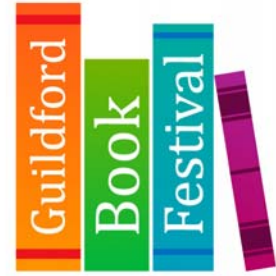


Press Release: for immediate release

GUILDFORD BOOK FESTIVAL IS SET TO SERVE UP A LITERARY FEAST

Thursday 13th to Saturday 22nd October 2011

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk



Barry Cryer

Francine Stock

Johnny Ball

Hallie Rubenhold

Martin Bell

Pam Ayres

Deborah Bull

The annual **Guildford Book Festival** promises a truly thought-provoking and entertaining programme of events featuring many of Britain's finest writers and personalities.

This year's line-up includes one of Britain's most highly regarded journalists and ex-Independent MP **Martin Bell**, distinguished ex Royal Ballet principal dancer **Deborah Bull**, Britain's favourite mathematician **Johnny Ball**, archaeologist, historian and broadcaster **Neil Oliver**, writer and comedian **Steve Furst**, writer, broadcaster and entertainer **Pam Ayres**, award-winning garden writer **Sarah Raven** and journalist and broadcaster **Bel Mooney**.

Other Festival highlights include the ever popular **Girls' Night** hosted by **Jane Wenham-Jones** on **21st October**, featuring, among others, bestselling novelists **Penny Vincenzi** and **Penny Jordan**. Another firm favourite, the **Festival Quiz** will also feature in the programme this year.

The ever popular **Readers' Day** which celebrates fiction, and is a great chance to meet an eclectic mix of authors, will be held on **15th October**. This year it features **Nina Bell**, **Anne Berry**, **Suzannah Dunn**, **Rebecca Frayn**, **Jason Goodwin**, **Mark Mills**, **S.J. Parris**, **Imogen Robertson**, **Natasha Solomons** and **Elizabeth Speller**.

Fiction continues to be celebrated on 17th October with an event looking at the lighter side of provincial life with novelists **Ceri Radford** and **Helen Simonson** who talk about their respective debut novels, the runaway hit *A Surrey State of Affairs*, and *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, a New York Times Bestseller and a Richard & Judy 2011 Spring Pick.

Always eagerly anticipated are the Festival's **writing workshops**. This year the programme includes

workshops on story structure, crime writing, historical fiction and the practical aspects of getting published.

Historical fiction adds another facet to the Festival. A special panel featuring **Emma Darwin, Rose Melikan, Maria McCann** and **R.N. Morris** will discuss what draws them to specific periods in history, while historian, broadcaster and authority on 18th-century British social history **Hallie Rubenhold** will give a talk: 'Austen's Women', in which she gets under the bonnets of the real women of the period and questions whether Jane Austen's characters were realistic and what women really thought about culture, education, sex and their role in society.

Two key biographical speakers promise to bring two leading figures vividly to life. In *Georgette Heyer, Biography of a Bestseller*, **Jennifer Kloester** draws an engaging and comprehensive portrait of the queen of Regency romance, while Polar historian **Dr David Wilson** will give an illustrated talk entitled *The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott* in which he shares an astonishing set of new and unpublished images taken through the eyes of Scott himself, offering an irreplaceable insight into Scott the man and his passion for scientific exploration.

The Festival embraces a whole host of other subjects including film and crime. On 14th October, in *In Glorious Technicolor – A Century of Film and How it has Shaped Us*, film lover and critic **Francine Stock** explores the nature of our relationship with film and charts her personal journey through a glorious century of cinema, while ardent crime fans will have the opportunity to see **Felix Francis**, younger son of thriller-writing legend Dick Francis introduce his first solo novel *Gamble* on 18th October.

Finally, bringing to Festival to a close on a light-hearted note will be the much loved comedian, broadcaster and scriptwriter **Barry Cryer** with his new show Butterfly Brain.

Over the course of the Festival, author events in local schools will be staged as part of our commitment to encouraging reading and writing among young people.

**Except where stated, all events are bookable online at www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk
Festival Box Offices: 01483 444789 or 01483 444334.**

Notes to Editors:

Regional Media Enquiries:

**For more information, high res images, or to arrange author interviews,
please contact Manisha Thaker on 01483 416537 or
marketing@guildfordbookfestival.co.uk**

National Media Enquiries:

**Please contact Claire Richman at Midas PR
on 020 7361 7862 or claire.richman@midaspr.co.uk**

Please visit www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk for more information on the latest events. High resolution photographs and press releases will shortly be available to download on the Press Area of the Festival website.

Festival brochures will be available to view online from early September, as well to pick up from The Electric Theatre, Guildford Tourist Information Centre, libraries and many other places.

Established in 1989, the Guildford Book Festival is staged annually across venues within the town over 10 days. It receives core funding from **Guildford Borough Council** and the **University of Surrey**, as well as support from a number of key local businesses.

The Festival boasts the following Patrons: **Elizabeth Buchan, Michael Buerk, Adele Parks, Michael Rosen, Sandi Toksvig, Fay Weldon, Timothy West** and **Jacqueline Wilson**.

