

FLEET STREET QUARTER FESTIVAL OF WORDS

THE AGE OF WISDOM AND FOOLISHNESS



EVENT PROGRAMME

TICKETS: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FESTIVAL-OF-WORDS-2026

FLEET STREET FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2026

Fleet Street Quarter's Festival of Words returns from 12th -16th May 2026, bringing five days of enlightening and transformative conversations to this historic western side of the City of London. Featuring an array of authors, journalists and thinkers across multiple genres, the Festival of Words once again celebrates Fleet Street Quarter as the place where stories have always been born.

The theme this year takes inspiration from the famous opening lines of Charles Dickens's novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness'.

Join us across 40 events as we examine and celebrate what drives our own Age of Wisdom and Foolishness, the ideas right or wrong that challenge what has gone before and seek to predict what will come next.

THURSDAY 7TH MAY



LYNDSEY SIMPSON: **THE AGE REBELLION**

18.00-19.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Join Lyndsey Simpson, Founder and CEO of 55/Redefined, as she unveils her groundbreaking forthcoming book *The Age Rebellion: Plan Your Future and Thrive*. A leading voice on ageing, work and reinvention, Lyndsey brings fresh insight, data and optimism to what life after 50 can look like. Celebrated entrepreneur, media commentator and champion of "inspired, not retired," she invites audiences to rethink possibility and embrace a bold, empowered next chapter.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



CHRIS STEELE & ANTHONY **SCARAMUCCI:** **WHAT KEEPS DONALD** **TRUMP AWAKE AT NIGHT?**

19.30 - 20.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Donald Trump's second Presidential term has unleashed a new age of uncertainty. Join Anthony Scaramucci, broadcaster, *The Rest is Politics* US podcaster, and former White House Communications Director, alongside former MI6 intelligence officer Chris Steele, author of the Trump Russia dossier, for unique insights into how Trump thinks, what he might do next and what it means for global politics and security.

This ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

TUESDAY 12TH MAY



WRITING A MEMOIR:
ARVON CREATIVE
WRITING WORKSHOP

11:00 - 13.00

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

What makes one memoir hold the reader's attention and another shut them out of the experience? With essayist and non-fiction writer **Amy Key**, author of *Arrangements in Blue*, you will explore what makes a striking voice in memoir, and what defines our own. Through close reading and writing prompts, you'll discover how personal narrative can be used to bring ideas and perspectives to life.



THE STATE OF IT:
LIVE PODCAST
RECORDING WITH THE
TIMES

11.30 - 12.30

Temple Church, EC4Y 7BB

The State of It takes you inside the room where it happens. The best political journalists from The Times and Sunday Times tell you what the people running the country are saying to - and about - each other. Scoops and insight, anecdotes and jokes from reporters who spend their lives making sense of what's happening in Westminster. Featuring **Caroline Wheeler**, **Patrick Macguire**, **Gabriel Pogrand**, and **Steven Swinford**.



PURPOSE OR
PERFORMANCE?
BUSINESS AS A FORCE
OF NATURE: SIMEON
ROSE & ERIKA CLEGG

13.30 - 14.30

Temple Church, EC4Y 7BB

Companies are often keen to talk about their values, but less keen to enact them. How can businesses do better? Author and thought leader **Erika Clegg** (Junk Values) will discuss how the language of purpose and values has been hollowed out by corporate culture and performative behaviour, and how to reclaim it to bring about real change. In 2022, Faith in Nature became the first company to appoint Nature to its board, redefining the meaning of corporate responsibility. Its brand director **Simeon Rose** (Nature's Boardroom) will give us a behind-the-scenes look into this groundbreaking initiative, and explain how other companies can follow suit.

TUESDAY 12TH MAY



**DAMIAN COLLINS: DAVID
LLOYD GEORGE - DOES
IT TAKE A DYNAMIC
FORCE TO SUCCEED IN A
CHALLENGING WORLD?**

17.00 - 18.00

Temple Church, EC4Y 7BB

David Lloyd George was the first 'cottage bred' man to become Prime Minister, the father of the modern welfare state and the 'man who won the [First World] war'. He was constant in self-belief, but unfaithful to the women who loved him, and a wizard who beguiled supporters and opponents alike. Today, with crises at home and around the world, do we need leaders like Lloyd George who are unafraid to find unorthodox ways to take on important challenges.

