



# King's Lynn Literature Festival

*Wendy Cope, Chris Bigsby, Vernon Bogdanor, Sarah May, Louise Doughty, D. J. Taylor, Simon Lewis, Rachel Hore & many more.*



*Sponsored by*



**HAWKINS RYAN**  
SOLICITORS

Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 5NQ

Tickets from Alive Corn Exchange

<https://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk>

01553 764864





# King's Lynn Literature Festival 2024

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## King's Lynn Literature Festivals' Committee

Chairman & Festival Director: Sherie Naidoo

Treasurer: Alan Moseley

Publicity: Dee High

Lachlan Mackinnon

Gordon McInnes

Gillian Piggott

Viv Scott

Andy Williams



Design of publicity material: Pied Crow Productions

The King's Lynn Literature Festivals were founded in 1985 by Tony Ellis who organised and chaired them until he retired in 2023. We appreciate all he achieved and are delighted to have his company at this Festival.

[www.kllitfests.com](http://www.kllitfests.com)

Email: [lynnlitfests@gmail.com](mailto:lynnlitfests@gmail.com)

Tickets are £15 per session or £51 for 6 sessions and are available from Alive Corn Exchange, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 1JW  
[www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk](http://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk) Tel: 01553 764864



Unsold tickets may be bought on the day at the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5NQ where all the sessions take place.

Although we make every effort to present the programme as shown we cannot guarantee that all the writers will appear as planned.

We will be filming and taking photographs during the festival. If you would prefer not to appear in the films and photographs please have a word with a member of the committee.



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*Friday 27th September*

Doors open at 6.45pm, refreshments available

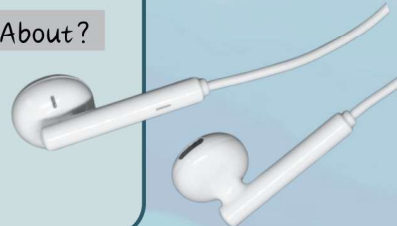
7.30pm Genre – What's It All About?

Louise Doughty

Sarah May

Bridget Walsh

Chaired by Rachel Hore



*Saturday 28th September*

*Morning*

Doors open at 10.30am, refreshments available

11am From Fact to Fiction

Jill Dawson

Rachel Hore

Chaired by D.J. Taylor

Lunch:

For more information and to book Lunch with the Writers please email [klf.lunches@gmail.com](mailto:klf.lunches@gmail.com)

*Afternoon*

Doors open at 2.30pm, refreshments available

3pm Poets and Poetry

Wendy Cope

Ramona Herdman

Roy Wateman

*Evening*

Doors open at 6.45pm, refreshments available

7.30pm Making the Weather

Vernon Bogdanor

Simon Lewis

*Sunday 29th September*

*Morning*

Doors open at 10.30, refreshments available

11am Pathways to Publication

Camilla Balshaw

Kate Macdonald

Susan Grossey

Chaired by Rachel Hore

Lunch:

For more information and to book Lunch with the Writers please email [klf.lunches@gmail.com](mailto:klf.lunches@gmail.com)

*Afternoon*

Doors open at 2.30pm, refreshments available

3pm Tea ... to Drinks

John Greening

Chris Bigsby

Lisa St Aubin de Teran



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## *Bridget Walsh*

A PhD in Victorian murder and an obsessive interest in the weirder elements of nineteenth-century life have led Bridget to write a series of crime novels set in a down-at-heel Victorian London music hall. 'The Tumbling Girl', her debut novel, won the UEA Little Brown Award for Crime Fiction and was shortlisted for the CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger. It has been described as 'delightful, dark and depraved', a description Bridget likes to think suits her as well as the novel. The second in the series, 'The Innocents', was published in April 2024. Bridget lives in the fine city of Norwich with her husband and two dogs.



Photography by Joanne Coates

## *Jill Dawson*

Jill Dawson is the award-winning author of eleven novels, all published by Sceptre. They include *The Bewitching*, *Fred and Edie* (shortlisted for the Costa and Orange Prize) and *The Great Lover*, which was a best-seller and Richard and Judy pick. Her novel *The Crime Writer*, about the novelist Patricia Highsmith, won the East Anglian Book of the Year in 2016 and is in development as a mini series. Jill founded and runs *Gold Dust*, a mentoring scheme for writers. Her new novel, *Pixie*, about a psychic and tarot artist of the early twentieth century, will be published by Bloomsbury in 2025.

## *Sarah May*

Sarah May is the highly acclaimed author of *The Nudist Colony* (shortlisted for The Guardian First Book Award and winner of the Amazon Bursary), *Spanish City* (shortlisted for the RSL Encore Award), *The Internationals* (longlisted for the Women's Prize) and the best-selling *Rise and Fall of the Queen of Suburbia*. Her latest novel, *Becky*, is published by Picador and out now. It has also been optioned by Sony Pictures TV.

Sarah teaches creative writing on Faber Academy's flagship Writing a Novel course. She also runs a young people's theatre co-operative, Play On Productions, with her partner.



Photography by JIurszula Soltys



## *Kate Macdonald*

Kate Macdonald is the founder of Handheld Press and is an editor, a publisher, a literary historian and a novelist. She grew up in Aberdeen, has lived in the USA and in Belgium and moved from Bath to Malvern this year. She has worked in and alongside the publishing industry for most of her career, in media, charities, universities and the civil service. Her preferred chocolate is dark.



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## Camilla Balshaw

Camilla's debut memoir, *NAMED*, will be published in June 2025.

She has written for newspapers and journals, including the *Guardian* and the *Observer*. Her fiction has been published in *BrainChild*, an anthology of experimental short fiction.

