**JERSEY FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2024:**

**A desire to inspire change**

As I write this, the UK General Election is yet to take place, the French presidency has now also been thrown into the ring, and the European Parliament is shifting into a new configuration. The future, in other words, is far from certain. But what I do know and think everyone would agree on – whatever their political standing – is that change, writ large, is what is needed.

I also know that change, and the ability to look at things in a new light, comes from inspiration. And that, unequivocally, people come away from cultural events feeling inspired – often with a new point of view, always with a fresh perspective.

Arguably, the people most uniquely placed in our society to inspire others are teachers. How many of us can name a teacher who changed how we view the world or how we think about ourselves and who, therefore, had a lasting impact on the course of our lives? One of the UK’s best-loved poets (notably a former teacher and a stalwart champion of teachers) – Michael Rosen – is taking part in Jersey Festival of Words this year. You have only to look at the fact that Michael has requested to meet Cyd Le Bail (who was inspired by Rosen’s father during his teacher training) to see the resonance of these kinds of connections. As I understand it, from past Hautlieu pupils, Cyd himself (who was also a teacher) had a huge impact on countless students – imparting an ‘anything is possible’ attitude.

Of course, it is not only those nurturing the young minds in our society who deserve the title of ‘teacher’, but also those who continually question, discuss, explore, and lead by example throughout their lives. I personally know no one better to turn to for this wisdom than writers, thinkers, creators. Therefore, my job of curating a festival programme is a selfish pleasure. I recently heard scriptwriter Steven Knight discussing on the radio the impact of culture on society. He said, “Living in a city without culture is like living in a room with no windows.” I took this to mean that culture is the necessary light that lets us see things clearly, but also differently, and from a new angle. I hope that amongst the 60+ events in the Jersey Festival of Words 2024 programme (of which more than half are free to attend, with increased accessibility for Islanders) you will find something that will inspire you.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the logistical side of the Festival. Inspiration needs to be organised (by an incredible organising committee, board, and team of volunteers), facilitated (by all of our supporters) and financed (by our generous sponsors). A particular mention to our main corporate sponsor Highvern, as well the Government of Jersey’s Creative Island Partnership. A final special shout out to Mr Copping, my English A’ Level teacher, who, like many teachers who came before him and will come after him, was not thanked at the time for the change he inspired in me.

Pippa Le Quesne

Festival Director

**LIBRARY PROGRAMME**

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE BUT REQUIRE BOOKING VIA TICKETSOURCE

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

**GEORGINA TROY / HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH / 13.00-14.00**

In 2022 Georgina signed a twelve-book deal with Indie Publisher of the Year, Boldwood Books for eight of her self-published romance novels and a further four new books. She is currently on her second contract with Boldwood. Join us to discover what it is about self-publishing Georgina enjoys so much that despite having traditional publishers in two names, she is about to return to self-publishing for her thirtieth book.

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

**STORYTIME FOR 4-6 YEAR-OLDS / 11.00-11.30 / NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

Come along and listen to a special storytime in the Children’s Library.

**DIANE MONIER MOORE / IMMORALISTS AND DRAMA QUEENS / 12.00-13.00**

In this talk Diane presents her latest book, *Immoralists and Drama Queens*, which chronicles the visits to Jersey of a group of French and Belgian writers and artists between 1907 and 1909. While future Nobel-laureate André Gide might be the best known, Neo-Impressionist painter Théo Van Rysselberghe and dramatist Jacques Copeau are amongst the others. Looking at their writings, paintings and work produced in Jersey, Diane expands upon their extravagant lifestyles and relationships. This richly-illustrated book is a quality publication by Blue Ormer.

**CHRISTINE BUCKLAND / LOSING THE PLOT / 14.00-16.00**

Christine Buckland, writer and former teacher, will be offering a workshop focussing on creative writing and story endings. Participants can bring along any examples of their creative writing that have not worked out (not compulsory). There will be opportunities for discussion, word games and personal writing, in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. No previous experience necessary. Age range:17+

Please bring writing materials.

**MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

**WENDY JENKINS / ‘INK REBELLION: ZINE CRAFTING UNLEASHED’ WORKSHOP / 14.00-15.30**

Are you tired of the mundane, the mainstream and the monotonous? Ready to channel your inner rebel and create something that screams, ‘I won’t be silenced!’? Look no further. Zines are like the punk rock lovechild of a pamphlet and a diary. They’re rebellious, scrappy and unapologetically DIY. Forget glossy magazines - zines are the underground revolution. No experience necessary.

