

Supported by



HAYES+STORR
SOLICITORS

NORTH NORFOLK'S FESTIVAL OF POETRY & PROSE

SEA FEVER 4

TIME AND TIDE

1-2 MAY 2020

WELLS MALTINGS

www.seafeverliteraryfestival.com



HOLKHAM

EXPLORE BEHIND THE SCENES

Join our expert guides for an insight into the libraries, intriguing tours of the hidden passages and servants' stairs or venture down to the cellars, the beating heart of the hall.

holkham.co.uk



WELCOME TO SEA FEVER 4 TIME AND TIDE

Time and tide. Though it's hard to say when this old proverb isn't apposite, at present it seems so peculiarly fitting that we've taken it as our theme for *Sea Fever 4*. A new decade, the erosion of post-war certainties, the polarisation of political debate worldwide, the resurgence of nationalism and the irrefutable evidence of climate change; these delights lay down a gauntlet to liberals everywhere. Add to that pandemic.

So we're particularly pleased to be welcoming Jonty Driver: leading anti-apartheid activist first and leading poet second, or vice versa? An alumnus of the universities of Cape Town, Oxford and Norfolk's very own UEA, a conversation with his former UEA colleague Professor Jon Cook will enable the festival to draw its own conclusions. Like his late compatriot Nelson Mandela, this man is a beacon in a naughty world.

Of course the same used to be said of the BBC. With one of the greatest of British institutions now under threat from all sides, two media giants – Professor Paddy Barwise of the London Business School and Peter York of the commentariat – will preview *The War Against the BBC*. Their new book will be one of the most important – if not the most important – of the year.

If politics and the way it's reported is going to be high on the agenda this year, so too is the environment. We have two complementary perspectives. The broadcaster Professor Francis Pryor will be talking about his new book on the Fens; Holkham's own Andy Bloomfield will give a personal perspective on the huge challenges facing our back yard, the North Norfolk coast.

There's much more too: Ursula Buchan on her grandfather John, Holkham's librarian Mac Graham on the Hall's extraordinary treasures, Henry Sutton and Harry Cory-Wright teaming up on crime, and Peter Willis celebrating 80 years since the publication of Arthur Ransome's Norfolk Broads masterpiece, *The Big Six*.

Still, if you only have time for one event, make it Kevin Crossley-Holland in conversation. He's an institution in his own right at the festival, an artist of extraordinary versatility and creativity, and one of the crowning glories of contemporary English literature. Who knows? He may even tell us how it's all done.

Festival co-director Jim Ring comments, 'We're delighted to have been able to put together what seems to David [Waller, fellow director], I and the festival team such an eclectic and wide-ranging programme. We really hope everyone enjoys it.'

Ars longa, vita brevis.

