



**BURNHAM
BOOK
FESTIVAL**

**19-21
MAY
2023**

burnhambookfest.co.uk

@BurnhamBookFest



THE PRINCESS
Theatre & Arts Centre



Supported via public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Burnham
Library**

WELCOME!

Welcome to Burnham Book Festival! We're returning after a great first year, bigger and better, with even more sessions for you to get involved in.

Last year, you told us you liked our workshops so this year we've got even more - including spoken word, travel writing, life writing and more!

If you're into poetry, crime, mystery, magic, the natural world, film, family history, contemporary literature, books for children, or if you just like a good story then there's something for you at the festival!

We're welcoming back local authors to the festival, come and chat with them in the sales hall at The Princess where you can browse and purchase books by our festival authors and more.

Earlier this year, hundreds of people from all across Somerset, North Somerset and beyond entered our writing competition, sponsored by Damien Boyd. The awards for winning poetry and short stories, across six categories, will be presented on Sunday afternoon by Tara Arkle.

The festival is organised by a group of volunteers. Originally planned for two days, we had to add a third day just to make space for our packed schedule.

Thanks for joining us, we hope you enjoy the festival!

Our Venues

Burnham Book Festival sessions take place at **The Princess Theatre** and **Burnham Library**. The venues are opposite each other, the location of each session is given later in this programme and on your ticket but, if you're not sure, ask a volunteer!

Tickets

All tickets are available from:

The Princess Theatre
www.theprincesstheatre.co.uk
01278 784464

Contact us

For full details of all our sessions, including readings, plus news and updates, visit our website:

burnhambookfest.co.uk

We'd love to hear from you. If you have any questions or want to give us feedback, email:

info@burnhambookfest.co.uk

or find us on social media at [@BurnhamBookFest](#)

FRIDAY 19 MAY

Schools Workshop - SOLD OUT

Children's author and writing mentor Alex Cotter talks about her work and the ingredients for a good story.

She helps children with some on-the-spot story making to unlock their imaginations.



Sales Hall - 11:30 - 18:00

Come to the main hall of the Princess to meet local authors and chat about their work. Meet the team behind the Morland Community Hub Library. And find your next read from Brendon Books of Taunton!



**Brendon
Books**

Writing for Children: Bringing the Magic - 12:30 Pizey Room

What does it take to create compelling stories for children? Sue Purkiss, Lu Hersey and Alex Cotter write for children and young adults.

They've all conjured worlds and characters to life through their fascinating and imaginative work,

find out how they bring about the magic in their work!

(1hr) £2



Meet the Local Writers

13:00 Mendip Room

Local writers are a big part of Burnham Book Festival.

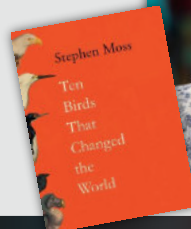
Come and hear a panel of local people talking about their work, what inspires them, and what they're working on next.

(1hr) Free

Ten Birds that Changed the World - 14:00 Pizey Room

Join Stephen Moss, one of Britain's leading nature writers and broadcasters, to learn about ten birds that changed the world. From mythology to politics, climate change to communication, birds play a huge part in our world. Take a journey over the history of humanity, told through ten birds.

(1hr) £8



FRIDAY 19 MAY

A Letter to One of My Very Many Experiences

15:00 Mendip Room

Do you have a lot of stories to tell, which might never have been told? Come explore your experiences in this workshop as Elspeth Penny will guide you to create or draw a letter to someone in your past – a friend, a family member or even yourself at an earlier age. Come with your curiosity!

(2hr) £4



Geology & Landscape of North Somerset - 15:30 Pizey Room

West Somerset lies on a great geological divide, the story of the last 400 million years of Earth history can be gleaned from its rocks, author Dave Green takes us on a geological tour of the local area and the secrets hidden in its landscape.

(1hr) £6



Tell Your Story with Pride - 18:00 Pizey Room

LGBTQIA+ Hero/ines, allies, friends and families WANTED! A fabulous Out and Proud project, presented with Pride on Sea.

The organisers of Burnham-on-Sea's first Pride would like to build a library of LGBTQIA+ experiences to showcase what our lives are like. Come to a workshop run by Jane Campbell, where we will help you

reveal to the world exactly what it's like to live under our rainbow.

(2hrs) £8



An Evening with Damien Boyd

19:00 Main Hall

After last year's sellout "Nick Dixon Trail" at Burnham Book Festival, bestselling local author Damien Boyd is back!

