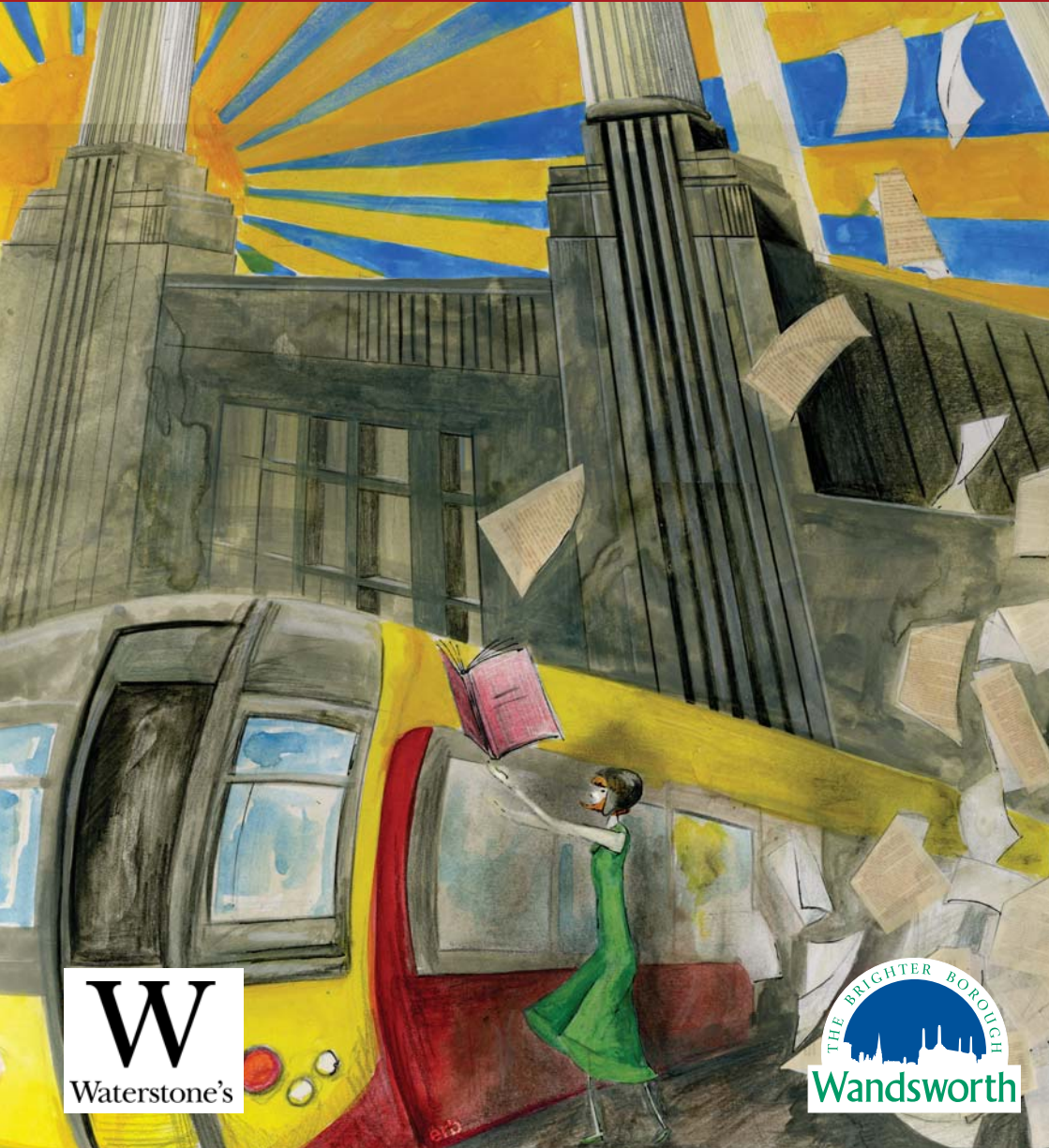




LITERARY FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS • 2009



Introduction

Dear festival goers

Welcome to the SW11 Literary Festival 2009, organised by Waterstone's and the Clapham Junction Town Centre Partnership. We are pleased to announce Marsh & Parsons estate agents as main festival sponsor this year and we would also like to thank Tiny Impressions and Oddbins for their support. We welcome back Time & Leisure Magazine as media partner and would like to thank them for all the coverage and publicity. Without the input and support from all our partners, in addition to the invaluable assistance of Wandsworth Council and the Clapham Junction Waterstone's team, this festival would not be possible.

