

PRIMADONNA FESTIVAL 2023
28-30 JULY FOOD MUSEUM, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK



PRIMADONNA

Welcome...

Inside this programme...








This programme contains everything you need to map out your perfect weekend at Primadonna. There's detailed information on each part of our programme: conversations, sessions for writers, workshops for body and soul, performances and stuff for kids (big and small!). There's a timetable and a map at the back to help you find your way around – but don't worry, our amazing team of stewards and volunteers are on hand at all times to help. If you need anything, just ask – look out for someone wearing a Primadonna t-shirt or a tabard.

BSL

A BSL interpreting service will be provided by fully qualified interpreters throughout the festival. BSL interpreted sessions are highlighted in the programme by this symbol 

Over the festival weekend, you can email primadonnafestival.access@gmail.com to be put directly in touch with our BSL team. For more access information visit www.primadonnafestival.com/access

Look for the icons...

-  Conversations
-  For writers
-  Mind, Body, Soul
-  Young and young at heart
-  Dance, Sing, Comedy
-  Wellbeing
-  Food Museum Exhibition

Help and support during the festival

Smoke machines, strobe lights, lasers, fireworks and other effects may be in use at this event. Anyone affected by these should bear this in mind. Security and stewards are on hand across the festival site. They have been briefed to offer information, help and support. If you are unwell or require assistance, please approach a member of the Security and Stewarding Team who are clearly identifiable by their tabards/t-shirts.



THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR ONE WEEKEND.



Waterstones

We're delighted to welcome Waterstones to Primadonna, who will be open in the Farm Barn all weekend – head there any time to browse. There will be author signings in the Farm Barn after every session, so follow your favourites off stage to get signed copies of their books!

Thank you

Primadonna is now a registered charity. Our mission is to open up books and publishing to a wider audience, welcoming people to our weekend of books and ideas who would not think a book festival was 'for them'. We would not be able to do our work without the support of our funders and sponsors, to whom we are very grateful. We are always looking out new opportunities to expand what we are doing, and to find new ways for writers from every walk of life to tell their stories.

If you think you can help, please get in touch.
We'd love to hear from you.



Prima Picks

As part of our festival pledge to platform new writers, the Primadonnas have selected five debuts to be chosen as our 'Prima Picks'. Over the three day festival, the books chosen will be showcased and given prominence at our onsite bookseller stall. Preference has been given to authors who are at the festival, and the books selected are new releases (released within the year of the festival). We're delighted to announce that this year's five Prima Picks are:

- I'm a Fan – Sheena Patel
- All the Houses I've Ever Lived In – Kieran Yates
- Main Character Energy: 10 Commandments for Living Life Fearlessly – Fats Timbo
- Fire Rush – Jacqueline Crooks
- Mandem – ed. Iggy London



Friday

4pm, Farm Barn

Ace and the Animal Heroes with JB Gill



JB Gill shot to fame in 2008 as one quarter of X Factor runners-up JLS. The band split in 2013, after which JB had some solo success before moving on to TV presenting, linked to his love of farming. He is now a published children's author, with his first title *Ace and the Animal Heroes: The Big Farm Rescue* published this year by Penguin. It's been described as 'Dr Dolittle meets Dick King-Smith – a funny charming animal adventure from pop-star, presenter and award-winning farmer JB Gill'. Join JB to hear more about the writing of the book, and hear a little bit of the story too.

Introduced by Primadonna Shona Abhyankar.

4pm, Writers' Green Room

Colonial Countryside



Professor Corinne Fowler made headlines last summer as the lead academic author of the National Trust's Colonial Countryside report, with its publication attracting intense media coverage for exploring the links between National Trust properties and colonialism. Mahsuda Snaith is a commissioned writer for the Colonial Countryside project linked to the report: a child-led writing and history project that explores the African, Caribbean and Indian connections at 11 National Trust properties in order to inspire a new generation of young people to advocate talking about colonial history. In this session they sit down with nature writer and author of *Uprooting: From the Caribbean to the Countryside*, Marchelle Farrell, to address the collective amnesia about Britain's four colonial centuries.

Chaired by author and keen walker Winnie M Li.

4pm, Bone Building Meat the Future



From a bacon sandwich to a roast dinner, a lamb curry to a pepperoni pizza, our diet in the UK revolves around meat. But what is the environmental cost of having meat on the menu? The award-winning *Meat the Future* exhibition, produced in partnership with the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and LEAP (Livestock Environment and People) and generously funded by the Wellcome Trust, is at the Food Museum throughout the weekend. Dip in!



Friday

4pm, Alton Water Mill Watermill tour



Drop in for an informal tour of the Museum's 18th century watermill, now restored back to working condition. Learn where milling fits in the story of seed to sandwich as a member of the team takes you around this fantastic historical building.

5pm, World As It Should Be stage Mandem



Sit down with some of the brilliant Black writers and thinkers who contributed to the recent anthology Mandem – a series of essays examining contemporary culture, covering everything from the importance of male role-models to the unique relationship between mother and son. With award-winning filmmaker, artist, writer and editor of Mandem, Iggy London; journalist, researcher, podcaster and music publicist, Sope Soetan; novelist and Creative Writing lecturer at the University of Suffolk, Ashley Hickson-Lovence; and writer and speaker Athian Akec whose focus is on providing young people with the perspective to help navigate the turbulent times ahead. The event is chaired by Niki Igbaroola, a poet and Campaigns Manager working in publishing across Fiction, Non-fiction, YA and Children's books, currently working at Jacaranda Books.



5pm, Writers' Green Room Primadonna Prize award ceremony



Find out who has won this year's Prize for unsigned writers: and a book deal and an agent! With head judge Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher HQ and the five shortlisted writers, as well as the judging panel of experts including authors Andi Osho and Elissa Soave (winner of the first ever Primadonna Prize), Claire Malcolm, founder and Chief Executive of New Writing North and award-winning book publicist Shona Abhyankar. Not one to miss!



5pm, Farm Barn Felting workshop



Join Lizzie Brown for some felting fun in this all-ages workshop in the Farm Barn. Make yourself a picture, decoration or flower hair slide using felt, and learn the basics of this versatile and creative way to craft.

5pm, Tinkler's Quest story circle (behind the Writers' Green Room)



Nurture Together, a Stowmarket collective of community organisations promoting action for nature, will be running events all weekend from their spot next the pathway on the main lawn. Join them for this scheduled 'Tinkler's Quest' session called 'River and land like sea and sand' which will use storytelling to connect memories and spark conversation – with free books for children.



Friday

6pm, World As It Should Be stage

Note Books
Is it because we all want to be pop stars? Or just that all of us have a soundtrack to our lives that means that special moments – good and bad – bring to mind musical as well as visual memories. And does all this explain the meteoric rise in the music memoir in the last decade or so? We ask all this and more of our incredible panel as we explore some of the best recent music memoirs and speak with their authors about the songs that have defined their lives. With Miki Berenyi, frontwoman of 90s Britpop phenomenon Lush and author of *Fingers Crossed* which chronicles her own ‘story of avoiding success’, Richard Phoenix whose book *Do Your Own Thing* details his experiences of working in learning disability arts – the best underground arts scene you’ve never heard of – and Stephanie Haughton-Campbell, Director of Operations at UK Music. Chaired by Primadonna Catherine Mayer.



6pm, Writers’ Green Room

Cli-Fi
Yes, it sounds a bit dodgy, but what is Cli-fi and why should we be reading it? From spooky forebodings to real life dystopias, we talk to the authors bringing climate fiction to the top of our reading lists, including novelist Rachelle Atalla whose *Thirsty Animals* imagines the consequences of water supplies in Scottish cities drying up, and Matilda Leyser whose captivating debut novel *No Season But The Summer* places the Persephone myth – where the kidnapping of Demeter’s daughter by Hades results in the changing seasons – in a modern world impacted by climate change. Chaired by Georgy Jamieson, a freelance writer, events host, and broadcaster who has been a regular voice on BBC local radio for many years.



6pm, Edgar’s Farmhouse

Drag King workshop
Join Lenna Cumberbatch as they take you through an interactive session on dragging up as a king. Bring any clothing and props that you’d like to try out (facial hair is provided) as well as an extra pair of socks (all will be made clear).



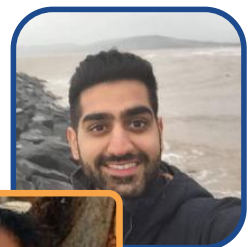
6pm, Mix the Paint wall, near the Farm Barn

Artists' Live Draw
What happens when you give two Neurospiceys a lot of spray paint? Mix the Paint explodes across Stowmarket! This first session of three at Primadonna is a live draw by artist Joel Millerchip, who will start the story off on our Mix the Paint graffiti wall, near the Farm Barn.



6pm, bread oven

Hedgehog-shaped bread workshop
In this quick bread making workshop participants will be able to shape their own dough into a hedgehog and make a delicious bread cooked in our wood-burning bread oven. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are invited to take part.



7pm, World As It Should Be stage

I'm a fan
With our lives more online than ever, how do we maintain healthy human connections? Join Women’s Prize longlist nominee Sheena Patel, in conversation with publishing professional Hamza Jahanzeb as they discuss Sheena’s searing new novel *I’m A Fan* (winner of the ‘Book the Year: Discover’ prize at the British Book Awards). They’ll look at the troubling topic of toxic relationships and offer a devastating critique on social media and our cultural obsession with status.



