

2009 Knutsford Literature Festival

6-23 October

Max Hastings



Joan Bakewell

Clarissa
Dickson Wright



Sandra Howard

Diana Quick



Christopher
Martin-Jenkins

AND MORE...

POETRY, HISTORY,
FICTION, BIOGRAPHY,
DRAMA

Frances Partridge: A Bloomsbury Icon

1 *Anne Chisholm's fascinating biography is both a portrait of a remarkable woman and a panorama of the lives of her generation*

Tuesday 6th October

CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, TATTON STREET



2.00pm



Book Signing



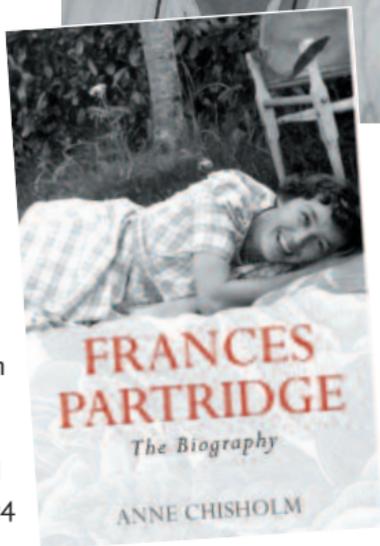
TICKET ESSENTIAL



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Frances Partridge was one of the great diarists of the 20th century. The publication of two memoirs and six volumes of her diaries in old age brought many admirers who delighted in her sharp intelligence and zest for life. Born in 1900, (she died in 2004 aged 103), Frances grew up in a circle that included Henry James, Tennyson and Arthur Conan Doyle. In the 1920s she came to know Virginia and Leonard Woolf, Vanessa and Clive Bell and E.M. Forster, but when she met and fell in love with Ralph Partridge she became entangled in the delicately balanced ménage à trois he shared with his wife Dora Carrington and Lytton Strachey.

Anne Chisholm knew Frances Partridge well during the last years of her life and had access to unpublished diaries and letters. She has written a number of successful biographies and is current chair of the Royal Society of Literature.



Finest Years: Churchill as Warlord 1940-45

2 *Hastings provides new perspectives on a person who many regard as the greatest Englishman*

Thursday 8th October

METHODIST CHURCH, PRINCESS STREET



7.30pm



TICKET ESSENTIAL



Book Signing



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Testament of Youth

3 Rohan McCullough presents a haunting one woman performance of Vera Brittain's autobiography

Friday 9th October

CIVIC CENTRE, TOFT ROAD



7.30pm



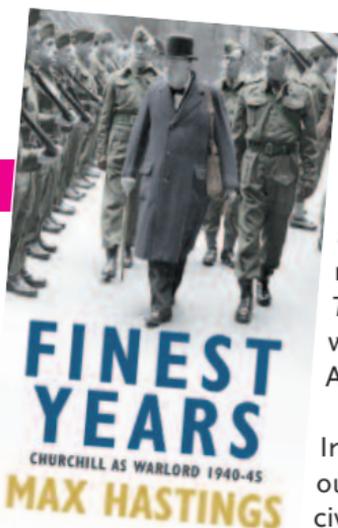
TICKET ESSENTIAL



Rohan McCullough is an experienced actor of stage, film and TV. She trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has undertaken many classical roles including Antigone at Manchester Royal Exchange and parts with the RSC.

In her one-woman show Rohan re-enacts the experiences recorded in Vera Brittain's *Testament Of Youth*, the story of an Oxford student's voluntary work as a nurse at the Front in the First World War, her agony of loss and her devotion to pacifism on her return. The author's daughter, Shirley Williams, wrote 'I strongly commend her presentation'.

'A one woman tour de forcea stunning performance.' Time Out.



Max Hastings is the author of twenty books including *Bomber Command*, *Overlord* and *Battle for the Falklands*. As a journalist he reported conflicts around the world for newspapers and BBC TV. For almost ten years he was editor-in-chief of the *Daily Telegraph* and spent a further six as editor of the *Evening Standard*. He contributes regularly to the *Daily Mail*, *Guardian* and *Sunday Times*. His journalism and his books have both won him prizes including the Somerset Maugham Award and the *Yorkshire Post* Book of the Year Prize.