All materials provided.

**ERREN MICHAELS / CHANNEL ISLAND MONSTERS / 18.00-19.00**

Erren Michaels returns with her third book, an exquisitely illustrated collection of nineteen stories inspired by our local legendary creatures. This talk is an exploration of Jersey mythology, backed with dynamic images and original artwork. Get a head-start on halloween with deliciously dark monsters, drawn from the bed-time stories and whispered warnings of our ancestors.

This talk is not suitable for very young children.

**TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**

**WENDY JENKINS / ‘PEN & PAINT: IGNITING CREATIVE MAGIC WORKSHOP / 14:00-16.00**

Grab your beret, leave your inner critic at the door and join Wendy for a session that’s messy, magical and mentally uplifting. This workshop is fuelled by a spirit of playfulness and the belief that creativity can cure even the worst case of ‘blank canvas syndrome’. Common barriers to creativity will be explored – be prepared to unleash your inner artist. No experience necessary.

All materials provided.

**KATE THOMPSON / THE WARTIME BOOKCLUB / 18:00-19.00**

Kate Thompson has been a journalist for over thirty years. She has a passion for documenting social histories, particularly those of working-class wartime women missing from the history books. Her latest novel, *The Wartime Book Club*, explores the bravery and compassion of ordinary Islanders who defied fascism through everyday acts of resistance. The novel is based in St Helier Library, the centre of quiet resistance, and tells the untold story of the significant role of libraries in bolstering the morale of Islanders during the Occupation.

**WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**DR SETARA PRACHA / GOTHIC AND WITCHES – LITERARY & CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP / 10:00-12.00**

This workshop takes as its starting point the figure of the witch; across a variety of texts the trope and its qualities will be explored – old and new – to play with some familiar traits and find some surprises. Bewitched by power and beauty participants will create our own figures in a blend of literary criticism and creative writing. Without darkness there cannot be light, so come on and dance in the literary moonlight … with Homer, Angela Carter, Toni Morrison, Jeanette Winterson, Emma Donaghue and others.

**IAN & KRIS HENLEY / STARTING FROM THE BACK OF THE GRID: MISADVENTURES INSIDE FORMULA ONES’ FLYING CIRCUS – EXCLUSIVE LIVE ONLINE EVENT / 18:00-19.00**

This is the endearing story of how Jerseyman Kris Henley, an academic flop with a prodigious talent for getting into embarrassing situations, somehow succeeded in the glamorous world of Formula One. The author, a TV producer and occasional cameraman, gives a distinctive perspective on F1, up close and personal with motorsport legends, A-list celebrities and the super-rich. If you have a sense of humour, love Formula One, or want to learn more, this funny, informative, interesting and occasionally inspiring book provides a ringside seat.

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

**CHRIS RIDDELL / ONCE UPON A WILD WOOD / 16:00-16.45 / CHILDREN’S LIBRARY / FOR 3-7 YEAR-OLDS**

Join former Children’s Laureate Chris Ridell for a picture book session with live-drawing. A fabulously funny fairy tale, full of warmth and wit is a richly-imagined story packed full of familiar fairy tale characters as you've never seen them before. Including Red Riding Hood, Thumbelina, Rapunzel, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, the three bears, the seven dwarfs and many more!

**SASHA GIBB / IN CONVERSATION / 18:00-19.00**

Sasha Gibb (Art Consultant and Founder of Public Voice: Common Ground) will be in conversation with Chief Librarian Ed Jewell, discussing how communities can be supported to create meaningful, substantive and sustainable public spaces.

**FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**

**THE WORLDS OF TERRY PRATCHETT WITH NEIL GAIMAN & ROB WILKINS / ONLINE VIDEO FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY LIVING KNOWLEDGE / 10.00-11.00**

A special celebration of the remarkable creative life of Sir Terry Pratchett, forty years after the publication of the first Discworld novel *The Colour of Magic*. Soon after the book was published, it inspired a young journalist Neil Gaiman to meet Terry, beginning a long collaborative friendship that was epitomised by their joint novel *Good Omens* 1990. Neil is joined Terry Pratchett’s biographer and former assistant Rob Wilkins, in a conversation hosted by Kat Brown.

**SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**

**STORYTIME FOR 4-6 YEAR-OLDS /11.00-11.30 / NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

Come along and listen to a special storytime in the Children’s Library.

