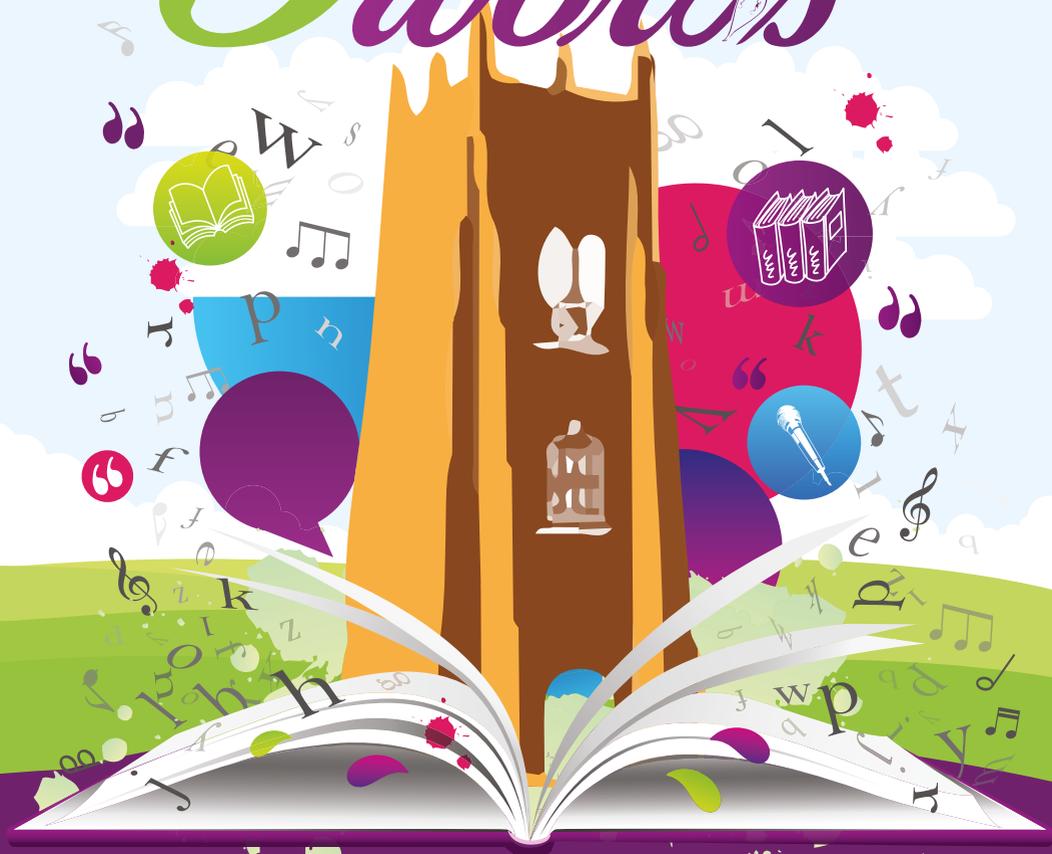


Evesham
Festival
of
Words



2022

A YEAR-LONG FESTIVAL
MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND
1ST-3RD JULY 2022

www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org

INFO@EVESHAMFESTIVALOFWORDS.ORG |  EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS |  INFOFOW

Photo by Ian Tustin



Welcome to our 2022 Festival Brochure. The Festival celebrates words in all their forms. The main weekend, which is packed with events, runs from Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd July, but we also have events throughout the year.

Whatever your interest – writing, reading, poetry, author talks and interviews, meeting like-minded folk – the Festival really does offer something for everyone, with an exciting and varied programme at numerous locations in and around Evesham.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Festival, and our delightful town. Please contact me about any accessibility concerns.

**SUE ABLETT,
FESTIVAL CHAIR**

THROUGH THE YEAR

The Festival gets off the ground right from the start of the year – some time before our brochure is in print. In case you wonder what you've missed, here are some brief details of our first two sell-out events:

WORKSHOP

Poetry Workshop, Repetition, with Anna Saunders

SAT 19TH MARCH

An online workshop looking at how repetition in word and phrase and in idea is the very essence of poetry.

Canal People, with Tony Conder

THUR 24TH MARCH

This talk highlighted the variety of work on the canals, the role of women and marriage, and peered into all aspects of living on the working waterways. A joint event with Holland House.

COMING SOON

An Afternoon with The Bard of Barnwood

FRI 15TH APRIL, 2.30 PM

RAPHAEL'S RESTAURANT, £12.50

Includes afternoon tea. Pre-booking essential.

