

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Event 1

Ilminster Memory Café Visit

10:00 to 12:00 at The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

For anyone living with or supporting someone with the onset of dementia, this is a fortnightly pop-in café. Any person may visit to share their favourite book.

Free-of-Charge tickets for general public

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Event 2

Tim Bates Children's Story Teller

15:00 to 16:00 at the Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster TA19 0AN

Please contact the Arts Centre on 01460 55783 for ticket information and further details.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Event 3

Official Launch of the Ilminster Literary Festival

17:00 to 18:00 at The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster TA19 9AR

A Meet and Greet for all those people and organisations who are involved in the Festival: Sponsors, Committee Members, Ilminster Town Council, and VIPs.

This Event is Sponsored by the Shrubbery Hotel - Please note: this is by Invitation Only. If you would like to attend, please offer to become a Friend or Sponsor.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Event 4

After-Dinner Talk with Anthony Gibson

19:00 to Late at The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster TA19 9AR

Anthony Gibson is an Author and Cricket Commentator who will give an after-dinner talk on "Somerset Landscapes"

"With Magic in My Eyes – West Country Literary Landscapes" is available from Fairfield Books, 17 Georges Rd, Bath BA1 6EY, tel 01225 335813 [www.fairfieldbooks.co.uk](http://www.fairfieldbooks.co.uk) price £20 postage free.

Retired from NFU in 2008. Now involved in Somerset Levels, Bath and West and Devon County Shows, cider, beer, golf, farming and cricket commentary.

Twitter: [@antgib](https://twitter.com/antgib) Website: [www.withmiginmyeyes.co.uk](http://www.withmiginmyeyes.co.uk)

100 Tickets priced £20.00 each (Dinner included)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Event 5

"Behind the Scenes at Chelsea" Sally Nex, Journalist & Gardener

19:30 at The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

Every year, Sally Nex attends the Chelsea Flower Show as a journalist, and spends much of the week working alongside Exhibitors, Contractors, Designers, and RHS Staff, especially outside official hours. She has thus gained a unique insight into life behind the scenes at Chelsea. This slide show will include anecdotes and perceptions into what the General Public do not get to see. There will be plenty of gorgeous (and some not so) photos of Chelsea Past and Present.

60 Tickets priced at £5.00 Coffee & Biscuits included

Twitter: [@SallyNex](https://twitter.com/SallyNex) Website: <http://sallynex.com/>

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

Event 6

"Reverse Migration" Luke Waterson Travel Author

20:45 at The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

Raised in the remote Somerset countryside, Luke Waterson quickly became addicted to exploring out-of-the-way places. Having completed a Creative Writing degree at the University of East Anglia, he shouldered his backpack and vowed to see as much of the world as possible. Fast-forward a few years and he has travelled the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, had a close call with a bear in the Carpathian Mountains

and developed an obsession for Soviet Architecture and Mayan pyramids in equal measure. He currently lives in Slovakia's dinky capital, Bratislava, looking out on the Carpathian foothills. Luke specialises in writing on the Amazon and the Andes (he writes the Peru and Ecuador LP guides, and his debut novel Roebuck, set in the Brazilian Amazon of the 16th century, is published in December 2015):

<http://urbanepublications.com/books/roebuck/>

His other area of expertise is the Caribbean (Lonely Planet's Cuba and Puerto Rico guides), and he is of course is LP's "man in Slovakia" too. That's alongside contributing to a long list of travel coffee table and reference books such as the Food Lover's Guide to the World, World's Best Streetfood and Best in Travel. He writes for several other publications including BBC Travel, the Telegraph, the Independent, Destination of the World News, Avalon Travel Publishing, Rough Guides and a clutch of in-flight magazines.

For regular updates about his writing work, both fact and fiction, visit his website <http://lukeandhiswords.com>

60 Tickets priced at £5.00 Coffee & Biscuits included

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Event 7

"The Making of the Man Who Made James Bond" Kathy McNally

14:00 at The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

Kathy McNally travels widely giving talks on spies and espionage in Fiction and Reality. This is an entertaining talk about the early life of Ian Fleming, Author and Creator of James Bond 007.