**YVONNE HEAVEY / NO 56 / 14.00-15.00**

Step into the world of 1980s rural Ireland with ‘No. 56’,the captivating collection of short stories where ‘the wake of yer Man’ won a prize in 2023 JEP Writing Competition. Delve into the essence of a bygone era, where community spirit thrived amidst the trials and triumphs of everyday life.The stories journey through Mullingar and the quaint Derrygreenagh Park in Westmeath, where a ring of a hundred houses pulsates with stories waiting to be told. At the heart of it all lies No. 56, the very house that sheltered Yvonne’s family and inspired this anthology.

**SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO OFFER A RANGE OF FREE EVENTS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE ISLAND

**WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**CONNOR ALLEN**

**MIRACLES**

**LE ROCQUIER SCHOOL / 11.05-12.05 / YEAR 7**

Come and embark on an inspiring journey of self-discovery with former Children’s Laureate Wales and award-winning writer Connor Allen. Through his poems, in this fun, interactive session, he will show you your individual potential and will help you see that we are all miracles – ‘One in eight billion, brilliant and unique’. Connor’s work is heavily inspired by elements of his own life including grief, love, masculinity, identity and ethnicity.

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

**STEVE WEBB**

**PENG & SPANNERS**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / YEARS 3-6**

Join the hilarious author and illustrator Steve Webb as he introduces your new favourite superheroes … a sarcastic penguin and a clever cat with a toolbelt. Peng and Spanners are investigating the craziest pizza mystery ever in this brand-new graphic novel series. Learn how to draw the characters and play pizza bingo. Expect laughter, mayhem and free pizza … drawings!

**MALCOLM DUFFY**

**SEVEN MILLION SUNFLOWERS**

**LE ROCQUIER SCHOOL / 11.05-12.05 / YEAR 9**

What’s it really like to escape war? Join award-winning writer Malcolm Duffy and Sofiia – a young Ukranian whose family was taken in by the Duffys in 2022 – as they discuss his new YA novel *Seven Million Sunflowers*. When Kat’s family decide to join the seven million refugees fleeing Ukraine, they arrive in England and meet their host family the Hawkins … but new beginnings don’t always bring peace. From lessons in heartache and tragedy, to humility and courage, this compelling story will reignite admiration for Ukraine’s bravery.

**CHRIS RIDDELL**

**HEROES AND VILLAINS**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / YEARS 5-7**

Discover legendary poems from around the world in this mesmerising event, with live-drawing from the award-winning former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell. Join him on a journey through ancient landscapes and perilous voyages, learning about the legends such as Arthur and Guinevere, the Queen of Sheba, Kubla Khan, Robin Hood, Joan of Arc, Mulan, and meeting mythical beings including the phoenix, yeti, dragon and kraken.

**FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**

**MICHAEL ROSEN**

**FAVOURITE POEMS**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / YEARS 3-6**

Jersey school children are in for a very special treat with an hour in the company of one of the best raconteurs and performers around. Michael will be sharing lots of his favourite poems as well as a tale or two from his own childhood and his experiences over the years in the classroom and as a writer - all in his inimitable humorous style.

**JOSEPH ELLIOTT**

**NORA AND THE MAP OF MAYHEM**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / YEARS 3-5**

*Nora and the Map of Mayhem* follows siblings Atticus and Autumn when their dads leave them in the care of their extraordinarily eccentric great-grandmother Nora for the weekend. Finding a mysterious note left by a stranger from Nora’s past, things turn upside down quickly, creating a tale of a hair-raising adventure filled with snot-flinging monsters and menacing creatures. CBeebies’ actor Joseph Elliot promises to deliver an event as hilariously entertaining as this outrageous tale of family and adventure.

**MAIN PROGRAMME**

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

**CANVASSED STORIES**

**JASON BUTLER’S STUDIO / 19.00-20.00 / £10**

A group of Jersey writers will be challenged to take part in a live creative collaboration with leading Island artist Jason Butler. Contributors will be invited to respond in poetry or prose to the small display of his work from an ongoing series of paintings and drawings (which will form part of a large-scale exhibition) and ultimately share their pieces with the audience.

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

**SHIRLEY MACWILLIAM**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING TITLED**

**CCA GALLERIES INTERNATIONAL / 11.00-12.00 / FREE**

In celebration of Kay Le Seelleur Ara’s first solo exhibition at CCA Galleries International they have invited artist, writer and lecturer Shirley MacWilliam to take a deep dive into the titles that accompany Kay’s paintings and drawings. Jersey-based octogenarian Kay Le Seelleur Ara is a prolific painter whose unique style is made all the more interesting by her inventive titling that often forms part of the picture. Shirley MacWilliam will explore the titles of the images taking us on a riotous journey where words and pictures jostle each other into submission, insurrection and hilarity.

