pete Mullineaux.

Dr Who 3.30-4.30pm
Create new planets and aliens in this year's *Doctor Who* workshop. With writer *AK Benedict* for an hour of invention and timey wimey shenanigans.

The 10 Golden Rules of Comics 5-6pm
Comics writer Guy Adams has called on some of the biggest names in the industry to present their 10 vital rules in making comics. Put their tips into action by writing your own comic strip.

The Uninvited Guest 6.30-7.30pm
Local author Angus Rorison's dark comedy full of eccentric characters, a made-up kingdom, a humongous chef, a ghost, and a few musical tunes thrown into the mix.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, ALEXANDER CENTRE
Jo Simmons, 11am-12noon *My Parents Cancelled My Birthday* is a hilarious tale of wish fulfilment gone wrong. A tale that every child will relate to! Year 3-6. **£3**

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, GUILDHALL
Nicola Parkhouse 12.30-1.15
Where Is Maggie's Moo? **Free**

Heidi Bryant 1.30-2.15
The Adventures of Vince the Cat **Free**

Julia Woolf 2.30-3.15
Duck and Penguin Are Not Friends **Free**

ADULT WRITING WORKSHOPS (See website for details)

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, GUILDHALL
The Inklings The Faversham-based writers' group read selections from their recent work. **Free 5.30-7pm.**

OPENING NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, THE OLD BREWERY STORE

Ned Palmer, *A Cheesemonger's History of the British Isles*
Cheese lovers rejoice! Join Ned Palmer for a four-course taster menu of Kent cheese and ale plus cheesy banter from Monty Python to 'postmodern cheese' - every cheese tells a story. 7-9pm **£20**

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY
ALEXANDER CENTRE

Jack Straw, *The English Job*
The former home secretary talks to Julia Wheeler about Britain's relationship with Iran and explores the culture and history of this fascinating country. 5-6pm **£8**

Will Self, *Will*
The cultural and political icon talks to Lee Rourke about his memoir, which opens up about addiction, his life as a young adult and his fictional trajectory - a funny, intense and anarchic journey into the mind of one of Britain's most daring writers. 7-8pm **£18**

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY
ALEXANDER CENTRE

Joan Bakewell and Maggie Gee, *Kiss and Part*
Short stories from a stellar list of women novelists in celebration of a writer's need for 'a room of one's own', as Virginia Woolf put it. 7-8pm **£6**

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY THE LIMES
Poetry Slam

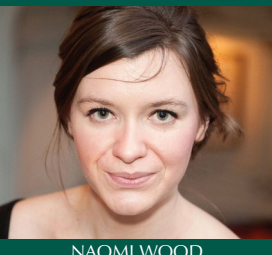
Fierce, funny, political, romantic, brilliant... Luke Wright's poems have been lauded by everyone from Patti Smith to The Libertines. Plus Kent talent bidding for the slam title. 7.30-11pm **£5**



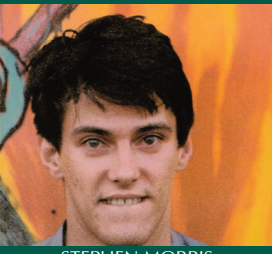
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MELVYN BRAGG