Enjoy a classic Raphael's Afternoon High Tea (freshly baked scone with clotted cream and jam; finger sandwiches and assorted sweet treats) in the company of The Bard of Barnwood, Margaret Daniels, who performs very much in the style of Pam Ayres. Margaret has been entertaining audiences for years with her amusing poems and anecdotes, mostly based on her own life, and written by her. A truly wonderful performer!

This event is part of Raphael's Easter Charity Weekend. Come along and support a local cause, enjoy a great tea, and some wonderful entertainment - all in the stunning riverside setting.



EXHIBITION

The Written Word (Calligraphy)

1ST – 31ST MAY

EVESHAM LIBRARY, FREE EVENT

The art of beautiful writing ... or, in other words, Calligraphy.

An exhibition by Severn Quills, a group of local calligraphers, based in Upton-on-Severn. Themed around the spoken and written word, and the importance of libraries. Perfect for an exhibition taking place in a library!

Poetry Evening with Open Mic

WED 11TH MAY, 7.00 – 9.00 PM

ZOOM, FREE EVENT

Following on from an incredibly popular and successful zoom poetry Open Mic event last year, we are delighted to welcome Anna Saunders and Beth Brooke back again in 2022 to host a similar evening of poetry readings and open mic slots. Joining them to read will be acclaimed poets Robert Peake and Matthew Smith.

Register via email:
info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org

The Trouble with Trivia

TUES 17TH MAY, 7.00 PM

CORNMILL YARD, £20

Includes 2-course supper. Pre-booking by 13th May essential.

Join us for a delightful evening's entertainment at Evesham's Cornmill Yard, for a two-course supper (tapas and dessert), followed by speaker, Rob Hemming.

Opened just over a year ago, and located on Cornmill Lane, just off Cheltenham Road, Cornmill Yard has quickly established itself as a great venue. The interior is industrial and arty, and the food is great. We are delighted to be holding our first event at The Yard.

Rob Hemming is a popular and entertaining local speaker. He is the author of *Shazam: The History of a Regal Cinema*. He is also a self-confessed "ace quiz nerd!" Join us as Rob shares with us 'The Trouble with Trivia'.

EXHIBITION

Music in Monochrome (Photography)

1ST – 30TH JUNE

REGAL CINEMA, FREE EVENT

Come along to the Circle Bar of Evesham's iconic Regal Cinema to see how members of Birlingham Photography Club have reflected the theme of music in this year's Music in Monochrome Exhibition. Pop in after seeing a film, or call in for coffee and make sure you visit the Exhibition. All photos will be for sale and you can vote for your favourite.

Words and Music of Evesham

THUR 30TH JUNE, 7.30 PM

THE HENRICIAN (STUDIO THEATRE), £9.50

(Plus 50p booking fee).

Colin Pitts is a popular local singer/songwriter, many of whose songs are inspired by Evesham - the river, the streets and the cafes. With his warm style, thought-provoking songs, and his powerful guitar playing, his audiences can't help but get involved with his songs. He will be joined by John Raphael, with words of Simon de Montfort and local benefactor, John Martin. Tickets: www.henrician.org



Above: Colin Pitts
Left: Cornmill Yard





Shaking the Family Tree

FRIDAY 1ST JULY, 10.30 AM – 12 NOON

117 HIGH STREET, EVESHAM, £8
Includes drink and cake.

When you shake a tree you never know what will fall out of it. The same applies when you start 'shaking' your family tree.

In this illustrated talk Sue Ablett, Noelle Chambers and Galen Bartholomew, all members of the Festival Steering Group and keen family history researchers, will talk about some of their discoveries - the fascinating stories and characters that only come to light once you start to delve, the things that surprised us, the things we learnt. Join us for a fascinating look into the past. Hear about rakes and rascals, skeletons in the cupboard, and lost souls, among other things! Maybe you'll be inspired to 'shake' your own tree.



It's Never Too Late

FRI 1ST JULY, 2.00 – 3.00 PM

117 HIGH STREET, EVESHAM, £6
Includes drink and cake.

Authors Jane Bettany and Helen Yendall didn't take the direct route to novel writing. They'd been writing short stories for women's magazines for over twenty years before success in writing competitions propelled them into exciting new careers as novelists. They're both now published by HQ (Harper Collins).



Jane writes the DI Isabel Blood crime series - *In Cold Blood* and *Without a Trace* (with a third book in the series due to be released in 2022). Helen's novels are set in the 1940s. Her debut is *A Wartime Secret* and her second novel will be published in the autumn.