Friday

7pm, Writers' Green Room

In conversation: Fats Timbo

Main Character Energy



Narrated through 10 hilarious commandments, comedian and podcaster Fats Timbo shows us how to subvert tired expectations and become the main character in our own lives. Shamelessly finding fun in her life and the world around her, Fats has amassed a following of millions for her disability advocacy and quick witted Tik Toks, and now she's written the book on main character energy so that you can discover your passion – and own it, too. Chaired by writer and producer Bee Rowlatt.



7pm, Farm Barn

Get spooked!



Join registered tour guide Lynn Whitehead for this terrifying tour of the Museum grounds featuring beastly goings-on, ghostly visitations and more. But don't worry: all children will be returned unharmed at the end of the session (probably). Suitable for ages 10 and upwards. Meet at the Farm Barn



8pm, World As It Should Be stage

Are You Paying Attention (to Yourself)?



In this session, actor and author Rebecca Humphries, and author and broadcaster Daisy Buchanan talk about self-love, resilience and friendship. Rebecca's new memoir, *Why Did You Stay?* delves into these themes, as well as rebuilding self-esteem and a whole new life after a toxic relationship. Daisy's brand new novel *Limelight* is a story of sexuality, sisterhood and self-esteem. These two brilliant women are joined by *Is This Love?* author Catherine Riley to explore how we can navigate our way past shame and judgement, and start paying attention to ourselves.

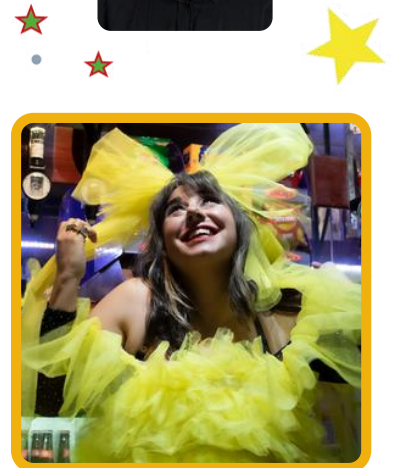


8pm, Medieval Barn

Brigitte Aphrodite: Living Legends (and Dead Ones Too)



Join Brigitte Aphrodite on a wild literary road-trip, celebrating Living Legends (And Dead Ones Too) through original poetry, music, and stories. With composition by Quiet Boy, the show is a welcoming, communal experience: a conversation starter, a raucous night out. Brigitte delivers captivating, standalone odes to a glittering array of legends, highlighting both sung and unsung heroes who call our nation home. The legends include David Bowie in Bromley, Poly Styrene in Hastings and Aphra Behn in Canterbury to name but a few. The show collects local legends from every venue it is performed, which appear on Brigitte's beautifully illustrated dress and becomes part of the fabric and conversation of future performances as it tours around the country.



9.15pm, Medieval Barn

Electric Fire and Miki Berenyi Trio



Electric Fire is made up of Alicia (vocals), Ehima (drums, percussion and vocals), Sam (synths and vocals) and William (laptop, production and vocals). Their unique sound was developed through Heart n Soul's digital music project SoundLab. It has evolved into an incredible live act, and the band have performed on stages from Hong Kong to Amsterdam, London to Paris. During lockdown they have found new ways to work together remotely, and have been busy writing and recording even more hit songs. Electric Fire are supported by Heart n Soul, a creative arts company that believes in the power and talents of people with learning disabilities.



Friday / Saturday

(continued...) Miki Berenyi Trio is Miki Berenyi backed by Moose on guitar and Oliver Cherer on bass. The Trio started out doing a few Lush songs for book events around the publication of Miki's memoir *Fingers Crossed* and as momentum built for the book and the band has been invited to play more often and for longer, the set has grown to encompass Piroshka tracks and the band have now started writing new music for some nebulous future project. Their early sell-out shows have seen the new tracks receive the most enthusiastic reception, so grab this opportunity to see the start of something special!



11pm: Angelle Joseph – LIVE

You'll have heard her on BBC Radio 1, 1Xtra and 6Music – including this year's Radio 1 New Year's Day Indie Show – and regulars to BBC Radio Suffolk will know her BBC Introducing and Belongings shows. We know her as a LEGEND, and are so excited that she's bringing her mix to the Museum for a Friday night mash-up of hip-hop, indie, dance and more in the late night barn.



Saturday

8am, Writers' Green Room Time to Write

Make yourself at home in the Writers' Green Room and take some time to write in peace and quiet.

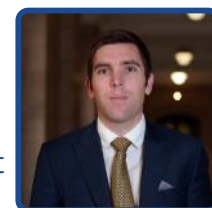
9am, Edgar's Farmhouse Qi Gong

Join Laura Ichajapanich as she leads you through a series of gentle exercises based on Traditional Chinese medicine. Meet at Edgar's Farmhouse so Laura can lead you to her practice space.



10am, World As It Should Be stage Home / economics

Join the Bank of England's Jack Meaning, co-author of *Can't We Just Print More Money?* and financial coach and founder of Black Girl Finance Selina Flavius as they share their expertise and offer invaluable insights: if you want to find out how to improve your savings, investments and outgoings, this is one session that's not to be missed. Chaired by Primadonna Jane Dyball.



10am, Writers' Green Room How to Get Published

Find out about the journey a book takes, from idea to execution, in this comprehensive session covering commissioning, publication and promotion. Leading the conversation are Cassie Rocks and Omara Elling-Hwang from organisation Female Leadership in Publishing (the FLIP), who will be putting the burning questions to Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher HQ Stories and author Andi Osho.



10am, meet at the Chapel Sheepdog demonstration

Join the Food Museum's working sheepdog as it is put through its paces rounding up the sheep. 

Saturday

10am, Farm Barn

Robin Stevens & The Ministry of Unladylike Activity

Join exceptional children's author Robin Stevens, number-one-bestselling, award-winning author of Murder Most Unladylike, as she introduces her thrilling new mystery series. It's 1940, Britain is at war, and a secret arm of the British government called the Ministry of Unladylike Activity is training up spies. Find out who's holding all the secrets – and who's telling lies – with this fun, interactive session for younger readers.



10am, Edgar's Farmhouse

Ready, get set, goals!!!

Primadonna is a place to spark ideas in your mind and dreams in your heart. But how are you going to go about turning those dreams, that book, that business idea into reality? Wouldn't it be great to come home with a plan of how to make the world a little bit more as it should be for more than one weekend? Putting aside her merits and accolades (seriously you can google her if you're curious) Athena sits down for a very special workshop that hits close to home: how to set goals and get a game plan. From having to learn to walk to basic functions such as swallowing, Athena has a lifetime of experience setting goals and making the seemingly impossible possible. Step-by-step. It doesn't matter what you want to accomplish, that stays between you and the page, but here's an opportunity, while experiencing the Primadonna high, to spend time with yourself and understand what you could do next.



10.30am, Chapel

Advice surgery with Amanda Harris

Amanda Harris is an agent and the managing director of YMU Books, the bespoke literary division of transatlantic talent agency YMU Group. In her first year of agenting, she was shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year 2021, and in her first year at YMU, she has "changed the game in premium brand and platform publishing". Her chief aim is "to discover, support and amplify literary talent", and you can sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.



10.30am, Horses' stable

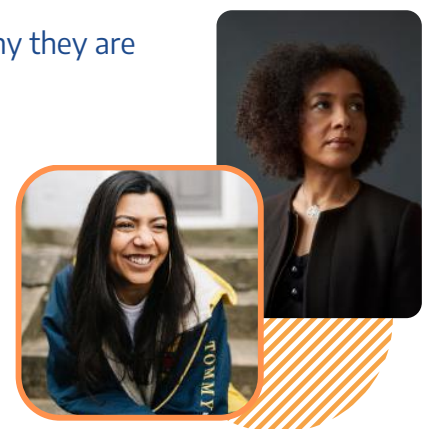
Meet the Suffolk Punch horses

Meet the Museum's horses Zippo and Faith – and find out why they are so important to stories of food and farming.

11am, World As It Should Be stage

In conversation: Diana Evans

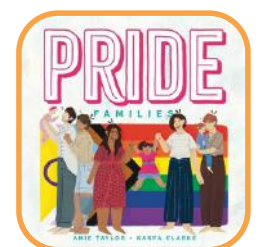
How do we fulfil our obligations to each other, whilst also finding happiness for ourselves? Can we uproot our lives in search of something better without hurting those closest to us? Award-winning author Diana Evans discusses her latest novel A House for Alice, set in the shadow of Grenfell and a country in turmoil, in this intimate 'in conversation' with journalist and writer Kieran Yates.