Guildford Book Festival became a registered charity in 2009 (Charity Number 1131040).

Listings Information for some of the events at Guildford Book Festival 2011:

**Except where stated, all events are bookable online at www.guildfordbookfestival.co.uk
Festival Box Offices: 01483 444789 or 01483 444334.**

Deborah Bull – The Everyday Dancer Thursday 13 October

From her first public performance at the age of four, through her years as a principal ballerina to creative director at the Royal Opera House, Deborah Bull has experienced at first hand the full arc of a dancer's life: the repetition of rehearsals, the excitement of creating new work, the pressures of performance and the anti-climax of that last curtain call.

Martin Bell – For Whom the Bell Tolls Thursday 13 October

Martin Bell, 'the man in the white suit', is highly respected for his iconic war reporting, his tireless campaigning for worthwhile causes and his staunch championing of honesty and accountability in public life. His wry and witty verse hits home as he sets his sights on dodgy politicians, 'celebs' and the futility of war.

Francine Stock – In Glorious Technicolor Friday 14 October

Francine Stock, familiar from many arts and current affairs programmes, takes us on a personal journey through cinema history. From the first frightening sight of a train steaming straight for the audience, courtesy of the Lumière brothers, to the compellingly addictive 3D wonderworlds of *Avatar*, she explores how film has reflected and influenced our perception of the world.

Dr David M Wilson – The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott Friday 14 October

In the last months of his fateful Antarctic expedition, Captain Scott took a series of breathtaking photographs of the polar landscape and his fellow explorers, most of which have never been seen. These are now published to coincide with an exhibition marking the centenary of his death, and presented by David Wilson, himself a polar historian, whose great-uncle died with Scott.

Steve Furst – 100 Worst Britons Saturday 15 October

Join Steve Furst as he undertakes his survey of the 100 Worst Britons of the Year.

Helen Simonson (Major Pettigrew's Last Stand) & Ceri Radford (A Surrey State of Affairs) Monday 17 October

Comedy and satire in the home counties. Helen Simonson's Major Pettigrew (Richard & Judy choice and Melissa Nathan Award for Comedy Romance) and Ceri Radford's Constance Harding (who began life as a *Telegraph* blog) discover in their own ways that their cosy existences are not immune to Real Life.

Jennifer Kloester – Georgette Heyer, Biography of a Bestseller

Monday 17 October

Georgette Heyer is still undoubtedly the Queen of Regency romance, and Jennifer Kloester's engrossing and engaging biography bring her vividly to life. She worked closely with the Heyer family and in ten years of meticulous research has uncovered much previously unseen material about the private woman behind the world-famous name.

Maria McCann, Emma Darwin, R N Morris and Rose Melikan

Through a Different Lens

Monday 17 October

Four historical novelists come together to discuss what drew them to specific periods – between them they cover medieval London, Restoration Somerset, Revolutionary France and 19th-century St Petersburg – how historical novels work for readers and writers, how they research and how each of them makes their very different fiction out of historical fact.

Hallie Rubenhold – Austen's Women

Tuesday 18 October

Historian and broadcaster Hallie Rubenhold is an authority on social life in the 18th century; she has written an acclaimed study on Georgian low life and was adviser to Channel 4's 'City of Vice'. In her talk 'Austen's Women', she gets under the bonnets of the real women of the period and questions whether Jane Austen's characters were realistic and what women really thought about culture, education, sex and their role in society.

Felix Francis – Gamble

Tuesday 18 October

Francis: the next generation enters the winners' enclosure. Felix collaborated with his father, the much-mourned Dick Francis, on his last four books, and now gallops across the finishing line with his first solo novel, an exciting thriller played out against the backdrop of Aintree and the Grand National.

Johnny Ball – Ball of Confusion

Tuesday 18 October

Puzzles, problems and perplexing posers from the star who presents regular brainteasers on his daughter Zoë's Radio 2 show. From how to cheat in a coin toss to why some parts of a high speed train are actually going backwards, Johnny Ball will bend your mind in places it's never been bent before.

Bel Mooney – A Small Dog Saved My Life

Wednesday 19 October

Life has not always run smoothly for Bel Mooney, despite fame and success as a journalist and broadcaster. 'If this book has any message,' she writes, 'it is that recovery and salvation can come from the most unexpected sources.' In Bel's case salvation came from a little Maltese called Bonnie....

Pam Ayres – An Audience with Pam Ayres

Wednesday 19 October

National treasure Pam Ayres arrives at G Live, Guildford's newest venue with her autobiography, *The Necessary Aptitude*. Her quirky 'pomes', her sense of fun and her enjoyment of the absurd in everyday life have made her a firm favourite across the generations.

Barry Cryer – Butterfly Brain

Saturday 22 October

A man who needs no introduction, Barry Cryer will be treating a packed audience to 'a stream of unconsciousness and sit-down comedy': a brand new show of inimitable musings, wordplay and sharp-tongued humour from the comedian for whom 'flabbergasted' means being aghast at how much weight he's gained!