Helen and Jane will be talking about their writing journeys, the inspiration for their books and the competition wins that launched their novel-writing success.



Close to Me – An Interview with Amanda Reynolds

FRI 1ST JULY, 3.30 – 4.30 PM

117 HIGH STREET, EVESHAM, £6
Includes drink and cake.

Amanda Reynolds bestselling debut novel, *Close to Me*, published in 2017 by Headline, was adapted for TV as a six-part series starring Connie Nielsen and Christopher Eccleston. She is the author of two more psychological suspense novels, *Lying to You* and *The Hidden Wife*. Her books draw inspiration from the countryside and villages which surround her, dark twisty plots dreamt up on long dog walks. We will chat to Amanda about her writing career and how the TV option of *Close to Me* came about.

Festival Quiz Night

FRI 1ST JULY, 7.30 PM

RAPHAEL'S RESTAURANT, £8.00 PER PERSON (TEAMS OF 4)
Light supper included. Pre-booking of teams essential.

Regular Festival quiz masters Helen Yendall and Chris Cherry return with more questions on everything from poetry and song lyrics to book titles and the meaning of words, the Festival's popular quiz night definitely has a WORDY slant! **(Maximum of 12 teams of 4).**



WORKSHOP Write Funny

SAT 2ND JULY, 10.30 AM – 12.30 PM

117 HIGH STREET, EVESHAM, £15
Includes cold drinks and cake.

Do you ever read something funny and think: how the heck did they do that? Do you wish you could write funny too? Or perhaps you can and want to sharpen those skills. Come to Fran Hill's 'Write Funny' interactive workshop and learn some of the secrets behind effective punchlines in jokes, amusing images and funny characters. Fran's session will cover all of these and more, and fun mini-tasks will help you practise and get you laughing. Bring your sense of humour and be ready to play!

Fran is a writer and teacher from Leamington Spa. She is an experienced published writer and wrote a monthly humour column for several years in the *Times Educational Supplement*, the national newspaper for teachers. Her most recent book, a funny teacher-memoir called *Miss, What Does Incomprehensible Mean?* was published by SPCK in May 2020.



Poems of the Sea

SAT 2ND JULY, 11.00 AM – 12 NOON

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, £6

Includes tea and cake. (No charge for Housman Society members, but please reserve tickets).

Staycations and seaside holidays have boomed in the last two years, so for this event we invite you to join Linda Hart and Max Hunt, sit back and allow yourself to be transported to the sea.

The sea provides a poetic metaphor for beauty and adventure, danger and escape, turbulence and calm. But A.E. Housman, in a humorous vein, told his brother Laurence that poems about the sea never referred to its most striking characteristic: it was wet. "The sea is a subject by no means exhausted. I have written a poem which directs attention to one of its most striking characteristics..."

This programme will begin with Housman's amusing poem, and then move on to poems about the sea by a host of other poets, with readings spanning approximately 1,000 years of English poetry.'



Talk and Tour: Evesham Abbey Site

SAT 2ND JULY, 1.30 – 2.30 PM

MEET OUTSIDE THE ALMONRY MUSEUM, FREE EVENT

Join this hour long walk and talk to hear all the latest news about what's happening with Evesham's iconic Abbey site.

The project to open up the site of Evesham Abbey, the third largest in the country, prior to Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries, is the dreamchild of Abbey Trust Chairman, Barrie Baldelli.

The site has in recent years undergone a massive transformation. Gone is all the ivy on the crumbling walls, which are now being beautifully restored. The Cloister and Nave areas have been cleared of the debris of centuries. The allotment holders are now secure on the south side of the site. (The work has all been undertaken by, and on behalf of, Evesham Abbey Trust).

The walk is on reasonably level ground but flat shoes recommended.

This is a free event, but please register to attend by the day before
E: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org.uk
or T: 0787 1285606

An Afternoon with Housman

SAT 2ND JULY, 3.00 – 4.00 PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, £6

Includes tea and cake.
(No charge for Housman Society members but please reserve tickets).



This talk, entitled 'Leaving, Greeting and Lasting in Housman's *Last Poems*', and presented by Gregory Leadbetter, is a joint Evesham Festival of Words and Housman Society event.

Last Poems was published to considerable acclaim in 1922, twenty-six years after *A Shropshire Lad*. Gregory's talk will be one of a number of events celebrating the centenary of Housman's second volume of poetry. There will be an opportunity to purchase copies of a new limited commemorative edition with Foreword by Andrew Motion at a special discounted price.