PROGRAMME: FRIDAY MAY 1

Time	Speaker/Chair	Event
10:00-11:00	Sally Festing, Polly Ionides and Celia Evans	<p>Event 1. <i>Poet, Artist, Place</i></p> <p>Three artists working respectively in the mediums of poetry, sculpture and photography discuss their work and the inspiration behind it. Sally, Polly and Celia have collaborated extensively over the years. This curtain raiser looks set to provide some fascinating insights into the influence of one art on another – not to mention the importance of place.</p>
11:30-12:30	Peter Willis	<p>Event 2. <i>Classic Arthur Ransome.</i></p> <p>Eighty years since the publication of Arthur Ransome's Norfolk Broads children's classic: <i>The Big Six</i>, celebrated yachting writer Peter Willis raises a glass. A great speaker on a great book.</p>
13:00-14:00	Robert Smith MBE	<p>Event 3. <i>A Walk Around Wells.</i></p> <p>Our harbourmaster at Wells has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the town and is a most beguiling guide to its secrets and stories. Unmissable – and Robert will ensure his pace suits both old and young.</p>
14:30 -15:30	Dr Mac Graham	<p>Event 4. <i>Holkham Library: Treasure-hunting and Treasures</i></p> <p>Holkham's glorious library is an Aladdin's cave of manuscripts, rare books and maps. Equally remarkable is the story of how they came to be acquired by the 1st Earl of Leicester Thomas Coke – and the later Earls – on their travels. Ebullient librarian Mac Graham tells all.</p>
16:00-17:00	Kevin Crossley-Holland and Sir Tim Lankester	<p>Event 5. <i>The Art of Kevin Crossley-Holland.</i></p> <p>Best-known as a children's writer, Kevin's literary output is as wide-ranging as he is prolific. Translator, poet, librettist, dramatist, memorialist, mythologist; you name it, he's done it. In what promises to be a spellbinding event, Kevin discusses his art with his old friend Tim Lankester.</p>
17:30-18:30	Jonty Driver and Professor Jon Cook	<p>Event 6. <i>Art and Apartheid.</i></p> <p>Almost thirty years ago Francis Fukuyama said that history was a thing of the past – and his ideas gained some credence. How long ago that seems. With the resurgence of nationalism and neofascism in Europe and the United States – long flourishing elsewhere – the magisterial work of poet and anti-apartheid leader Jonty Driver is all too topical. A discussion with friend and former UEA colleague Jon Cook.</p>

GIBUNCO GROUP

GIBUNCO GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 12 to SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020



The Garrison Library, Gibraltar. Festival Headquarters and Venue

For tickets and information visit
www.gibraltarliteraryfestival.com



HM Government
of Gibraltar



#VISITGIBALTAR

PROGRAMME: SATURDAY MAY 2

Time	Speaker/Chair	Event
10:00-11:30	Richard Heffer, Tim Fisher	Event 7. <i>Schools Poetry Competition.</i> For Sea Fever 4, this enduringly popular event is taking as its theme seaborne migration and the environment. If earlier festival sessions are anything to go by, standards will be high: of the poetry itself, its performance and its judgement. Don't miss a glimpse of the future.
10:00-11:30*	Andy Jordan	Event 8. <i>Poetry comes from Wells</i> Andrew Jordan, born in Wells in 1959, returns to the wellspring to explore and discuss his work. Of <i>Bonehead's Utopia</i> , A.S Gill commented in the <i>Guardian</i> , 'A genuinely unique and transformational collection of polemical poems which subverts the notions of imprisonment and society through stunning tropes and aphorisms; supremely imaginative stuff.' The native returns.
11:30-12:30	Ursula Buchan	Event 9. <i>Beyond the 39 Steps: The Life of John Buchan</i> The granddaughter of the man best known for <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> recounts the astonishingly varied life of the novelist, MP and Governor-General of Canada. A story as surprising as many of his thrillers, superbly told.
11:30-12:30*	Professor Francis Pryor	Event 10. <i>The Fens: Discovering England's Ancient Depths</i> As anyone who has seen <i>Time Team</i> will know, Francis has a huge gift for presenting the complexities of the past to a popular audience. Here he talks about his new book, <i>The Fens: Discovering England's Ancient Depths.</i>
13:00-14:00	Henry Sutton and Harry Cory-Wright	Event 11. <i>Dirty Harry</i> Where do ideas come from? Setting or character? Crime novelist Harry Brett (aka Professor Henry Sutton, UEA's Director of Creative Writing) and photographer and artist Harry Cory-Wright take you on a literary and pictorial tour of Norfolk's shadier corners, while shining a light on one particularly ruthless fictional family.
14:30-15:30	Andy Bloomfield	Event 12. <i>The times they are a changin'.</i> Holkham warden Andy Bloomfield reflects on the way in which conservation has helped create our AONB here on the N Norfolk coast, and on the considerable challenges it faces in the future. Andy, sometime wrestler, calls a spade a spade.

16:00-17:00 Tony Britten and friends

Event 13. *Goodbye to Vienna.*

In 'thirties Vienna the cabaret scene was as vibrant as in Isherwood's Berlin – and far more political. Here Tony Britten samples and recreates the work of Jura Soyfer, one of the most outspoken anti-fascists, interspersing the staging with excerpts from fellow travellers Stephen Spender and John Lehmann. Witty, provocative and timely.