11am, Farm Barn

Family Pride

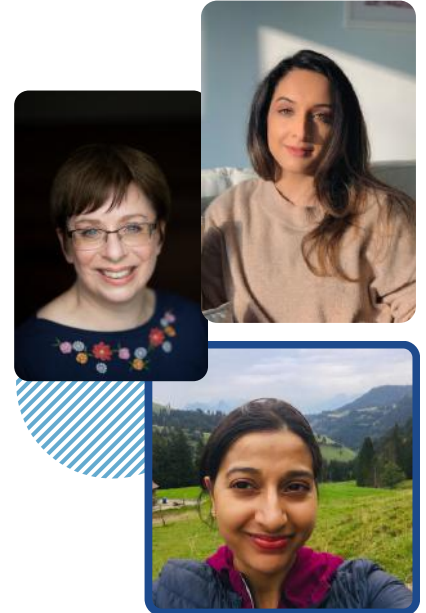
Families come in all different shapes and sizes, and each one is perfect! Come and celebrate what it means to be a family with this drop-in crafting session led by author and educator Amie Taylor, whose upcoming book Pride Families – beautifully illustrated by Kaspia Clarke – celebrating the family unit in all its beautiful diversity.



Saturday

11am, Writers' Green Room Mother Tongue

The history of women's words is full of surprises. From the monthly flux or flowers to the mægs that experience them, from the original helpmeet, Eve, to the viragos who fronted early feminism, there was a wealth of riches for describing women's experiences, lives and selves. Jenni Nuttall, academic and author of *Mother Tongue* discusses the rich, provocative and entertaining history of women's words – the language women have, and haven't, had to share their lives. Jenni is joined by Sawad Hussain who is a translator from Arabic whose work has been recognised by English PEN, the Anglo-Omani Society and the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation. She is a contributor to Tilted Axis Press' *Violent Phenomena: 21 Essays on Translation* and is a judge for the Palestine Book Awards and the 2023 National Translation Award. Chaired by author and educator Dr Sofia Rehman.



11am (until 3.30pm), Bone Building Meat the Future

Visit the award-winning Meat the Future exhibition and sample recipes made with produce from the Museum's walled garden, alternative proteins, edible insects and local sustainable produce.



11am, bread oven Hedgehog-shaped bread workshop

In this quick bread making workshop participants will be able to shape their own dough into a hedgehog and make a delicious bread cooked in our wood-burning bread oven. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are invited to take part.

12pm, World As It Should Be stage Root up

This fascinating session will bring together two writers who have looked into the past to make sense of the present: Sheela Banerjee's book *What's in a Name* is a personal journey to reveal the worlds which gave rise to what we are called, while Preeti Dhillon's *The Shoulders We Stand On: How Black and Brown people fought for change in the United Kingdom* tells the stories of ten remarkable movements from the 1960s to the 1980s. Chaired by Primadonna Sabeena Akhtar.



12pm, Writers' Green Room Round the twist

Joanna Cannon's latest novel *A Tidy Ending* has been hailed as her best yet by everyone from Marian Keyes to Fern Britton. But what does it take to write such a complex, twisting and tense tale, and how do you hold it all together without losing it a little yourself? Ask Joanna all this and more in this masterclass of plotting and penwomanship. Chaired by best-selling author and Co-Chair of Crime Cymru, Louise Mumford.



12pm, Chapel Advice surgery with Emma Shercliff

Emma Shercliff is a literary agent with over 20 years' experience in the publishing industry. In 2020, she founded Laxfield Literary Associates as a response to the lack of literary agents outside London. She provides representation for authors in Suffolk and Norfolk, and writers from under-represented backgrounds, and you can sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.



Saturday

12pm, Medieval barn

Glass House Dance present – Dance-Along Mary Poppins!



Wind's in the east, there's a mist coming in, like something is brewin' and 'bout to begin... Have you ever wanted to step into the movies and dance in one of the best musicals ever made? Now's your chance! Join your hosts Laura and Sarah and learn simple moves from iconic moments in the film, followed by an interactive showing of Mary Poppins. Practically perfect in every way, Mary Poppins is a film for all ages and is nothing less than supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!



12pm (until 3.30pm), Bobby building



Steam engine rides

Make the most of your visit to Primadonna by treating yourself or a friend to drive the Food Museum's 1912 Steam Traction Engine, the Empress of Britain. Become an honorary member of the Steam Team as you take the wheel of this majestic machine for a half hour to chug along the track. It's a great photo opportunity too! Meet at the engine outside the Bobby Building – you must book in advance, £10 per driver.

12pm, Edgar's Farmhouse



Lunchtime tales with Lady J

A gentle introduction to the ever-evolving tradition of oral storytelling with professional storyteller Justine de Mierre. Everyone's a storyteller, even if they don't yet know it, and in this session Justine will start you on the journey to discovering what a great tale spinner you already are! Suitable for adults and accompanied children age 11+.

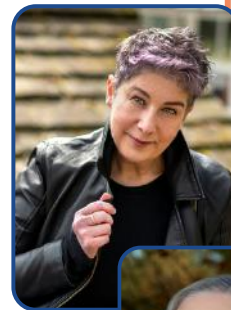


1pm, World As It Should Be stage



Disappearing women

Bestselling author Joanne Harris's new novel Broken Light tells the story of Bernie, who feels herself growing less visible, less surprising, less lovable, with every passing day until the murder of a woman in a local park unlocks a power that she has suppressed for all her adult life. Margaret Meyer's debut The Witching Tide is based on true events and set during the English Civil War, holding up a mirror to the world we live in now to devastating effect. They are joined by Patrice Lawrence MBE, who has written for and about young people, as well as exploring intergenerational relationships in Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush. Together they discuss the phenomenon of the vanishing older woman: why do they become invisible with age, and what happens if they take back control? Chaired by Primadonna Jane Dyball.



1pm, Writers' Green Room

Feminist Book Society



The first rule of Feminist Book Society? You must talk about Feminist Book Society! Join Eleanor Dryden and Rosie Beaumont-Thomas as they host this special edition of FBS, bringing together feminist authors who would never usually share a stage to discuss a burning feminist issue – justice for women – including Winnie Li whose novel Complicit is about #MeToo, the film industry and women getting justice. Come with questions as this event is inclusive in every possible way: you'll be part of the discussion, and you'll leave with the intention to do something differently.



Saturday

1pm, Edgar's Farmhouse Citizens' panel

The Bank of England runs Citizen's panels across the UK so they can listen directly to what people have to say about jobs, pay and the cost of living. Join this special session with Bank of England staff and have your say on your experiences of the housing market, how easy you find it to borrow and save money and how major events, such as Covid, affect people financially. Taking part means you can put your views directly to people who make decisions that affect you.

1.30pm, Chapel

Advice surgery with Katie Fulford

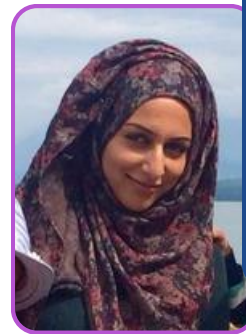
Katie Fulford spent 25 years at HarperCollins in a variety of roles including Group Rights Director, Managing Director of Collins non-fiction and senior positions in William Collins and 4th Estate, Fiction and Children's. She was Executive Producer on Channel 4's 2019 critically acclaimed TV adaptation of the much loved classic *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* by Judith Kerr which was awarded an international Emmy. As a new (ish) agent, she is looking for authors in both non-fiction and fiction, and is committed to increasing representation and accessibility in the industry. You can sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.



2pm, World As It Should Be stage

All the houses I've ever lived in

By the age of twenty-five journalist Kieran Yates had lived in twenty different houses across the country, from council estates in London to car showrooms in rural Wales. Join us as Kieran reflects on a life lived through the housing system with her new book, *All the Houses I've Ever Lived In*, which is both memoir and blistering social commentary. In conversation with writer and literary programmer Sabeena Akhtar.



2pm, Writers' Green Room

Get *!\$@-ing On With It!

Join Abi Fellows, Literary Agent at The Good Literary Agency, for this not-to-be-missed masterclass on being productive with your writing: if you're slow to get started, easily distracted or thwarted by impostor syndrome... stop it! Sit down for this session and get yourself in the writing hotseat and on to great things.



2pm, bread oven

Hedgehog-shaped bread workshop

In this quick bread making workshop participants will be able to shape their own dough into a hedgehog and make a delicious bread cooked in our wood-burning bread oven. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are invited to take part.



2pm, Edgar's Farmhouse Poetry open mic drop-in

Come along to our open-to-all session where Justine de Mierre (aka 'Lady J') will host a special hour for all-comers. Justine has been hosting super-friendly open mics across Suffolk for a decade and will be bringing that community vibe to Primadonna. Try out your ideas or work on new material in this inclusive space for poets of all kinds – Justine will even read your work for you if you'd prefer. You can also put yourself forward to be considered to perform on the main stage as part of Sunday's Rhyme and Shine event. Featuring East Coast Poets Jody Lee (The Skinny Poet), Clare Smith, Andrew Nivison and Andrew Underwood.

Saturday

3pm, World As It Should Be stage

In conversation: Rowan Hisayo Buchanan

Costa-shortlisted author Rowan Hisayo Buchanan introduces her haunting new novel *The Sleep Watcher*, with author and educator Sofia Rehman. Sixteen year old Kit's body lies in bed while she wanders through her family home, the streets of her run-down seaside town and into the houses of friends and strangers. Unseen and unheard, she witnesses her parents' deteriorating relationship and a quiet violence that she can no longer ignore. Where will Kit's wandering take her and what gives us a sense of safety and familiarity in our own homes?