We're delighted to present you with this year's programme. Over the three weeks from the 7th to 30th September, you will have the opportunity to engage first hand with novelists, historians, poets, translators, screenwriters, journalists, essayists, and thinkers. During our three writing workshops, everyone has the chance to have their writing skills benefit directly from the wealth of expertise we are bringing right to your doorstep. The festival is an annual celebration of all genres of creative writing and we are grateful to all the participants who will be sharing their work with us at the festival.

The ongoing support from Wandsworth Council and Waterstone's make the festival a highlight of the year in Battersea. We would like to thank the Waterstone's staff Emma Ballard, Eva von Ruess, Cater Moggridge, Becky Hine, Kathryn McKenna and Dee Greer for their hard work, Lorinda Freint the Clapham Junction town centre manager, Emma Clark and of course the economic development office, Wandsworth libraries, Apples and Snakes, Spoken Ink, the London Playwrights Collective and the businesses who provided venues. Thank you to Alex Wheatle for his welcome input and assistance. A big thank you to all our volunteers and staff at the many host venues, who help make the events so special.

We have two very exciting competitions during this year's festival: 'Battersea Poems' and 'My favourite recipe'. Thank you to the Recipease team and Blink Media for their input in helping us develop these initiatives.

A special thank you to Angus MacLennan, manager of Waterstone's Clapham Junction. Angus' enthusiasm was an important element of the festival for the past four years and he is now moving on to another store. All the best Angus. And now it is over to you! Enjoy the SW11 Literary Festival 2009.

SW11 Literary Festival Poet in Residence 2009



Steve Tasane

Steve Tasane is one of the best-respected figures on the UK performance-poetry scene. He's a veteran of London's RISE festival, and has had his work broadcast on BBC1, Channel 4, Radio 1 and Radio 4. His breakneck rhymes ensure that he's a poetic hit with children, though he's just as likely to be courting grown-up controversy with his one-man show about shoplifting (2006's Klepto) or popping up as resident poet at Battersea Dogs' Home. And from there, it's just a short geographical jump to the SW11 Literary Festival.



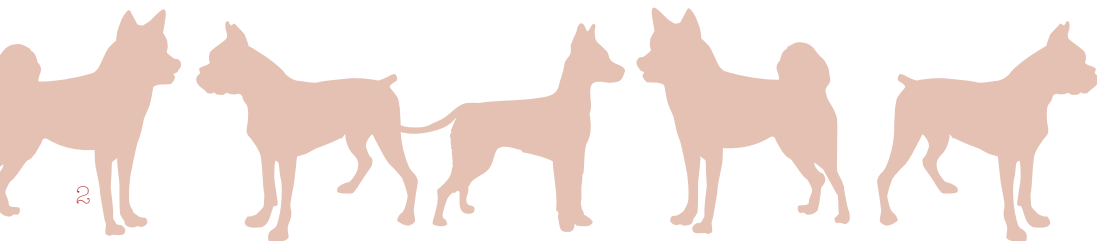
The Dogs of Battersea Dogs' Home

Here's a soccer player about to score
Here's Oliver Twist asking for more
Here's your uncle after a night on the booze
And Screaming Jay Hawkins howling the blues

Here's a beached seal, stuck on a rock
And a death row con, watching the clock
Here's Grandad snoozing on a Sunday afternoon
And Billy the Kid in the Last Chance Saloon

Here's a front-line soldier with a butterfly tummy
Here's my baby, coming to mummy
Here's a big fat Sumo, panting for breath
And a gentle giant licking children to death

Here's a kid in detention who's still giving cheek
And a babe on a catwalk whose gait is unique
Here's a raging bull who's trashing the place
And a princess in exile maintaining her grace



Here's Caesar the Lurcher who wants to have fun
And Grobble the Greyhound who refuses to run
Here's Tyson the Pit Bull who's looking for love
And Herman the Corgie who thinks he's the Guv

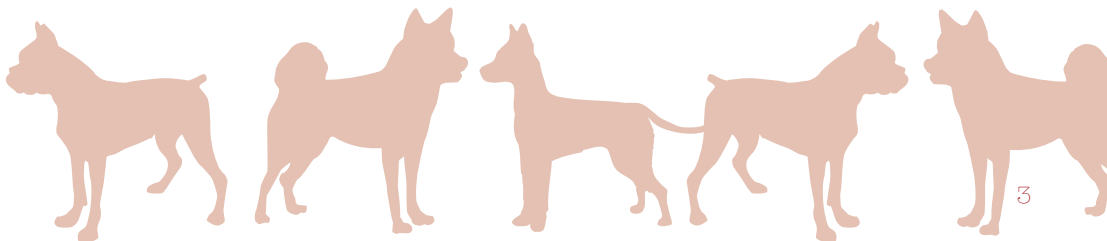
Terry the Terrier is trembling in terror
Toying with a Toyota was a terrible error
Who's laughing? Leonardo the Labrador, that's who
'cos Sidney the Shih-tzu is teaching Shiatzu

