

Burnham Market Book Festival

Friday 6 November

7:00pm Festival Opening at the Hoste Arms with Drinks and Canapes

Event 1: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Chris Mullin talks to journalist Mary Ann Sieghart about
“View From the Foothills”**

*“The most wickedly indiscreet and elegant political memoirs since...Alan Clark, according to the Mail on Sunday; **Chris Mullin** MP talks about his recently published and widely acclaimed diaries. He describes an unusual political career with an eye for detail and a keen sense of the ridiculous. Like the diaries of Alan Clark, Mullin’s book provides an irreverent snapshot of political life in the early 21st century.*”

Saturday 7 November

Event 2: 10:30am – 11: 30am

The Architects’ Tales: William Bertram and Matthew Rice

***William Bertram** has been commissioned to create beautiful buildings for some of the richest, most influential and interesting people of the age. “The Architect’s Tale” will entertain and inform anyone interested in the mysterious business of how our built landscape is shaped and our buildings created. Above all this is a book about people: wealthy clients, fine craftsmen, shrewd negotiators and eccentrics, written by a master story teller.*

***Matthew Rice** is writer and illustrator of “Village Buildings of Britain” and “Building Norfolk”. In his latest book, “Rice’s Architectural Primer”, his message to readers is: if you want to understand a building, sit in front of it and draw it. Architecture is the backdrop to our lives. With this book you can name the parts, work out when a building was built and understand what the building is trying to convey.*

Event 3: 12:00 – 12:45pm

Nicholas Clee talks to Meg Rosoff about “Eclipse” - the father of all racehorses

*This is the story of Eclipse, the racehorse who scorched across the turf towards the finishing course in Epsom Downs, 3rd May, 1769, and went on to become the undisputed, undefeated champion of his sport and whose influence is transcendent 200 years later. **Nicholas Clee** gives us a vivid portrait of high and low life in 18th century Britain, of princes, paupers and prostitutes; an era of passionate sport, uninhibited sex and ferocious gambling.*

Event 4: 2:00pm – 2:45pm

Meg Rosoff talks to Nicolette Jones about “The Bride’s Farewell”

Meg Rosoff became a publishing sensation with her first novel, “How I Live Now”, which won the Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize. She has since gone on to write several award-winning books, the latest being “The Bride’s Farewell”, set in Salisbury Plain in 1850. With all the hallmarks of Meg Rosoff’s extraordinary writing, “The Bride’s Farewell” breaks new ground for this author, in a nineteenth century, Hardy-esque setting. This is a moving story of love and lost things, with a core of deep, beautiful romance.

Event 5: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Jeremy Page, James Buchan and Katie Hickman in discussion with Henry Sutton: “Place” in Fiction: the Far and Near

James Buchan is regarded as an outstanding literary critic, novelist and non-fiction writer. His first novel, “A Parish of Rich Women”, won the Whitbread Book of the Year award in 1984 as well as a Betty Trask Award and his last novel “Heart’s Journey in Winter” was awarded the Guardian Prize. His new book, “The Gate of Air”, is an unsettling ghost story set in the disturbed idyll of the contemporary British countryside.

Katie Hickman is an acclaimed author of history and travel books. She was listed for the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year award for her previous novel, “The Quetzal Summer”. Her new novel, “The Aviary Gate”, is a tale of ancient alliances and intrigues, of forbidden love and dangerous secrets in the Sultan’s Court in 16th Century Constantinople.

Jeremy Page is a master of evoking landscapes and capturing the beauty of the natural world. In “The Wake” and “Salt” he evokes the bleakness of the North Sea and the salt marshes of North Norfolk. He writes, according to the Guardian, with “a sense of life stripped back to survival”, portraying “man stripped of his pretensions”, achieving a powerful connection to the natural world, about which he writes with feeling and intimacy.