In partnership with
Lloyd George Society



**ALEXANDER HOARE:
IMPACT BANKER**

18.30 - 19.30

C. Hoare & Co., EC4Y 1BT

How does a family bank prepare for the 21st century? It doubles down on the power of relationships and trying to optimise for the greater good. It does not pursue scale but seeks simplicity and quality. Alexander was the first of the eleventh generation of Hoare family members to join the partnership. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he joined the bank in 1987 from the PA Consulting Group where he worked as a marketing consultant, and from 2001 to 2009, he was Chief Executive Officer of C. Hoare & Co. In conversation with Darshini David.

6pm: Drinks and Canapes

6:30-7:30pm: Talk with **Alexander Hoare** and **Darshini David**.

7:30pm: Join us for drinks after the event



**LOTTIE MOGGACH: A
VICTORIAN MURDER
REIMAGINED - THE
STORY BEHIND THE
NOVEL**

18.30 - 19.30

**Dr Johnson's House,
EC4A 3DE**

Camden, 1890. Hannah Teale is a bright young woman, engaged to a budding Fleet Street reporter. When a local woman, Mary Pearcey, is arrested for a brutal double murder, Hannah is struck by a chilling realisation: she's seen that face before. Convinced Mary is not as guilty as the tabloid press is branding her, Hannah begins her own investigation into the brutal crime. Join Lottie Moggach as she discusses her novel and the real life murder that inspired it. In discussion with **Clare Clark**.

TUESDAY 12TH MAY



THE DAY THE QUEEN DIED: HOW A STORY UNFOLDS

18.30 - 19.30

Temple Church, EC4Y 7BB

Taking one important story – the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II – Executive Editor of The Times and Times Radio, **Jeremy Griffin**, talks us through how The Times works. Who does what, how, in what medium and when. **Michelle Donelan** was the government minister overseeing the delivery of Operation London Bridge, the government plan for the response to the death of The Queen. Chaired by news producer **Antony Garvey**.

This ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival.



JAMES GRAHAM: IN CONVERSATION

19.45 - 20.45

James' highly acclaimed and multi award winning work for television includes Sherwood (BBC), The Way (BBC), Quiz (ITV) and Brexit: The Uncivil War (C4). His writing for stage includes the sell out West End hit, Dear England, and Punch, currently receiving rave reviews. Discussing his exemplary career to date, the process of adapting page to screen, ambitions for the future and hopes for the wider industry this will be an inspiring, insightful conversation and a celebration of storytelling.

In partnership with the Royal Television Society

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY



BREAKFAST WITH THE GUARDIAN

08.30 - 09.30

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

Journalists from The Guardian review the headlines of the day. Join **Jenny Stevens**, Dep Features Ed; **Ben Quinn**, Politics Correspondent; and **Aamna Mohdin**, Community Affairs Correspondent.

This ticket includes complimentary breakfast.

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY



HOW TO START YOUR NOVEL: ARVON CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

11.00 - 13.00

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

If you're new to writing fiction, and you're looking for inspiration and advice, join prize-winning novelist **Abi Daré** for a workshop on the key elements of compelling fiction: ideas, plot and voice. Perhaps you have ideas for character, but no story; perhaps you have a great plot but struggle to bring your fictional world to life vividly on the page. Perhaps you have the urge to put pen to paper but don't have a clue where to start, or what style suits your story best. This supportive session will help you achieve lift-off.



REBECCA LEE & LAURA HACKETT: ROGUES, WIDOWS, AND ORPHANS

12.00 - 13.00

**Maughan Library,
Kings College London
WC2A 1LR**

Join an expert editor and lift the curtain on the dark side of the book world: a secret history fizzing with stories of scandals, rivalries, cock-ups and con jobs. We'll discover how the tiniest of typos can have oversized consequences, unearth horrifying examples of bad taste, and peek into tales of forgeries and feuds as dramatic as any thriller. Chaired by deputy literary editor and fiction editor of the Times and Sunday Times, **Laura Hackett**.



DRAGON CAFE IN THE CITY: WORDS, WORDS, WORDS - ANIMATION WORKSHOP WITH REZA BEN GAJRA

13.00 - 14.00

**Shoe Lane Library,
EC4A 3JR**

Cut out letters and words from paper, then bring them to life with stop motion animation. No tech knowhow needed. With artist **Reza Ben Gajra**.