3pm, Writers' Green Room

Writing with chronic illness and disability

From Virginia Woolf to James Joyce, many authors have famously struggled with chronic illness, but can we be creative about getting creative and redefine what productivity means for us? In this session we ask what creativity looks like for those of us who experience disability or chronic illness and how we can thrive at a pace of one's own. Featuring historical fiction author and writer of the upcoming *Vita and the Birds*, Polly Crosby; Leone Ross, author of *This One Sky Day*, longlisted for the Women's Prize and the Ondaatje Prize, and Maryam Ebrahim, an aspiring London-based deaf, autistic writer and poet whose poem is published by Arachne Press in their anthology *What Meets the Eye? The Deaf Perspective*. Chaired by Primadonna Tracey Bleakley.



3pm, Cherry Tree Walk

Animal feeding

Join the Museum team down in the farm area for the afternoon animal feeding.

3pm, Farm Barn

Tia Fisher & Crossing the Line

Erik is trying to figure it out. One moment he's skipping school and the next, he's running for his life from a drugs gang. How did everything go so wrong? Join Tia Fisher, author of the incredible *Crossing the Line*, for a deep dive into her narrative verse YA novel about a young boy's escape from county lines trafficking. Chaired by Georgy Jamieson.



3pm, Edgar's Farmhouse

The Reboot Quiz Show

Elaine Kasket's *Reboot: Reclaiming Your Life in a Tech-Obsessed World* explores how technology influences our psychology, identity, and relationships at each stage of the life span. This interactive workshop uses a quiz-show format to highlight key themes and facts about our tech-saturated existence; sensitise participants to current events and trends; disabuse commonly held misconceptions and myths about our life on tech; and prompt attendees to interrogate and reflect on their own assumptions and biases.



4pm, World As It Should Be stage

Modern romance

Enjoy a hot date with some of the best writers of modern-day love stories. Join journalist and author Laura Kay, whose third novel *Wild Things* tells the story of a platonic friendship developing into something more and Jennifer Lunn, whose play *Es and Flo* won rave reviews for its depiction of the complexities of lovers growing old together. With chair and Primadonna Amie Corry, they'll think about what it means to represent queerer ideas of love and sex, and the joys and pressures of trying to live and love authentically.



Saturday

4pm, Writers' Green Room

Mum's the word: Writing Around the Kids

Join fiction writer and playwright Anna Jefferson as she introduces you to Writing Around the Kids, a creative writing organisation working with mothers of young children, in partnership with museums and cultural organisations. How can you make the most of the time you have to write and how to ensure that you are looking after yourself at the same time? Anna will talk about how she juggles parenting responsibilities and a successful writing career with three novels under her belt, *Winging It* and *Nailing It* both published with Orion and *The List for Living*, due for publication in 2024, as well as numerous film scripts and plays. Anna lives in Brighton with her husband and two children. (If someone can look after your kids then come along and enjoy this creative time alone – but children are welcome if childcare is an issue.)



4pm, Farm Barn

Simon James Green

Simon James Green takes us on an interactive journey through his hilarious middle-grade books, featuring boys cursed with bad luck, sleepovers that go horribly wrong, riddles, zombies and being chased onto packed beaches by killer seagulls. Perfect for ages 8-12! (Or anyone with a sense of humour!)



4pm, Edgar's Farmhouse

Feminist invoicing

What would you reclaim from the patriarchy if you could? What do we lose thanks to unequal power dynamics and how can we both heal and feel empowered through the process? Feminist Invoicing is a creative project exploring those questions by submitting creative 'invoices' to the patriarchy in the form of poetry or other writing. Join us for performances and a creative writing workshop led by award-winning poet, Monika Radojevic, with an open invitation to submit your own 'invoice' and reclaim your story.



5pm, World As It Should Be stage

Troublemakers

We talk to some inspirational mischief-makers about the power of subversive rebellion, and how to show leadership, stand up for yourself and act for positive change in the face of unending corruption, cowardice and capriciousness. With Preeti Dhillon whose new book *The Shoulders We Stand On* highlights campaigns by people of colour across Britain, looking at the disrupters and rebels that you might never have come across and Athena Stevens who has taken on some of the biggest corporations in the UK over their accessibility failures. Chaired by Winnie Li whose novel *Complicit* explores the world of whistleblowing and speaking up as she asks the panel: what prompts us to fight the system instead of remaining silent?

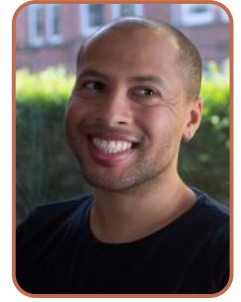


Saturday

5pm, Farm Barn 

Only on the Weekends and The Black Flamingo with Dean Atta

Join amazing YA writer Dean Atta for this very special reading and Q&A featuring two of his books for young people. In *Only On the Weekends*, hopeless romantic Mack agonises between Karim and Finlay and wonders whether true love can last forever? While in *The Black Flamingo* A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen before finding his wings as a drag artist at university.



5pm, Writers' Green Room

New Welsh Writing (no dragons, valleys or Joneses)

The Welsh literary scene is currently in a golden age, with women writers leading the way. We explore this female-led revival of Welsh language and culture with Primadonna Sioned Wiliam as our guide, and input from Hanan Issa, the National Poet of Wales; crime writer and broadcaster Myfanwy Alexander who grew up in the hills of Montgomeryshire and takes inspiration from its landscape, culture and people; and Gwenllian Ellis whose debut *Sgen I'm Syniad: Snogs, Secs, Sens* is on the shortlist in the non fiction category for the Welsh Book of the Year.



5pm, Edgar's Farmhouse 
Natural Voices

Join Lynn Whitehead, member of the Natural Voice Network, for this no-pressure, good-for-the-soul unaccompanied singing session. You'll learn by the sing-back method, taking on simple, folksy harmonies and rounds. No previous experience necessary.

6pm, World As It Should Be stage  
Prima Poetry

We welcome the National Poet of Wales, Hanan Issa, a Welsh-Iraqi poet, filmmaker and artist whose publications include her poetry collection *My Body Can House Two Hearts* and *Welsh Plural: Essays on the Future of Wales*. Hanan is joined by poet Maryam Ebrahim, an aspiring London-based deaf, autistic writer and poet whose poem is published by Arachne Press in their anthology *What Meets the Eye? The Deaf Perspective*, and Hannah Silva, a writer and performer working in sound poetry, radio and experimental non-fiction.



6pm, Writers' Green Room 
Anti romantics

Not convinced that romantic writing is the genre for you? Join some brilliant writers who do it their own way as we delve into some love stories that definitely don't fit the mould. With author and journalist Emma Hughes whose new novel *It's Complicated* looks at an unconventional attempt by one woman to start a family; and communications professional and bestselling novelist Tasneem Abdur-Rashid whose book *Finding Mr Perfectly Fine* is a modern romcom about a Bengali British woman trying to find a husband 'before time runs out'. In the chair is Primadonna Lisa Milton, Executive Publisher at HQ where she also runs Mills and Boon, the UK's number 1 publisher of romantic fiction, and who will steer this fun and insightful conversation about the joys of writing romantic fiction.



Saturday

6pm, Edgar's Farmhouse Recovery's Got Talent



Come along for a musical workshop led by Recovery's Got Talent, who showcase hidden talent from the recovery communities. Their performers have experienced a wide variety of life challenges including substance misuse, addiction, mental health issues and trauma. What unites them is their recovery journeys and passion for music, poetry and the arts. Join in and make some noise in this celebration of what recovery gives us back in life. And if you have fun, please do visit their stall in the central marketplace to have a chat and find out more about what they do.

6pm, Tinkler's Quest story circle (behind the Writers' Green Room)



Join Nurture Together, a Stowmarket collective of community organisations promoting action for nature, for this scheduled 'Tinkler's Quest' session called 'Hasta la Blister!' with the Stowmarket Eco Future Group, and help them craft a petition line with blister packs and more.



6.30pm, World As It Should Be stage Absolute power corrupts... absolutely



Join the author of a new must-read new novel come about wealth, privilege and the gaping divide between the haves and the have-nots – and the shared humanity that lives in between. Author Dr Sofia Rehman sits down with Sarah Thomas, who spent years travelling the world working as a tutor to the super-rich, and has now written a debut novel, the literary thriller Queen K, which revolves around a high society party thrown by an oligarch's wife on her superyacht.



7pm, Writers' Green Room Just criminal



Icelandic writer Jónína Leósdóttir has written 20 crime novels in her 34-year career, and has just been published in English with her novel Deceit. Here, she is joined by Jacky Collins (aka Dr Noir) who set up the crime writing festival Newcastle Noir and has interviewed all the great and good of the crime genre from both the UK and Scandinavia, including Sophie Hannah, Val McDermid and Ann Cleeves. Chaired by best-selling author and Co-Chair of Crime Cymru, Louise Mumford.