Hear Damien talk about his gripping Nick Dixon crime series, the ideas and places that inspire him and what's next for the most famous fictional detective working the mean streets of Burnham-on-Sea!

£15

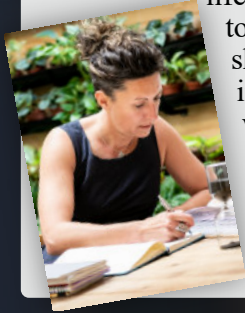


SATURDAY 20 MAY

Write Your Life - 10:00 Pizey Room

Do you have stories you want to share? Memories to capture in words? In this workshop Alison Powell will guide you to get hold of a memory or experience from your life and find out how to find the words to shape your story into a piece of writing that carries emotional truth and weight.

(2hrs) £12



Reader and Writer, What's the Deal?

11:00 Pizey Room

Join crime authors Jeff Dowson and Stephen Timmins as they are interrogated by crime reader Annie Ainsley.

This panel is perfect for lovers of crime fiction, be it reader or writer.

(1hr) £2



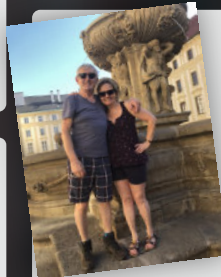
NOT What I Did On My Holidays

12:45 Mendip Room

This travel writing workshop is for beginners without any professional writing experience,

as well as journalists and writers who wish to specialise in the subject. Felice and Peter Hardy get you started on the road towards the satisfaction of seeing your work in print or online and earning money at the same time.

(90min) £10

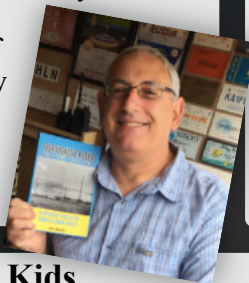


Portishead Radio – A Friendly Voice on Many a Dark Night

11:00 Burnham Library

With memories, photographs and video files, local author Larry Bennett recounts the history of the station, a significant part of the history of Highbridge for many years, before it closed in 2000.

(1hr) £2



Spoken Word for Kids

13:00 Burnham Library

A fun, imaginative workshop for young people! Poet Karl Bevis will help you create a new piece of spoken word. All thoughts and crazy ideas welcome! And, if you'd like to try out performing your work, come to our Open(ish) Mic session at 4pm for free!

(1hr) £3



SATURDAY 20 MAY

Get Your Words Out!

13:00 Pizey Room

Ranters and ravers, poets and players and anyone else who has something to say... this is a workshop for anyone who fancies stepping into the world of Spoken Word! It's an exciting form of expression that uses rhyme and rhythm to share stories, thoughts and good old fashioned rants.



And if you'd like to try performing your work, come to our Open(ish) Mic at 4pm for free!

(2hrs) £12

Meet the Local Writers

14:30 Mendip Room

A panel of local people talking about their work. (1hr) Free

The Tennis Champion Who Escaped the Nazis

15:15 Pizey Room

Felice Hardy shares the story of her grandmother, the 1930 Tennis Champion of Austria who escaped to London, and how those events have impacts across generations. (45mins) £2



Villains and Victims: A Global Terrorism Conundrum

16:00 Mendip Room

Robert Tennant-Ralphs talks about his experiences in Morocco, looking at the impacts of drugs, addiction and links to global terrorism.

(1hr) £4



Open(ish) Mic

16:00 Burnham Library

If you've joined one of the spoken word workshops at the festival, this is your safe, supportive space to try out your work! Karl Bevis will help you find your voice and bring out the best in your performance.

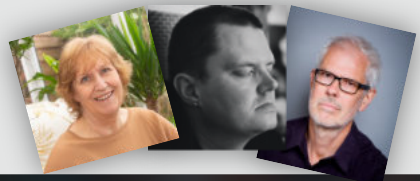
This is a mixed-age session

(90min) Free for spoken word workshop attendees

Being Published: Does it Change Your Life? - 16:30 Pizey Room

There are many routes to publishing, but what's it really like to see your words in print? Does the work stop there? Will it REALLY change your life? Join Frances Evesham, Ed Burley and Jonathan Pinnock to find out what it's really like being a writer.

(1hr) £2



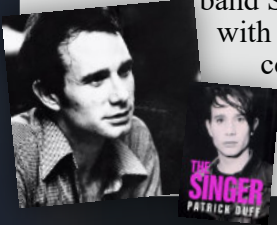
SATURDAY 20 MAY

The Singer, Patrick Duff

18:00 Pizey Room

Patrick Duff shares his story, from his early life in Bristol to his time as lead singer in the alternative rock band Strangelove. With readings from his compelling new autobiography, *The Singer*.

