

∞ Knutsford
2017 Literature
Festival
10-14 October



Andrew Wilson

Tessa Boase



Helen Rappaport



Julie Summers



Alan Johnson



BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY,
CRIME, MUSIC
AND MORE...

A Different Kind of Evil

1 *Agatha Christie is forced to turn sleuth in Andrew Wilson's latest novel*

Wednesday 10th October

MERE & TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB
KNUTSFORD ROAD, WA16 0PU



2.30 pm



Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL
(REDEEMABLE AGAINST
FEATURED HARDBACK)



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

January 1927 - and recovering from the harrowing circumstances surrounding her disappearance a month earlier, Agatha Christie embarks on an ocean-liner bound for the Canary Islands. She has been sent there by the British Secret Intelligence Service to investigate the death of one of its agents whose mummified body has been found in a cave.

On the sea-passage, Agatha witnesses a woman throw herself into the sea. At first nobody connects the murder of the young man on Tenerife with the suicide of a mentally-unstable heiress until Agatha uncovers a series of dark secrets.

Writing in the first person, Andrew has emulated Christie's style as well as her emotions at this vulnerable period in her life.

Andrew is the highly acclaimed author of biographies of Patricia Highsmith, Sylvia Plath and Alexander McQueen. His journalism has appeared in The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Observer and Sunday Times.

"A crafty whodunit worthy of the Queen of Mystery herself Wilson does a superior job of balancing surprising plot developments with a sensitive portrayal of Agatha Christie's inner life".

Publisher's Weekly



Mrs Pankhurst's Purple Feather

2

Tessa Boase tells the story of the Edwardian women whose crusade to save millions of birds led to the the birth of the RSPB

Friday 12th October

METHODIST CHURCH,
PRINCESS STREET, WA16 6BY



8.00 pm



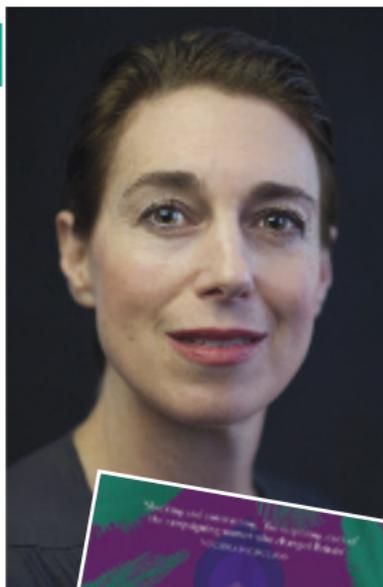
Book Signing



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REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE



Tessa's thrilling narrative is the story of the indomitable Etta Lemon, "the Margaret Thatcher of birds", and the campaign she spear-headed to stamp out the cruel fashion for feathered hats and halt the mighty, merciless and male-dominated plumage trade.

Anti-fashion and anti-feminist, their battle inevitably brought them into direct conflict with the highly elegant Mrs Pankhurst - leading suffragette and wearer of feathers! - another radical woman who was campaigning, equally passionately, not against the slaughter of millions of birds but for the rights of women. From the feather-workers' slums to the highest courtly circles, this fascinating and shocking story takes us on a unique journey through a society in the throes of change and transformation.

Tessa Boase is a journalist and social historian. Her first book was *"The Housekeeper's Tale: The Women Who Really Ran the English Country House"*.

"Of the books published to mark the centenary of British women's suffrage, Tessa Boase's is surely the queerest pitch... Yet how brilliantly conceived it turns out to be".

The Telegraph

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Waterstones

The Race To Save The Romanovs

3 Helen Rappaport reveals the truth behind the secret plans to rescue the Romanovs

Saturday 13th October

METHODIST CHURCH,
PRINCESS STREET, WA16 6BY



11.00 am



Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL
(REDEEMABLE AGAINST
FEATURED HARBACK)



REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

In July 1918, Russia's Imperial family all perished at Ekaterinburg at the hands of the Bolsheviks. But one burning question still remains: Why did their numerous European royal relatives and the combined Allied governments all fail to rescue them?