In his new book Max looks at Churchill from the outside in, through the eyes of British soldiers, civilians and newspapers, and also those of Russians and Americans.

All the Nice Girls

4 Joan Bakewell returns to our Festival with her first novel

Saturday 10th October

METHODIST CHURCH,
PRINCESS STREET



2 30pm



Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL



**REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE**



Joan Bakewell: popular broadcaster, journalist and author of a highly praised autobiography, waited until her mid-70s before writing her first novel. It was well worth the wait...

All the Nice Girls draws on Joan Bakewell's memories of schooldays in Stockport in the 1940s. When the Ship Adoption Scheme links a small town High School with a Merchant Navy ship the Captain and three of his crew visit the school and a bond is forged which will have a far-reaching outcome. Inter-cut with this romantic wartime chronicle is a story set in 2003 of a mother and daughter relationship under stress. The connection between the two stories adds the breathy suspense of detective fiction to a powerfully evoked tale of love and loss.

'A poignant and pleasurable novel' Penny Perrick, The Times.

www.knutsfordlitfest.blogspot.com

An Afternoon with Sophie Hannah

5 Acclaimed poet and thriller writer, Sophie Hannah, talks about her work

Sunday 11th October

LEICESTER WARREN HALL, BEXTON LANE



2 30pm



Book Signing



TICKET
ESSENTIAL



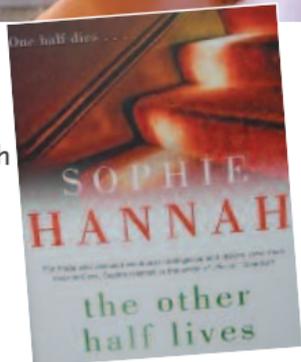
REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

As well as writing psychological thrillers, Sophie Hannah is a best-selling poet and award-winning short story writer. She will be introducing her fourth novel, *The Other Half Lives*, which has attracted outstanding critical acclaim since publication this year. Her novels are translated into twenty languages and all four have been bought by Hat Trick Productions for filming as a series for ITV1.

Sophie, the daughter of writer Adele Geras, a recent Festival guest, currently teaches at Manchester Metropolitan University's Writing School.

'This utterly gripping thriller should establish her as one of the great unmissables of this genre' Kate Saunders, The Times.

SPONSORED BY LEICESTER WARREN HALL



Rifling Through My Drawers

6 Clarissa Dickson Wright brings us more colourful stories and gossip for which she is so loved

Tuesday 13th October

METHODIST CHURCH, PRINCESS STREET



7.30pm



TICKET ESSENTIAL



Book Signing

SPONSORED BY



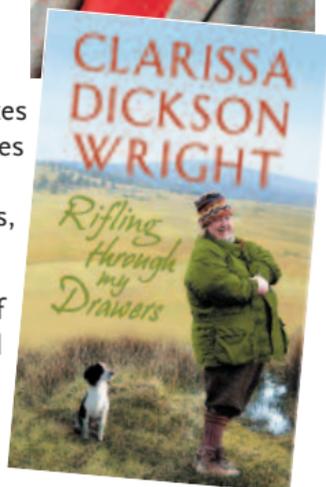
Waterstone's



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

With her inimitable wit and outspoken views, Clarissa in her latest book opens her diary and takes us on a journey around Britain. She recalls episodes from her life and describes her encounters with everyone from local farmers to Women's Institutes, supermarket managers to greyhound coursers.

Clarissa Dickson Wright found fame as one half of the much loved TV partnership *Two Fat Ladies* and is the author of five cookery books. *Spilling the Beans* spent more than 20 weeks in the *Sunday Times* top ten bestseller list and was also the Independent Booksellers Book of the Year.