**WINE AND WRITE**

**CCA GALLERIES INTERNATIONAL / 14.30-16.30 / £15**

**To book a space please email ellen@jerseyfestivalofwords.org**

This event, curated by Ellen Baker (Festival Assistant), aims to provide a welcoming and relaxed environment for young people to write creatively together. As a graduate, Ellen felt as though Jersey was lacking creative spaces for like-minded people to come together socially and enjoy writing in an inspiring environment, and therefore the Wine and Write series was created. This will be the third event, and will be a wonderful celebration of its success so far. Join us at the magical CCA Galleries International, for a workshop led by the bestselling author and screenwriter Sophie Cousens, to sip and scribble together!

**WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**HAUTLIEU MEETS LA POÈT’TIE**

**AN INSPIRING EXPERIENCE OF DISCOVERY**

**HAUTLIEU SCHOOL / 09.00-10.00 / YR 10 HAUTLIEU STUDENTS**

La Poèt’tie will be collaborating with Year 10 Hautlieu students to make poetry come alive. An exciting workshop will be delivered by Juliette Hart and Catherine Collin at Hautlieu School where students will dive into the world of unseen poetry. Students will explore new poems, unlock their hidden meanings, and express themselves through dynamic activities. This aims to make poetry fun and accessible, sparking creativity and a love for words.

**LISTEN WITH MANMAN – STORYTELLING IN ENGLISH & OTHER LANGUAGES**

**ANNETTE LE BAIL, PENNY BYRNE, ALLIANCE FRANÇAIS & HAUTLIEU STUDENTS**

**MILLENNIUM PARK / 10.30-11.00 / FREE / FOR 0-4 YEAR OLDS**

Come along and listen to Manman and friends as they read a tale or two - in English, French, Portuguese, Polish and Romanian. Let’s share the joys of words and pictures and simple stories which introduce rhythm and rhyme! Let’s have some fun with books! There will be plenty of rugs, and books to share and take home.

**JACKIE KAY**

**MAY DAYS**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 19.00-20.00 / £15**

Join one of our best-loved poets and former Makar of Scotland, Jackie Kay, for an evening of poetry and commentary from her new collection *May Day*. The poems cast an eye over several decades of political activism – from the international solidarity of the Glasgow of Kay’s childhood, accompanying her parents’ Socialist campaigns, through the feminist, LGBTQ+ and anti-racist movements of the 80s and 90s, to the present day when a global pandemic intersects with the urgency of Black Lives Matter. Woven through the collection are personal poems of grief and profound change, infused with the light of love and celebration.

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

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**KAREN FORBES**

**WELLBEING JOURNALING WORKSHOP**

**HMC LA MOYE PRISON / 13.30-15.30 / CLOSED SESSION**

The session will focus on ‘writing to *express*, not *impress*’ and includes an introduction to the practice of journal writing for well-being. This is a fantastic skill which allows us to explore our own feelings and emotions through spontaneous expressive writing. Whilst facilitating writing through a series of prompts and themes, Karen will explore the importance of maintaining good mental health through writing, giving tips and ideas for practice beyond this session, and allowing time for *wild writing*and reflection. No experience necessary, just an interest in the power of words and an open mind to ‘have a go’.

**HELEN FRY**

**WOMEN OF INTELLIGENCE**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 18.00-19.00 / £9**

SPONSORED BY SOROPTIMISTS INTERNATIONAL JERSEY

In this major, panoramic history, Helen Fry looks at the rich and varied work women undertook as civilians and in uniform. From those who worked for Belgian network ‘La Dame Blanche’, knitting coded messages into jumpers, to those who interpreted aerial images and even ran entire sections, Fry shows just how crucial women were in the intelligence mission. Historian and biographer Fry is the author of more than twenty books and regularly appears in media interviews and podcasts.

Helen will be in conversation with JICAS Director Sean Dettman.

**MICHAEL ROSEN**

**GETTING BETTER**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 20.00-21.00 / £18**

SPONSORED BY HIGHVERN

In our lives, terrible things may happen. Michael Rosen has grieved the loss of a child, lived with debilitating chronic illness, and faced death itself when seriously unwell in hospital with Covid-19. In spite of this he has survived, and has even learned to find joy in life in the aftermath of tragedy. In *Getting Better*, he shares his story and the lessons he has learned along the way, ultimately investigating the road to recovery. How do we find it within ourselves to live well again after – or even during – the darkest times of our lives?