(1hr) £6



Echo: Stories of Burnham

19:30 Main Hall

Come along and celebrate our towns with the makers and contributors of the Echo Burnham project, ten years after Theatre Melange wove our stories into a live performance and recording. (90mins) Free, or donation

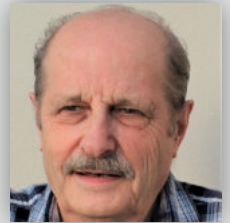


SUNDAY 21 MAY

Screenwriting Workshop - 10:00 Pizey Room

Aspiring film makers, TV writers, come and join Jeff Dowson in this screenwriting workshop. If you have ideas and scripts, feel free to bring them along. Jeff's screen credits include arts series, documentaries, drama series, TV films and cinema scripts. He is a member of BAFTA, and the Crime Writers Association.

(2hrs) £10



Fred Karno

11:00 Main Hall

David Crump talks about the life and work of Fred Karno, the multi talented impresario who discovered Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Max Miller.

This talk and film are the perfect double bill!

(2hrs) £6



Charlie Chaplin's The Kid

12:00 Main Hall

See Charlie Chaplin's first full length feature film, the heart-warming and funny "The Kid"



Awards Ceremony

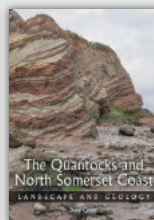
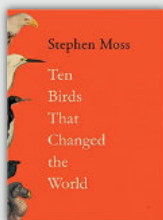
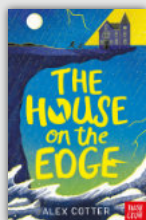
13:30 Main Hall

It's time to celebrate our amazing shortlisted writers and poets! Tara Arkle announces the winner of each category of the writing competition, sponsored by Damien Boyd (30min) Free



FRIDAY

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- 10:00: Schools workshop on creating stories with Alex Cotter. **SOLD OUT**
-
- 12:30: Writing for Children: Bringing the Magic. Panel with Sue Purkiss, Lu Hersey & Alex Cotter. £2. Princess - Pizey.
-
- 13:00: Meet the Local Writers (panel session). Free. Princess - Mendip.
-
- 14:00: Ten Birds that Changed the World with Stephen Moss. £8. Princess - Pizey.
-
- 15:00: A Letter to One of My Very Many Experiences. Workshop with Elspeth Penny. £4. Princess - Mendip.
-
- 15:30: The Geology & Landscape of West Somerset with Dave Green. £6. Princess - Pizey.
-
- 18:00: Tell Your Story with Pride. Workshop with Jane Campbell. £8. Princess - Pizey.
-
- 19:00: An Evening with Damien Boyd. Conversation and reading with local bestselling crime author. £15. Princess - Hall.



SATURDAY

10:00: Write Your Life. Lifewriting workshop with Alison Powell. £12. Princess - Mendip.

11:00: Reader and Writer: What's the Deal? Panel with Stephen Timmins, Jeff Dowson & Annie Ainsley of Diamond Crime. £2. Princess - Pizey.

11:00: Portishead Radio - A Friendly Voice on Many a Dark Night with Larry Bennett. £2. Burnham Library.

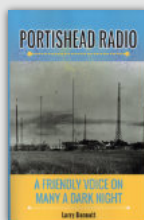
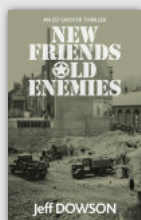
12:45: NOT What I Did on My Holiday. Travel writing workshop with Felice and Peter Hardy. £10. Princess - Mendip.

13:00: Get Your Words Out! Spoken word workshop with Alison Powell. £12. Princess - Pizey. Plus free entry to the Spoken Word Open(ish) Mic at 4pm.

13:00: Spoken Word for Kids. Workshop with poet Karl Bevis for 11-17s. £3. Burnham Library. Plus free entry to the Spoken Word Open(ish) Mic at 4pm.

14:30: Meet the Local Writers (panel session). Free. Princess - Mendip.

15:15: The Tennis Champion Who Escaped the Nazis. Talk with Felice Hardy. £2. Princess - Pizey.