A crafty King Charles must be running a number
He's King of the Cha-cha-cha, Salsa and Rumba
Runs rings round the kennel hands, hoards every treat
If not creating chaos he isn't complete

There's a Siberian Husky who gets rather frisky
Changing his blanket is reportedly risky
Although he's been snipped he is sadly misled
Wants a litter of puppies to pull in his sled

There's DJs and MCs and manic street preachers
Compulsive scratch-scratchers and horrible screechers
Occasional canines who constantly cower
Plus a litter of Spice Girls with puppy dog power

There's brown-nosers, ball boys and even librarians
There's one vegetarian and two Rastafarians
There's hairy ones, scary ones and perfect gents
A collective bark and a million scents



Battersea Poems

Text in your poem and be part of creating a biography of SW11 written by you, the people who live, work and visit Battersea.

Start a text message with Battersea then a space, then your poem, in one text only, and send it to 07786 202 844.

Take the people, places, and history of Battersea as your inspiration, but your poem doesn't have to be about SW11, so a poem inspired by Clapham Junction might be about a journey, as shown in the picture below.

You can submit as many poems as you like. Your poem will be published instantly on: www.thumbprintcity.com/london/battersea

The best Battersea Poems will then be selected by a panel led by Apples and Snakes to be published in a printed anthology.

Sending a poem only costs the same as sending a normal text to your friend's phone. You will not be signed up for anything, ever.

Competition closes 31/10/09



SW11 Cook Book Competition

Wanted! Your favourite family recipe! Share with us your favourite family recipe and you could win fantastic foodie prizes, plus a chance to be published!

The panel of professional judges will include Jamie Oliver's team and food journalist/restaurant critic Sudi Pigott. They will cook and taste the recipes, choosing the best 24 dishes to be published in a recipe book, which will be on sale locally before Christmas.

Rules: Write your favourite family recipe on an A4 piece of paper – it can be a starter, a main dish, a dessert or a snack*. Make sure your contact details (name, age, address, phone number and email) are written on the reverse and submit it to one of the following places:

1. One of the four public libraries in SW11 – visit wandsworth.gov.uk for full list including addresses.
2. Recipease store at 44-50 St John's Road, Battersea.
3. By email to edo@wandsworth.gov.uk.

The competition opens on 1 August 2009 and closes on 20 September 2009.

Competition prizes:

Top 3: Your recipe will be cooked at the live cooking-demo event (see below), PLUS win a signed copy of Jamie Oliver's book, PLUS a pizza-make session.

Top 24: A pizza-make session.

SW11 Cook Book Competition prizegiving 30 September, 6.30pm £3

Live cooking demo and competition winners announced.

Recipease, 48-50 St John's Road, Battersea SW11 1PR

For all lovers of good food, come and enjoy a LIVE cooking demo of the best three recipes from the SW11 Cook Book Competition and to see the winners announced. Everyone will be given a taster of the three winning recipes!



Event code 1



John Boyne and Rosie Alison. The producer of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' talks with the author about their new novels set in World War II.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Most of us will know **John Boyne's** book 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' which has become an international bestseller selling over 5 million copies worldwide. It was also recently made into a very successful film directed by Mark Herman and produced by his fellow guest at this year's festival Rosie Alison. The film was nominated for three awards at the British Independent Film Ceremony 2008, winning one. Boyne is no stranger to awards himself and has written several novels as well as short stories which have earned him among others the winner of the Irish Book Awards 2007 and winner of the Que Leer Award for best international novel of the year 2008.

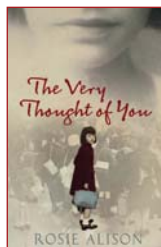
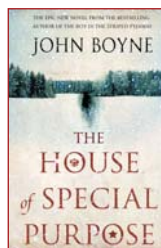
However, it has not all been plain sailing for Boyne; he was educated at Trinity College Dublin and studied creative writing at the University of East Anglia. It was not until Trinity that he began to get his work published (thus affording his keep). During this time he even worked at a Waterstone's bookshop by day and during the night typed up his drafts. I am sure he does not need to write up his drafts at night any more and his most recent book 'The House of Special Purpose' is already proving a great success.

Rosie Alison was educated at Keble College Oxford, later becoming a film producer at Hayday Films. She worked closely with Boyne as the producer of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. Rosie's debut novel 'The Very Thought of You' was published in May of this year and has been received with critical acclaim.