NAOMI WOOD



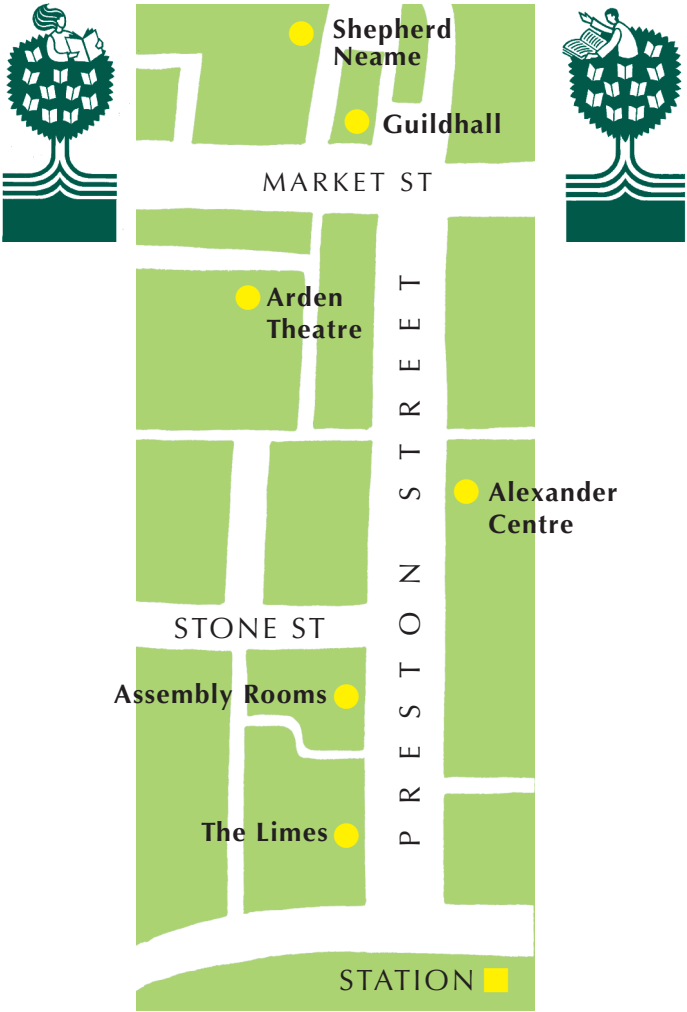
STEPHEN MORRIS



SARA COLLINS



JACK STRAW



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE

FAVERSHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL IS SPONSORED BY SHEPHERD NEAME LTD, QUEENBOROUGH FISHERY TRUST, SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL & FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL.



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FAVERSHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL 2020

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, THE PHYSIC GARDEN

Stephen Gillatt

'I have been living with mental health problems for 25 years. This is my story.' *Mad, Sad Dysfunctional Dad* is a wonderfully frank memoir by a Faversham-based author who talks openly in the hope that it will help others. 9.45-10.45am **£3**

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, ALEXANDER CENTRE

Michael Rosen

The much-loved author shares funny poems, funny faces, and wisdom from his latest *Book of Play*. Plus, *What's So Special About Dickens?* An event for all the family in celebration of the 150th anniversary since Charles Dickens's death. 11am-12noon **£7**

Lemn Sissay

Awarded an MBE for services to literature, *My Name Is Why* is the poet's story of neglect, misfortune and triumph. In this moving and timely memoir he reflects on his childhood, Britishness, the institutional care system, race, family and the meaning of home. Host Julia Wheeler. 12.30-1.30pm **£8**

Jenny Eclair

With her inimitable wit and observational humour, the writer, comedian and TV personality talks to Julia Wheeler about her latest novel, *Inheritance*, a compelling tale of tragedy and turmoil across generations set in deepest Cornwall. Expect liberal helpings of laughter and tears. 2-3pm **£10**

Naomi Wood and Elizabeth Macneal

Two powerful works of fiction set in times of radical change for art and society. Elizabeth MacNeal's *The Doll Factory*, set in London in 1851, brings to life a world that the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood was intent on changing. Naomi Wood's *The Hiding Game* enters the Bauhaus art school in 1922, as political tensions escalate in Germany. Host Daniel Hahn. 3.30-4.30pm **£6**

Stephen Morris, with Ian Penman

Joy Division and New Order drummer Stephen Morris's musical memoir *Record Play Pause* recounts with deadpan wit his incredible career, taking a frank and profound look at music's power to define who we are. A coming-of-age story with plenty of anecdotes and memories, he talks to music journalist Ian Penman. 5-6pm **£8**

Tracey Thorn

The singer-songwriter behind *Everything But The Girl* takes us on a witty, insightful walk through the maligned commuter town of her youth. Returning to our roots can be tough... Tracey talks to host Andy Miller about bus shelters, local discos, aspirational parents, emotional cul-de-sacs - and music. 6.30-7.30pm **£8**

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, ARDEN THEATRE

Joe Dunthorne, Max Sydney Smith and Xanthi Barker

Flash fiction, short stories, prose poems: three young specialists in the short form read extracts from their work and discuss their methods. Joe Dunthorne's debut novel *Submarine* was adapted for film by Richard Ayoade. Host Charlotte Newman. 11am-12noon **£5**

Clare Pollard

An eye-opening journey in a pea-green boat through the history of picture books, *Fierce Bad Rabbits* is a fascinating and insightful examination of the stories behind our best-loved childhood stories, interweaving childhood memories, research and more. Host Daniel Hahn. 12.30-1.30pm **£5**