Michael will be in conversation with Cathy Rentzenbrink.

**FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**

**CATHY RENTZENBRINK**

**WRITING & SWIMMING TO FEEL BETTER**

**LIDO – HAVRE DES PAS / 14.00-15.30 / £12**

A supportive and encouraging event about how a regular writing practice can fuel our creativity and help us navigate the ups and downs of life. Whatever our aims for our writing it serves us first and foremost to develop it as an ally, a tool, and a friend. Come along for inspiration, boatloads of practical tips, and an invigorating – optional – dip in the tidal pool afterwards.

Cathy Rentzenbrink is the author of two novels and several acclaimed works of non-fiction including *How to Feel Better* and *Write It All Down*.

**LA PASSARELLE FILM SCHOOL & GREEN EYE PRODUCTIONS**

**THE JOURNEY**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 17.00-17.30 / FREE (BUT BOOKING NECESSARY)**

SPONSORED BY OGIER

We are delighted to be screening the public premier of the short film titled ‘The Journey’, created by writers from Film School.  This inaugural project was with students from La Passerelle, under the guidance of Julie Daly-Wallman of Green Eye Productions and directed by Rebecca Coley. The story is about a young girl who refuses to let adversity stand in her way.

After the screening there will be a Q&A session with the writers, director and producer.

**JOHN NETTLES**

**GENTLE VIOLENCE**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 19.00-20.00 / £15**

SPONSORED BY OAKGLEN WEALTH

Join John Nettles for an in-depth talk on the first unabridged English translation of the diary of Baron Von Aufsess, a commanding officer of the German Civilian Administration, based in Jersey during the Occupation. The diary offers a detailed documentation of the Baron’s innermost thoughts, revealing him as a multi-lingual aspiring intellectual, as well as a notorious womaniser. From unapologetic opinions on contemporaries, to behind-the-scenes wrangling amongst the German command as food supplies dwindled after D-Day in June 1944, this will be a fascinating new viewpoint of Jersey’s Occupation years.

John Nettles OBE is best known for his starring role in *Bergerac*.

**CHRIS RIDDELL & SAM FALLE**

**SPRING TIDE TOUR SPECIAL – A NIGHT OF FOLK MUSIC & LIVE ART**

**THE BLUE NOTE / 21.00-23.00 / £15**

Fresh from a UK tour, this unique fusion of live illustration and folk music arrives in Jersey. Join Winterfalle and a handpicked line-up of emerging UK alt-folk artists and watch as their lyrics are illustrated live onstage by 2024 Press Award Cartoonist of The Year, Chris Riddell who has wowed concertgoers at shows by Phoebe Bridgers and The National. Expect a mesmerising evening of art, fantasy, heartbreak and hope.

**SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**

**GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND BIG BOOK SALE**

**ALBERT BARTLETT BUILDING / 09.00-16.00 / FREE**

Hundreds? no; thousands? no; millions? yes; Millions of words written into beautifully crafted sentences and illuminating paragraphs creating books for information, education and pleasure – occasionally finely bound in parchment, leather or simply in highly colourful dust jackets.

From pure art and architecture to wine and zoology with every subject between – over 15,000 books, this is an event to whet the interest of bibliophiles et al. All proceeds go to the Jersey Branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

**MR. MEN & LITTLE MISS**

 **4 x 30 MINUTE STORYTELLING SESSIONS**

**MILLENNIUM PARK / 10.00; 11.30; 13.30; 15.00 / FREE**

SPONSORED BY BUTTERFIELD BANK

Step into the world of Mr. Men and Little Miss, and meet the brand new characters – Mr. Fib and Little Miss Surprise – in this gentle, interactive storytime led by storyteller George Hoyle. There is lots to keep little ones enchanted, including live music, sensory elements, singing and movement. There will also be an opportunity to get copies of Mr. Men/Little Miss books, specially stamped by the storyteller, as well as photo opportunities with plushie versions of classic Mr. Men/Little Miss characters.

First 100 children to attend the sessions receive a free book signed by the creator Adam Hargreaves!

**CHRIS RIDDELL VS THE STORYBEAST**

**TALES FROM JERSEY – LIVE ILLUSTRATION & STORYTELLING**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 10.00-11.00 / £7**

Jersey’s wild tale teller, The Story Beast (alias John Henry Falle) teams up with former Children’s Laureate Chris Riddell (illustrator for Neil Gaiman & Michael Rosen) for a live illustrated adventure through Jersey’s treasure horde of folktales. Howl along with the Black Dog of Bouley Bay! Learn to walk like a Giant! Watch Jersey’s stories come to life, live and in pencil!