"Without question one of the best debuts I've read in recent years and an important addition to the growing body of literature which concerns itself with the effect of the Second World War on the people back home." (John Boyne)



Photo: Mark Condren



Robyn Young, Patrick Mercer and Henry Porter discuss the art of writing historical fiction.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Robyn Young was born in Oxford and is the writer of a very successful trilogy of novels set in the Middle Ages. She achieved a masters Degree in Creative Writing from the University of Sussex in Brighton where she lives and writes full time. In 2007 she was chosen as one of Waterstone's 25 authors of the future. Her books 'Brethren', 'Crusade' and 'Requiem' are the first she has ever written and taking a trilogy as your first work is no mean feat. The paperback of 'Requiem' is published this September.

'If you love the Templars, the Crusades, and the Middle Ages, this is the book for you. Robyn Young is an exciting new voice'. (Sharon Penman on 'Brethren')

Patrick Mercer is the Conservative MP for Newark. Born in Stockport he was educated at The King's School, Chester and went on to read History at Exeter College, Oxford. He later studied at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Mercer left the army in 1999 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and accepted a post as the defence reporter for BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Mercer reported from a number of trouble spots, most notably Kosovo. His first novel 'To Do and Die' was published this year.

"His mastery of both the broad sweep and the finer details of military engagement is superb... This is probably the closest any of us will get to being there." (Waterstones.com)

Henry Porter has written for most national broadsheet newspapers. He was editor of the Atticus column in the Sunday Times, moving to set up the Sunday Correspondent magazine in 1988. He contributes commentary and reportage to The Guardian, Observer, Evening Standard and Sunday Telegraph. He is the British editor of Vanity Fair, and lives in London with his wife and two daughters. The paperback of his latest book 'A Dying Light' is published this autumn.

"Apart from the customarily rich characterisation, we have as palm-sweating a narrative as one could wish - along with a richly drawn portrait of an epoch, crammed with authentic detail." (Good Book Guide)



Photo © Debra Hurford Brown



Justine Hardy talks about 'In the Valley of Mist', her account of the beauty and tragedy of modern Kashmir seen through the eyes of one family.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

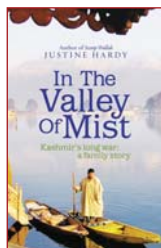
Justine was born in Britain and trained in Australia. As well as being an internationally renowned documentary film maker and writer she is also a journalist working in Britain and India. She is the author of five books, two of which, 'Scoop Wallah' and 'Goat' were serialised on BBC Radio 4.

Her most recent book 'In the Valley of Mist' is set in Kashmir where she has lived and worked for over twenty years. The book follows a family from the gentle culture and harmony between Hindu and Muslim to world which has been destroyed by Islamic extremism producing a new culture of repression, fear and insecurity. Once praised by poets as an earthly paradise, Kashmir has become deeply scarred by bloodshed and political unrest. Some say that it is only a matter of time before it is drawn into the turbulent breakdown of Afghanistan and its neighbours. As the Dar family (the subjects of the book) say "If you want people to know... tell them the truth. It is strong enough".

Event code 4



Photo: Emma Hardy



Melvyn Bragg on his new book chronicling the iconic Radio 4 series 'In Our Time'.

St Mary's Church, Battersea Church Road

Melvyn Bragg, one of the nation's finest broadcasters is also the author of many fiction and non fiction titles including 'The Hired Man' for which he won the Time/Life Silver Pen Award, 'Without a City Wall', winner of the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, 'The Soldier's Return', which won a WH Smith Literary Award, and 'A Son of War' and 'Crossing the Lines', both long listed for the Booker prize. His most recent novel, 'Remember Me' is a work of fiction based upon the suicide of his first wife.

Bragg was born in Wigton, Cumbria, the son of a tailoress and a stock keeper turned machinist. He read Modern History at Wadham College, Oxford in the late 1950s and began his broadcasting career in 1961 as a general trainee at the BBC spending time firstly at the BBC World Service, then at the BBC Third Programme and BBC Home Service. He then joined the production team of Huw Wheldon's Monitor arts series.

He is best known, of course for the seminal arts programme The South Bank Show, which he has written, edited and produced since 1978. He has been Controller of Arts at LWT since 1990 (including a stint as Head of Arts from 1982 to 1990). He is also known for his many programmes on BBC Radio 4, including Start the Week, which he presented for ten years, The Routes of English, a history of the English language, and In Our Time, the story of which is the subject of his latest book.

In Our Time is a discussion programme hosted since 1998 by Melvyn Bragg, described as a series investigating the "history of ideas". The series covers many different subjects from history, religion, philosophy, the arts or science, one of which is explored in each programme with the help of three experts on the subject. The 40 minute weekly podcast is one the BBC's most successful.