David Herd and Christy Lefteri

Giving voice to the Syrian refugee crisis through the power of stories, former UNICEF volunteer Christy Lefteri's novel *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* and David Herd, coordinator of *Refugee Tales* - an ongoing project with established writers that calls to end indefinite immigration detention. Host Janice Lowe. 2-3pm **£5**

Ken Livingstone

The former London mayor talks to Julia Wheeler about *Livingstone's London*, a celebration of people, places and politics that have shaped the landscape - and its dramatic changes over the last 60 years. 3.30-4.30pm **£8**

Alia Trabucco Zerán and Sema Kaygusuz

Two powerful narratives about historical memory. Longlisted for the 2019 Man Booker International Prize, *The Remainder* explores the repercussions of history for the children of those who fought against Chile's dictatorship. *Every Fire You Tend* tells the story of suppressed and traumatic memories of a genocidal massacre in Turkey in 1938. Host Daniel Hahn. 5-6pm **£5**

Hamid Ismailov

The award-winning Uzbek author has crafted another masterpiece about the search for truth and wisdom – a tale of exile featuring a wandering philosopher, a penniless writer and a bee forced from its hive. Host Daniel Hahn. 6.30-7.30pm **£5**

Jane Wenham-Jones

Local flavour! The author and journalist talks to Julie Wassmer about her tale of four women 'coming of age' in Broadstairs. Lots of laughs. 8-9pm. **£3**

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, GOLDINGS ROOM, COURT STREET

John Gregory-Smith

The food writer and chef shares stories and dishes from *Saffron in the Souks*, for which he travelled the length and breadth of Lebanon to bring back its most exquisite flavours and hidden beauty. Host Chetna Makan. 11am-12 noon **£5**

Gareth E. Rees

A darkly satirical work of non-fiction *Car Park Life* explores how the UK's retail chain-store car park has as much mystery, magic and terror as any mountain, meadow or wood. Rediscover a common space we know far less about than we think. Host Gary Budden. 12.30-1.30pm **£3**

William Shaw and Maggie Gee

William Shaw's taut thriller *Deadland*, set in the brooding shadows of Dungeness, and Maggie Gee's literary crime caper *Blood*, a black comedy set around Margate – the authors discuss Kent's social divisions, with murderous results. 2–3pm **£3**

Lee Rourke and Will Wiles

Intellectually playful chronicles of modern Britain, Will Wiles's *Plume* is a fast-moving Kafkaesque story about an alcoholic hack set in contemporary London; in *Glitch* Lee Rourke unflinchingly explores grief, family and the irregularities of everyday life. 3.30-4.30pm **£3**

Writing Women's Lives

In *Plastic Emotions* Shiromi Pinto charts the life of forgotten feminist icon and Sri Lankan architect Minette de Silva, and her affair with Le Corbusier; plus short stories from Linda Mannheim's *This Way to Departures* and Annabel Banks's *Exercises In Control*. 5-6pm **£3**

Peter Williams

A local Faversham author tells the story *In Black and White* - Kent's coalmines and ironworks from the 1920s to the 1980s. 6.30-7.30pm. Host Christine Rayner. **£3**

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, THE LIMES - POETRY HUB ALL DAY POETRY PASS £10

All-day poetry hub, 11am to 11pm. A great line-up of poets and poetry collectives running throughout the day, plus Open Mic sessions and Poets for the Planet. Special guest is Luke Wright, support poet for John Cooper Clarke: *The Remains of Logan Dankworth* - a powerful verse play in the age of Brexit. Crackling with energy, wit and passion. See website for timings and poet listings.

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, ALEXANDER CENTRE

Tim Dee

In *Greenery* BBC radio producer Tim Dee explores the idea of spring. Following the migration paths of birds, he finds inspiration to create his own paths through the wilds of England, from Cornwall to Shetland. Is it possible to keep in step with a season? 11am-12noon **£5**

Melvyn Bragg

The writer and broadcaster's latest novel *Love Without End: A Story of Heloise and Abelard* reimagines the moving and enduring tale of one of history's greatest love stories: the brilliant student Heloise and her teacher, the philosopher Peter Abelard, whose dangerous love affair in 12th-century Paris incurs terrible retribution. 12.30-1.30pm **£12**