7.30pm, World As It Should Be stage Freed from Desire



As Gillian Anderson reboots Nancy Friday's famous exposure of women's sexual fantasies (if you haven't read it yet, dig out an old copy of The Secret Garden as your homework for this session) for the 21st century, we ask: what does desire look like in 2023? With Gayathiri Kamalakanthan, Tamil poet, theatre-maker and facilitator who is interested in how we use language to queer the future and has spoken on decolonising desire and sex education; Hollie-Anne Brooks, who was the contributing sex and relationships editor at Cosmopolitan last year; and chair Florence Schechter, founder and director of the world's first bricks-and-mortar museum dedicated to gynaecological anatomy, the Vagina Museum. Join them for this frank and fulsome discussion of attraction and longing, how is it expressed, and all the feelings that come with it – and what it means if we feel nothing at all?



Saturday

8pm, meet at the Mortlock building Evening nature walk

Join the Museum team for a stroll through the beautiful site as you look out for nocturnal animals. They will talk through what you're looking for and how best to spot them with binoculars: keep your eyes peeled!



8.30pm, Writers' Green Room Comedy Showcase

Join us for our Saturday night funny-fest as Brenda Read Brown opens up our comedy showcase with her riotous celebration of growing older, taking in rhubarb, (not) climbing Everest, suitcases, soft-closing kitchen drawers, squirrels, and comic injuries.

Dosa Cat The Drag Queen will provide a musical and dance interlude, mixing up preconceptions of performance, gender and dress in their not-to-missed appearance.

Headlining is Cally Beaton, a comedian, business leader, podcaster, writer, keynote speaker and entrepreneur. Well-known for being a natural storyteller, full of intelligent, distinctive and punchline-rich material, Cally is one of the UK's most sought-after acts for both comedy and corporate work, and will be familiar from appearances on QI, Live at the Apollo and other top TV shows.



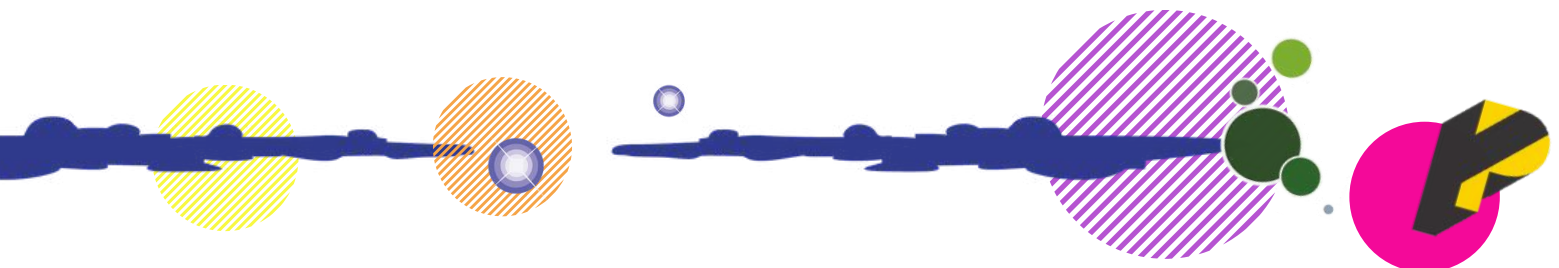
8.30pm, Medieval Barn Live music

Featuring solo artist Hasna whose work is inspired by underground R&B and hip-hop with a clear passion for soul and jazz. As a self-taught and self-managed artist, Hasna has collaborated with multiple beat makers to find her sound including KRZ, a Paris-based beat maker working across rap and R&B. Fightmilk is Lily, Alex, Healey and Nick – a London-based four-piece who write sweaty, loud, shouty pop songs about such universal concerns as body image, death and being fired from bridesmaid duty. For fans of spiky lyrics, hefty riffs, and full-throated yelling.



10pm, Medieval Barn Double D disco

Late night shenanigans from two of the best Debbies we know: raising the roof (and the temperature) in the Medieval (Disco) Barn until the wee small hours. Debbie Smith started DJ'ing in the late 1990s and in the early 2000s started the much-loved club night 'The Nitty Gritty' with DJ Jaybyrd Slim. Their style celebrates a dance floor-friendly blend of 1950s & 60s sounds – ska & rocksteady, girl groups, US Garage punk, funk, rhythm & blues, Northern Soul and UK mod grooves. Deb Googe is a musician best known as the bassist for the band My Bloody Valentine. She is also the bass player for various projects fronted by the ex Sonic Youth frontman Thurston Moore and is currently touring as part of Brix Smith's live band.



Sunday

8am, Writers' Green Room Time to Write

Make yourself at home in the Writers' Green Room and take some time to write in peace and quiet.

9am, Medieval Barn MissFits workout workshop

MissFits Workout® was designed as an 'entry level' dance-based workout for people who don't feel at home in the gym. Rather than scaling back routines, participants build up the moves together, working at the level that works for you and your body. The focus is about finding the joy in movement and exercise. MissFits Workout® is for bodies of all shapes and sizes – come along and get into the groove.



9am, Edgar's Farmhouse Qi Gong

Join Laura Ichajapanich as she leads you through a series of gentle exercises based on Traditional Chinese medicine. Meet at Edgar's Farmhouse so Laura can lead you to her practice space.

10am, World As It Should Be stage In conversation: Jacqueline Crooks

Shortlisted for this year's Women's Prize, Jacqueline Crooks introduces her incredible novel Fire Rush and talks about the themes that recur in her writing: Caribbean migration and subcultures, the supernatural and supranational stories that sustain the diaspora. Absolutely not to be missed. With chair and Primadonna Catherine Mayer.



10am, Writers' Green Room On the art of opinion

In the argy-bargy of the newsroom, what does it take to cut through the noise and get your opinion across? How do you carve out a USP that allows you to challenge ideas, hold truth to power and persuade readers to pause, think or even change their minds? And what do opinion writers do when they're not filing 300 words for the weekend supplements? We asked some of the best in business, including Fatima Manji, journalist and newsreader for Channel 4 News, the Independent's Kuba Shand-Baptiste and Bookversations podcaster Suad Kamardeen.



10am, Mix the Paint wall, near the Farm Barn Graffiti workshop

Joel Millerchip is an artist, ADHD thinker, illustrator and tattooist-in-the-making. Born in Birmingham, blossoming in Suffolk, his distinctive illustrative style is perfect for bold, impactful designs that work perfectly in print, on a wall, on a screen or all over your left leg. Join Joel for a how-to session on making a start with spray painting, and then head to our Mix the Paint mural wall to express yourself however you want!



10am, Edgar's Farmhouse Stitch up

Let's bring joy to the table. What words bring you joy? What do you wish there was more of in the world? Contribute to a tablecloth tapestry of joy by embroidering your own joyful words onto it. There will be a chance to try out free-motion embroidery as well as hand embroidery and applique! With Samanta Chaitoo who runs Stowmarket's Fox Yard Studios and has recently established Stowmarket Arts CIC.

Sunday

10.30pm, Chapel

Advice surgery with Katie Fulford



Katie Fulford spent 25 years at HarperCollins in a variety of roles including Group Rights Director, Managing Director of Collins non-fiction and senior positions in William Collins and 4th Estate, Fiction and Children's. As a new (ish) agent, she is looking for authors in both non-fiction and fiction, and is committed to increasing representation and accessibility in the industry. You can sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.

10.30am, Horses' stable

Meet the Suffolk Punch horses



Meet the Museum's horses Zippo and Faith – and find out why they are so important to food and farming.

11am, World As It Should Be stage

Rhyme and Shine



Headlining this Primadonna fixture is Dean Atta who will read from his poetry collection *There is (still) love here*, a personal and powerful exploration of relationships, love and loss. Alongside him, James McDermott will read from his new poetry collection *Wild Life* which explores the nature of queerness, queerness of nature – notably McDermott's fluid Norfolk coast – and 'natural' masculinity. All very ably hosted by our in-house MC Justine de Mierre.



11am, Writers' Green Room

New 'Happily Ever Afters'



Primadonna and the University of Suffolk teamed up this year to launch 'Firsts', a writing competition for secondary school children in East Anglia. Setting the provocation to inspire their writing was YA author and MBE Patrice Lawrence, who here takes to the stage with Ashley Hickson-Lovence and Darragh Martin from UoS's English department to talk about why stoytelling matters and what we gain when we re-cast a story's ending.



11am (until 3.30pm), Bone Building

Meat the Future



Visit the award-winning Meat the Future exhibition and sample recipes made with produce from the Museum's walled garden, alternative proteins, edible insects and local sustainable produce.

11am, Farm Barn

Rapunzella, Or, Don't Touch My Hair



Ella McLeod's incredible debut combines poetry and prose to startling effect in a heart-piercingly honest exploration of a teenager coming into her power as a young woman. Join author and poet Ella in this session for younger readers that incorporates a reading/performance and a discussion of the book and its origins.



11am, Edgar's Farmhouse

From Gay to Z: a queer parent guide

Options for queer parenting are more diverse than ever before, but is all the information readily available? Author Stu Oakley sits down with educator and author Amy Ridler and writer and performer Hannah Silva – author of *My Child, the Algorithm*, a genre-fluid memoir that questions what it is to write, to parent and to love – to give us the lowdown on everything you need to know about starting a family, holding one together, and keeping children healthy and happy. (If someone can look after your kids then come along and enjoy this creative time alone – but children are welcome if childcare is an issue.)