Bragg was appointed to the House of Lords in 1998 as a Labour life peer, under the title Baron Bragg, of Wigton in the County of Cumbria.



Photo © ITV pic

Alan Davies talks about his early memoirs 'My Favourite People and Me'.

BAC Grand Hall

Alan Davies is a comedian, writer and actor best known for starring in mystery series Jonathan Creek, and as a panellist on the smash hit television series QI.

Davies began performing stand-up comedy in 1988 at the Whitstable Labour Club, and was named Time Out's Best Young Comic in 1991. He continued touring and performing in the UK and Canada, winning the Edinburgh Festival's Critics Award for Comedy in 1994.

Several radio and television appearances followed before he became a household name starring as the eponymous hero of the series Jonathan Creek in 1997, which won a BAFTA for Best Drama as well as being the show which brought Davies to mainstream attention.

He was invited to champion the case for John Lennon to be the greatest Briton of all time on the BBC's Great Britons series in 2002. In 2007, Davies starred in the second episode of ITV1's You Don't Know You're Born. He also recently became a semi-regular on The Unbelievable Truth.

Davies currently appears as the permanent panellist on the BBC quiz game QI. He has been known, during filming of the show, to record video on his mobile phone, and has uploaded some of these clips on You Tube. Davies has appeared on every episode of the show (including the unbroadcast pilot episode), though in one episode he only appeared in the first few minutes, in a prerecorded bit, due to him opting to watch Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League Final, taking place at the same time as the recording. His chair was empty for the rest of the episode.



Alan's new book *My Favourite People and Me* is a unique memoir that's part Nick Hornby, part 'Where Did It All Go Right'. He tells the story of growing up in a house in Essex in the 1980s where the TV was never turned off. While his dad tried to bring up his three children alone, Alan did his best to pursue life outside of the school he labelled 'The House of Fascists and Bullies'. His bedroom walls reflected his changing enthusiasms - from Charlie's Angels to Paul Weller, pictures and posters were put up and pulled down with indecent haste as Alan's interests veered wildly through a list that included Debbie Harry, nicking stuff, Adam and the Ants, tagging the back of bus seats in indelible marker, chicken's lib and Jimmy White. But always football. And always Arsenal. Warm, personal and laugh out-loud-funny, 'My Favourite People' is both autobiography and nostalgia-fest. "An attempt", as Alan puts it, "to remember what I liked as a boy/youth/idiot and to work out why..."

Saturday 12 September, 10.30am-4pm £5

Performance poetry workshop.

Northcote Library, Northcote Road, Battersea SW11

Steve Tasane, this year's SW11 poet-in-residence, lifts the lid on the art of performance poetry. From harnessing those elusive rhythms to planning the perfect set, Steve will guide you through a series of exercises designed to demystify the artform that's as old as the hills, but always 'the new rock & roll'. Suitable for beginners or any writer with an open-minded approach. There'll be a chance for participants to perform at the Poetic Frenzy show on the 20th.



Event code 7



Chris Patten ponders upon ‘What Next’ for the world in his updated bestseller.

St Mary’s Church, Battersea Church Road

Chris Patten (Baron Patten of Barnes) is one of the most respected (and popular) political figures of our time. He began his career in politics when he joined the Conservative Research Department in 1966 and was elected as MP for Bath in 1979, a seat he held until 1992 when he lost his seat in the unexpected Conservative electoral victory which he himself orchestrated. He was appointed Chairman of the Conservative Party in 1990, then in 1992 was made Governor of Hong Kong, a position he held until 1997 when he handed the colony back to China. In September of 1999 he was appointed European Commissioner for External Relations and, on leaving office in 2004 was made a Life Peer.

He is the author of several books including *East and West*, which described his experiences in Hong Kong, and *‘Not Quite the Diplomat’* which dealt with his work at the epicentre of European foreign and security policy when in Brussels (Lord Patten appeared at the SW11 Literary Festival in 2006 to talk about this book).

This year he is joining us to talk about his newly revised *‘What Next?’*; a book which deals with the fundamental questions facing the world at the dawn of the new century: from financial turmoil and energy crises, global warming, immigration and the rising financial might of the East. Gone are the old assurances of the triumph of the West and the unfettered ability of the free market to improve our lives, but what will take their place?

“An encyclopaedia of common sense...Every thinker on, or practitioner of international affairs will profit from reading any book that Patten writes”. (Dennis Macshane, Independent)



Thursday 17 September, 7pm

£4

Event code 9

Mark Thomas. The author and comedian is loud and enraged at his local bookstore.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Mark Thomas is one of the UK's most effective and best-known political activists as well as being a highly successful stand-up comedian (and a resident of SW11). His show The Mark Thomas Comedy Product ran for six highly acclaimed series on Channel 4.