In person at Shoe Lane Library. All ticket booking proceeds will be donated to the charity Mental Fight Club.

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY

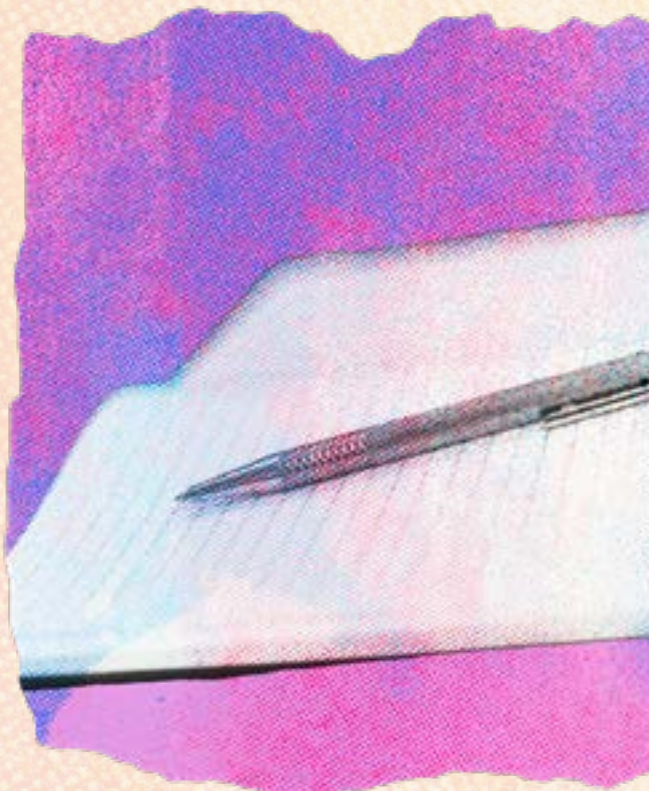


FERGAL KEANE AND ANTONY GARVEY: REPORTING FROM THE FRONT LINE

13.15 - 14.15

Cutler's Hall, EC4M 7BR

Join acclaimed war reporter **Fergal Keane** in conversation with BBC News producer **Antony Garvey** as he discusses *The Madness*, his powerful and deeply personal book. Keane reflects on conflict, trauma, and the psychological cost of frontline reporting, offering rare insight into a life spent witnessing history at its most brutal and human.



DRAGON CAFE IN THE CITY: CREATIVE WRITING WITH WORDSMITHS

17.30 - 18.45

**Shoe Lane Library,
EC4A 3JR**

Join Naomi, founder of Wordsmiths for this pressure-free supportive workshop. Focus on short writing tasks and imaginative free writing. The goal is enjoyment.

All ticket booking proceeds will be donated to the charity Mental Fight Club.



EMPOWERING WOMEN: POORNA BELL, SOPHIE LEE, MARYAM PASHA

18.00 - 19.00

**Maughan Library,
Kings College London
WC2A 1LR**

What happens when a woman decides she wants more than she's been given? Join our panel of brilliant authors as they discuss how women can dismantle the societal norms that can keep them confined, and live bigger, bolder lives. From life lessons from inspirational women, ways to resist the pressures of conformity, and tools to communicate what you want effectively, **Poorna Bell** (*She Wanted More*), **Sophie Jane Lee** (*Beyond Palatable*) and **Maryam Pasha** (*How to Speak So Others Will Listen*) will leave you feeling energised and empowered. Chaired by **Terry Stiastny**.

This ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival.

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY



**GOD IS AN ENGLISHMAN:
BIJAN OMRANI &
THE VEN LUKE MILLER,
ARCHDEACON OF
LONDON**

18.00 - 19.00

**St Martin's Church,
Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7DE**

Christianity in England is in decline. As congregations dwindle, what are we losing? For historian Bijan Omari, this is the most momentous change to occur in English history – and something we shouldn't abandon lightly. Christianity has been part of England's story for over 1700 years, and was instrumental in the development of the English nation, its laws, morality, and culture. Join Omari as he discusses his tribute to our Christian history and heritage – a Telegraph Book of 2025 – with The Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London.