17:30-18:30 Peter York and Professor Patrick Barwise

Event 14. *The War Against the BBC*

It's been said that the fifth of twelve early warning signs of fascism is a controlled mass media. With both Right and Left complaining of their representation on the BBC and the government seemingly intent on abolishing the Licence Fee, Paddy and Peter will preview one of the most important books of the year: their analysis of one of Britain's most revered institutions.

* All the events will be held in the Maltings auditorium with the exceptions of events 3, 8 and 10. Robert's walk will begin and end in the Maltings foyer; Andy Jordan's event (8) and Francis Pryor's event (10) will be held in the Kiln room.

TICKETS

Tickets for the festival are on sale through Wells Maltings.

In person: visitor information office, Wells Maltings,

Staithe Street NR23 1AU

By phone: 01328 710885

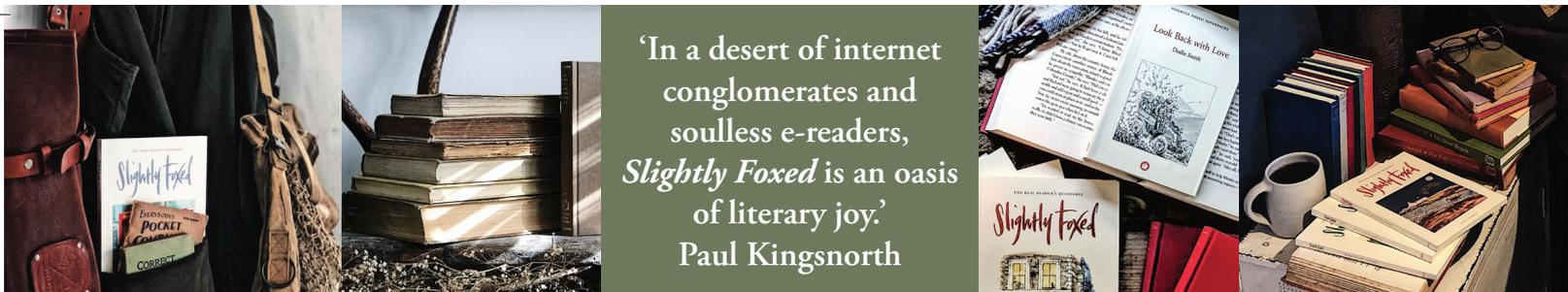
Online: www.wellsmaltings.org.uk

All events are £10, with the exception of the schools' poetry, which is £5.00. Concessions are available for students and those over 65 at £7.50.

Disclaimer

This programme is correct at the time of going to print, but illness and other unavoidable causes may cause us to make changes up to and in the course of the festival.





‘In a desert of internet conglomerates and soulless e-readers, *Slightly Foxed* is an oasis of literary joy.’
Paul Kingsnorth

Delectable, collectable, companionable, entertaining, eye-opening . . .

These are just a few of the words that readers use to describe *Slightly Foxed*, the quarterly book review that refreshes parts that other literary magazines cannot reach. Its fans are somewhat individual – independent-minded types who aren’t carried away by the latest hype from the big booksellers and publishers. And so are its contributors – addicted readers who write vividly and personally about favourite books that, over time, have cheered, influenced, comforted and diverted them. Good-looking, intelligent, and slightly eccentric, *Slightly Foxed* is really more like a bookish friend than a literary review. So why not give an issue or one of our books a try, or take the plunge and subscribe for the year?

Receive a free *Slightly Foxed* paperback with your first order.
Quote SEAFEVER at the checkout, over the phone or by post.