His first book 'As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela: Underground Adventures in the Arms and Torture Trade' was a huge success (as was his appearance at the festival the year the book came out) and showed how his brilliantly scathing humour can highlight the global political imbalance and make us understand the glaring double standards that governments use worldwide.

His new book 'Belching Out the Devil - Global Adventures with Coca-Cola' is in the same vein. Mark travels the world in search of the truth behind the brand and iconography of Coca-Cola: child labourers in El Salvador, toxic working conditions in India, Colombian terrorists and the union leaders jailed alongside them.

Provocative, funny, salutary and a truly great performer. As the Guardian says, "John Pilger with laughs".



Friday 18 September, 7pm

£4

Event code 10

Peter Robinson and Sophie Hannah. Two world leaders in the crime thriller genre talk about their work.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Sophie Hannah was born in 1971 in Manchester to Norman and Adele Geras (herself a well known author). She was educated at the University of Manchester, where she studied English Literature and Spanish. She is a Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts at Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. She currently teaches at Manchester Metropolitan University's Writing School.

At the age of 24 Sophie had published her first book of poems 'The Hero' and 'The Girl Next Door'. In 2004 she was named one of poetry book society's next generation poets and her poetry is now studied at GCSE, A-level and degree level throughout the UK.

She is the author of several novels, including 'Gripless' (1999), 'Cordial' and 'Corrosive' (2000), and 'The Superpower of Love' (2001). Her recent crime thrillers 'Little Face' (2006), 'Hurting Distance' (2007), 'The Point of Rescue' (2008) and her new book 'The Other Half Lives' (2009) have become huge sellers and she is now one of the most important and respected writers in the genre.

"In the world of psychological thrillers, it is rare to come across a novel that conforms absolutely to the rules of the genre at the same time as being totally original, satisfyingly unpredictable and totally enthralling. This is exactly what Sophie Hannah has achieved". (Yorkshire Post)



Photo © Mark Mather

Dr. Peter Robinson was born in Yorkshire in 1950 and studied at Leeds University for his BA Hons in English Literature. He then went onto achieve his MA from the University of Windsor in Canada and his PhD from York University in Toronto where he has lived since 1974.

His ‘Inspector Banks’ novels are widely known and have been short listed for, as well as won, prestigious awards including, The Edgar Award, The Arthur Ellis Award and an Author’s Award from the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters. His books have so far been translated into 15 languages.

“If you haven’t encountered Chief Inspector Alan Banks before, prepare for a crash course in taut, clean writing and subtle psychology. And watch for those twists - they’ll get you every time.” (Ian Rankin)



Saturday 19 September, 10.30am-1pm £5

Creative writing workshop - Building Narrative & Characters - Alex Wheatle.

Northcote Library, Northcote Road, Battersea SW11

Alex is an award winning author and a master of building narrative. Through discussion, exercises and example this workshop will enable you to develop insight into the creative process and inspire you to achieve your writing goals.

Alex’s workshops are very popular, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Event code 11



Saturday 19 September, 7pm

£3

Bobbie Darbyshire discusses her new book, the writing process, getting published.

Bolingbroke Bookshop, 147 Northcote Road, Battersea SW11

Bobbie Darbyshire is a local writer. She won the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing in Birmingham, and has been published in their anthology, 'Finding a Voice', and by Mslexia. Her comedy of manners, 'Truth Games', was published in July 2009 by Cinnamon Press, and her mystery romantic comedy, 'The Real McCoy', has been serialised in a new print magazine First Edition.

Bobbie has a sociology degree and has worked as barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, and as a care assistant, as well as in social research and government policy. She hosts a writers' group and is a volunteer adult-literacy teacher. Contact her on: bobbie.darbyshire@ntlworld.com

Come and enjoy an interesting evening at Battersea's only independent bookshop – a gem on the Northcote Road.

Event code 12



Sunday 20 September, 7pm

£3

Poetic Frenzy.

BAC café, Battersea Art Centre, Lavender Hill

Steve Tasane, this year's SW11 poet in residence, heads a fast-moving spoken-word show. Featuring the finely-honed transatlantic talent of Tshaka Campbell (guaranteed to have the audience swooning) alongside lyrically gifted girl-about-town Sabrina Mahfouz, streetwise storyteller Simeera Hassan and - just back from Edinburgh Fringe - the ridiculously funny Rob Auton. Poetry's never been in such fine fettle.

This event is one of the highlights of the festival!