Sunday

11am, Tinkler's Quest story circle (behind the Writers' Green Room)

Nurture Together, a Stowmarket collective of community organisations promoting action for nature, will be running events all weekend from their spot next the pathway on the main lawn. Join them for this scheduled 'Tinkler's Quest' session called 'Cherish, protect, interconnect' where you'll engage with storytelling to connect memories and spark conversation – with activities and free books for children.

12pm, World As It Should Be stage

WTF is going on in Westminster?

If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that our political system is failing (badly). From scandals and resignations to the outright corrupt, how can we have any trust in the highest office in the land? In this fun and informative session, author of How Westminster Works (...and Why It Doesn't) Ian Dunt joins Boris biographer Sonia Purnell to break down the problems – and to think about how we might fix them. Chaired by journalist and author of Hidden Heritage: Rediscovering Britain's Lost Love of the Orient, Fatima Manji.



12pm, Writers' Green Room

What it takes to be a successful author

Translated into 31 different languages, her books line the shelves the world over, but how did she achieve this huge success and can we do it too? In this illuminating conversation, best-selling author Adele Parks tells us what it takes to be a successful author and shares some of her tips and tricks to getting there.



12pm, Chapel

Advice surgery with Abi Fellows

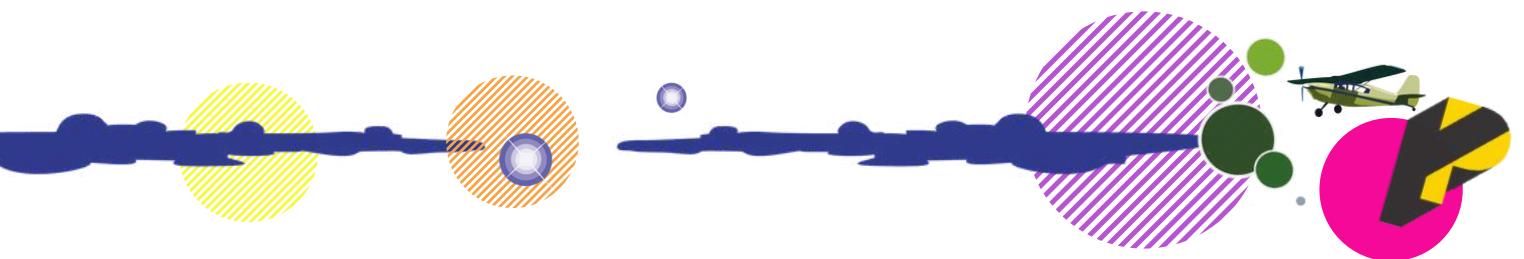
Abi joined The Good Literary Agency in March 2019 and works across both fiction and non-fiction, for children and adults. Before joining TGLA, Abi worked as a literary scout at Rosalind Ramsay Ltd for seven years. She has incredibly broad experience in the industry having been a literary agent at Georgina Capel Associates prior to becoming a scout and having also worked as a bookseller at Blackwell's and on the sales team at Faber and Faber. Sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.



12pm (until 3.30pm), Bobby building

Steam engine rides

Make the most of your visit to Primadonna by treating yourself or a friend to a drive of the Food Museum's 1912 Steam Traction Engine, the Empress of Britain. Become an honorary member of the Steam Team as you take the wheel of this majestic machine for a half hour to chug along the track. It's a great photo opportunity too! Meet at the engine outside the Bobby Building – you must book in advance, £10 per driver.



Sunday

12pm, Farm Barn

Nadia Mikail & The Cats We Meet Along the Way



Join Nadia Mikail, author of *The Cats We Meet Along the Way*, for this special session for older readers. Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister June for two years. And now that a calamity is about to end the world in nine months' time, she and her mother decide that it's time to track her down and mend the hurts of the past. Along with Aisha's boyfriend Walter and his parents (and Fleabag the stray cat), the group take a roadtrip through Malaysia in a wildly decorated campervan – to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and to hope for the future. *The Cats We Meet Along the Way* has been crowned both winner of the Older Readers category and Overall Winner of this year's Waterstones Children's Book Prize.



12pm, Medieval Barn

Sunday sounds



Sit back and relax with our chilled out Sunday vibes, featuring New Gen, a music and media project of talented young artists run by Out Loud! music with Punch Studios, IO Radio & Ipswich Community Media. After them is London based multi-instrumentalist, artist, producer and songwriter Sylvie who has quickly turned heads with their poignant lyricism, innovative production and effortlessly executed vocal gymnastics.

Yijia Tu is a singer-songwriter from China interested in exploring her cultural identity and diverse traditions through music-making. She began her career at the age of 16, winning the 16th CMA (Chinese Music Awards) for 'Media's Choice Album' and the nomination for 'Best New Chinese Female Artist' for the Chinese Media Music Awards. Since coming to the UK, Yijia has started an East Asian folk fusion band project – The Sages – who have featured on BBC Radio 3.

Ipswich-based solo artist Tiah Jean started singing in choirs at a young age but decided to use song as a creative outlet to cope with the death of a friend. The result was the beautiful *The Art of Loss*, and further tracks that blend difficult concepts with happy beats. She takes inspiration from Erakyuh Badu and Willow Smith, and is definitely one to watch.

Four-piece, female fronted band Rubber Rose combine the riff-driven force of 90s stoner rock, the powerful synths of goth/new wave and a driving jazz-inspired rhythm section to create a unique sonic palette for lyrics tackling subjects ranging from mental health to decadence, offering an antidote to the chronic unfairness of prescribed societal roles. They released their third single 'Coconut Ice' in March which received Radio 1 airplay, leading to a packed out London headline at Blondies.



12pm, Edgar's Farmhouse

Sound stories



Join us for this special session featuring the work of Debenham High School students which was created for Stowmarket's Jubilant! festival in June. Hear about the concept behind the 'sound stories' students conceived of and produced, before we take the session outside so you can experience them for yourself. Bring a smartphone and headphones to be part of this immersive session.



Sunday

1pm, World As It Should Be stage

UGLY: Giving Us Back Our Beauty Standards

Get to grips with modern beauty standards and why beauty capitalism preys on insecurities with our brilliant panellists Anita Bhagwandas and Dija Ayodele, and chair Catherine Mayer. Anita is a multi-award-winning journalist, broadcaster and brand consultant and author of UGLY, which traces where and how our beauty standards started, unpicks why they've been perpetuated and unmasks how they're still being upheld, while skincare expert Dija Ayodele is the founder of West Room Aesthetics and the award-winning Black Skin Directory, which connects people of colour to skincare brands as well as author of Black Skin: The Definitive Skincare Guide.



1pm, Writers' Green Room

Myths and legends

Join three brilliant writers for this fun session exploring the links between mythology, folklore and feminism, featuring debut novelist CE McGill, author of Our Hideous Progeny, a gothic adventure story that follows Mary Frankenstein, the great-niece of Victor Frankenstein, who discovers some old family papers that allude to the shocking truth behind her great-uncle's past; Mahsuda Snaith whose short story about an Indian princess who is turned into a panther appears in the collection Hag: Forgotten Folktales Retold; and Kim Sherwood whose new novel A Wild & True Relation features smugglers, disguised orphans and a revenge mystery that is solved by the imagined contributions of historical authors including Celia Fiennes and George Eliot. Chaired by Primadonna Athena Stevens.



1pm, Farm Barn

Captain Loo Roll

Originating from the trunk of the magical everlasting oak tree, Captain Loo Roll is super strong, endlessly long, and brimming with courage. However, stuck in the deadly dull surrounds of the downstairs toilet, heroic adventures could not be further away. All that changes, though, when along comes a very stinky villain named Toilet-troll... Join Captain Loo Roll's creator Matt Carr in this special session for younger readers.



1.30pm, Chapel

Advice surgery with Lisa Milton

Lisa Milton is Executive Publisher at HQ as well as sitting on the Exec Committee of HarperCollins UK. She joined HarperCollins in 2015 after a decade as Managing Director of Orion Publishing where she was responsible for Orion, Orion Children's, Gollancz and Weidenfeld & Nicolson, which was awarded Imprint of the Year at the 2015 Bookseller Industry Awards. Whilst there she published major bestsellers and award winning authors including Maeve Binchy, Ian Rankin, Gillian Flynn and Malala Yousafzai. Previously Lisa was Editorial Director at BCA, the UK's biggest book club, and prior to this she had a successful career at Waterstones, where one of her most notable achievements was opening the flagship store in Piccadilly and winning the Bookshop of the Year Industry Award in 2000. Sit down with her for 10 minutes of life-changing advice – sign up in the morning on the Chapel noticeboard to secure your slot.



Sunday

2pm, World As It Should Be stage



On a journey

We sit down with three brilliant authors of books that explore literal and metaphorical journeys: writer and broadcaster Octavia Bright's *This Ragged Grace* tells the story of her recovery from alcohol addiction, and the parallel story of her father's descent into Alzheimer's as she moves between London, the island of Stromboli, New York, Cornwall and Margate, ultimately learning that wherever you go, you take yourself with you. Australian author Emma Styles' *No Country for Girls* follows two strangers as they go on the run across Australia's remote outback: a new take on the classic road trip genre that's been described as 'Thelma & Louise for a new generation' with the same tropes of female friendship, escape... and a great car. And award-winning journalist and broadcaster William Lee Adams' *Wild Dances: My Queer and Curious Journey to Eurovision* is a memoir of glitz, glamour, geopolitics, and the power of pop music, following a misunderstood queer biracial kid from small-town Georgia who became the world's foremost Eurovision Song Contest blogger. In the chair is novelist Elissa Soave, whose debut *Ginger and Me* also explored the journey undertaken by two female friends... often on a bus.