**Recommended age 6+**

**BEST START JERSEY**

**REAL IN THE PARK**

**MILLENNIUM PARK / 10.00-12.00 / FREE**

Best Start Jersey is delighted to once again be part of the Jersey Festival of Words. Join them for a morning of free, fun activities for babies and young children all designed to support early literacy development, such as communication and language, early reading skills and early writing skills. There will be storytelling from local authors, singing and signing, and a range of craft activities.

**JENNY LECOAT & DEBORAH CARR**

**IN CONVERSATION**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 10.30-11.30 / £9**

An informal chat with two Jersey-born writers whose island-based wartime novels have sold all over the world.

Jenny Lecoat, writer of the 2017 film *Another Mother’s Son* and New York Times bestseller *The Girl From the Channel Islands*, discusses her new, post-Liberation book *Beyond Summerland* with local author Deborah Carr, creator of USA Today bestseller *An Island At War*, whose latest title *Neighbours at War,*set duringOccupation,is also published this year.

**EYECAN**

**OPEN ACCESS SESSION: READING AID EQUIPMENT INFORMATION & DEMONSTRATION**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM / 11.00-13.00 / FREE**

SPONSORED BY OGIER

A specialist rehabilitation officer from EYECAN will be on hand to demonstrate and advise on the many aids and accessibility features that can enhance the access of individuals with sight loss to literature, and enable independence.

EYECAN offers tailored support, activities, and social events, to ensure that islanders of all ages are empowered to live more independently with their sight loss.

**CLIMATE MAJORITY PROJECT**

**TALK & PANEL DISCUSSION**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 12.00-13.00 / £9**

*The Climate Majority Project*is a collaborative anthology aiming to inspire a vital new wave of mainstream citizen climate action amid intensifying ecological breakdown. Join us for a powerful event, which will include a presentation from co-author and editor of the book – Rosie Bell – on the work of The Climate Majority organisation, followed by a panel discussion with local environmental and sustainability experts. This will be chaired by Richard Pallot (Channel TV) and will also give a voice to attendees during the audience Q&A.

Rosie will join the event by zoom, feeling unable to justify a cross-channel flight to talk about climate impacts.

**JÈRRIAIS BOOK LAUNCH**

**LÉ GIANT L’MUST HABILYI/ THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN**

**MILLENNIUM PARK / 12.30-13.15 / FREE**

Come along to the latest Jèrriais book launch: *The Smartest Giant in Town* – inspired by the much-loved picture book written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. Meet the giant, listen to storytelling and take part in activities run by the Jèrriais Teaching Service. Every family attending will receive a free copy of the book. Mangnifique!

**CHRIS STOKEL-WALKER**

**HOW AI ATE THE WORLD**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 12.30-13.30 / £9**

Join journalist Chris Stokel-Walker as he explores critical questions about the AI revolution and its daily impact on all of us. Learn about the insider intel shared by the likes of Google and OpenAI who built Bard and ChatGBT. From the dark side of AI with its threatening super-intelligence to AI becoming as life-enhancing as the internet … get ready for the next big tech wave.

**HENRY HEMMING**

**FOUR SHOTS IN THE DARK**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 14.00-15.00 / £9**

In May 1986, the body of a British agent was found tied up in a muddy lane. More than a decade later, a man with insider knowledge spoke to the media about the truth of what happened that night and secrets of the parallel worlds between the IRA and the British Intelligence were exposed. A fascinating blend of true crime narrative and scrupulous investigative journalism, this tale of unsolved murders and double agents truly adds meaning to the term ‘page turner’. Join Hemming for an audience-participation style event, where he will seek our assistance in order to solve the murder mystery.

**CAROLE JORDAS**

**LIPREADING, MANAGING HEARING LOSS & DEAF AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM/ 13.45-14.45 / FREE (BUT BOOKING NECESSARY)**

SPONSORED BY OGIER

This one-hour workshop is suitable for anybody whether you have hearing loss or not. Lipreading is an aid to help with communication for people with all levels of hearing loss. In Deaf Awareness you will learn lots of valuable tips of how to be deaf aware.

Carole Jordas has been profoundly death since birth. She’s a qualified tutor in Lipreading & Managing Hearing Loss as well as Deaf Awareness.