She holds a Diploma in Creative Writing from Madingley College, Cambridge and an MA in Creative Writing from Goldsmiths. She is a proud member of the Black Writers Guild.

## Simon Lewis

Simon is co-presenter of the very successful BBC Radio 4 podcast 'When It Hits The Fan'.

He has a longstanding interest in both education and social mobility, having chaired the UK-US Fulbright Commission from 2009-13 and currently as the chair of Young Enterprise. He was awarded an OBE in 2014 for services to international education.

He was the first Communications Secretary to the late Queen, and Director of Communications and Official Spokesman at Number 10 for Prime Minister Gordon Brown.



## Rory Waterman

Rory Waterman's fourth collection, *Come Here to This Gate*, has just been published by Carcanet, and was described in the *Guardian* as 'a wise and deeply satisfying book'. His first collection was a PBS Recommendation and was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Award, and in 2019 he was shortlisted for the Ledbury Forte Prize. He lives in Nottingham, and teaches at NTU. He also co-runs the pamphlet publisher New Walk Editions.

## Lisa St Aubin de Teran

Lisa St Aubin de Teran was at the first King's Lynn Literature Festival in 1985. Twenty novels and many articles later she is back to talk about her work and her recently published memoir 'Better Broken Than New', described by the *Financial Times* as 'vastly entertaining - and shocking'.





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## *Ramona Herdman*

'Glut' was one of The Telegraph's '20 best poetry books of 2022 to buy for Christmas'. 'Bottle' was one of the Poetry School's Books of the Year 2017. 'A warm and snouting thing' was shortlisted in the poetry category of the East Anglian Book Awards.

Ramona is a graduate of the UEA Creative Writing MA and still lives in Norwich where she is a committee member for the live literature organisation Café Writers.

She has had Long Covid since 2022 and her recent work is about life-changing events, such as serious illness.



## *Wendy Cope*

Wendy Cope read history at university and then worked for 14 years as a primary school teacher in London, eventually becoming a deputy head. After the publication of her first book, *Making Cocoa* for Kingsley Amis, she went freelance. Her fifth collection of poems, *Anecdotal Evidence*, appeared in 2018. *The Orange and Other Poems*, a small volume inspired by her popularity on Tik Tok, came out last November and her *Collected Poems* is published this month. Her work has won awards on both sides of the Atlantic and in 2010 she was appointed OBE for services to literature. She lives in Ely with her husband, the poet and critic Lachlan Mackinnon.



Photography by Lydia Evans

## *John Greening*

John Greening is a Bridport, Avon and Cholmondeley winner, author of over twenty collections of poetry including *The Interpretation of Owls: Selected Poems 1977-2022* (ed. Gardner, Baylor, 2023) and *From the East* (Renard, 2024). He has edited Geoffrey Grigson, Edmund Blunden and U.A. Fanthorpe, plus several critical studies and anthologies, most recently (with Kevin Gardner) *Contraflow: Lines of Englishness*, a Guardian and Sunday Times Poetry Book of the Year. There is a book about his life in poetry due in 2025.



Photography by Adrian Bullers

## *Susan Grossey*

Susan can honestly say that she has made her living from crime. She spent decades as an anti-money laundering consultant, giving her an obsession with criminal finance. For seven books she haunted the streets of 1820s London in the company of magistrates' constable Sam Plank and she now wanders her hometown of Cambridge in the same decade with university constable Gregory Hardiman. Once Gregory is exhausted, she will be turning her attention to King's Lynn and setting a third series in its atmospheric alleyways and important marketplaces.





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## Louise Doughty

Louise Doughty is the author of ten novels, the latest of which is *A Bird in Winter*, published by Faber & Faber UK. Her previous books include the bestseller *Apple Tree Yard*, which was adapted as a major BBC One TV series starring Emily Watson; *Platform Seven*, which has been filmed for ITVX and *Black Water*, which was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. She also created and wrote the hit series *Crossfire*, starring Keeley Hawes. She has been nominated for multiple awards including the Costa Novel Award, the Women's Prize for Fiction and the Sunday Times Short Story Prize. Her work has been translated into thirty languages.



Photography by Max Kennedy

## D. J. Taylor

D.J. Taylor has written 13 novels, including *Trespass* (1998) and *Derby Day* (2011), both of which were long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. His *Orwell: The Life* won the 2003 Whitbread Prize for Biography. His most recent works are the novel *Flame Music* (2023), *Orwell: The New Life* (2023) and *Who is Big Brother? A Reader's Guide to George Orwell* (2024).



## Christopher Bigsby

Emeritus professor in American Studies at the University of East Anglia (UEA), is an award-winning novelist, biographer, literary historian and critic. He has written radio and television plays and for many years worked for the BBC and the British Council. His latest work is a volume of poems in *the Face of Darkness*.



## Vernon Bogdanor

Sir Vernon Bogdanor CBE is Professor of Government, King's College, London. He was for many years Professor of Government at Oxford University.

His many books include *Beyond Brexit: Towards a British Constitution*; *The Strange Survival of Liberal Britain: Power and Politics Before the First World War*; *Making the Weather* (to be published in September 2024). Vernon is a frequent contributor to TV, radio and the press. He was a consultant for the film about Churchill, 'Darkest Hour' with Gary Oldman and for the play about the Queen, 'The Audience' with Helen Mirren.



## Rachel Hore

Rachel Hore is the Sunday Times bestselling author of thirteen novels, the latest being *The Hidden Years*, which is set in World War II and 1960s Cornwall. She is married to the writer D.J. Taylor and lives in Norwich.