Drawing on extensive lost and overlooked documents and an unprecedented range of unseen sources, Helen challenges what has previously been accepted as fact and overturns a century of traditional thinking - that the failure to evacuate the Romanovs to Britain in 1917 was all the fault of one man, King George V. Here at last she reveals the false claims, the con-men, conspiracies, fierce loyalties, devastating betrayals, and bitter family rivalries, in the race against time to save Russia's last royal family.

Helen is a best-selling historian and a specialist in Russian and Victorian history. Her books include: "*Ekaterinburg*", "*Four Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Romanovs*" and "*Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd 1917*".

"A gripping narrative recounted with a light touch. Helen has uncovered many missing pieces." *The Times*.



Our Uninvited Guests: The Secret Lives of Britain's Country Houses 1939 - 45

4 Julie Summers gives a glimpse of life in some of Britain's greatest country houses requisitioned during World War Two

Saturday 13th October

METHODIST CHURCH,
PRINCESS STREET, WA16 6BY



2.30 pm



Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL
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REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

Julie perfectly captures the spirit of upheaval at the beginning of the Second World War when thousands of country houses were requisitioned to provide accommodation for the armed forces, secret services and government offices as well as for vulnerable children, the sick and the elderly, all of whom needed to be housed safely beyond the reach of Hitler's Luftwaffe.

The juxtaposition of the splendour and opulence of our stately homes with the everyday activities of people whose needs were at odds with their new surroundings is at the heart of this book. This thought-provoking narrative captures a crucial period in the social history of Britain.

Julie is a best-selling author and historian. Her books include: *The Colonel of Tamarkan*, *Stranger in the House*, and *When the Children Came Home*. Her book *Jambusters* was the inspiration for ITV's hit drama series *Home Fires*.

"A revelation- full of information,reminscences, humour and social history" - Helen Carey OBE former Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.



In My Life: A Music Memoir

5 Alan Johnson tells the story of his life through the music which has inspired him along the way

Sunday 14th October

COTTONS HOTEL & SPA
MANCHESTER ROAD, WA16 0SU



2.30 pm

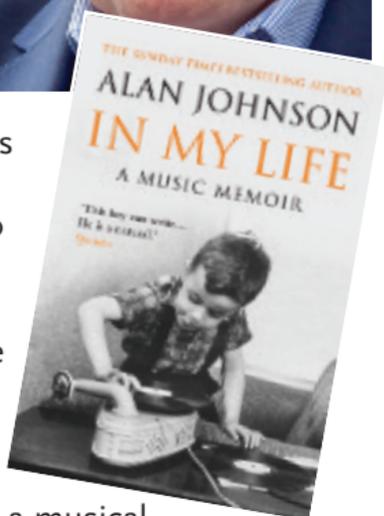


Book Signing



TICKET ESSENTIAL
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Nell Dunn - Photography



Alan was born in May 1950 and was brought up in a very poor part of West London. Music helped him to forget his drab surroundings. As a child, the sound of “True Love” by Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly on the radio enraptured him. As a postman in 1977, he hummed “Watching the Detectives” by Elvis Costello. Alan’s life has always had a musical soundtrack. In fact the music hasn’t just accompanied his life; it has been an integral part of it.

In My Life vividly transports us to a world that is no longer with us - a world of Dansettes and jukeboxes, of heartfelt love songs and heartbroken ballads, of smoky coffee shops and dingy dance-halls. From Bob Dylan to David Bowie, Lonnie Donnegan to Bruce Springsteen, all of Alan’s favourites are here, as are, of course, his beloved Beatles whom he has worshipped with undying admiration since 1963.

This isn’t just a book about music. *In My Life* adds a fourth dimension to the story of Alan Johnson the man.

A former Labour MP, Alan held several Cabinet positions including those of Health Secretary and Education Secretary. He retired from politics in 2017.

His first book *This Boy* won the RLS Ondaatje Prize and the Orwell Prize in 2013. His second *Please Mister Postman* won the National Book Award for Autobiography of the Year in 2014. His third *The Long and Winding Road* was published in 2016.