**KAYE NICHOLSON-HORN**

**C(LITERATURE)**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 14.30-15.30 / £9**

Kaye returns to the stage with her sapphic-literature-centric show, now with added new material and even more books!

What is an island-dwelling, geeky teen girl growing up in the late nineties to do about her sapphic stirrings, at a time before smartphones and broadband, apps and social media? How does she find connection? Who can she look to in order to feel seen? Where can she be safe?

**Suitable for 14+**

**KATIE BASTIMAN**

**DANTE IN THE MODERN WORLD**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM / 15.30-16.30 / £6**

*The Divine Comedy* is one of the most important works of European literature, telling the story of a journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise. During this talk, Katie Bastiman will provide an introduction to Dante’s great 700-year-old poem, explore the wide range of artistic works that have taken inspiration from the Comedy over the centuries, and highlight some life lessons which are still relevant today to the modern reader.

**ROSIE WILBY**

**THE BREAKUP MONOLOGUES – LIVE PODCAST RECORDING**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 16.00-17.00 / £9**

Award-winning comedian Rosie Wilby shares funny, bizarre and poignant tales of heartbreak and recovery with special guest Cathy Rentzenbrink in a live recording of her acclaimed podcast. Rosie has been obsessively researching the psychology of love for a decade and has even been dubbed the ‘the queen of breakups’ by BBC Radio 4. *The Breakup Monologues* is now also available as a book combining humour, heartache and science to investigate how on earth to actually stay in a relationship in the modern age of ghosting, breadcrumbing and Tinder.

‘Balm for the soul for anyone who has ever been in love’ Viv Groskop

**TRISTAN GOOLEY**

**HOW TO READ A TREE**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 16.30-17.30 / £9**

SPONSORED BY TREES FOR LIFE

From learning how a tree can point north to how the veins in a leaf could lead you to running water, Tristan Gooley’s talk will offer a new perspective on the trees we pass by every day. As the only living person to have flown solo and sailed single-handedly across the Atlantic, Gooley’s knowledge spans the globe, offering lessons from tribal people from some of the most remote regions on Earth.

**SAM MCALISTER**

**SCOOPS**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 18.00-19.00 / £9**

Sam McAlister is the woman who clinched infamous interviews for BBC Newsnight with the likes of Bill Clinton, Elon Musk, and of course Prince Andrew. Join us to learn how one person was able to push her way into Buckingham Palace to secure the BAFTA winning interview. From behind-the-scenes tales of the ruthless nature of working in the media first to McAlister’s experience of Netflix producing the hugely successful feature film *Scoop*, this will be an event as captivating as the interviews themselves.

Sam will be in conversation with Festival Chair Lucy Cotter.

**EMILIE EPPERLEIN & FRIENDS**

**SPARK & FLOW: AN UNEXPECTED EVENING OF POETRY**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 18.30-19.30 / £9**

After publishing award-winning research on vaginas, vulvas and wellbeing, Emilie Epperlein had a creative calling ... and has been on the cutting edge of feminist poetry ever since. Her words have been seen on the back of London cab seats, featured on the Sky Arts' BAFTA-winning show ‘Life and Rhymes’ and heard across the UK. Join Emilie and friends – Sandra Noel, Alanna Rice and Dr Adam Perchard – for some fantastic shame-free spoken word.

**Suitable for 16+**

**KATHY LETTE**

**THE REVENGE CLUB**

**FREEDOM CENTRE / 20.00-21.00 / £12**

Author and Festival Patron Cathy Rentzenbrink will be in conversation with celebrated and outspoken comedic writer and performer Kathy Lette. This new novel delivers another subversive irreverent romp from the international bestselling author and broadcast journalist, whose first book *Puberty Blues* was published when she was just 17.

Best friends Matilda, Penny, Cressida and Jo are approaching their sixties with flair until, one by one, their bubbles are burst. Confronted by a society that believes they're all past their amuse-by dates, the friends vow to face their non-entity crises together. Each has been trampled on by men, so it's time for a little revenge. Let the games begin!

**JAY FLYNN**

**THE QUIZMASTER – LIVE QUIZ**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 20.30-21.30 / £12**

During the pandemic, Jay Flynn started a Facebook quiz night that accidentally became an international online sensation – helping people round the world through the bleakest of periods and earning him a regular slot on Zoe Ball’s Radio 2 show as ‘The Quizmaster’.

Jay will be talking about his journey as well as hosting a live quiz (all questions written by him) for all audience members. Answers at the ready!

