



**WORDS
CULTURE
WORKSHOPS**

Falmouth Book Festival

**13th
–20th
Oct**

www.falmouthbookfestival.com

2024

Design: A-Side.



Welcome

We're delighted to be hosting our fourth annual book festival and presiding over another programme of exciting book events in Falmouth this autumn. Our line-up features award-winning literary novelists, acclaimed broadcasters, stand-up comedians, feminist writers, and environmentalists.

Organising a book festival isn't just about getting high profile authors to come and promote their latest books - it's also about provoking a debate and providing a bit of inspiration. While there are lots of big-name events to choose from, we'd encourage you to dip into this programme and find out about the wide range of themes that are being explored.

Our weekend programme kicks off with a series of free children's events at Falmouth library, providing an opportunity to inspire young minds with the power of words, when so many other distractions seem to crowd books out of the conversation.

We're also excited to announce the start of what we hope will become an ongoing series of off-season events, beginning in

mid-November with an event with John Suchet who'll be talking with BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny about his passion for the music of Beethoven. We're also delighted to welcome to Falmouth the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams who will be talking at King Charles Church on 29th November. We hope to continue in this vein with another season of events in early 2025.

We're very grateful to the people of Falmouth for their ongoing support in the project - without your continued enthusiasm we wouldn't be able to make it happen. But we'd also like to ask you help spread us the word, so please do tell your neighbours, friends, and relatives about what we're doing!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors: Falmouth University and its Creative Writing department, the Falmouth Bookseller, St Michael's Resort, Reynolds & Slater opticians, the Falmouth BID and of course, our main venue host, The Poly, and its wonderful staff.

Many thanks,

Colin Midson & Helen Waters

Monday 14th October

Rosie Holt

Comedy in a post-satire world

7pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Rosie Holt, the desperate and loyal Tory MP* famous for her viral twitter 'interviews', is here to celebrate 14 years of Conservative government and explain why the so called "scandals" or "controversial" decisions derided by the left were completely right (and intentional) all along. She'll make Tories of you yet! (Though she has crossed the floor since the election...)

*Rosie Holt *actually* became a viral sensation over lockdown when she created satirical videos of a *fake* politician whom many people still mistake as real. She'll be bringing her alter ego to the stage, talking about her new book *Why We Were Right*, and reflecting on how studying the drivel spoken by politicians has harnessed the power of laughter in a post-satire world.

'Tightly crafted and brutal political satire with Orwellian flourishes' The Independent

'If she can stay in character long enough, she'll have a Telegraph column and a seat on Question Time by teatime' James O'Brien

Tuesday 15th October

Val McDermid

With Cathy Rentzenbrink

7pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Val McDermid is a number one bestseller whose novels have sold over nineteen million copies worldwide. She has won many awards including the CWA Gold Dagger for best crime novel of the year and the LA Times Book of the Year Award.

Val comes from Kirkcaldy, Fife, and read English at St Hilda's College, Oxford. She was the first ever student from a state school in Scotland. Her first success as a novelist came with *Report for Murder*, first published in 1987.

Val will be talking about her life in writing, the Karen Pirie books series, and the publication, earlier this year, of *Queen Macbeth*, a retelling of the life of that most intriguing and complex of Shakespearian characters.

'Brilliant... Sensational . . . Unforgettable' Guardian

'Compulsively readable' Irish Times

'One of today's most accomplished crime writers' Literary Review

Wednesday 16th October

Cornish Ghost Stories:

Keith Wallis with Liz Fenwick, Emily Barr & Emma Cowell

7pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Cornwall is the perfect setting for tales, myths, and legends, providing a perfect backdrop to ghostly goings-on.

Join Keith Wallis host of 'The Piskie Trap' – a podcast exploring the folklore, history and legends of Cornwall – as he talks to some of the authors who have contributed to the recently published book *13 Cornish Ghost Stories*.

Emily Barr is a travel writer and novelist, the author of YA books and bestselling thrillers. Liz Fenwick has published nine novels and two novellas taking her inspiration from Cornwall's history and landscape. Emma Cowell is a former actress and broadcaster turned novelist. They will be joined by co-editor of the collection Marie Macneill, writer, director, playwright and Senior Lecturer at the School of Film and Television at Falmouth University.

Together they will be discussing their literary inspirations, the inherent ghostliness of Cornwall and the rich folkloric past that some of the stories in the collection draw upon.