Single issues from £12.50 | Subscriptions from £48 | Worldwide shipping
www.foxedquarterly.com • Tel +44 (0) 20 7033 0258
Slightly Foxed Ltd, 53 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB UK

SPEAKERS & CHAIRS

Professor Patrick Barwise

Paddy Barwise is an expert on marketing and media, specialising in strategy and execution, marketing leadership, brands, advertising, media, and broadcasting policy. He has held visiting posts in media and communications at Oxford University and the London School of Economics. He is also former chairman of *Which?*

Andy Bloomfield

Born in Holkham and now a warden on the estate, Andy is a birdwatcher and naturalist. He wrote *Birds of the Holkham Area* in 1993 and made major contributions to *The Birds of Norfolk* (1999). *North Norfolk's Wildlife*, produced in conjunction with photographer Gary Smith, appeared in 2009. Like Robert Smith, he's one of the well-known characters of the coast.

Tony Britten

Tony Britten needs no introduction in Norfolk. A composer best known for the UEFA Champions League Anthem, he trained at the Royal College of Music, and is a former director of music of the National Theatre and for Cameron Mackintosh. He has also written and directed a number of films. These include *In Love with Alma Cogan* and the acclaimed bio-pic of his (unrelated) namesake: *Benjamin Britten: Peace and Conflict*.

Ursula Buchan

A distinguished writer on gardening and social history, Ursula read Modern History at Cambridge

before training in horticulture at Kew and at Wisley. She is the author of 18 books, including three which are compilations of her journalism. *Beyond the Thirty-Nine Steps*, her biography of her grandfather John Buchan, was published by Bloomsbury last year.

Jon Cook

Jon Cook is an author, critic and professor of literature at UEA. He has worked with the biographer Richard Holmes on the development of the MA in Biography and Creative Non-Fiction, and supervised biographical writing at doctoral level. A judge on the Caine Prize and a member of the international academy for the Folio Prize, Jon has taught at universities in the US, Europe and India.

Jonty Driver

As president of the National Union of South African Students in 1964 Jonty was detained without trial by the police and held in solitary confinement. On his release he went to England, studied at Oxford, and taught at Sevenoaks School in Kent and then at Matthew Humberstone Comprehensive School in Lincolnshire. In 1976 he was a Research Fellow at the University of York, and for twenty-three years he was a headmaster here and abroad. He has written seven collections of poems, five novels, two biographies and a memoir.

Celia Evans

Celia Evans graduated from the Royal College of Art and now does silk screen, etching, line and photography. Influenced by Walter Benjamin,

Paul Verilio and Guy Debord, she calls her work 'Psycho-Geography.'

Sally Festing

Born in Cambridge, resident of Burnham Overy Staithe, Sally made her name with biographies of Barbara Hepworth and Gertrude Jekyll. Since then she has written *Swimming Lessons*, *Salaams*, *Font* and *Doors Opening*. Her fifth poetry collection, *My Darling Derry*, was published last year.

Tim Fisher

Tim Fisher has lived and worked on the coast for all but two years of his life. Over the years he has enjoyed introducing children and adults to the area when he worked as a sailing instructor and warden for the National Trust. In 2006 he retrained and now teaches at Burnham Market Primary School.

Dr Mac Graham

Mac took a First in History at Canterbury, then a D. Phil at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, going on to teach as Research Fellow. On moving to Norfolk he gravitated to Holkham, where he has assumed various roles over the years. He is now Librarian and Historian at the Hall and an avid member of the curatorial team.

Richard Heffer

Richard Heffer is an actor best known for his roles on television in the 1970s and 1980s. His film career included appearances in *Women in Love*, *Waterloo*, *Penny Gold*, *The Sign of Four*, *Countdown to War*,

Night of the Fox, *Possession*, and *Dimensions*. Born and bred in Cambridge, Richard and his family have long-standing associations with the coast.

Kevin Crossley-Holland

Kevin Crossley-Holland is a translator, children's author and poet. His best-known work is the Arthur trilogy (2000–2003), for which he won the *Guardian* Prize. One of the founders of Poetry-next-the-Sea, Kevin was awarded the 1985 Carnegie Medal and 2007 "Anniversary Top Ten" recognition from British librarians for his novella *Storm*.