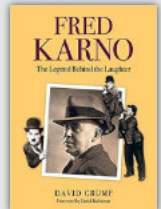
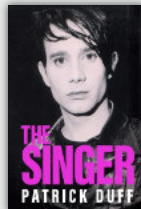
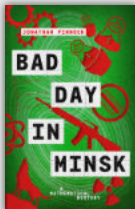
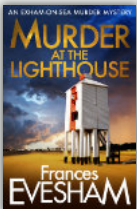


SATURDAY

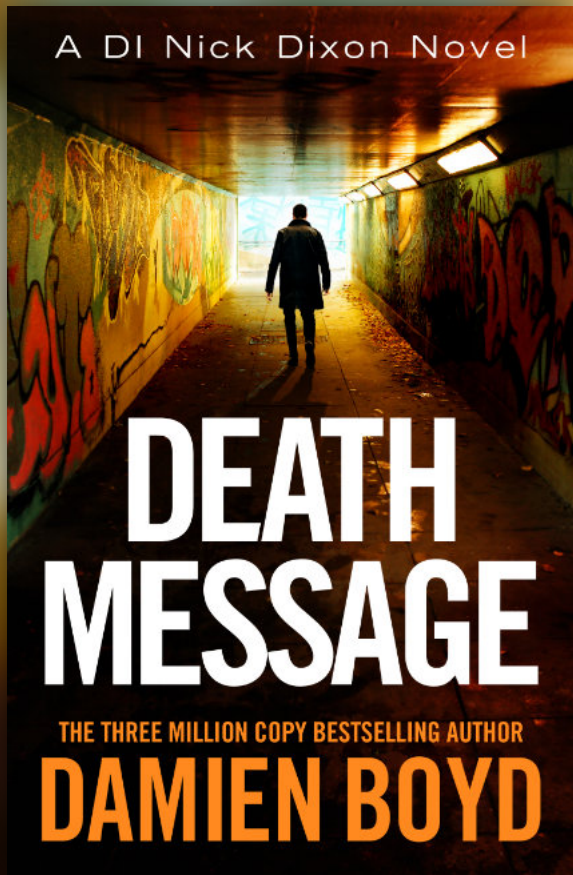
- 16:00: Spoken Word Open(ish) Mic. Free if you attend Get Your Words out or Spoken Word for Kids. A supportive space to perform your work. Burnham Library.
- 16:00: Villains and Victims: A Global Terrorism Conundrum. Talk with Robert Tennant-Ralphs. £4. Princess - Mendip.
- 16:30: Being Published: Does it Change Your Life? Panel with Frances Evesham, Ed Burley and Jonathan Pinnock. £2. Princess - Pizey.
- 18:00: The Singer, with Patrick Duff. The lead singer of Strangelove talks about his autobiography. £6. Princess - Pizey.
- 19:30: The Echo Project: Stories of Burnham. Film about Burnham with discussion. Free or donation. Princess - Hall.

SUNDAY

- 10:00: Scriptwriting workshop with Jeff Dowson. £10. Princess - Pizey.
- 11:00: Fred Karno. David Crump talks about the life and work of the impresario who discovered Chaplin. £6 double bill with film.
- 12:00: Charlie Chaplin's The Kid. Classic comedy masterpiece. £6 double bill with talk.
- 13:30: Award ceremony. Tara Arkle announces the winners of the 2023 writing contest, sponsored by Damien Boyd.



Graffiti is a dying art in this thriller from the bestselling DI Nick Dixon crime series...



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Monday - Thursday: 12.00 to 14.30 & 16.30 to 20.00

Friday - Saturday: 12.00 to 21.00 / Sunday: 12.00 to 18.00

School Holidays: 12.00 to 21.00

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THANK YOU!

Burnham Book Festival wouldn't have happened without a huge amount of support from the local community. We're particularly grateful to Elliott, Craig, Isaac and the team at The Princess, plus the amazing volunteers. To Nathan and Caroline from Somerset Libraries. To Somewhere House for help in spreading the word. To Pride on Sea for collaborating on Tell Your Story with Pride. Thanks to Damien Boyd for sponsoring the writing competition and being first onto the 2023 schedule. And a big thanks to all the businesses and organisations who sponsored the programme.

We particularly thank the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, awarded by the Somerset Community Foundation. Thanks to Seed for supporting our workshop programme, and to Sedgemoor District Council. Without the confidence and support of these organisations, the festival wouldn't have been possible.

But most of all, thanks to all of you who attended and took part!

If you'd like to share your thoughts about the festival, you can give us feedback at:

bit.ly/bbf2023feedback





2022 Anthology
also available!

Featuring stories and poems from entrants to the festival writing competition, get your copy of **The Best of Burnham Book Festival 2023** from the festival table in the main hall