Thursday 17th October

David Baddiel My Family

With Cathy Rentzenbrink

7pm, at Princess Pavilion. Tickets £10 and £5



On the surface, David Baddiel's childhood was fairly standard: a lower-middle-class Jewish family living in an ordinary house in north-west London. But David came to realise that his mother was not ordinary at all. Having fled Nazi Germany to escape extermination as a child, she was desperate to make her life count, which took the form of a passionate, decades-long affair with a golfing memorabilia salesman.

In *My Family* David's account - featuring a hilarious description of how his mother turned their house over to golfing nicknacks, and an eye-popping cache of her erotic writings - reveals Sarah Baddiel as a cross between Jack Niklaus and Erica Jong.

Meanwhile, as Baddiel investigates his family's past, his father's memories are fading; dementia is making him moodier and more disinhibited, with an even greater penchant for obscenity. But there is both comedy and poignancy to be found: laughter is a constant presence, capable of transforming the darkest of experiences into something redemptive.

Friday 18th October

Rick Stein

Food Stories

With Jemma Woodman

6.30pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Rick Stein has been a significant force in our changing relationship with food for over 40 years. He comes to Falmouth to launch his new book *Rick Stein's Food Stories*, an exciting collection of new classics that celebrate the diversity of food in modern Britain.

Rick will be looking back on his lifetime in cooking and his long relationship with Cornwall, its food and its extraordinary produce. He'll also be reflecting on some of the highlights from his recent travels, his lifelong love of traditional comfort food, and on the way that new food and flavours that have come to our shores have influenced the nation's evolving palate and enriched the British culinary scene.

Rick Stein's Food Stories also shines a spotlight on talented food heroes from all over the country, from food growers and producers to immigrant home cooks and rebellious young chefs.

'[Rick Stein's] cookbooks inspire you with so much confidence' Sunday Telegraph

Saturday 19th October

Jennifer Cox

Women are Angry

With Gail Muller

12pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



In a world where patience is a virtue and being a good girl is for life, women are never allowed to truly express their anger - and it is making us ill. After a lifetime of being told to repress it, to hide it away and fear it, anger has begun to manifest in female bodies in myriad ways we can't control. And the results are alarming.

In her powerful and eye-opening book *Women are Angry!*, psychotherapist and podcaster Jennifer Cox takes us on a journey from cradle to grave revealing how, at every stage of life, women are conditioned not to speak out or 'make a fuss'. Jennifer draws on her wealth of experience to show us how to tune in to our feelings of frustration and offers us the tools to express what we have subdued for so long.

'A game-changer and a must-read for women and the men who love us.' Shaparak Khorsandi

'Whip-smart and, at times, witty [...] Jennifer is practical, too' Psychologies Magazine

Saturday 19th October

Petroc Trelawny: Trelawny's Cornwall

With Gavin Plumley

2pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



It would be hard to think of a more Cornish name than Petroc Trelawny, combining, as it does, Cornwall's celebrated saint with the name of its unofficial national anthem. But when a stranger challenges the Radio 3 presenter on his ancestry, he is inspired to return to the place where he grew up and attempt to confirm if he still belongs there.

Returning to his childhood home on the Lizard, he visits mine workings, ancient churches, and places where poets, architects and filmmakers have worked to shape Cornwall's identity. He holds a finger up to winds of change, exploring the collapse of Methodism, the decline of the Cornish language, and the complex question of tourism.

As he travels around, he conjures vivid figures and scenes from memory, telling the stories of a loving family full of mysteries and a landscape still redolent of 'Cornish otherness'.

'I can't think of a more enjoyable or illuminating guide to Cornwall than Petroc Trelawny, who knows it intimately, loves it deeply, and shares it generously' Rev Richard Coles

Saturday 19th October

Monique Roffey: Passiontide

With Cathy Rentzenbrink

4pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



The Costa-winning author of *The Mermaid of Black Conch* comes back to Falmouth to discuss her electrifying new novel.

One morning, at the close of St Colibri carnival, a young female steel-pan player is found dead beneath a tree. It is a discovery that will transform the lives of everyone on this small island.

As the days pass, this shocking event draws together four women: local journalist Sharleen; her childhood friend and local activist, Tara: Gigi, the founder of the Port Isabella Sex Workers Collective; and Daisy, first lady of St Colibri.

In a community in which women's voices are often silenced and violence against them is overlooked time after time, the group soon find themselves compelled to speak out – and to act. But even they could never have foreseen the consequences of their courage...