2pm, Writers' Green Room

A Masterclass in Historical Fiction



Join Polly Crosby for this masterclass in writing about (and around) the past. She'll be exploring how to effectively deploy secrets and clues in dual timeline stories - using historical objects such as letters or pieces of jewellery to link the past to the present. If you've got a story that you want to set authentically in a different time period, don't miss this session with one of the leading authors in the genre.



2pm, Edgar's Farmhouse



Staging Feminism

How do you write a feminist play without it becoming a soapbox? Is simply putting women onstage together an act of feminism in itself? Join this relaxed and playful workshop on writing women for performance with playwright Jen Lunn, whose multi-award-winning debut play *Es & Flo* had its premiere at Wales Millennium Centre in April 2023 and then a transfer to the Kiln Theatre in London.



2pm, Mix the Paint wall, near the Farm Barn



Graffiti workshop

Join Joel Millerchip for his second how-to session on making a start with spray painting, and then head to our Mix the Paint wall to express yourself however you want!

PRIMADONNA

2pm, Storytelling area



Mini forest school

Join us in our woodland glade for a mini forest school session. Learn how light a fire, try stick whittling and then warm marshmallows over the fire. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Sunday

3pm, World As It Should Be stage Pecs appeal



Author, actor, presenter and Celebrity Masterchef champion Emma Kennedy can't wait to show you her before and after pics. Last year, Emma took her power back, lifting weights until she felt better. Novelist Kia Abdullah decided to take a boxing lesson as part of her research into a character she was writing, and now trains weekly with a boxing coach in east London. Here, these two formidable women sit down to talk about female strength, getting hench and satisfying appetites (of all kinds). Expect quite a lot of hilarity, and possibly some bicep curling, in this must-see session. Chaired by Primadonna (and bit of a weakling) Catherine Riley.



3pm, Writers' Green Room Dazzling debuts



We speak to two incredible debut novelists about their first books, centred on their characters' quests for closure, adulthood and fulfilling their destiny following the death of their fathers. Winner of the second #Merky Books New Writers Prize 2021, Jyoti Patel's *The Things That We Lost* is a thoughtful and assured debut that explores what it means to be a young person of colour in Britain today, narrated from a dual perspective – that of 18-year-old Nik and his British Indian mother Avani – as Nik tries to unravel the circumstances of his father's death. Winner of the inaugural Curtis Brown First Novel Prize Chikodiji Emelumadu's debut *Dazzling* chronicles two girls dealing with the legacy of their fathers' decisions and their own burgeoning freedom at a boarding school where terrible things start to happen... In the chair is Alex Peake-Tomkinson, a freelance journalist who writes mainly about books and food (but would rather be reading than anything else).



3pm, Cherry Tree Walk Animal feeding



Join the Museum team down in the farm area for the afternoon animal feeding.



Wellness, eating, shopping, community...

In the bee garden...

Sarah Woodhouse Therapy

Sarah, Nicky and Clare will be offering wonderfully relaxing treatments, including Bowen Therapy, Massage, mini Holistic Facials, Reflexology, and Reiki in the wellness area located in the beautiful Bee Garden. You can book any time throughout the festival, but we recommend pre-booking as appointments get taken quickly!

Contact Sarah at sarah@sarahwoodhousetherapy.co.uk.

To eat and drink...

Any Street Kitchen

Artisan open fire cooking specialists delivering wood fired pizza and wraps, breakfast baps, smoke style BBQ and open pit rotisserie chicken with delicious sides too. Check out their changing menu across the festival weekend – you won't have time to try it all.

Blossom Caravan

Barista coffee, tea, hot chocolate, iced drinks, brownies and pastries – lots of delicious goodies, served all day.

Bone Building Bar

Full range of bar drinks and snacks open all day – right next to the WAISB stage.

Feast Café and late night bar

Visit the Food Museum cafe, where the goal is to grow as many fresh ingredients on-site as possible, working in partnership with the Museum's gardener to develop the menu. Transforms into a late night bar from 8pm on Friday and Saturday nights.

Ginfinity

Serving craft gin and tonic, Pimms, prosecco and English sparkling wine. Cheers!

Molly Moo's Ices

Vintage ice cream van serving delicious scoop ice cream in luxury waffle cones or cups, sorbet, retro ice lollies and classic soft drinks.

Samu Kitchen

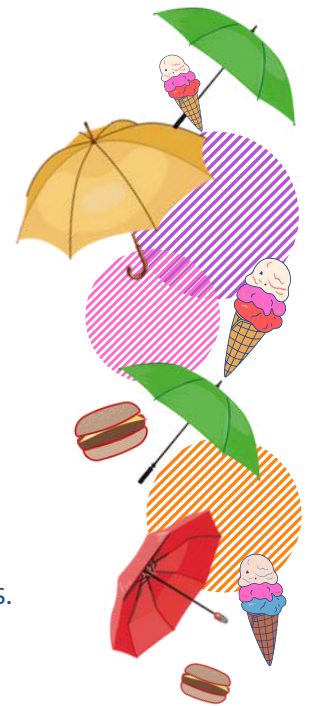
Samu celebrates the beauty of plant food – fragrant, flavourful and vibrant dishes. Expect delicious seasonal vegan food including bhaji wraps, Pride nachos, shawarma wraps, mezze boxes, falafels and more.

Suffolk Spice Fusion

Authentic North Indian street food with a fusion twist. Expect vegan curries, tikka naan wraps and feast boxes.

Wok'n'roll

Bringing the vibrant and robust flavours of Hong Kong hawker stall street food to the UK, get a taste of the most authentic home-cooked noodles you will get outside of the Far East.



In the top field...

Waterstones (inside the Farm Barn)

Our on-site bookseller, open all weekend, is Waterstones who will stock books by every author you see at the festival. Plus, they'll be author signings here after every programmed session, so make sure you stop by to get an autograph, and restock your bookshelves.

Tiny Art (inside the Farm Barn)

Pin your tiny art at Primadonna Festival this summer around the theme 'the world as it should be'. Art Around Town invites you to make a tiny (business card-sized) sustainable artwork using repurposed recycled festival waste materials and craft art materials and pin it to their pink frame inside the Farm Barn. Share your art work through their Insta account to bring your ideas together with others (tag #tinyartaroundtown @artaroundtownwestsuffolk). All art work created during the festival will be exhibited in Bury St Edmunds after the festival weekend.

Mix the Paint mural – community paint jam (by the Farm Barn)

The Mix, Stowmarket invites you to splatter, spray and tell your graffiti art story on the Mix the Paint mural at Primadonna. Over the weekend artists Joel Millerchip and Frankie Fitzpatrick will be celebrating The Mix youth work in Suffolk through capturing young people's stories in spray paint. The vision for Mix the Paint was awoken by Frankie's own expressive graffiti journey into community arts.

In the marketplace marquee...

Apothekelly

A small handcrafted business, producing natural vegan skincare from the heart of Suffolk with sustainability at the forefront of our ethics.

Birch pottery

Browse a range of handmade ceramic pieces crafted by local artist Laura Mackley.

Communities Together East Anglia

Based in Suffolk, Communities Together East Anglia, believe that people benefit from being able to access support and services, as close as possible to where they live – “community is key”, encouraging community integration, reducing loneliness and in social isolation improving mental health and wellbeing.

Daisy Spider Art

Suffolk-based artist Beccy makes handcrafted Fairtrade gifts including jewellery, incense, home decor, beaded spiders and dragonflies, cards, essential oils, accessories, nursery string art and plenty more besides...

Eastern Fostering Services

Eastern Fostering Services provide caring, stable and local homes for children in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge. Stop by to have a chat and learn more about their amazing work.

Future Female Society

Future Female Society exists to close the gap in inequalities for women and girls. They raise aspiration and confidence and help women and girls in the local community to reach their full potential. FFS gives women and girls the space to find their voice and recognise their own power, to become leaders of their own lives and within their careers and communities. They work directly with around 300 women and girls every year (many more indirectly) from some of the most deprived areas in Suffolk including in Westgate ward, Ipswich where they are based.



Incorknito

Don't miss these hand-crafted sustainable cork earrings. See www.etsy.com/uk/shop/IncorknitoDesigns

Soaps'n'scrubs

Check out their range of soaps, bath bombs, shower whips, candles and shower steamers. Fragrant!

Suffolk Artlink

Suffolk Artlink is a participatory arts charity working to support health and wellbeing for communities in the East. Our creative projects help people transform their lives through the arts by bringing skills, support networks, confidence and joy to communities in the East. We work in places including hospitals, hospices, residential homes, schools and community venues. Our work is led by experienced arts practitioners, encompassing a rich variety of art forms, and is delivered in close partnership with care, education, voluntary and community organisations.