A Literary Lunch with Sandra Howard

7 From Fashion to Fiction

Wednesday 14th October

MERE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



12 noon for 12.30pm



Book Signing



£26

TICKET
ESSENTIAL

Sandra Howard has had a varied and fascinating career, being a top fashion model in the 1960s, and a journalist, before fulfilling her dream of becoming a novelist. Her third novel, *A Matter of Loyalty*, was published this year, and, like her others, is a romance, but this time set against a background of terrorism. Her themes draw from her own experience, particularly as a politician's wife, and her observation of life in the corridors of power.



'Brave and far reaching, the novel never loses pace and the climax is thrilling'.
Daily Telegraph.

A Tug on the Thread: From the British Raj to the British Stage

8 Celebrated Actress Diana Quick confronts her emotional heritage in this brilliant family memoir

Friday 16th October

METHODIST CHURCH, PRINCESS STREET



7 30pm



Book Signing



£5

TICKET
ESSENTIAL



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

Playing Julia Flyte to Laurence Olivier's dying Lord Marchmain in the T.V. dramatisation of *Brideshead Revisited*, set Diana Quick on a quest to uncover the enigma of her own father's family in India. The result, *A Tug on the Thread*, is part detective story and part a window on the actor's world, thrillingly blending family memoir with the dramatic history of the British Raj.

Diana Quick came to notice as a student when she was elected the first female president of the Oxford University Dramatic Society. Her career since her professional debut in 1967 has won acclaim in television, film, theatre and radio.



'A most original and compelling family memoir which defies categorisation'
Jonathan Cecil, Daily Mail.

The Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham

9 Selina Hastings introduces her new biography

Saturday 17th October

METHODIST CHURCH,
PRINCESS STREET



2.30pm



Book Signing



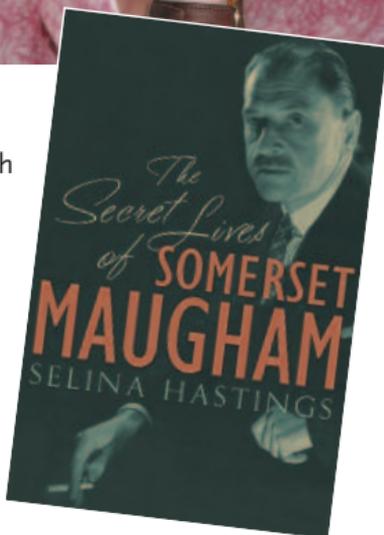
TICKET ESSENTIAL



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

Selina Hastings has had a wide literary career as both author and journalist. As biographer of Nancy Mitford, Evelyn Waugh (for which she won the Marsh Biography Prize) and Rosamond Lehmann, she has received acclaim for her perceptive and sensitive analysis presented as absorbing narrative. She has had access to Maugham's extensive private correspondence to produce a compelling study of this complex life.

Selina has been literary editor on the *Daily Telegraph* and *Harper's and Queen* and is a regular reviewer and book prize judge.



The Top 100 Cricketers Of All Time

10 Christopher Martin-Jenkins
talks about a life in cricket

Monday 19th October

LEICESTER WARREN HALL,
BEXTON LANE



7.30pm



Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL



LICENSED BAR



Two Novelists Discuss Their Writing

11

Mark Illis and Stephen May discuss common themes in their writing

Tuesday 20th October

CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, TATTON STREET



7.30pm



Book Signing



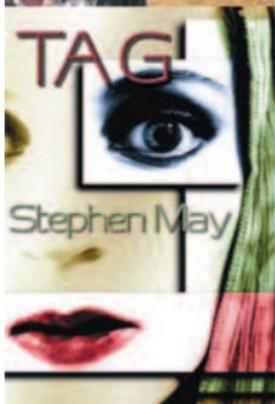
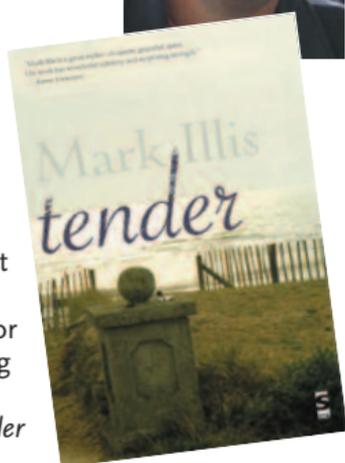
TICKET
ESSENTIAL



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE



Mark Illis has written novels, scripts for TV and radio and teaches at the Arvon Centre. Currently he is writing for *Emmerdale* and pursuing projects with Stephen May. His new book *Tender* is a collection of short stories about a family, covering three decades.

