

HIGHCLERE CASTLE LITERARY FESTIVAL

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS

For Adults:

Dr Hilary Jones

Renowned TV Doctor and Media Advisor Hilary, who is still a general practitioner, Whilst he has written very useful and interesting books about health, wellbeing and complimentary medicine, he was inspired to write his first novel Frontline (2021), set during the First World War, by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Santa Montefiore

Bestselling author known for her sweeping historical romance novels and family sagas, her latest novel The Last Encore is the final book in her Timeslider series. She has sold over eight million books worldwide.

Professor Joann Fletcher

British Egyptologist, author, and BAFTA award-winning television personality. Her books include The Story of Egypt: The Epic History of the World's Greatest Civilisation and The Search for Nefertiti. Who better to meet and learn about the magical world of ancient Egypt than Joann?

Shrabani Basu

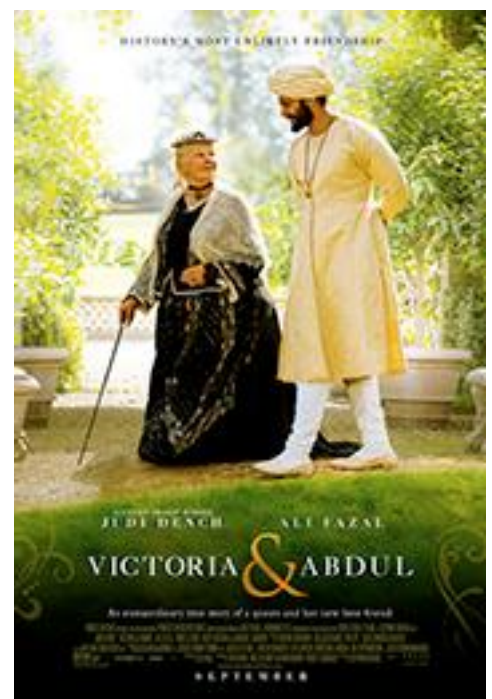
Journalist and historian is best known for her breathtaking novel Victoria and Abdul, detailing the friendship between Queen Victoria and her attendant Karim. The novel was made into a beautiful movie written in part by Shrabani and starring Dame Judy Dench. Her latest novel is The Parsee Lawyer.

Lizzie Dunford

The novels of Jane Austen are still some of the most read books and the most loved films in today's world. Lizzie is Director of Jane Austen's House, and she is leading a Creative Writing Workshop for adults.

Gerald Dickens

The Great, great grandson of Charles Dickens, Gerald brings his grandfather's works to life in his mesmerizing one man shows. Over the weekend watch Doctor Marigold and A Child's Journey with Dickens or, learn about the author himself in fascinating talks and discussions with Gerald.



Lady Carnarvon

Immersed in books throughout her life, Lady Carnarvon has written several books about the history of those who once lived at Highclere Castle. Her latest book, *A Year at Highclere*, reveals what it truly means to live and work in this extraordinary home.

Susie Dent

Well known for Channel 4's longest running show *Countdown*, Susie has also written some brilliant books – all about words! Susie will talk about writing her latest novel *Death Writ Large* along with language thanks to her brilliant career as a lexicographer. Saturday only.

Derrick Tuke-Hastings

Throughout life we all have to learn to cope with all the ups and downs but, through change we can gain more experience and resilience. Derrick is here to talk about skills that help us as we go through major changes, from retirement to redundancy or bereavement. Whatever changes, the real you is still there. Saturday only.

Joanna Cannon

Sunday Times bestselling and Women's Prize longlisted author of *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*, *Three Things and Elsie* and *A Tidy Ending*. Her latest novel, *An Unlikely Visitor*, explores extraordinary secrets buried just under the surface of seemingly ordinary lives. Sunday only.

Colin Bell

Colin embraces every day of his life. Now 105 years old he is the last surviving Second World War de Havilland Mosquito pilot. He flew fifty sorties over Germany and his memoir, *Bloody Dangerous*, has just been published. Sunday only.

For Children and Families:

Hugh Bonneville

Hugh lived with us here (on and off) for nearly 20 years at the real Downton Abbey. He has written an autobiography but is focusing on the importance of reading with children and has now written a series of children's books, the Rory Sparkes Series. He is sitting down with Anna James to discuss Hugh's books and Anna's new story *Alice with a Why*. Questions at the end will be mediated by Lord Carnarvon and Lord Grantham. Saturday only.



Susie Dent



Hugh Bonneville

Katie & Kevin Tsang

Join bestselling authors Katie and Kevin Tsang for an exciting and interactive author event introducing their new book, *The Neverland Thieves*. Young readers are invited to let their imaginations take flight and design their very own Neverland Island! 8+. Saturday only.

Simon Mole

Has your dad ever filled up the bath with 48 litres of lemonade? Have you ever seen a battle rapping badger? Have you ever felt so tired that you can only think in zig zags? Welcome to the poetry world of Simon Mole – a place of rhyme, rhythm, and wonder! Simon's latest book is *Poetry Pizza*. (KS2 7+). Saturday only.

Robert Tregoning

Join Robert for a session full of stories, rock 'n' roll and disco as he explores his books *Dylan, Daisy, and the Disco Ball* and *The Rock Family Band*. The stories Robert writes are often stories he wishes he could have read as a child. He hopes they provide a voice of recognition, validation and kindness to those who need it. (3-7+).

Santa Montefiore

Written with her husband, historian Simon Sebag Montefiore, *The Royal Rabbits of London* is a fun fantasy adventure that proves even the smallest rabbit can be the biggest hero. Ideal for ages 7 - 11.

This is My Theatre

Step through the looking glass and into a world where nothing is quite as it seems... Performing *Alice in Wonderland*. Suitable for all ages.

Anna James

From the bestselling author of the *Pages & Co.* series comes an enchanting reimagining of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in *Alice with a Why*, as the granddaughter of the original Alice receives an invitation to explore Lewis Carroll's magical world herself. 8+.

Lucy Claire Illustration

Learn to draw your favourite characters with one of the UK's most loved illustrators (6+). Sunday only.

John Dougherty

Join John for an exciting interactive workshop inspired by his latest book *Zooming the Zoo*. John was a primary teacher before becoming a full-time author and performer, his poetry collections are funny, exciting and address issues such as identity and bullying. 6+. Sunday only.



Katie & Kevin Tsang



Simon Mole



John Dougherty