Gregory Leadbetter is author of a number of books of poetry, and publishes widely as a critic. He is Professor of Poetry at Birmingham City University. An engaging speaker, he is a highly regarded interviewer and compere of literary events. As a poet he is invited to give numerous public readings and lectures every year, both in this country and overseas.



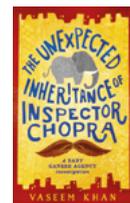
Killing Gandhi, Dante's Divine Comedy and India at the Crossroads

SAT 2ND JULY, 7.00 PM
EVESHAM ROWING CLUB, £8



Join us as bestselling crime writer, Vaseem Khan, takes us on an exhilarating journey from the last days of the Raj to the heart of modern India. He examines the setting of his new novel, *The Dying Day*, in 1950s Bombay, just a few years after Indian independence, the assassination of Gandhi, and the horrors of Partition. He will also discuss one of the world's great treasures, a 600 year old copy of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, which is stored at Bombay's Asiatic Society and vanishes at the start of *The Dying Day*, leaving behind a trail of cryptic riddles and dead bodies...The first book in the series, *Midnight at Malabar House*, won the Crime Writers Association Historical Dagger in 2021, the world's premier award for historical crime fiction, and introduced us to Inspector Persis Wadia, India's first female police detective, and her co-investigator, English forensic scientist, Archie Blackfinch.

Vaseem Khan is the author of two award-winning crime series set in India, the *Baby Ganesh Agency* series set in modern Mumbai, and the *Malabar House* historical crime novels set in 1950s Bombay. Vaseem was born in England, but spent a decade working in India. He currently works at the UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science - very useful as a crime writer!



WORKSHOP
Travel Writing

SUN 3RD JULY, 10.30 AM – 12.30 PM
HAMPTON COMMUNITY HALL, £15
Includes tea and cake.

Pack your bags for a trip of a lifetime as we explore the world of travel writing with author and photographer, Simon Whaley. Discover how to turn your holidays into inspirational travel features. Find out what to pack (into your articles) and what to leave behind. And learn how to get through passport control (aka the editor) as we take off on a new writing adventure.

Simon began writing in his early teens and after a couple of years saw his first published piece (a word-search puzzle!). Fifteen years later, in January 2004, he packed in the day job and became a full-time writer. He is the bestselling author of *One Hundred Ways for a Dog To Train Its Human* among other books, the writer of several hundred British travel, walking and general magazine features, and he is a bit of a photographer too.



The Mitfords, Their Times and Their Friends

SUN 3RD JULY, 2.00 – 3.00 PM
FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, £8
Includes tea, scones and cake.

Diana Alexander had long been interested in the famous Mitford sisters. When she moved to a village in the Cotswolds, she discovered another sister, Pamela. Although Pamela shunned the limelight, she married the millionaire scientist Derek Jackson, and motored around Europe alone. Her sense of adventure was balanced with a quiet domesticity.

Pamela had a wonderful memory and regaled Diana, a freelance journalist, with stories of her family. They became firm friends - Diana wrote many articles about her and followed this with a biography, *The Other Mitford, Pamela's Story*. Diana's talk is an extraordinary true story of an extraordinary family.



Remarkable Women

SUNDAY 3RD JULY, 6.30 PM.
MUNROE SUITE, NORTHWICK HOTEL, FREE EVENT
Including glass of wine.

The evening begins with a talk, 'Celia Fiennes in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, with Derek Taylor. The late 17th century traveller, Celia Fiennes, came to this part of the country in 1698. In Derek Taylor's latest book, *England from a Side-Saddle: The Great Journeys of Celia Fiennes*, we learn of the courage, determination and curiosity of one woman who was centuries ahead of her time.

Derek Taylor is a former international TV news correspondent, and now best-selling historian and acclaimed public speaker.

Tonight we also remember Lindsay Stanberry-Flynn, a local author and founder member of Evesham Festival of Words, who sadly died in May 2021. The choir, Vale Connection, of which Lindsay was a member, will be singing, and the evening will also include some readings dear to Lindsay and her family.

This event is supported by the family of Lindsay Stanberry-Flynn.

This is a free event, but please register to attend by the day before
E: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org.uk
or T: 0787 1285606



Once Upon a Song

FRI 8TH JULY, 7.30 PM
BENGEWORTH CHURCH, £10
Including interval drink.

