



## 2026 OUTLINE PROGRAMME – SAVE THE DATE!

**Note: Updated 4.12.25 – New events added!**

Date	Time	Event
<b>Mon 23 March</b>	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>Illustrated Talk: ‘AE Housman and A Herefordshire Lad’ with Max Hunt.</b> Holland House, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>Max is a firm Festival favourite. Always a delight and a great talk.</i>
<b>Fri 3 April (Good Friday)</b>	2.30 pm	<b>‘A Century of Popular Songs: 1860s to 1960s’ with Richard Churchley, followed by Afternoon Tea</b> Raphaels Restaurant Raphaels Good Friday Charity Event. Always an enjoyable afternoon. Richard is a very talented musician. Audience participation optional!
<b>Mon 27 April</b>	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>Illustrated Talk: ‘The Most Heroic Failure of Modern Times – Shackleton’s Antarctic’ with Jeremy Holmes</b> Holland House, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>This is Jeremy’s fourth visit to Holland House.</i>
<b>Wed 6 May</b>	7.00 pm	<b>‘Behind the Scenes at the Movies’ with Stuart St Paul</b> Evesham Rowing Club <i>Stuart is a stuntman, award-winning film Director, and now best-selling author. Prepare for an action-packed night!</i>
<b>Fri 29 May</b>	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>Illustrated talk: ‘A Portrait of John Moore – his life and works’ with Kirstie Bingham, Heritage Manager, The John Moore Museum, Tewkesbury</b> Holland Houe, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>This event links in with the Guided Walk on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June.</i>
<b>Wed 10 June</b>	11.00 am	<b>Guided Walk: ‘In the Footsteps of Laurie Lee’ with David Parker</b> Meet at The Woolpack, Slad <i>David is an independent TV producer who recorded Laurie Lee. On this walk we trace his steps with unique recordings of Laurie Lee.</i>
<b>Sat 13 June</b>	7.30 pm	<b>‘A Concert with EODS’</b> Bengeworth Church <i>This annual event with EODS is now a firm favourite and annual event. Enjoy wonderful music in the beautiful setting of Bengeworth Church.</i>

Date	Time	Event
Wed 17 June	7.00 pm	<b>‘Richard III – Bones Beneath the Car Park’ with Dave Andrews</b> Evesham Rowing Club <i>Dave is a Leicester Mercury reporter who was present when Richard III was dug up in the car park and reported on his reburial. Always a popular topic.</i>
Thurs 18 June	2.00 pm	<b>‘An Afternoon with gardening expert, Reg Moule’</b> Cleeve Prior Field Barn <i>Reg has been a gardener for a good many years, and has a regular feature in The Pershore Times.</i>
Sun 21 June	10.45 am	<b>‘Secrets of the Tower’</b> <i>An inside look at the Bell Tower Ringing Chamber, with talk about the history of the tower and bell ringing. With Claire Penny, Bell Captain.</i>
Thurs 25 June	2.00 pm	<b>Guided Walk, joint with Evesham Walking Festival</b> <b>‘John Moore – Brensham Village’</b> <i>5 mile walk from Bredon. Booking via Evesham Walking Festival.</i>
<b>MAIN FESTIVAL WEEKEND – FRIDAY 26 – SUNDAY 28 JUNE</b>		
Fri 26 June	10.45 am - 12.00 noon	<b>Illustrated talk: ‘Uncompromising Genius – The Life and Work of Frank Lloyd Wright’ with Fiona Rose</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham. <i>Fiona talks about subjects she feels passionate about and her aim is to include the human story behind the artistic endeavours of her subjects.</i>
Fri 26 June	2.00 – 3.00 pm	<b>‘Crime Fiction’ with bestselling author, Tom Hindle.</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham. <i>Sunday Times bestselling author, Tom Hindle is rapidly asserting himself as the master of the murder mystery.</i>
Fri 26 June	3.30 – 4.30 pm	<b>‘Author, Editor, Podcaster’ with Henry Eliot</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Henry is an author, editor, and insatiable bookworm, compiling hundreds of bookish lists. His lists and nuggets of trivia are sure to delight.</i>
Fri 26 June	7.30 pm	<b>‘Festival Quiz Night’ with Quizmasters Helen Yendall and Chris Cherry</b> Raphael’s Restaurant. Light supper included. (Teams of 4) <i>Always a very popular Festival event. Pre-booking essential.</i>
Sat 27 June	10.45 – 11.45 am	<b>‘Henry VIII and The Field of the Cloth of Gold’ with Gillian White</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>In 1520 the Kings of France and England met in a field outside Calais to celebrate peace. This talk explores the reason for the meeting, the celebrations and the aftermath of this magnificent yet futile event.</i>
Sat 27 June	1.15 – 2.15 pm	<b>‘Lady Pamela Berry’ – Antonia Keaney chats with author Harriet Cullen</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Antonia is a Festival favourite. Here she chats with author Harriet Cullen. Lady Pamela was Harriet’s mother – a real socialite and a fabulous story.</i>
Sat 27 June	3.00 – 4.00 pm	<b>‘So Who Was Anne Neville?’ with Rebecca Batley</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Anne Neville was the wife of Richard III. Rebecca is an archaeologist and historian with a particular interest in women’s history.</i>