Steve Tasane is one of the best-respected figures on the UK performance-poetry scene. He's a veteran of London's RISE festival, and has had his work broadcast on BBC1, Channel 4, Radio 1 and Radio 4.

Event code 13



Dreda Say Mitchell and Alex Wheatle. Two major exponents of modern urban crime fiction in conversation.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Dreda Say Mitchell and Alex Wheatle, urban crime writers focus their work predominantly in the nation's capital.

Alex Wheatle was born in London to Jamaican parents but most of his early life was spent in a children's home which he left as a teenager to live in a hostel in Brixton. Alex has written six novels many of which are set in Brixton, 'East of Acre Lane' won the London New Writers Award in 2000. His latest book 'Dirty South' is a sequel to 'East of Acre Lane' and is also set in Brixton. Alex lives locally and is a great friend of Waterstone's in Clapham Junction.

In 2008 Alex was awarded a MBE for services to literature in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Dreda Say Mitchell was also born in London but to Grenadian parents and grew up in the East End attending a Catholic girl's school. In her early years Dreda was an accomplished athlete showing great promise but decided to give it up for academic studies, "as black youth we were being channelled into particular things".

She achieved a degree in African history and then went onto train as a teacher at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. 'Running Hot' her first novel won the Crime Writers' Association Award in 2004 and her most recent book 'Geezer Girls' came out this year. She is a regular contributor to Front Row on Radio 4 and other radio programmes.



Tuesday 22 September, 7pm

£4

Event code 15

Kate Williams and Miranda Carter. The authors of 'Becoming Queen' and 'The Three Emperors' discuss their personal methods of writing historical biography.

Waterstone's, 70 St. John's Road

Two of the brightest stars in the historical biography firmament discuss their work.

Kate Williams studied her BA at Somerville College, Oxford where she was a College Scholar and received the Violet Vaughan Morgan University Scholarship. She then took her MA at Queen Mary, University of London and her DPhil at Oxford, where she received a graduate prize. Her first book, 'England's Mistress: the Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton', was book of the week on Radio 4, a book of the year in the Times and the Independent, and shortlisted for the Marsh/English Speaking Union Prize for Biography, 2005-6. A film and stage musical are in development! 'Becoming Queen', her second book is about the passionate youth of Queen Victoria and Princess Charlotte, the Queen who never was, and was published in September 2008.



"Kate Williams has excelled herself. One is engaged from the very first line. She has perfected the art of historical biography, few writers bring their characters to life in the way she does, and her pacy writing is underpinned by the most impeccable scholarship." (Alison Weir)

She appears regularly on radio and television, most recently as a panellist on Newsnight Review and discussing history on Woman's Hour and More4 News.

Miranda Carter, biographer, was educated at St. Paul's Girls' School and Exeter College, Oxford. She worked as a publisher and journalist before beginning research on her biography of Anthony Blunt in 1994. She lives in London with her husband and two sons. 'Anthony Blunt: His Lives' (2001), her first book, won the Royal Society of Literature Award and the Orwell Prize, and was shortlisted for many other prizes, including the Guardian First Book Award and the Whitbread Biography Award. In the US it was chosen by the New York Times Book Review as one of the seven best books of 2002.



Photo © Rodnick Field

Her new book, 'The Three Emperors', is a brilliant and sometimes hilarious portrait of three men: George V, King-Emperor of England, the British Empire and India; Wilhelm II, the last Kaiser; and Nicholas II, the last Tsar. Between them, they presided over the last years of dynastic Europe and the outbreak of the most destructive war the world had ever seen. For all three men the war would be a disaster which destroyed for ever the illusion of their close family relationships, with any sense of peace and harmony shattered in a final coda of murder, betrayal and abdication.

Wednesday 23 September, 2pm

FREE

Event code 16

Storytelling event.

Crumpet Cafe, 66 Northcote Road, SW11 6QL

Children and adults of every age welcome to this event.

For two hours Spoken Ink, the much talked-about online story company, will fill Battersea with rare and wonderful tales. Ogres, owls and the tallest man in the world star in their latest storytelling extravaganza in a lovely Northcote Road cafe!

So lie back, butter your crumpet and let your imaginary forces work!

www.spokenink.co.uk

Alan Titchmarsh has written the second part of his memoirs 'Knave of Spades' and will tell you his story.

Battersea Power Station, Kirtling Street

Alan Titchmarsh, MBE is one of the nation's favourite broadcasters. Although particularly famous as a gardener he has also had lengthy stints presenting daytime and religious programming on television and radio.