Was Ian Fleming the real James Bond? If not Fleming, then who was the model for this enduring character? Was there ever an "M" at the Head of the Secret Service? Find out the answers, and more, in this fascinating look at how Ian Fleming's life shaped him, and provided inspiration for his books.

60 Tickets priced at £7.00 Tea & Cake included

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Event 8

Paul Toolan & DI Zig Batten

18:00 at the Parish Hall, North Street, Ilminster TA19 0DG

Paul Toolan is the creator of the Detective Inspector Zig Batten crime series, set in the cider-apple country of South Somerset, and the semi-fictional town of Parminster. The first novel in the series, "A Killing Tree" opens with the discovery of a body on Burrow Hill, a 'local' beauty spot; the second, "A January Killing" begins at a Wassail in a freezing cold apple orchard; and the third (due June 2016) uses 'local' Easter traditions as the backdrop to a shocking crime.

Reviewers have commended the rural descriptions and deep-set community feel of the books. They have variously been described as beautifully written; peppered with grit and wit; and "Bergerac with Cider".

Like Zig, the author enjoys walking, fishing, gardens and the occasional whisky - but unlike him, he appreciates cricket and the taste of mushrooms, and loves travelling to sunnier climes, Greece in particular.

Paul's Twitter is [@ptoolan1](#)

On Goodreads: [www.goodreads.com/author/show/13746381.Paul\\_Toolan](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/13746381.Paul_Toolan)

80 Tickets at £5.00

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Event 9

Marnie Devereux Poet

19:00 at the Parish Hall, North Street, Ilminster TA19 0DG

Marnie Devereux (previously Doble) was a Librarian in Somerset for 20 years before coming to her senses and moving to the USA. She is the Author of two books of Poetry: "Fractured: Poems of Love and Desire" and "The Pelican Tree"

She has won awards for her poetry and essays, and regularly makes live appearances at venues in the UK and America. Now a full-time writer, she lives in the high desert of northern Arizona with her Astrophysicist husband, and a grumpy, old cat.

Marnie's website is <https://marniedoble.wordpress.com/>

60 Tickets priced at £5.00

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Event 10

"A Way with Words" An Evening's Entertainment

18:45 for 19:00 at the Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster TA19 0AN

Enjoy an evening of words – both spoken and sung. If you would like to read, or have your short story or poem read for you (up to 4 minutes in length) please contact Helen Walker 01460 52675 or [Helen@helenwalker.me.uk](mailto:Helen@helenwalker.me.uk)

For further ticket information and details, please contact the Art Centre on 01460 55783

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 11

Carina Lagnado "Lola Pug" Story Reading

10:30 at Sweet Surprise, 23 Silver Street, Ilminster TA19 0DH

Carina Lagnado was born in Geneva and moved with her family to the UK when she was a teenager. Since 2009, she has lived in Curry Mallet, near Ilminster, with her husband and two children. Lola, the Pug, arrived in 2010. Carina had never before owned a dog, but Lola made a huge difference to the family following the sad loss of Carina's mother.

"Lola Pug" is a charming, illustrated story about learning to live in a new environment, about being slightly different, and about being accepted into a new community. Lola is misunderstood because of her strange appearance when she first comes to live in a village, but over time, she wins everyone's hearts with her character.

"Lola Pug" is available from <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lola-Pug-Carina-Lagnado/dp/1910298182>

Tickets Free-of-Charge, Donation box available

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 12

Petr Horacek Story Reading

11:30 at Sweet Surprise, 23 Silver Street, Ilminster

Join award-winning Author and Illustrator Petr Horacek to hear all about the adventures of Blue Penguin, The Mouse who Reached the Sky, Puffin Peter, and Sally Goose

Petr grew up in Prague in the Czech Republic and studied at the Academy of Fine Art in Prague, where a visiting English student first met him. He married her, came to live in England, and began working on children's books when his first daughter was born.

Petr's website is [www.petrhoracek.co.uk](http://www.petrhoracek.co.uk)

Tickets Free of Charge, Donation box available.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 13

Richard Godden PlayArt Workshop on Illustration

14:00 – 15:45 Sweet Surprise, 23 Silver Street, Ilminster TA19 0DH

For All Ages. Materials provided. Children must be aged 10 and over with Adult accompaniment

20 Tickets £5

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 14

“E-Publishing: What to Do and What Not to Do”

Aleksandr Voinov and Sue Laybourn

14:00 at the Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

Sue lives in Wiltshire and writes Romance e-books. She is an Editor with Totally Intwined Group Ltd of Lincoln and New York; and she also freelances her services.