'Vital, enraging and brilliant. I loved it'
Sarah Winman

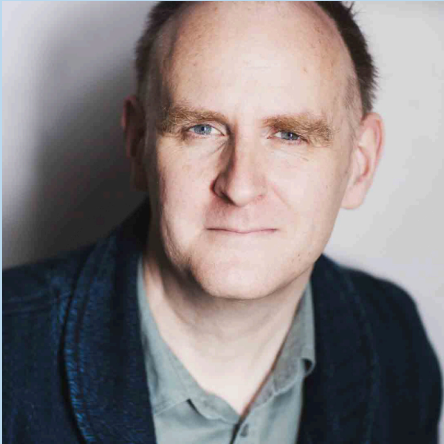
'Roffey's world-building power is evident on every page' Guardian

Saturday 19th October

Nick Harkaway

Karla's Choice: A John Le Carré novel

6pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



In a gripping new novel, written by acclaimed novelist Nick Harkaway, son of John Le Carré, we return to one of spy fiction's biggest characters: George Smiley. With the wreckage of the West's spy war with the Soviets strewn across Europe, Smiley finds himself entangled in a perilous mystery that will define the battles to come, and strike at the heart of his greatest enemy.

Set in the missing decade between two iconic instalments in the George Smiley saga, Nick Harkaway's *Karla's Choice* is an extraordinary, thrilling return to the world of spy fiction's greatest writer, John Le Carré.

In a conversation with festival director Colin Midson, Nick will be talking about paying homage to his father's legacy and the responsibility that comes with reviving such an iconic character.

'A brilliant and almost uncanny incarnation of le Carré's voice and world - and an exceptional espionage novel in its own right' William Boyd

'A note-perfect tribute to le Carré that feels fresh and new, and yet fits seamlessly into the world of Smiley's Circus in its heyday' Mick Herron

Saturday 19th
October

Will Hodgkinson

Street Level Superstar

With Colin Midson

7.30pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Lawrence is the greatest pop star who never made it, his dreams of glory thwarted by bad luck and self-sabotage. His first band Felt released ten albums and ten singles in the 80s. His next band Denim signed to EMI, and in 1997, their song 'Summer Smash' became Radio 1's Single of the Week. Then Princess Diana was killed in a car crash. All copies were melted down and depression, addiction and homelessness followed... but Lawrence never gave up.

In *Street-Level Superstar*, author and Times music critic Will Hodgkinson follows Lawrence as he rebuilds his life. As they walk together down rain-soaked streets, Will tells the story of Britain's most eccentric cult star. Will he write the greatest song the world has ever known before the year is out? And was it worth sacrificing everything - family, relationships, health, sanity - for art?

'Essential reading' Jarvis Cocker

'A fascinating tale beautifully told' Brett Anderson

'Wonderful' Bobby Gillespie

Sunday 20th October

Cathy Rentzenbrink: Ordinary Time

With Mary Morris

12pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Cathy Rentzenbrink is the author of the highly acclaimed novel *Everyone is Still Alive* and several works of non-fiction including the Sunday Times bestselling memoir *The Last Act of Love*.

Cathy will be talking about her new novel, *Ordinary Time*, which charts the joys and sorrows of everyday life and asks big questions about friendship and marriage, forgiveness and redemption, and the real meaning of love.

It tells the story of Ann, a reluctant Vicar's wife whose husband only has eyes for God, while her son is asking questions she struggles to answer. When her brother needs help, Ann travels from Cornwall up to London where a chance meeting opens up a new world of possibilities. Ann knows what the congregation would say, but once she has been led into temptation, it may prove impossible to resist.

'Here is the absolute truth about love, told with wisdom, heart and humour. So clever, funny and life-affirming' Meg Mason

'Funny and heartbreaking, immersive and thoroughly satisfying' Nina Stibbe

Sunday 20th October

Helen Scales: The Future of our Oceans

With Natalie Hart

2pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



After more than twenty years of exploring the seas, marine biologist Helen Scales found herself struggling to answer a question that ever more people were asking: Are you hopeful for the future of the ocean? She's gazed into the intelligent eyes of octopuses, listened to whales singing under water and found pocket-sized sharks in rock pools; she has also swum in plastic-polluted waters and watched coral reefs bleaching in heat waves. With the growing public interest in nature combined with the rising tide of eco-anxiety, Scales is not alone in wrestling with feelings of anger and loss but also joy and wonder.

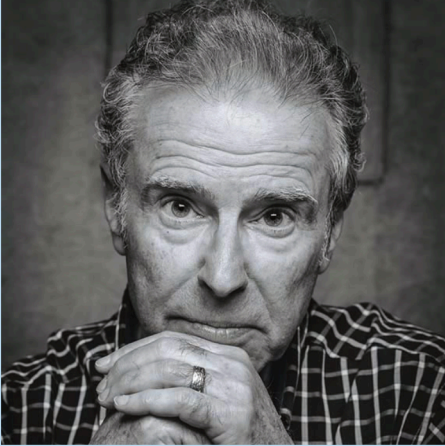
In *What the Wild Sea Can Be*, Scales finds a reassuring balance of hopes and fears for the future of the ocean. Instead of turning away from the problems, she encourages us to understand what's going on while still feeling a sense of awe and wonder in marine life and demanding a better future for the ocean which is still well within reach.