**TOM BRADBY:
BEHIND THE SCENES**

18.00 - 19.00

Step behind the scenes with Tom Bradby as he takes Secret Service from bestselling novel to upcoming ITV series. The award-winning journalist and anchor of News at Ten shares his journey adapting the thriller for screen, exploring MI6, political intrigue, and the creative challenges of bringing espionage to life. Hear his creative challenges of bringing espionage faithfully and dynamically from the script to the screen.

In partnership with the Royal
Television Society



**SAJID JAVID:
THE COLOUR OF HOME**

19.30 - 20.30

Cutler's Hall, EC4M 7BR

Join former Home Secretary Sajid Javid as he discusses his memoir, Colours of Home. From his father's journey from Pakistan to his own path through British politics, Javid shares reflections on identity, ambition and belonging.

This ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival. Mandatory bag checks will be enforced at this venue, please avoid bringing larger bags.

In partnership with
College Green Group

THURSDAY 14TH MAY



BREAKFAST WITH THE TIMES

8.30 - 9.30

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

Journalists from The Times review the headlines of the day. **Jeremy Griffin**, Executive Editor, The Times and Times Radio (chair), **Andy Silvester**, London Editor, The Times and The Sunday Times and **Rebecca Myers**, Foreign Editor.

Complimentary breakfast is included in this ticket.



FICTION - WORK IN PROGRESS: ARVON CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

11.00 - 13.00

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

Are you working on a novel and seeking a boost? Join novelist and short story writer **Sophie Mackintosh**, Booker-longlisted author of *The Water Cure*, for a workshop on building a compelling, fully realised fictional world from the germ of an original idea. Covering the key elements of novel-writing – think evocative setting, sparkling dialogue and convincing characters – this workshop will give you insight into how we can create stories that lift off the page and stay vividly in the memory, whatever your genre or focus. Whether you're at the starting blocks or just about to cross the finish line, you will come away better equipped with the tools you need to bring your imagined world to life.



TINA HODGKINSON: AGATHA CHRISTIE'S LONDON

12.00 - 13.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Writer, researcher and guide **Tina Hodgkinson** explores Agatha Christie's enduring relationship with London. From former homes to glamorous hotels, restaurants and favourite buildings, she retraces Christie's footsteps across the capital. Discover how London shaped Christie's life and fiction. Chaired by deputy literary editor and fiction editor of the Times and Sunday Times, **Laura Hackett**.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

THURSDAY 14TH MAY



IAIN DALE & STEVE RICHARDS: THATCHER & BLAIR

13.15 - 14.15

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

How did Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair make the seemingly impossible job possible, becoming the only Prime Ministers in modern times to serve more than a decade in power. In the past 50 years, eleven Prime Ministers have occupied 10 Downing Street, but excluding those two, their average term of office was just over three years.

Iain Dale and Steve Richards join us to discuss their recent biographies of these two era defining leaders, including their long-term legacies and what today's politicians can learn from them.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



WALKING TOUR WITH TOM LEVITT: THE BUSINESS OF HISTORY

14.30 - 16.30

180 Studios, WC2R 1EA

What does it take to build a business that stands the test of time? Join writer and journalist Tom Levitt as he discusses his book charting the evolution of British commercial icons from Wedgwood to WHSmith. Building on WH Beable's Romance of Great Businesses, a description of 32 significant British companies published over a century ago, Levitt explores why just four survive intact today. Twenty more remain only as brand names, while the rest have disappeared entirely. From a nineteenth century free-for-all to the highly regulated global economy of today, what have we lost, and what have we gained?

Please meet Tom at 180 Studios on Aldwych for a prompt 2.30 start.



SHAKESPEARE IN LONDON: LUCY MUNRO & DR HANNAH CRAWFORTH

18.00 - 19.00

Dr Johnson's House, EC4A 3DE

Long celebrated as the Bard of Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare lived and worked for much of his career in London, within what is now the Fleet Street Quarter. Towards the end of his life he owned property in Blackfriars, and owned shares in the indoor playhouse there.

Join King's College London Shakespeare specialists Lucy Munro and Dr Hannah Crawforth as they share their discoveries about Shakespeare's connections to this part of the city, and the ways in which London shaped his plays.