Aleks day-job is in the City with an Investment Bank as a Financial Writer – in other words, he makes number-language readable. His night-job is writing steamy military or mafia e-stories, where no-one is safe. He was a co-founder of Riptide Publishing, which now fills a critical niche in the literary and genre fiction markets. Aleks also self-publishes his books on Amazon.

50 tickets at £5.00

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 15

Audrey Thornton, Author “In Conversation with” Julie Fowler

15:30 at the Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU

[Details????](#)

50 Tickets at £5.00

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 16

Virginia Bergin, Author of Young Adult books

16:30 at The Book Rest, 4 West Street, Ilminster TA19 9AA

Virginia Bergin is the Author of Young Adult books "The Rain" and "The Storm" published by Macmillan. Described as "a funny, smart, wonderfully British dystopia" by Katherine Woodfine at Booktrust, "The Rain" has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, shortlisted for numerous UK awards, and is being translated into 5 different languages.

Virginia's website is: [www.virginiabergin.com](http://www.virginiabergin.com)

10-15 max Tickets Free of Charge, Donation box available.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 17

The First World War in Ilminster - David Gordon, Author

19:00 at the Nyanza Lodge, Berrymans Lane, Ilminster TA19 0DY

Tickets/Numbers??? £6/30???

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 18

Somerset Writer's Group: 5 Authors talk for 10 minutes each about their work.

15:00 at the Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster TA19 0AN

Frances Evesham: on researching Historical novels.

How Frances chooses the time and place for her novels; her favourite sources; things she's discovered about the Victorians; and various tips and pitfalls.

Frances writes mystery stories, both Historical and Contemporary. Her "Thatcham Hall" Victorian books are "An Independent Woman" and "Danger at Thatcham Hall". Her contemporary mystery "Murder at the Lighthouse" is set in Exham-on-Sea – a fictionalised Burnham-on-Sea.

Her website is: [www.francesevesham.com](http://www.francesevesham.com)

Goodreads page is:

[www.goodreads.com/author/show/5525858.Frances\\_Evesham](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5525858.Frances_Evesham)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/frances.evesham.writer/](http://www.facebook.com/frances.evesham.writer/)

T A Williams: on a man writing for women.

T A is a slightly unusual kind of writer in that he is a Man, but his books are aimed at Women. Can a Man write for Women? Should a Man write for Women? What are the Challenges? What are the results?

He has published 6 romantic comedies/chick-lit, including "When Alice met Danny", "Dirty Minds", "After the Event", and the "What Happens..." Series.

His website is: [www.tawilliamsbooks.com](http://www.tawilliamsbooks.com)

Goodreads page is:  
[www.goodreads.com/author/show/7201416.T A Williams](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7201416.T_A_Williams)

Twitter is @TheTAWilliams

Pamela Vass: on self-publishing and uncovering a hidden factual story.

Pamela write Mysteries based on West Country locations; non-fiction self-help titles for chronic illnesses; and a true story of a ground-breaking Devon computer scientist. Titles include "Shadow Child", "Seeds of Doubt", "The Power of 3" (about Thomas Fowler), and "On Course for Recovery".

Her website/s is: [www.pamvass.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.pamvass.blogspot.co.uk) and [www.hogans.org.uk](http://www.hogans.org.uk)

Twitter is @PamelaVass

Ann Troup: on her own work.

Ann writes crime and mystery with a woman's slant. Her first novel "The Lost Child" was published recently in 2015. "The Unnamed" is due out in 2016.

Ann's website is: [www.anntroup.wordpress.com](http://www.anntroup.wordpress.com)

Her Goodreads page is  
[www.goodreads.com/author/show/5250553.Ann Troup](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5250553.Ann_Troup)

Paul Toolan: on his own work (see Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Event 8)

Please contact the Arts Centre for ticket information and further details.

01460 55783



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 19

"Plants and People: An illustrated account of some notable associations of plants with mankind's needs and interests in Cultivation" a Conversation with Mike Pollock;

and "Wine Tasting" another Conversation with Ian Gibson.