Polly Ionides

Polly read zoology at Oxford before going to the Slade School of Art, and is an elected Member of the Art Workers Guild and a member of the Royal Society sculptors. She writes, 'Most of my work is site specific and ranges from small domestic sculptures to a sixty-ton community project which won a Civic Trust Award. The subject is frequently symbolic, a merger of figurative and abstract, and tends to reflect my love of the natural world.'

Andy Jordan

Andy was born and bred in Wells, now lives in Southampton, and has published eleven volumes of poetry. The critic Owen Hatherley commented, 'He has created some of the strangest, most personal and most moving work on what the built environment does to people written in Britain in the last couple of decades.'

Tim Lankester

Sir Tim is best known as the first economic private secretary to Margaret Thatcher. He is

also former President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, former Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies, and former Chairman of the Council of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Brought up in Somerset, he has had various holiday houses here over the years, and now lives in Wells. He is chair of the Wells Maltings Trust.

Professor Francis Pryor

Francis is an archaeologist specialising in the study of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Britain. He is best known for his discovery and excavation of Flag Fen, a Bronze Age archaeological site near Peterborough, as well as for his frequent appearances on the Channel 4 television series *Time Team*.

Robert Smith

As long-serving Wells Harbour Master and former lifeboatman, Robert's book *Crossing the Bar* captures the soul of Wells-next-the-Sea. He reveals 'the characters and events that have shaped the history and spirit of this historic coastal town. From maritime disasters 'crossing the bar' and secret wartime experiments, to smuggling tunnels and dodgy dealings by landowners and early harbour commissioners — this book boasts historical detail and human drama in equal measure.'

Professor Henry Sutton

Henry's an award-winning crime novelist. The author of nine works of fiction including *My Criminal World* (2013) and *Get Me Out of Here* (2011), he teaches Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, where he is a Senior Lecturer and the

co-director of the Master of Arts in Prose Fiction UEA Creative Writing Course. He was the winner of the J.B.Priestley Award in 2004.

Peter Willis

Peter Willis is a former Deputy Editor of *Classic Boat*, currently performing a similar function on *Classic Sailor* magazine. In 1996 he launched an appeal to buy Arthur Ransome's Nancy Blackett and preserve her to be sailed as a living reminder of Ransome and his works. He lives in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Harry Cory-Wright

Harry Cory Wright is a leading landscape photographer whose work is concerned with the sense of place. He has had many solo exhibitions, and in 2013 his work was included in the major exhibition *Landmark: The Fields of Landscape Photography* at Somerset House.

Peter York

Peter York is an author, broadcaster and management consultant best known for writing *The Official Sloane Ranger Handbook* with Ann Barr. He is also a columnist for *The Independent on Sunday*, *GQ* and *Management Today*, and Associate of the media, analysis and networking organisation *Editorial Intelligence*. He was the co-founder with Lord Stevenson of the management consultancy SRU.

.....

Sea Fever is directed by Jim Ring and David Waller, organised by Claire Dowley and sponsored by Hayes and Storr. The festivals greatly benefit from the patronage of Dame Gillian Beer and Matthew Hollis, also from the support of our advisory board.



T H E
ARTS CHANNEL

• ARTS CURATED FOR THE CURIOUS •



The Arts Channel is proud to sponsor Sea Fever 2020

For just £60 a year The Arts Channel provides access to a wide range of unique music and arts documentaries and performances from the UK and across the world, viewed at your convenience.

Annual Subscription: **£60**



WWW.THEARTSCHANNEL.ONLINE

Legal matters in safe hands for generations

Hayes + Storr Solicitors handle a whole range of family, property and business legal matters with care and professionalism.

Call us today **01328 710210**
www.hayesandstorr.co.uk

Wells | Fakenham | Hunstanton | Sheringham | Holt | Swaffham | King's Lynn

HS
HAYES + STORR
SOLICITORS