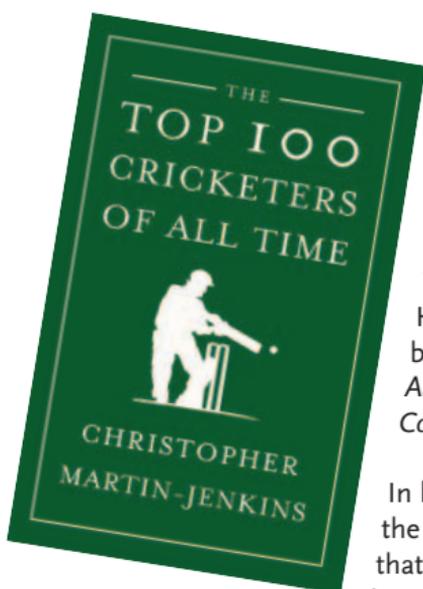


'Mark Illis is a great stylist, eloquent, graceful, quiet. His work has wonderful subtlety and surprising strength' Anne Enright.

Stephen May has written on Creative Writing and is a published playwright. His first novel, *Tag*, has won The Welsh Book of the Year - Readers' Award. He is currently working on a new play and novel.

Stephen's young female character in *Tag* is a gifted, unpredictable adolescent. He joins Mark in discussing her issues with life.

'Energy, wit, bile, attack...May can really write' Lyn Gardner, The Guardian.



Christopher Martin-Jenkins has commented for BBC Radio 4's *Test Match Special* since 1973. During that time he has also been editor of *The Cricketer*, chief cricket correspondent for BBC Television, the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*, and perennial winner of *The Wisden Cricketer* best cricket writer poll. He has written a number of acclaimed books, including *Men For All Seasons*, *An Australian Summer*, and the bestselling *Complete Who's Who of Test Cricketers*.

In his latest book Christopher has selected the 100 best players of all time, a challenge that he has called 'impossible but irresistible'.

SPONSORED BY BARRINGTON SPORTS

Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World

12 Part biography and part cultural history, Claire Harman explores the life and after-life of Jane Austen

Thursday 22nd October

CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, TATTON STREET



2.00pm



Book Signing



**TICKET
ESSENTIAL**



**REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE**

'I write only for fame' joked Jane Austen in 1796 before any of her novels had been published. Such a triumph of sense over sensibility may not accord with the image Austen fans have of her, but remarkably hers has become one of the most recognisable names in literature.

Beginning with Austen's own experience as an author, Claire Harman's groundbreaking book moves on to explore the eruption of public interest in her work in the late 19th century, her adoption for scholarly study in the 20th century and her global pulling power today, in print, on film, and on the Internet.

Claire Harman is the award-winning biographer of Sylvia Townsend Warner, Fanny Burney and Robert Louis Stevenson. *Jane's Fame* was chosen as BBC4's Book of the Week.

'What is all this about Jane Austen? What is there in her? What is it all about?' Letter from Joseph Conrad to H. G. Wells, 1901.



Poems, Pints & Pimms

13 A celebration of beautiful words

Friday 23rd October

TOFT CRICKET CLUB, TOFT ROAD



8.00pm



**TICKET
ADVISABLE**



**LICENSED
BAR**

*She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:*



The theme this year is 'beauty'

Why not come along and bring your favourite words? No need to feel restricted by the theme. Bring your friends, your poems and stories, new or old. Or simply join us to celebrate the last night of the Festival.