19:00 at the Seavingtons Village Store & Café, Water Street, Seavington St Mary, Ilminster TA19 0QH

**Mike Pollock???**

Ian Gibson has 22 years' experience of the drinks industry, with names such as Martini & Rossi, Findlater Matta, and Seagrams Distillers. Originally involved in sales and marketing, he also trained sales people in the intricacies of wines and spirits, and he later became a Management Consultant with some major International blue-chip companies.

He was ordained Priest in the Church of England over 30 years ago, and was made Canon Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral before retiring in late 2015.

40 Tickets £10 or £12.00 on the door.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 20

James Crowden

12:00 to 14:00 Light Lunch included at the Parish Hall, North Street, Ilminster TA19 0DG

James Crowden is an Author and Poet living in Somerset. For the last 20 years he has worked in North Dorset and South Somerset as a shepherd, sheep shearer, cider maker, and forester, but is now writing full-time.

James's poetry has often been featured on BBC Radio 4 and television, as well as Literature Festivals at Dartington, Wells, Ludlow and Oxford. He enjoys working in schools and gives a wide range of poetry workshops, talks and lectures. Published in 2004 "Waterways" is James's latest book commissioned by the National Trust on rivers and canals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is part of the National Trust "Living Landscape Series".

His website is [www.james-crowden.co.uk](http://www.james-crowden.co.uk)

60 Tickets at £12 with light lunch

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 21

"A Brief History of the Roman Empire" with Steve Kershaw

14:30 at The Monk's Yard, Horton Cross, Ilminster TA19 9PT

Classic scholar, Dr. Steve Kershaw, tells the epic story of the rise and fall of the greatest empire the world has ever known. This concise yet compelling narrative follows the 500-year history of the Roman Empire from its beginning in 27BC, to the Barbarian incursions and the fall of Rome in AD476. It draws on a wide range of primary sources, from contemporary writers to recent archaeological finds, which often reveal day-to-day life in fascinating detail. Steve will read and discuss extracts from this book, which identifies the seismic events in Rome's rise and fall, and provides wonderful portraits of its larger-than-life personalities – gladiators and charioteers; senators and slaves; wise and supremely dysfunctional emperors; and fascinating women. He puts in context the might of Rome's armies, and details the bizarre sexual practices and grotesque brutalities that were the trademarks of this extraordinary empire.

Dr. Steve Kershaw has spent much of the last 30 years travelling extensively in the world of the Greeks and Romans, both physically and intellectually. "A Brief History of the Roman Empire" is the most recent of his publications, which also include "A Brief Guide to the Greek Myths" and "A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization".

Steve's website is: [www.stevekershaw.com](http://www.stevekershaw.com)

Tickets at £6 with tea & biscuits

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 23

Sharon Jacksties, Visiting Story Teller

**Times??** at Greenfyld Primary School, and Swanmead School

Sharon Jacksties is a professional Storyteller, well known for her eclectic repertoire. Working with both young and adult audiences, she performs and teaches storytelling in Europe, and in India, where she collects stories which have not previously been heard in the UK. Her recent publication of "Somerset Folk Tales" explores her developing interest in the relationship between landscape and story. She is working on a sequel of ghostly tales, whilst organising the Summerlands Storytelling Festival.

Sharon's Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/sharon.jacksties](http://www.facebook.com/sharon.jacksties)

Book can be ordered from: [www.amazon.co.uk/Somerset-Folk-Tales-United-Kingdom/dp/0752463330](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Somerset-Folk-Tales-United-Kingdom/dp/0752463330)

Schools only

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 24

Emma Carroll, Children's Author, Reading

15:40 at the Library, Ditton Street, Ilminster TA19 0BW

Emma Carroll's books include the ghost story "Frost Hollow Hall", and tight-rope adventure "The Girl Who Walked on Air" which was nominated for the 2014 Carnegie Medal. Her latest book, "In Darkling Wood" was inspired by the real-life mystery of the Cottingley Fairies. She is published by Faber & Faber. A former English teacher, Emma now writes full-time.