Date	Time	Event
Sat 27 June	7.00 pm	<b>‘An Evening with Abbie Cooke’</b> Evesham Rowing Club <i>Join Abbie as she talks about how she carved out a career from a Territorial Army Captain to Britain’s only female ships’ figurehead carver. Learn about the secrets of this ancient maritime craft.</i>
Sun 28 June	10.45 am	<b>‘Secrets of the Tower’ (Repeat of event on 21 June)</b> An inside look at the Bell Tower Ringing Chamber, with talk about the history of the tower and bell ringing. With Claire Penny, Bell Captain.
Sun 28 June	2.00 pm	<b>‘An Afternoon with author AJ Pearce’</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham. AJ Pearce is the best-selling author of a series of books set in WW2. Her debut novel, <i>Dear Mrs Bird</i> , was a Sunday Times Bestseller and Richard & Judy Book Club Pick. Subsequent novels have been equally successful.
Sun 28 June	7.00 – 9.00 pm	<b>‘Through the Lens of a Royal Photographer’ with Jack Boskett *</b> The Henrician. <i>Tickets only from: <a href="http://www.henrician.org">www.henrician.org</a>.</i> <i>Jack thrilled the audience in 2024 with his talk From Railways to Royalty – stunning photography and great stories.</i>
Sat 4 July (NEW)	2.30 pm	<b>‘4 July 1776: the American Colonies Declare Independence’, Linda Hart</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham. <i>Join expat Linda as we mark 250 years since the American Declaration of Independence.</i>
Wed 8 July	7.30 pm	<b>‘Death of a Clown’ with Robin Hillman</b> The Fleece Barn, Bretforton <i>Step into the world of Elizabethan theatre and discover the untold story of Will Kemp, the original Falstaff, Shakespeare’s clown, and the man who danced his way into legend!</i>
Sat 1 – Sun 2 Aug		<b>‘Battle of Evesham Festival Weekend’ featuring Alice Roberts and others</b>
Sun 9 August (NEW)	2.30 pm	<b>‘Top of the Wold: Tales from the East Riding’ (Mikron Theatre Company)</b> Raphaels Restaurant, Hampton Ferry. Outdoor event, whatever the weather. Bring your own chairs. Sunday lunch can be booked direct with Raphaels.
Thurs 10 Sept	2.30 pm	<b>‘Flog It’ battles ‘Bargain Hunt’ with Robert Arley</b> Richmond Villages Wood Norton <i>Retired TV producer, Robert Arley has previously spoken about The Antiques Roadshow. Join us to go behind the scenes of these two popular programmes.</i>
Sat 19 Sept	7.00 pm	<b>‘A Celebration of Noel Coward’ - Alistair McGowan and Charlotte Page</b> Bretforton Theatrebarn. <i>Tickets will be via the Theatrebarn.</i> <i>The first half sees Alistair and Charlotte perform together to celebrate Noel Coward. Second half – Alistair, poems and piano. A special evening in a very special venue!</i>