EODS are thrilled to be back with the Festival of Words, performing an enchanting array of magical songs. Once Upon a Song will be a family friendly concert, featuring much loved songs from the musicals that were inspired by fairy tales and literature. From the mysterious to the mesmerising, this is a show you won't want to miss!

This is always a wonderful evening. With great music, beautiful voices, and the stunning setting of Bengeworth Church, this event is always a real highlight.

Tickets also available from:
The Almonry Museum
Call in person, or
T: 01386 446944
E: tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk
or from EODS.



My Year with Flying Scotsman

WED 3RD AUGUST, 7.00 PM
EVESHAM ROWING CLUB, £8

Flying Scotsman will be 100 years old in 2023. Is there a finer sight than the grace and power of a huge steam engine on the move? The award-winning television programme maker, David Parker, was lucky enough to spend 12 months filming the rebuilding of Flying Scotsman, and made two television programmes about what many regard as the world's most famous steam engine. But the year was anything but a bed of roses. In this illustrated talk David will show clips from both programmes and reveal the ways he found to weave the story of Flying Scotsman's one hundred year history with its year long rebuild and how he overcame the many problems that bedevilled the rebuild and almost torpedoed the TV programme.

David has given stunning talks to the Festival about his time filming both Laurie Lee and Johnny Kingdom, as well as leading a walk in Laurie Lee country (the village of Slad). We are delighted to welcome him back to Evesham.



Herbert Austin and the Longbridge Story

FRI 19TH AUGUST, 1.00 PM
HOLLAND HOUSE, CROPTHORNE, £20

Tickets via Holland House:
www.hollandhouse.org;
E: enquiries@hollandhouse.org; or
T: 01386 860330.

Join us in the delightful surroundings of Holland House for a Friendly Lunch, followed by a fascinating talk, 'Herbert Austin and the Longbridge Story', with speaker Max Hunt.

Max's talk will trace the rise of Herbert Austin from obscure beginnings in rural Buckinghamshire, through the pioneering days of the motor industry, to the development of Europe's largest single-site car factory on the edge of Worcestershire. He will take in some of the social consequences of this expansion together with the contribution made by Longbridge to military production in two World Wars. The talk will conclude with some thoughts on the squandering of Lord Austin's legacy in the post-war years.

Two course lunch is served at 1.00 pm (special diets can be accommodated), but arrive early to get a drink and enjoy the lovely house and gardens. The talk will commence about 2.00 pm.

Raising Agents, with Mikron Theatre Company

We are thrilled to welcome Mikron Theatre Company back to Evesham with their play, Raising Agents, celebrating 100 years of the Women's Institute.

Bunnington WI is a bit down-at-heel. Dwindling membership means they can barely afford the hall, let alone a decent speaker. So when a PR guru becomes a member, the women are glad of new blood. Initially. The milk of WI kindness begins to sour when she re-brands them the Bunnington Bunnies. They're hopping. With stakes higher than a five tiered cake stand, a battle ensues for the very soul of Bunnington, perhaps the WI itself! On the threshold of one century into the next, this tale of hobbyists and lobbyists ask how much we should know our past or how much we should let it go. Above all else, like the WI itself, Raising Agents is a story of friendship.

The event will take place outside whatever the weather. Bring your own chairs. If you would like to have lunch at Raphael's before the event, please book direct. No need to pre-book. Just come along. There will be the usual Mikron 'pay what you feel' bucket collection at the end of the performance.

SUN 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2.00 PM
RAPHAEL'S RESTAURANT



A Life in the Arts – Much Laughter and a Few Tears

Chris Jaegar is a highly-experienced writer, musician, actor and director, with a lifetime of working in the Arts. He is Director of the Worcester Festival and Managing Director of 'On A Role', which tours a number of one-actor shows nationally and internationally. His love of folk music encouraged him to become a folk agent, representing a string of well-known folk singers over the years. He was head-hunted to try to save two failing Worcester venues, Huntingdon Hall and the Swan Theatre. Both are now thriving. For twelve years he wrote and directed the Swan Theatre's professional pantomime. He is Chair of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators, and adjudicates drama festivals all over Britain. He is drama advisor to the Royal Navy. He was until recently Chairman of the English Symphony Orchestra. In 2013, Chris was awarded the MBE for services to the Arts. With this incredible and impressive array of work experience, we can be assured of a truly memorable talk.

WED 12TH OCTOBER, 7.30 PM
117 HIGH STREET, £8



Cryptic Crosswords

WED 7TH DECEMBER, 7.00 PM

ZOOM EVENT, £3

Angela Bell is a self-confessed cruciverbalist (aka a person who enjoys or is skilled at solving crosswords). Join her for this fascinating online talk as she examines the origins and history of cryptic crosswords, and learn more about the people who set cryptic crosswords.