'Stylish, eloquent . . . Enthralling and richly expressed and highlights how closely our lives depend on the deep' The Guardian

Sunday 20th October

Gered Mankowitz: Photographing the Stones With Will Hodgkinson

3.30pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



Gered Mankowitz is one of the most celebrated photographers in the history of modern music. His iconic images of Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Marianne Faithfull and others have become part of the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

As a teenager, Gered took some of the best-loved photographs of the Stones and, in his new book *The Rolling Stones Rare and Unseen*, takes a look beyond those famous images to provide a truly fresh look at the greatest story in rock 'n' roll.

In conversation with Times Rock Critic, Will Hodgkinson, Gered will talk about the time he spent with the band and reflect on the other artists he's worked with, from Kate Bush, to Leonard Cohen, Wham, Madness and Oasis.

'Gered was at one with the band. More than that, for that special time, he was in the band.'
Andrew Loog Oldham

'He was a hell of a lot of fun. That's why he was a good photographer' Marianne Faithfull

Sunday 20th October

Daisy Goodwin Diva: The Maria Callas Story With Cathy Rentzenbrink

5pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



In the glittering and ruthlessly competitive world of opera, Maria Callas is known simply as la divina: the divine one. Yet while she was the toast of the world's grandest opera houses, her fame was hard won: raised in Nazi-occupied Greece by a mercilessly exploitative mother, Maria learned early in life how to protect herself.

In her New York Times bestselling novel *Diva*, screenwriter, TV producer and novelist Daisy Goodwin breathes life into Callas's story. Delving into the untold love affair with Aristotle Onassis, she looks at how a life of unbelievable luxury – mixing with celebrities like Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor – falls away overnight when the international press announce that Onassis will marry the most famous woman in the world, former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

'A jewel of a novel' Rose Tremain

'The unstoppable story of ambition and desire that Daisy Goodwin was born to write'
Lucy Worsley

Thursday 17th October

Young & Talented Cornwall

Creative Writing Awards

5pm, the Creative Bridge Space, Penryn Campus

(Limited tickets available)

We're delighted to be featuring an event in support of a fabulous initiative that champions young writing talent in Cornwall.

Young & Talented Cornwall has supported eight young wordsmiths this year through its Creative Writing Award. This initiative provides invaluable mentorship with established Cornish authors to nurture young talent and help them achieve their writing dreams.

The award, sponsored by Falmouth University and Seasalt Cornwall and supported by the Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants, was launched in 2022. The group - consisting of future poets, journalists and scriptwriters - is the second cohort of young people to benefit from the Creative Writing Award.

They will be presented with their awards by Lord Lieutenant Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE.



Weekend children's events

Our children's events are hosted at the Library on the morning of Saturday 19th October.

Children's places must be booked in advance of the session and they must be accompanied by an adult.

Children's tickets are subject to a £1.50 fee (£1 PolyFund & 50p booking fee).



Story-sharing with Craig Barr Green

10am at the Library Ages 4-8

Craig writes picture books, non-fiction and theatre for children. He lives in Cornwall, but has always been suspicious of the deep and wobbly sea. He loves music and darts, but is a terrible musician and has never hit a bullseye.

Craig will be reading stories from the Gina Kaminski series. There will be laughter, a silly song, some signs to learn and crafty activities. Best of all, the stories will have good endings for wolves and giants (who always get bad endings)!

"I LOVE Gina Kaminski." Jacqueline Wilson



Create Crazy Characters with Anna Wilson

10.15am at the Library Ages 8-11

Anna Wilson has published over 60 books for children and adults. Her *Vlad the World's Worst Vampire* series has been translated into thirteen languages and her picture book *Grandpa and the Kingfisher* was shortlisted for the Wainwright Nature Prize in 2023.

Where do ideas come from? Do you have ideas for a story? Come along to Anna's workshop and invent some bold characters and take them on an adventure!

There will be opportunity to draw or write your own story and share with others.



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Suzanna's Hubbard's Illustration & Writing Workshop

11am, Ages 4 - 8

Join Suzanna Hubbard for a wondrous workshop based on *The Last Giant of Marazion*, a book inspired by Suzanna's love of Cornwall, its many myths and legends and also times spent here with her family.