Date	Time	Event
Wed 30 Sept	7.00 pm	<b>‘The Motor Men (Lord Nuffield and Herbert Austin)’ with Max Hunt</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham. <i>Max is a regular and popular speaker at Festival events. In this talk he intertwines the stories of these two giants of Britain’s early motor industry.</i>
Fri 9 Oct (NEW)	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>‘Prince George &amp; Master Frederick’ with Rosalind Freeborn</b> Holland Houe, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>Discover more about Master Frederick and relationship to the royal family.</i>
<b>‘AUTUMNFEST’ - SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER</b>		
Sat 17 Oct (CHANGE OF TITLE)	10.00 am	<b>‘From Perfect to Ordinary’ with Rachel Sargeant</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Rachel is a local writer, Winner of Writing Magazine Crime Short Story Competition, and now a bestselling author with four novels to her name.</i>
Sat 17 Oct	11.30 am	<b>‘My Life and Times as a Film Extra’ with John Kinory.</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>John takes part in films, TV drama and commercials as a supporting artist. Your chance to find out what goes on behind the scenes.</i>
Sat 17 Oct	1.30 pm	<b>‘The Orwell Tour – Travels Through the Life and Work of George Orwell’ with Oliver Lewis</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>Following in the footsteps of one of the world’s literary heroes, Oliver sets out to visit all of the places that inspired and shaped George Orwell.</i>
Sat 17 Oct	3.00 pm	<b>‘Pages from my Passport’ with Amelia Dalton</b> Ecgwins Club, 117 High Street, Evesham <i>This lively memoir tells of a life devoted to getting people to remote and unusual places whilst battling with scorpions and bombs, chauvinists and unwilling agents. Amelia was last with us in 2018.</i>
Sat 17 Oct (CHANGE OF DATE)	7.30 pm	<b>‘Macready! Dickens Theatrical Friend’ with Mark Stratford</b> The Henrician. Tickets only from: <a href="http://www.henrician.org">www.henrician.org</a> . <i>This compelling show written and performed by Mark Stratford tells the story of the great Victorian actor-manager, William Charles Macready, the man to whom Dickens dedicated Nicholas Nickleby.</i>
Fri 23 Oct (NEW)	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>‘Libraries of the World’ with Festival Chair, Sue Ablett</b> Holland Houe, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>Join Sue as she takes us on a fun and fascinating tour of libraries around the world.</i>
Friday 27 Nov	7.00 pm	<b>‘Emmeline Pankhurst – Angel or Anarchist’ with Liz Grand</b> The Henrician, Evesham. Tickets only from: <a href="http://www.henrician.org">www.henrician.org</a> . <i>Liz has delighted audiences with her portrayal of Mrs Christie, Enid Blyton, Mrs Churchill. A great script and great acting guaranteed!</i>

Date	Time	Event
<b>Mon 30 Nov (NEW)</b>	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch	<b>'Dr Albert Schweitzer and Reverence for Life' with Galen Bartholomew</b> Holland Houe, Cropthorne Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ( <a href="http://www.hollandhouse.org">www.hollandhouse.org</a> ) <i>In this talk Galen will review Schweitzer's life, suggesting that he should be seen as a man of his time, and that his philosophy still has relevance today.</i>
<b>December</b>		<b>'Evesham Christmas Tree Festival'</b>

Further details of all these and other, events, including ticket prices, are now on the Festival website ([www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org)), and will be in our Festival Brochure out early March 2026.

For more information on any of the above, or for ticket enquiries, please email: Festival Chair, Sue Ablett ([info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)) or tel: 07871 285606.



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