Event 6: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Justin Marozzi and John Gimlette on Travel Writing

Marozzi has been called by the Sunday Telegraph “the most brilliant of the new generation of travel-writer historians”. His latest book, “Travels with Herodotus: The Man Who Invented History” is a work of remarkable substance and style, brimming with humanity, self-deprecating humour and entertaining sexual cameos that were Herodotus’ stock-in-trade.

John Gimlette won the Shiva Naipaul travel writing prize in 1997 for his story “Pink Pigs in Paraguay”. He has travelled in 60 countries, mostly those parts of the world “without

fluffy towels". Misadventure, lost luggage and bed bugs are all chronicled from Bolivia to Labrador: In his latest book, *Panther Soup* he explores with an American veteran the US campaign trail of 1944-45 Marseilles, Alsace, Lorraine and the Austrian Tyrol.

Event 7: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

A C Grayling discusses "Ideas That Matter"

"Most people would rather die than think, and most people do" (Bertrand Russell) In this book, Philosopher **Anthony Grayling** tilts against this general trend, demonstrating that thought can, and does, change not only the way we live but the course of history. This is Grayling's personal guide to the ideas, past and present, that shape our world. Covering religion, philosophy, scientific theory and political movements, written with Grayling's customary fire and erudition, this book will be the focus of Saturday night's provocative and enlightening talk.

Sunday 8th November

Event 8: 10:00am – 10:45am

Lauren St John talks to Mary Anne Sieghart about her Zimbabwe memoir "Rainbow's End"

In *Rainbow's End: A Memoir of Childhood, War & an African Farm*. **St John** gives us a girl's eye view of life in 1970s Rhodesia as moving as Alexandra Fuller's classic "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight". The author powerfully conveys the implosion of her moral world, her complex disillusionment and her hard decision to leave this dangerous Eden. St John is also the author of the award-winning children's series, "The White Giraffe", "Dolphin Song", "The Last Leopard" and "The Elephant's Tale".

Event 9: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Richard Mabey and Jeremy Mynott in discussion with Nicolette Jones: The State of Nature

Richard Mabey is described by *The Times* as 'Britain's greatest living nature writer'. Highly praised for his poetic style and his challenging ideas, he is the author of many prize winning books on the rural landscape of this country, including the ground-breaking bestseller, "Flora Britannica". His recent books include "Beechcombings: The Narratives of Trees"; and "Wild Cooking" is released in paperback this autumn.

Jeremy Mynott's book "Birdscapes: Birds in Our Imagination and Experience" is a beautifully written glimpse into the myriad ways humans interact with birds. In the book he explores the question of why birds are so significant in our lives and our sense of the world, and what relationship with birds tell us about ourselves.

Event 10: 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

Allan Mallinson “The Making of the British Army”

*A highly topical and timely discussion for Armistice Sunday by [Allan Mallinson](#), former infantry and cavalry officer, on the creation and development of Britain’s fighting machine from the English Civil War to today’s War on Terror. Mallinson is author of a series of beautifully crafted novels about the Army after the Napoleonic wars and *The Times* describes him as “one of the most acute commentators” on the problems the British army faces today.*

Event 11: 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Jenny Agutter talks to Kit Hesketh-Harvey about film adaptations of books

*Playing the young Roberta in the film of *The Railway Children*, [Jenny Agutter](#) embarked on a career that has spanned four decades. She has appeared in a number of classic films and her face and voice are familiar and well-loved throughout the media. Though Jenny says that it is “utterly impossible” to identify her favourite role, her lifelong love of the works of Edith Nesbit has led her to re-enter the world of the *Railway Children* twice since the first film. She is currently developing a screenplay about Edith Nesbit.*

Event 12: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Kate Adie in conversation with Mary Ann Sieghart about “Into Danger”

[Kate Adie](#), possibly Britain’s most famous reporter who has often found herself broadcasting from dangerous places, has long been fascinated by those who live in these tight spots with relative comfort and ease. She has seen many examples of bravery and courage and has wondered what makes people choose jobs that can land them in mortal danger. This book is the result of her worldwide research, and is grippingly told and with the wit, insatiable curiosity and sharp insight which are the hallmarks of her writing and reporting.