**SUNDAY 29SEPTEMBER**

**GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND BIG BOOK SALE**

**ALBERT BARTLETT BUILDING / 09.00-16.00 / FREE**

Hundreds? no; thousands? no; millions? yes; Millions of words written into beautifully crafted sentences and illuminating paragraphs creating books for information, education and pleasure – occasionally finely bound in parchment, leather or simply in highly colourful dust jackets.

From pure art and architecture to wine and zoology with every subject between – over 15,000 books, this is an event to whet the interest of bibliophiles et al. All proceeds go to the Jersey Branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

**AMANDA BOND**

**GUIDED TREE WALK**

**VAL DE LA MARE / 10.00-13.00 / £12**

Join Amanda as she guides a walk at beautiful Val de la Mare Arboretum, using some of the techniques Tristan Gooley writes about in *How to Read A Tree*. This will be a slow, gentle meander, focusing on a sensory journey connecting with the trees. The event will run for up to 3 hours and will include a cup of foraged herbal tea and a homemade cake.

Amanda Bond is an ANFT Nature & Forest Therapy Guide, with an MA in Mindfulness-Based Psychotherapeutic Practice. Amanda has a deep affinity with trees and feels most at home among them.

**CATHY RENTZENBRINK**

**ORDINARY TIME**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 10.30-11.30 / £9**

Join Festival Patron Cathy Rentzenbrink as she discusses her latest novel with Andrew Davey.

Protagonist Ann is a reluctant vicar’s wife who refuses to succumb to the traditional duties such as remaining quiet in church and baking scones. When she meets Jamie on a trip from Cornwall up to London her world suddenly expands and is turned upside down. *Ordinary Time*harnesses the joys and sorrows of everyday life while examining the true meaning of love.

**GERAINT JENNINGS**

**THE LITTLE PRINCE, SHERLOCK HOLMES, ALICE & OMAR KHAYYAM**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM/ 12.00-13.00/ £6**

As the Italian saying goes: traduttore traditore (the translator is a traitor). Geraint Jennings will betray some of the secrets of his Jèrriais translations. How can one translate the untranslatable, and why should anyone bother? The game is afoot, so let's go down the rabbit hole of meaning and nonsense with a book of verses underneath the bough, a jug of wine, a loaf of bread ... and some readings.

**KATE ROWE-HAM**

**OWNING YOUR MENOPAUSE**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 12.30-13.30 / £9**

Having found herself de-railed in her early forties due to perimenopause, Kate Rowe-Ham discovered that HRT wasn’t the instant fix that she’d expected, and thus turned to adapting her exercise, eating and drinking habits. Since then, Kate has been a champion of impactful changes in other menopausal women’s lives ... all of which she says is possible within just 30 days! Join Kate and BBC Radio’s Sara Palmer for what will no doubt be an empowering event.

**WENDY FALLA**

**LIFE WRITING WORKSHOP**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE MARIA RITCHIE ROOM/ 14.00-17.00 / £20**

Life Writing covers many forms. Are you being held back because you don’t know where to start? Stop aimlessly writing in circles and understand the essential elements to make YOUR life story captivating e.g. what to include, what to leave out. Memory – how reliable is it? Whether writing for self, family or a wider audience, join seasoned writer Wendy Falla and start now with renewed focus.

**MARY HORLOCK & BEN HINSHAW**

**ISLAND FEVER**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 14.30-15.30 / £9**

Ben Hinshaw’s *Exactly What You Mean* follows the complexity of a teenager growing up in Guernsey as he discovers a secret that holds enough power to ruin adult lives. Paralleled, Horlock’s *The Stranger’s Companion*is a charming historical fiction about a couple disappearing on the island of Sark, based on a true case which has never been solved. Join BBC Radio Jersey’s Chris Stone to unpick personal accounts of of island living and how this unfolds in the authors’ respective novels.

**JESSICA HEPBURN**

**SAVE ME FROM THE WAVES**

**JERSEY ARTS CENTRE / 16.30-17.30 / £9**

SPONSORED BY PORTS OF JERSEY

Jessica Hepburn hated exercise, only discovering its assets when she found herself heartbroken and in her forties. Today, she is the only woman in the world to have completed the ‘Sea, Street, Summit’ challenge (swim the English Channel, run the London Marathon and climb Mount Everest) while listening to over 3,000 episodes of Desert Island Discs along the way. Jersey resident Eric Blakeley, fellow Channel swimmer and Everest climber, will be in conversation with Hepburn.