Angela also runs a regular online Coffee and Crossword event where attendees work in a group to solve clues. If you enjoy a crossword puzzle, but sometimes get stuck on a tricky clue or two, this could be just what you need.

Christmas is Coming!

Our usual Christmas Quiz sheet will be out from 1st December with a closing date of early January 2023. Free to enter. £10 book token to the winner. The Quiz will be available to download from our website.

Evesham Christmas Tree Festival is a popular event in the town, taking place through December, in All Saints Church. Come along and admire our tree, pick up a copy of our Christmas Quiz, or some of the books we'll be putting out in case anyone is looking for a Christmas read.

Short Story Competition 2023

Our Short Story Competition will be launched on 1st November 2022. Closing date: 5pm (GMT) on Friday 10th March 2023.

The 2023 Competition is open to adults only (i.e. those over the age of 16 at closing date). Entry fee £5 per story. Cash prizes of £200, £100 and £75 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. There will be an Early Bird Incentive for those entries submitted before midnight on 31st January 2023 – a chance to win a £20 book token, drawn at random. Competition rules will be added to the Festival website on 1st November.

Festival Book Club

The Festival Book Club was set up in January 2020 and ran on Zoom during the pandemic, when live meetings weren't possible. Live monthly meetings are taking place in central Evesham again but the Book Club has proved so popular that it's 'wait list' only at the moment. But if you're interested in taking part, contact Helen Yendall, E: helenyendall@yahoo.co.uk

Want to help?

If you would like to know more about volunteering or sponsorship opportunities, do please get in touch
 E: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org, or
 T: Sue Ablett, Festival Chair, 0787 1285606

Festival Map

1. **Almonry**
ABBEY GATE, WR11 4BQ
2. **Abbey Remains & Bell Tower**
3. **All Saints Church / Church House**
MARKET PLACE, WR11 4RW
4. **Abbey Park & Riverside Walk**
5. **Friends Meeting House**
COWL ST, WR11 4PN
6. **Library**
OAT ST, WR11 4PJ
7. **117 High Street***
WR11 4EQ
8. **The Henrician***
VICTORIA AVENUE, WR11 4QH
9. **Evesham Rowing Club***
ABBEY RD, WR11 4ST
10. **Hampton Ferry & Raphael's Cafe***
BOAT LANE, WR11 4BP
11. **Northwick Hotel***
WATERSIDE, WR11 1BT
12. **Hampton Community Hall***
PERSHORE RD, WR11 2PQ
13. **Bengeworth Church**
PORT ST, WR11 3LF
14. **Regal Cinema**
PORT ST, WR11 3LD
15. **Cornmill Yard***
CORNMILL LANE, CHELTENHAM RD, WR11 2LL

* PARKING AVAILABLE AT VENUE





SCAN FOR MORE
FESTIVAL INFO

A huge thank you to:

Our wonderful contributors, audiences, volunteers, and Festival Patrons:

TV and Radio presenter, Michael Collie; local MP, Nigel Huddleston;
TV presenter and comedian, Alistair McGowan.

Sponsors and supporters:

Abbey Appliances; Alison's Bookshop, Tewkesbury; Almonry Museum & Tourist Information Centre; Birlingham Photography Club; Cornmill Yard; Cotswold Life Magazine; Cotswold & Vale Magazine; Evesham Journal; Evesham Library; The Henrician; The Housman Society; Northwick Hotel; Raphael's Restaurant; Regal Cinema; Severn Quills Calligraphy; Undervale Ltd, Vale Press Ltd, VECTA (Vale of Evesham Commerce & Tourism Association).

Festival brochure design: Kitty Kovacevic

Printing and production: Vale Press Ltd

Website support: Abbey Gate Media Ltd

Major Sponsors:



SAVE THE DATE
2023
MAIN WEEKEND
FRI 30TH JUNE - SUN 2ND JULY

Where to Buy Tickets



eveshamfestivalofwords.org
(Payments Via PayPal)



20 Allardene, Evesham,
Worcestershire, WR11 1EA

Cheques payable to
'Evesham Festival of Words'.
Please include full contact details.



Sue Ablett
info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org
0787 128 5606

Note that we will not be printing tickets this year but confirmation will be given for all ticket purchases, and your name will be on the Event listing. Some events may sell out quickly. Check our website for latest status.