Terrence Higgins Trust Suffolk

THT Suffolk offers a range of services available to anyone who lives in the Suffolk area, in association with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and Integrated Contraception and Sexual Health Services (iCaSH).

University of Suffolk

Find out about courses on offer at the University of Suffolk and speak to some of the Creative Writing faculty as well as students currently enrolled there. Could be the start of your next big move...

Windrush Suffolk

Windrush Suffolk (formerly known as Ipswich Windrush) is a voluntary organisation organised by WSC, giving thanks to those who paved the way to build a community.

Elsewhere on the lawn behind Abbots Hall...

Animal Cancer Trust

The Animal Cancer Trust is a registered charity whose goal is to be the first port of call for pet owners and all who work with animals to find information and support as soon as the word cancer is mentioned. Visit them to learn more.



Hazel reading van

Hazel Press is a feminist environmental publishing house with an all female team producing books with vegetable dye ink on 100% recycled paper including using vegan-friendly recycled envelopes and tape for delivering books. Find them all weekend in their 13 foot Hazel caravan giving readings and more...

Jos and Dee's vintage clothes

Browse some of the best pre-loved threads in the south east: look out for the racks of clothes and hats just outside the central marketplace marquee.

Julia Peculiaa

A circular sustainable clothing and accessories brand taking surplus items destined for landfill and turning them into unique, affordable statement pieces. Designs are influenced by 90s, punk and current street wear trends. They are an expression of individuality, fun and pride – clothes that bring happiness not harm!



Phil woodcraft

Join Phil and try your hand at carving traditional hazel flowers, walking staffs or even a stool.

Recovery's Got Talent (in the camping field)

Meet with the group at their gazebo and find out how you can get involved in creativity in Suffolk; writing workshops, music sessions and performance, to support or start your own recovery journey from addiction, trauma and mental health.

Tinkler's Quest – share stories, books and rest

Stow Stories has teamed up with Get Suffolk Reading and St Peter's and St Mary's Church in Stowmarket to reveal an exhibition of storytelling paintings which connect memories and spark conversation about places, people, and nature. Tinkler's Quest is a storytelling art experience which stimulates people's memories and prompts conversation. Join them throughout the weekend.



Thank You...

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and supporters for helping make Primadonna happen this year.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

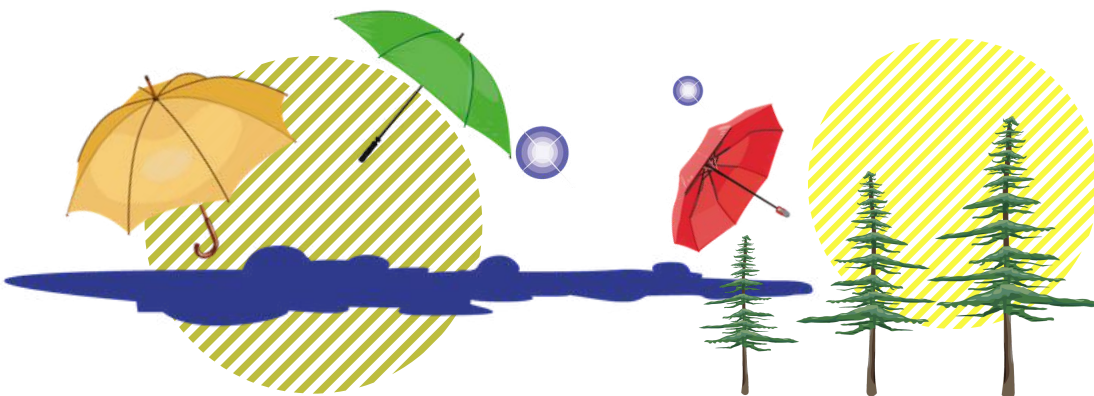


Friday..

Time (all subject to change)	World as it should be Stage (top field)	Marquee (lawn)	Bone Building	Elsewhere in the Museum...	Medieval barn	Farm barn (bookshop)	Edgar's farmhouse – or Storytelling Circle if weather is good	Bee Garden
4 (pm)		Colonial Countryside	Meat the future exhibition and tastings	Watermill tour		Ace and the Animal Heroes with JB Gill		Wellness: Sarah Woodhouse therapies ↓
5 (pm)	Mandem	Primadonna Prize award ceremony		Tinkler's Quest storytelling: join the story circle behind the Writers' Green Room		Felting Workshop		
6 (pm)	Note books	Cli-Fi		Hedgehog breadmaking at the bread oven		Graffiti wall intro	Drag King workshop	
7 (pm)	I'm a Fan	In conversation: Fats Timbo				Get spooked!		
8 (pm)	Are You Paying Attention (to Yourself)?				Brigitte Aphrodite			
9 (pm)					9.15pm Electric Fire / Miki Berenyi trio			
10 (pm)								
11 (pm)					DJ set: Angelle Joseph			

Key

	Conversations
	Performance
	For writers
	For mind, body and soul
	For kids



Saturday...

Time (all subject to change)	World as it should be Stage (top field)	Marquee (lawn)	Chapel	Bone Building	Elsewhere in the Museum...	Medieval barn	Farm barn (bookshop)	Edgar's farmhouse – or wicker dell if weather is good	Bee Garden
9 (am)		Time to write: the space is all yours for some quiet writing time						Qi Gong	Wellness: Sarah Woodhouse therapies
10 (am)	Home / Economics	How to Get Published	Sheepdog demo (meet here)		10.30am Meet the Suffolk punch horses		Robin Stevens & The Ministry of Unladylike Activity	Ready, get set, goals!!!!	
11 (am)	In conversation: Diana Evans	Mother Tongue	One-to-ones / advice surgeries 10.30am-12pm Amanda Harris 12-1.30pm Emma Shercliff 1.30-3pm Katie Fulford	Meat the Future exhibition and tastings	Hedgehog bread making at the bread oven		Family Pride		
12 noon	Root Up	Round the twist			Steam engine rides until 3.30pm (outside the Bobby building)	Mary Poppins Dancealong		Lunchtime tales with Lady J	
1 (pm)	Disappearing Women	Feminist Book Society			Hedgehog bread making at the bread oven			Citizens' panel (Bank of England)	
2 (pm)	All the houses I've ever lived in	Get *!\$@-ing On With It!		Animal feeding (Cherry Tree Walk)		Tia Fisher & Crossing the Line	The Reboot Quiz Show		
3 (pm)	In conversation: Rowan Hisayo Buchanan	Writing with chronic illness & disability				Simon James Green	Feminist Invoicing		
4 (pm)	Modern romance	Mum's the Word				Only on the Weekends and The Black Flamingo with Dean Atta	Natural Voices		
5 (pm)	Troublemakers	New Welsh Writing							
6 (pm)	Prima Poetry	Anti Romantics			Tinkler's Quest storytelling: join the story circle behind the Writers' Green Room			Recovery's Got Talent	
6.30(pm)	Absolute power corrupts... absolutely								
7 (pm)		Just Criminal							
7.30pm	Freed from Desire								
8 (pm)									
8.30pm		Comedy showcase: Brenda Read Brown / Dosa Cat the Drag Queen / HEADLINER CALLY BEATON			Evening nature walk (meet at the Mortlock building)				
9 (pm)						Live music from 8.30pm: Hasna and Fightmilk			
9.30 (pm)									
10 (pm)									
11 (pm)						Double D Disco			

Sunday...

Time (all subject to change)	World as it should be Stage (top field)	Marquee (lawn)	Chapel	Bone Building	Elsewhere in the Museum...	Farm barn (bookshop)	Medieval barn	Edgar's farmhouse – Storytelling Circle if weather is good	Bee Garden
8 (am)									
9 (am)		Time to write: the space is all yours for some quiet writing time					MissFits workout workshop	Qi Gong	Wellness in the bee garden: Sarah Woodhouse therapies ↓
10 (am)	Jacqueline Crooks	On the art of opinion			10.30am Meet the Suffolk punch horses	Graffiti workshop		Stitch Up	
11 (am)	Rhyme and Shine	New 'Happily Ever Afters'		Meat the Future exhibition and tastings	Tinkler's Quest storytelling: join the story circle behind the Writers' Green Room	Rapunzella, Or, Don't Touch My Hair		From Gay to Z: The queer parent guide	
12 noon	WTF is going on in Westminster?	What it takes to be a successful author	One-to-ones / advice surgeries 10.30 - 12 Katie Fulford 12 - 1.30pm Abi Fellows 1.30 - 3pm Lisa Milton		Steam engine rides until 3.30 pm (outside the Boby building)	Nadia Mikail & The Cats We Meet Along the Way	Afternoon sounds	Sound stories	
1 (pm)	UGLY: Giving Us Back Our Beauty Standards	Myths and legends			Captain Looroll				
2 (pm)	On a Journey	Masterclass in Historical Fiction			Mini forest school (head for the Storytelling Area)	Graffiti workshop			
3 (pm)	Pecs Appeal	Dazzling Debuts			Animal feeding (Cherry Tree Walk)				

Notes...

PRIMADONNA

Save the Date

26-28 July 2024

primadonnafestival.com



Graphic design & layout by
www.blackandwhitecreative.co.uk

BLACK
&
WHITE Creative