THURSDAY 14TH MAY



POLITICAL JOURNALISM IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD

18.00 - 19.00

St Bride's Church, EC4Y 8AU

Political editors from leading news media titles reflect on the role of political journalism in an increasingly unpredictable climate. The discussion will look at the challenges and opportunities in political reporting today, the role of trusted news in combating mis and dis information, as well as reflecting on the UK local elections and the forthcoming US mid-terms.

Caroline Wheeler, political editor for The Sunday Times

Jason Groves,
political editor for The Daily Mail

Jack Elsom,
political editor for The Sun

Jessica Elgot, deputy political editor,
The Guardian

Chaired by **Damian Collins**

In partnership with
News Media Association



ARE WE HARDWIRED TO DISAGREE?

18.00 - 19.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Our ideologies give us frameworks through which we view the world, but how much do we really know about what shapes our beliefs? Join our expert panel for a discussion about why we think the things we do, and what we lose by not engaging with people who have vastly different beliefs to ours. With **Dr Leor Zmigrod** (The Ideological Brain), **Dr Marius Ostrowski** (How We Think), and **Professor Paul Dolan** (Beliefism). Chaired by author and neuropsychology professor **Catherine Loveday**.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



CALMING CHAOS: GETTING THE BIG DECISIONS RIGHT IN A FAST CHANGING WORLD

19.30 - 20.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

The global security order and political settlement of the post-Cold War world faces continued attack. What is the future for institutions like the United Nations, the special relationship between the USA and UK, and for democracy itself. Can the politics of the middle ground compete against populist insurgents on the left and right? Hear from Former Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain **David Gauke**, Baron **Peter Ricketts** GCMG & GCVO a retired British senior diplomat, journalist and author **Ben Judah**, and Swedish security expert and journalist **Elisabeth Braw**, chaired by **Spriha Srivastava**.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

FRIDAY 15TH MAY



**BREAKFAST WITH THE
NEW STATESMAN**

8.30 - 9.30

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

Join Tom McTague, Editor of The New Statesman, as he discusses the headlines of the day and the week with **Damian Collins**. He'll be looking at the headlines of the paper, but also of the New Statesman Magazine, which hits the newstands today. Complimentary breakfast is included in this ticket.



**HOW TO FINISH YOUR
BOOK: ARVON CREATIVE
WRITING WORKSHOP**

11.00 - 13.00

**MYO New Street Square,
EC4A 3BF**

How do you grab an agent's attention? How do advances and royalties work? Should authors engage with social media? Whether you're working in fiction or non-fiction, this session will offer guidance and clarity on the publication process, from traditional publishing to the pros and cons of self-publishing. Your tutor **James Spackman**, veteran publisher and literary agent (and the industry's pitching expert - 'The Book Pitch Doctor'), will help you polish your pitch to perfection.



**BARONESS BRENDA HALE
HALE OF RICHMOND AND
WENDY JOSEPH KC
BEYOND THE BENCH:
LIFE AS A KC**

12.00 - 13.00

Temple Church, EC4Y 7BB

Join Lady Brenda Hale KC and Wendy Joseph KC in conversation as they reflect on their remarkable legal careers and lives in the law. From landmark judgments to the realities of the courtroom, this event offers insight into justice, leadership, and the experiences that shaped two of Britain's most influential legal minds. Chaired by **Rebecca Jones**.

FRIDAY 15TH MAY



**JACQUELINE RIDING:
CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S
LONDON**

12.00 - 13.00

**Maughan Library,
Kings College London
WC2A 1LR**

Charlie Chaplin rose from the hard streets of Edwardian London to worldwide fame. Breathing life into forgotten stories of mothers and sons, labourers and actors, vagrants and sex workers, of suffering, survival and success against the odds, Jacqueline Riding's social history paints a striking portrait of Charlie Chaplin's London - a vanished city.



VOICES OF FLEET STREET

13.30 - 14.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Join our panel of journalists as they take a joyous trip down memory lane to the heyday of Fleet Street. BBC foreign correspondent Humphrey Hawksley has reported on crises all over the world. Emma Lee-Potter is a journalist and novelist who wrote for the Evening Standard and Sunday Express in the 1980s and 1990s. The panelists will share their stories from the golden age of British newspapers with journalist and bestselling novelist Wendy Holden.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



**SAM MCBRIDE & MARK
HENNESSY - FOR OR
AGAINST A UNITED
IRELAND:
THE ARGUMENTS**

13.30 - 14.30

**Maughan Library,
Kings College London
WC2A 1LR**

With the prospect of Irish unification is stronger than at any point since partition, voters on both sides of the border may soon have to confront what a referendum question would mean. Join Sam McBride, journalist and author of For and Against a United Ireland (co-written with Fintan O'Toole) and Mark Hennessy, Ireland and Britain Editor of The Irish Times and leader of the newspaper's Common Ground project, for a fresh discussion of the arguments for and against unity. Chaired by Simon Kingston, founder of the West Cork History Festival.