Tickets Free-of-Charge. Donation box available

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 25

"Four Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Romanov Grand Duchesses" with Helen Rappaport

15:30 to 17:00 with Cream Tea at The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster TA19 9AR

Helen Rappaport is an Historian specialising in the reign of Queen Victoria, and late Imperial Russia. For this illustrated talk, she will tell the story of the short, tragic lives of Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia Romanov in the context of the strictures placed upon them within the close knit Imperial Court; describe their relationship with their parents, Nicholas and Alexandra; their haemophiliac brother, Alexi; and their royal cousins.

Her 12<sup>th</sup> book, "Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd 1917" is due to be published in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Revolution next year.

Website: [www.helenrappaport.com/index.html](http://www.helenrappaport.com/index.html)

100 Tickets £10.00

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 26

Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe in Conversation with Malcolm Young

19:30 at the Warehouse Theatre, Brewery Lane Ilminster TA19 9AD

Ann was born on 4th October 1947 in Bath, Somerset. She was educated at the Royal Naval School Singapore, La Sainte Union Convent Bath, Birmingham University (BA Hons Latin) and Oxford University (BA Hons Politics, Philosophy and Economics) LMH MA 1976. She worked in marketing at Unilever from 1973 to 1975 and was Senior Administrator at London University from 1975 to 1987. From 1987 to 2010 she was the Member of Parliament for Maidstone which became Maidstone and The Weald in 1997.

Ann has written 5 novels; the latest of which is "The Dancing Detective" a traditional detective story set in contemporary Britain. She has also written her Autobiography "Strictly Ann".

Her website is <http://www.annwiddecombe.com/index.php>

Numbered tickets will be sold ONLY at Lanes Garden Shop, 17 Silver Street, Ilminster TA19 0DH or call 07943 779880

Tickets cost £10.00

A glass of wine will be available.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 27

Poetry Workshop with Elizabeth Rapp

11:00 to 13:00 at 7 Station Road, Ilminster TA19 9BD (by kind permission of Clive Robert Edwards and Wendy Hawkins)

Elizabeth Rapp was brought up in rural Worcestershire, which gave her a lasting love of the natural world, a concern for ecology, and animal welfare. She now lives in South Somerset. She is a Tutor in Creative Writing, runs Study Days, and a Book Club at the Dillington House Adult Education Centre. She also leads Writing Groups at her home, and gives one-to-one sessions with writers wanting constructive criticism.

Her poems have been widely published in National magazines, and 5 poems have won prizes in National competitions. Her first full collection of poems "Dancing on Bones", published by the Rockingham Press, was launched at the Dartington Festival, and the Poetry Café in London in 2004. Her latest collection "What the Trees Are Telling Me", was published in 2015 by Poetry Space Ltd, and can be purchased from Amazon (currently not in stock), and local bookshops.

She is a Lay Minister in the Church of England, and has worked in Exeter prison. She has also worked with the homeless and Helen House in Oxford. She is a Graduate Teacher, with experience of State and Independent education.

Small room for Max 12 people £10.00 tickets

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Event 28

**Either Shrubbery or Monks Yard with Cream Tea** PM

James Cary, Playwright

How to write the British Sit-Com

James Cary is a British television and radio writer. He is the creator of BBC Radio 4's winning comedy series "Think the Unthinkable", and lead writer on the sketch show "Concrete Cow". He co-created and co-wrote BBC Three's series "Bluestone 42" with Richard Hurst. He has also written for "My Hero, My Family", and co-written two radio series with comedian Milton Jones, as well as contributing to a number of sketch shows and children's animation programmes. His radio comedy series "Hut 33" about Bletchley Park boffins, has run for 3 series, He has also contributed to some episodes of Miranda.

In 2013 he published his first book "Death by Civilisation" based on articles written for Third Way". In 2014 he published a Kindle edition of a novel "Crossword Ends in Violence". He lives in Somerset with his wife and two children.

His Twitter is: [@sitcomgeek](https://twitter.com/sitcomgeek)

**Tickets/Numbers???**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 29

Ilminster Literary Festival Quiz Night

19:30 pm at Donyatt Village Hall, Donyatt TA19 0RG

60 tickets at £6 each. Teams a maximum of 4. Wine and nibbles.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Event 30

Children's Poetry Reading Competition Prize Giving

**Time???** At Greenfylde School

Rt. Hon. Paddy Ashdown will be presenting the prizes.