Suzanna studied printmaking at The City & Guilds of London Art School and then an MA in Narrative Illustration at The University of Brighton. As well as working as an illustrator, she has taught at various art colleges and runs an art club for children in her home town in Dorset.



Justyn Edwards' Workshop Of Illusion & Trickery

11.30am, Ages 8 - 11

Justyn will be performing a trick. Please don't trust it or sit back and enjoy it. In fact, don't take your eyes off him for a second, because by the end he will have done several impossible things. The question is, will you be able to work out how he did them?

In the Great Fox books, Flick and Charlie are challenged to work out the secrets behind some of the most baffling magic tricks that have ever been performed. But how good are your detective skills? How quickly can you solve a mystery? There's only one way to find out...

Writers' Surgery & Workshop

We're delighted to be collaborating with the Creative Writing team at Falmouth University on some incredible writing sessions. Work with lecturers and students on honing your craft with these two great opportunities.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance of the session, Sessions are held at Tannachie House, Wood Lane. TR11 4RH. Please visit the website for further information.



Writers' Surgery

Weds 16th, 3.30-4.30pm at the Lighthouse, Tannachie House

Join experienced Falmouth University writers for one-to-one feedback on your writing. Bring along a piece of no more than 3,000 words to the session to be matched with one of our writing mentors, who will read and peer review your work, using their own publishing experience to help you take your writing to the next level.

With multiple writers covering a range of specialisms across fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry, we can't wait to see what you bring along. Spaces are extremely limited – book yours online now.



Writing Workshop: The Pleasure Principle

4pm, Fri 19th at the Lighthouse, Tannachie House Ages 18+

Do you want to write romantic novels or erotic fiction but struggle to get past the cringe factor?

Learn how to write love, sex, and everything in-between in this fun and supportive workshop led by Falmouth University's Dr Jo Parsons.

Dr Jo Parsons is a Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing at Falmouth University. Her books include *Doomed Romances* and *13 Cornish Ghost Stories*. She is currently writing a book on the Bonkbuster.

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

STUDY AT THE NO.1 ARTS UNIVERSITY IN THE UK

Off-season Book Festival events starting this November

Saturday 16th November

John Suchet In Search of Beethoven With Petroc Trelawny

6pm, at the Poly. Tickets £8 and £5



John Suchet is one of the UK's best-loved news reporters and broadcasters and has been a mainstay on Classic FM since 2011.

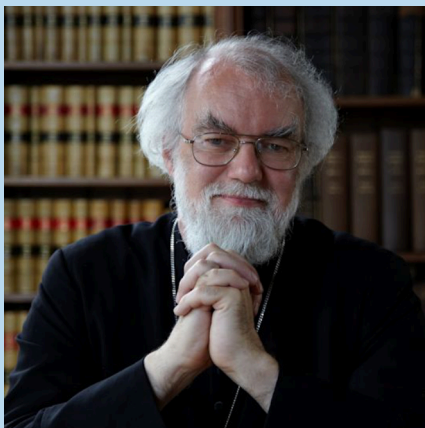
In conversation with BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny, John Suchet will be talking about *In Search of Beethoven*, his latest and most personal book on the great composer. Part biography, part memoir, part travelogue, Suchet draws on his own life and career to show how Beethoven's music has accompanied him through the best and worst of times. It was with him as a music-loving and adventurous teenager, as a journalist entering Beirut in the grip of civil war, and as he has continued to explore the old cities of Bonn and Vienna, in search of the man behind the music.

Suchet brings Beethoven vividly – and sometimes painfully – to life, taking us on a journey both literal and symbolic, as he uses his own experience as a Beethoven aficionado to demonstrate the life-changing power of great music.

Friday 29th November

Rowan Williams Passions of the Soul

7pm, King Charles Church. Tickets £8 and £5



Rowan Williams was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, a position he held from 2002 until 2012, and was until 2020 Master of Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge.

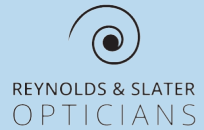
As a poet and theologian, he has written over 20 books on subjects as diverse as W.H. Auden, Dostoevsky, C.S. Lewis's Narnia books, and the consolations of poetry. His latest, *Passions of the Soul*, looks at how the Eastern Christian tradition teaches us how to develop our self-knowledge and awareness and helps us to understand and cope with the ups and downs of modern life.

With compelling and illuminating insight, he will draw on a lifetime of learning to provide some well needed theological and philosophical nourishment.

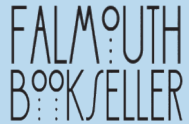
'Rowan William's most striking characteristics are his humanity and his fine intellect... an exceptional man.' — Baroness Helena Kennedy



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