FRIDAY 15TH MAY



**SCOTT WALKER:
BOARDROOM LESSONS
FROM A HOSTAGE
NEGOTIATOR**

18.00 - 19.00

**Maughan Library,
Kings College London
WC2A 1LR**

Join Sunday Times bestselling author **Scott Walker** as he reveals the psychological and communication techniques used in life-or-death negotiations, and how you can successfully apply them to both business and life. Using gripping, real-life examples, he'll reveal how to build trust quickly and navigate difficult conversations with calm confidence. This is a masterclass in negotiation you don't want to miss.



**FROM DICKENS TO BEN
OKRI AND DANIEL WEST: RE-
IMAGINING A TALE OF TWO
CITIES**

18.00 - 19.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Join Booker Prize winning novelist **Sir Ben Okri** and producer **Daniel West** for a discussion of the enduring appeal of *A Tale of Two Cities*. Dickens' epic exploration of love, war, and revolution has given us the theme for this year's Festival of Words – *The Age of Wisdom and Foolishness* – and is the subject of a new BBC adaptation later this year, which West is executive producing.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY



REVIEW OF THE SATURDAY PAPERS CHAired BY PADDY O'CONNELL

10.30 - 11.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Join our stellar line-up for a canter through the Saturday paper's headlines. Chaired by Radio 4's **Paddy O'Connell**. Featuring columnist **Sarah Vine**, **Ayesha hazarika MBE**, and journalist/author **Hugh Pym**.

Complimentary Breakfast is included in this ticket.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



CREATE A COMIC WITH BEANO ILLUSTRATOR HUGH RAINE: MORNING SLOT

11.00 - 12.00

**St Bride Foundation,
EC4Y 8EQ**

In this crazy comic creating workshop, Beano's Betty & The Yeti writer and illustrator, **Hugh Raine**, will teach you how to draw characters using simple shapes, and also share some of his secrets of comic making before creating a big live comic with your help!

Suitable for children aged 6+, adults accompanying children go free - please select Accompanying Adult ticket at checkout.



HANIF KUREISHI: SHATTERED

12.00 - 13.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

On Boxing Day in 2022, renowned novelist, screenwriter and playwright **Hanif Kureishi** fell while in Rome. After coming to in a pool of blood, he realised he had lost the use of his limbs. **Shattered** is his memoir of the aftermath, a year spent in a series of hospital wards in Italy and London as he came to terms with his disability, built around fragments dictated to family members at the time. He discusses his account of a life shattered and then reassembled with author and Guardian theatre critic **Arifa Akba**.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY



DRAW WITH ROB: WOLVES AND FOXES

12.30 - 13.30

**St Bride Foundation,
EC4Y 8EQ**

Join Rob Biddulph – bestselling, multi award-winning author and illustrator, and the creative force behind the viral #DrawWithRob phenomenon – for a fun-packed event for the whole family. This lively show will feature a live episode of Draw With Rob, you will hear all about Rob's journey as a children's book creator, and you'll get to enjoy his much-loved musical rendition of I Follow the Fox. Plus attendees will get an exclusive first look at Rob's brand-new book, The Last Wolf – the thrilling first instalment in The Moonhaven Chronicles.