Peter Fiennes and Sara Wheeler

Sojourns around Britain and Russia in the company of great writers. In *Footnotes* Peter Fiennes brings modern Britain into focus by peering through the lens of the past, following in the footsteps of some of our greatest writers, from Enid Blyton to JB Priestley. In *Mud and Stars* travel writer Sara Wheeler takes us on a literary tour of Russia in the company of Pushkin, Tolstoy, Gogol and other greats. Host Alex Preston. 2-3pm **£5**

Sara Collins

A compelling historical debut in which a former slave accused of murder recounts her life, *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* is a bold exploration of passion and the transgression of boundaries. Collins is a new literary star reminiscent of the best of Sarah Waters. 3.30-4.30pm **£5**

Gavin Esler

The former Newsnight presenter's *Brexit Without the Bullshit* is a frank guide to the most momentous change in British life for decades, revealing the facts about how Brexit will affect our daily lives. Will Brexit boost jobs? Or wreck the NHS? Or cause food shortages? It may not be the Brexit you thought you were getting. Host Julia Wheeler 5-6pm **£5**

Sarah Perry

A masterly work from the author of the wildly successful *The Essex Serpent*. Unnerving and unsettling, *Melmoth* is a haunting tale about guilt, forgiveness, moral reckoning and how we come to terms with our actions in a conflicted world. 'Scary and smart, but also a philosophical inquiry into the nature of love and will.' Host Alex Preston. 6.30-7.30pm **£10**

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, ARDEN THEATRE

Alex Preston, Sara Collins and Sara Churchwell

What is it to pursue a goal, to strive for an ideal, to follow a dream? These are the questions explored in *Pursuit*, a collection compiled by award-winning novelist Alex Preston. The stories - from some of the brightest and most exciting voices writing today - tell of determination, endeavour and perseverance against the odds. The book was conceived as an accompaniment to a range of whiskies! 11am-12noon **£5** Includes a shot of malt whisky.

Jon Henderson

Can you recall when football's greatest players shared a bond of borderline penury with the fans they entertained? Shortlisted for The Telegraph Sports Book Awards 2019, *When Footballers Were Skint: A Journey in Search of the Soul of Football* is an important historical record and immensely entertaining, based on the first-hand accounts of players from a fast-disappearing generation. Host Roger Alton. 12.30-1.30pm **£5**

Sarah Churchwell

'The American dream is dead', Donald Trump said when announcing his candidacy for president in 2015. In *Behold, America*, Sarah Churchwell offers a surprising account of 20th-century Americans' fierce battle for the nation's soul. Be prepared to have everything you thought you knew about the USA turned on its head. Host Julia Wheeler. 2-3pm **£5**

Daniel Rachel

Don't Look Back In Anger charts the epic highs and crashing lows of the 1990s and Cool Britannia, from Tony Blair to Noel Gallagher, Tracey Emin and Irvine Welsh. Erudite, thoughtful and funny. Host Andy Miller. 3.30-4.30pm. **£5**

Caroline Crampton

The Way to the Sea: The Forgotten Histories of the Thames Estuary traces the course of England's longest river to reveal how the waterway helped shape our nation, finding epic feats of Victorian engineering, artist retreats, shipwrecks, old trade routes and wild riverbanks along the way. Host Peter Fiennes. 5-6pm **£5**

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, GOLDINGS ROOM, COURT STREET

Lara Maiklem

Mudlarking traces Kent-based Lara Maiklem's search for urban solitude and history on the River Thames, what she calls 'the longest archaeological landscape in the world'. Known as the 'London Mudlark', Lara has been larking along the Thames for over 15 years, unearthing finds from Neolithic, Roman, medieval and Victorian eras that tell her about London and its lost ways of life. 12.30-1.30pm **£5**

Katherine May

Part memoir, part exploration of a human condition, *Wintering* explores the healing nature of the great outdoors. The Whitstable-based author recounts her own year-long journey through winter, and how she found strength and inspiration when life felt frozen. 2-3pm. Host Anna Stanford. **£3**

Caroline Greville

Personal and poetic, *Badger Clan* tells of how a Kent family became intimately acquainted with these elusive creatures. An extraordinary tale of human-animal connectedness. 3.30-4.30pm **£3**

Julie Wassmer

Whitstable crime writer Julie Wassmer talks about her two most recent tales set in Kent and the importance of location to her writing, to include some stunning photography of Oare and Faversham Creek. 5-6pm **£3**