Having presented Pebble Mill at One for several years he moved back to his first love gardening, in 1996 when he took over as host of 'Gardeners' World', the show being filmed in his own garden. 'Ground Force' followed in 1997 and then 'How to be a Gardener'.

Away from the gardening world, Titchmarsh has had spells presenting Songs of Praise and still hosts Melodies for You on Radio 2. He recently narrated the BBC2 nature documentary series The Nature of Britain. In recent years, his television and radio workload has lightened, to allow him more time to concentrate on his growing career as a novelist and to write his life story in several parts; firstly in 'Nobut a Lad' and this autumn in 'Knave of Spades'.

From the first faltering steps in radio and television, to a career in broadcasting and writing, 'Knave of Spade's is a wonderfully warm and self-deprecatingly honest memoir. Alan Titchmarsh shows us just why he has become not only our favourite gardener, but a popular writer and broadcaster too.

Join us at Battersea Power Station to hear the full story.



Thursday 24 September, 7pm

£1

Event code 18

Sin Cities: An evening of sharp short stories.

Project Orange - 43, St John's Hill, SW11 1TT
www.fancyapint.com/pubs/pub3079.html

Taking you down the mean streets and the seedier sides of urban life, Sin Cities is an evening of short stories read by some of Britain's most innovative new and established writers.

Backed by a soundtrack of noir-ish soundtracks and filthy jazz and blues, Sin Cities will take you from SW11 to other parts of London, as well as further afield; seeking out the kind of places you never see in guide books – and the people you'd probably never like to meet in real life.

Lead by Stuart Evers and including five very special guests, reading from exclusive stories, Sin Cities is a down and dirty evening of the dark side of city living. Expect something special and badder than you ever expected ...

Saturday 26 September, 12-6pm

£5

Workshop: Playwriting into Performance.

Battersea Art Centre, Lavender Hill

Event code 19



Back by popular demand: A one day, open-access taster workshop for adults interested in deepening their understanding of the theatre-making process.

- Come and try out a scene extract from your own stage play in this fun and friendly special London Playwrights' Collective workshop
- Hear it come to life and develop it in collaborative group work with professional LPC workshop leaders and a theatre director.
- Receive feedback and advice and take away the tools for its future development.

Founded in 2007, The **London Playwrights Collective** is a collaborative, supportive and proactive community for writers. Our approach is based on the belief that the playwrights should be central to the creative process, supported not only by their peers but also by other theatre practitioners from the early stages of development. It is through this collaborative journey that we cultivate new voices.

www.londonplaywrights.co.uk

Sunday 27 September, 7.30pm

£3

Talkies by Steve Tasane.

BAC café, Battersea Art Centre, Lavender Hill

Our poet-in-residence, Steve Tasane, presents a poetry show with a difference. Talkies is his new video-album, a collection of ten poetry shorts made in collaboration with some of the UK's best independent film-makers. Steve's live performances are known for their verbal acrobatics and sheer physicality, and tonight's chance to see the man in person as well as on film. With a guest slot from fellow poet Inua Ellams.

Event code 20



Monday 28 September, 6.30pm

£1

Literary Quiz.

Latchmere Pub, Battersea Park Road

The legendary literary quiz is back! No need to book in advance, just turn up on the night and come and test your knowledge. It's a great night out. All things literary. Lots of fun and prizes. Teams can have between 1 and 6 members.

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Booking form

Payment for tickets can be made:

In person at: Waterstone's Bookshop, 70 St John's Road,
Clapham Junction, SW11 1PT

By post to: Lorinda Freint, EDO 1st Floor New Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU (cheque payments only)
(020) 7627 3182

By telephone: (020) 7627 3182 (credit or debit card only)

Please make cheques payable to Wandsworth Borough Council except where payment is made in person at Waterstone's where cheques should be made payable to Waterstone's Bookshop.

Terms

On completion of the booking form and receipt of payment, all tickets will be posted to you at the address given below.

No refunds can be made on any tickets once an order has been placed.

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Credit / Debit card number

Office use only

Payment for £ _____ received at SW11 Office

Date _____ Receipt No. _____

Dispatched from library to SW11 Office on _____ (date)

Ticket posted on _____ (date)

Checked by _____



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Booking form

Event code	Number of tickets required	Event code	Number of tickets required	Event code	Number of tickets required	Event code	Number of tickets required
1	<input type="text"/>	6	<input type="text"/>	11	<input type="text"/>	16	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	7	<input type="text"/>	12	<input type="text"/>	17	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	8	<input type="text"/>	13	<input type="text"/>	18	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	9	<input type="text"/>	14	<input type="text"/>	19	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	10	<input type="text"/>	15	<input type="text"/>	20	<input type="text"/>



total number of tickets required

total amount payable £