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www.whitehousebooks.co.uk

All events are correct at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice.

A note about the presenters

Nicolette Jones is a writer, journalist and broadcaster who has worked for national newspapers and the book trade press. Her book about the Victorian philanthropist Samuel Plimsoll and his campaign on behalf of sailors, "The Plimsoll Sensation" won the 2006 Mountbatten Maritime Prize and the International Division of the 2007 US Maritime Literature Awards. Nicolette specialises in literary and arts journalism.

Mary Ann Sieghart is a former assistant editor of *The Times*, where she wrote columns about politics, social affairs and life generally. She also wrote leaders, features and analytical pieces both for the main paper and for *Times2*. Sieghart is a regular broadcaster, presenting *Newshour* on the BBC World Service and *Profile* on Radio 4. She has often appeared on programmes such as *Question Time*, *Any Questions*, *Newsnight*, *Today*, *The World Tonight* and *Woman's Hour*.

Henry Sutton is the author of five novels, including *Gorleston*, *Bank Holiday Monday* and *Kids' Stuff*, and a collection of short stories, *Thong Nation*. His new novel, *Get Me Out Of Here*, will be published by Harvill Secker in January (2010). His work has been translated into many languages and also adapted for the stage. He is the Books Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, a regular contributor to the *Independent on Sunday*, and was most recently the Creative Writing Fellow at the UEA.

Kit Hesketh-Harvey is a comic performer, translator and scriptwriter. Best known for his part in the musical comedy act *Kit and The Widow*, he has had a number of *West End* and *Broadway* theatre shows as well as a series on BBC Radios 3 and 4, and TV specials on Channel 4. He makes occasional appearances on the many BBC Radio 4 series requiring witty panellists such as *Just a Minute* and *Quote Unquote*.

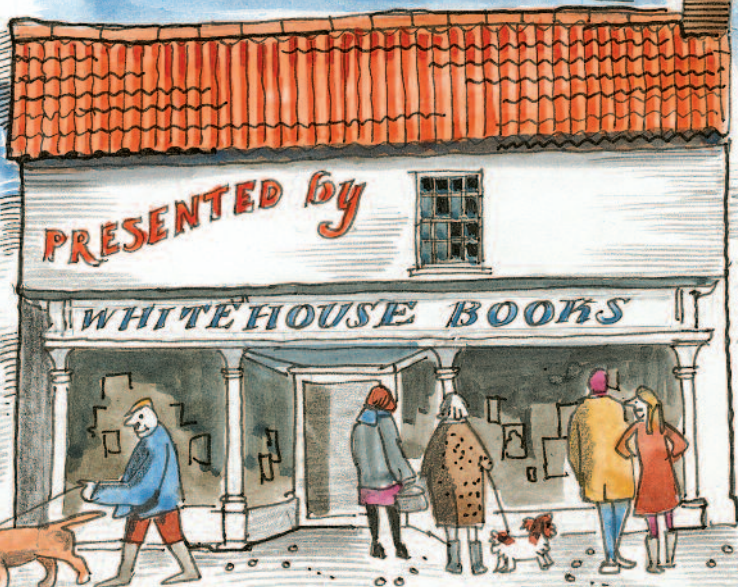
Acknowledgements and Thanks

*Hayes and Storrs, Solicitors of Wells-next the-Sea Lowestoft Porcelain of Lowestoft
Sowerbys of Burnham Market Tesco of Fakenham The Hoste Arms, Burnham Market*

An especial thanks to Matthew Rice for designing the delightful cover for the Programme and last but not least enormous thanks to Rosalind English for all her hard work and making it possible for a dream to be turned into reality.



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6th - 8th NOVEMBER