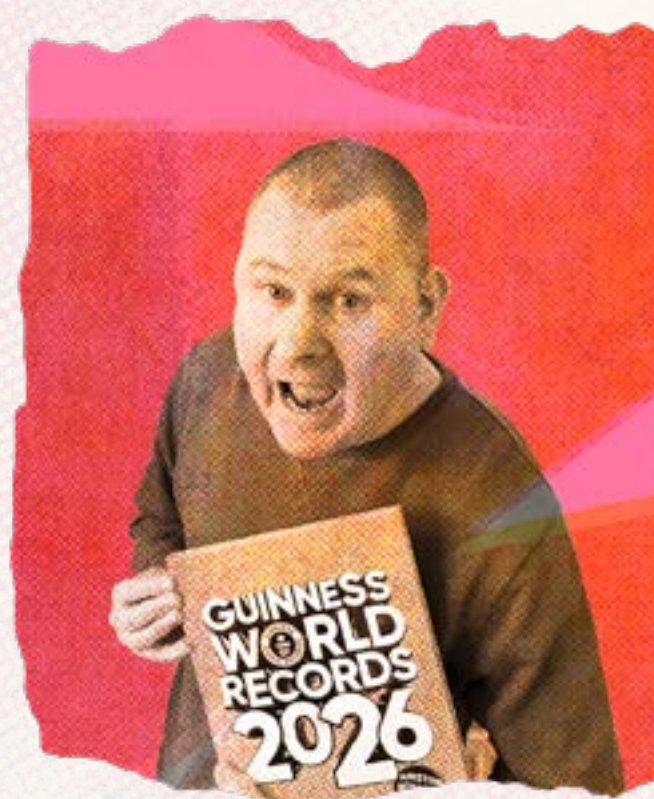
PIERS BLOFELD & ANTONIA SENIOR: THE CAMBRIDGE 5 SPIES

13.30 - 14.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Do you think you know the story of the Cambridge Five? Think again. Join two authors who have written revelatory new books about Britain's most notorious spy ring. In Master of Lies, Piers Blofeld uses extensive research and newly-released documents to position Anthony Blunt as not just "the fourth man" of the group, but the greatest spy-master of them all. Antonia Senior's Stalin's Apostles is a radical new look at the way The Five's obsession with Communist ideology led them to betray their country and become tools in Stalin's imperial scheme. Chaired by author, journalist, and broadcaster Terry Stiastry.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

14.00 - 15.00

**St Bride Foundation,
EC4Y 8EQ**

Join the number one authority on record breaking as they bring the Guinness World Records book to life. Expect an action-packed, immersive hour of jaw-dropping records plus a demonstration from Paul Hunn – a career burper who once held the record for the loudest burp at 109.9 decibels. There will also be an opportunity to take part and maybe set your own Guinness World Records title!

This event is suitable for children aged 6+. Adults accompanying children go free - please select Accompanying Adult ticket at checkout.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY



GYLES BRANDRETH: AA MILNE, WINNIE THE POOH, AND FLEET STREET

15.00 - 16.00

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Author and broadcaster Gyles Brandreth discusses the remarkable story of A.A. Milne, and of the “bear of very little brain” who became a global phenomenon. Drawing on his friendship with Milne’s son, the real Christopher Robin, Brandreth will talk about his revealing and intimate portrait of the author and his family’s conflicted relationship with the iconic bear.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.



CREATE A COMIC WITH BEANO ILLUSTRATOR HUGH RAINE: AFTERNOON SLOT

15.30 - 16.30

**St Bride Foundation,
EC4Y 8EQ**

In this crazy comic creating workshop, Beano’s Betty & The Yeti writer and illustrator, Hugh Raine, will teach you how to draw characters using simple shapes, and also share some of his secrets of comic making before creating a big live comic with your help!

Suitable for children aged 6+, adults accompanying children go free - please select Accompanying Adult ticket at checkout.



LARRY LAMB JOINS GYLES BRANDRETH: LIVE RECORDING OF THE ROSEBUD PODCAST

17.00 - 18.30

Stationers Hall, EC4M 7AE

Join author and broadcaster Gyles Brandreth for a live recording of his hit podcast, Rosebud. Gavin and Stacey star and author Larry Lamb will be talking to Gyles about his earliest memories and experiences of his turbulent childhood in Edmonton.

A cash bar will be available at this venue.

WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE

HEADLINE SPONSOR



**TIM WU: THE AGE
OF EXTRACTION**

18.30 - 19.30

A handful of tech platforms rule our world. They extract wealth, destabilise societies, and create vast inequality. Join **Tim Wu**, a former White House official and one of the world's foremost antitrust experts, as he explains how and why we can take back control from tech giants to create a future where technological advances serve the greatest possible good – for everyone. Chaired by **Damian Collins**.

This ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival.

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