



Charity Number 1169618

Much of last year's lockdown time was used to start planning for ILF 2022. The committee's been hard at work since January building on that work and shaping the May Festival.  
The good news is that the line-up of speakers and events is now complete! Read on to find out what's in store.....

# ILF 2022 Newsletter 1

## Appearing at Ilminster Literary Festival in May.....



**Cara Hunter**  
Crime Thriller Author  
Of The DI Adam Fawley  
Books



**Philip Serrell**  
What Am I Bid? –  
My Life Under The  
Hammer



**Daisy Waugh**  
The Comic Tode  
Hall Mystery  
Series



**James Crowden**  
Cider Country  
+ Cider Making  
Talk By Temperleys



**Harry Venning**  
Unlock Your Inner  
Cartoonist!



**Julie Summers**  
Dressed For War -  
The Story Of Vogue  
Editor Audrey  
Withers



**Vic Marks**  
An Evening with  
The Cricketing  
Legend And  
Journalist



**Annie  
Garthwaite**  
Cecily,  
Book Club event



**Jean Vernon**

**The Secret Life Of Garden Bees  
(Talk & Walk)**



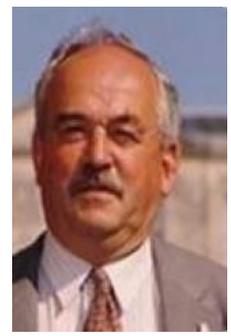
**Huw Lawford**

**Inside The Mandela Revolution**



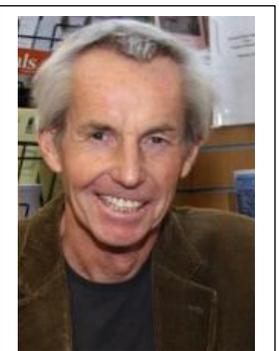
**Mary Chisholm**

**Architectural Historian  
Adventures Of A Somerset Blogger**



**David Pugsley**

**You The Jury – Was Jane Austen’s Aunt A Shoplifter?**



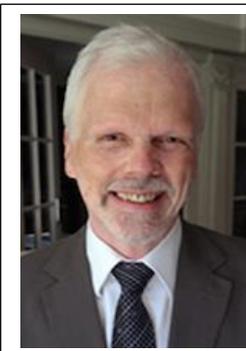
**Graham Hurley**

**Is There Life After Crime Fiction?**



**Sally Nex**

**Gardening The Low Carbon Way**



**Neil Hanson**

**Inn and Out At The Top**



**Joan Greening**

**The Comedy And Tragedy Of The Edinburgh Fringe Festival**



**Nicola Skinner**

**Childrens’ author, presenting at Swanmead School**



**Darrell Warner**

**From The Somerset Levels To The Hollywood Hills**



**Roger Doughty**

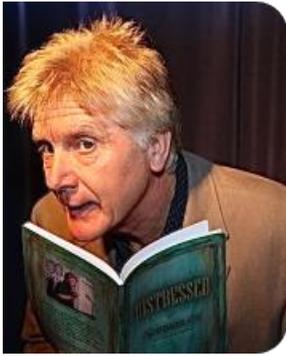
**Computing At Home And Staying Safe Online**



**Patrick Cockburn**

**What Really Happened in Afghanistan ?**

**PLUS .....**



## A Double Bill

**Rob Barratt**

**Comic Poet, Humourist & Singer  
+ Vintage 20's & 30's Jazz From  
The Sunset Café Stompers**



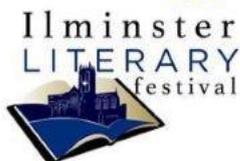
## PLUS .....



**A Spring Concert  
By  
South Somerset  
Choral Society**

## PLUS, A Joint Event .....

**Rotary**  **Club of Ilminster**



# ANTIQUES CALL MY BLUFF

A light-hearted and entertaining joint event to pit your wits and knowledge against the experts from Bearnes, Hampton and Littlewood Auctioneers of Exeter.

In support of The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal and Bowel Cancer UK

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at  
7.00pm** at The Shrubbery Hotel,  
Station Road, Ilminster.  
TA19 9AR

**Ticket £17.50.** Includes  
Ploughman's Supper.  
Available from **26<sup>th</sup> April** at  
[www.ilminsterliteraryfestival.org](http://www.ilminsterliteraryfestival.org)

**BEARNES  
HAMPTON  
&  
LITTLEWOOD**  
auctioneers and valuers





The Festival will also include a **Local and Debut Authors Forum** where 3 authors will talk about what inspired them to write and the lessons learned trying to find a publisher or to self publish. This will be an informal event over coffee. Come along to chat, learn more and meet other aspiring writers. The Forum will be hosted by **Sophy Layzell** (pictured), a member of the ILF committee and herself a published author.  
Here's a little more about her.....

Sophy moved to Somerset from Gloucestershire at 19 when her parents took over the Priest's House at Muchelney. By chance, the local builder Harvey Layzell, was still finishing repair work. Much to her mother's dismay she managed to get his number before leaving for Bristol Uni and the rest, as they say, is history.

Their life together, their children and the Somerset landscape have been the main inspiration for Sophy's writing. Plays, a trilogy for young adults and now a standalone contemporary fiction have all come from local influences. The most recent of her novels, '**Invisible Thread**' draws on areas that you will know well; Castle Neroche, the River Ding and Lyme Regis. This is a book that is especially personal. Described as 'a story of surviving grief' (Langport Leveller) it's about loss, family and ultimately hope. For Sophy it's been an incredibly special project, the illustrations inside and on the cover are hers and much of the experiences are also hers but she's keen to let readers know that her character, David, is nothing like Harvey!

'Some of the feedback I've had so far has been amazing.' Sophy says, 'One grieving mother got in touch to say that having lost a daughter she shed many tears through this book but gained a new understanding as well. She knew it would be a difficult read, but so worth it.'

**Invisible Thread** is available in hardback, paperback and kindle. Hardback copies can be found at Green Rhino Interiors on the Rose Mill Industrial estate and paperbacks at the Trading Post, Lopen. It's an ideal bookclub book, lots to talk and think about. Teenagers have read and enjoyed it, although it's predominantly for adults.

To find out more about Sophy and her books visit [sophylayzell.com](http://sophylayzell.com)

### **Look out for.....**

**The Festival Programme Brochure, published in April and widely distributed.**

**Friends of ILF receive it direct to their homes.**

**The Brochure gives full details of speakers, subjects, dates, times, venues and ticket prices. Details of ticket sales, for your diary, are on the following page of this newsletter.**



**Straight from the horse's mouth.....**

## **Finding Festival Speakers**

**By Ian Munro**

One of the pleasurable tasks in planning the next Literary Festival was deciding on which authors to invite to Ilminster. We always try to be innovative and incorporate a wide range of genre to suit as many people as possible. Some topics covered have little to do with literature and some invited speakers have not written a book; An Opera Singers Life and "Giles: The Life, Times and Cartoons of a National Treasure" both of which featured in last November's Festival, spring to mind. The festival after all is not just about literature but also the arts in general.

Early in the planning stage the committee meet and throw in a hat the names of authors to approach. We even have some authors contact us wishing to be included. Sometimes we have to be ruthless in order to put together a balanced programme and politely decline their offer. There are times when a member of the group, through some tenuous link, personally knows a well-established author who could be approached. Also, a number of the committee are members of other organisations and may have attended an interesting talk by someone who has written a book which we think would be appreciated by our audience. In every case we always ask if anyone has heard the presenter speak at an event or on the media. This is quite important as you can have a brilliant author with poor presentation skills or a little-known author who can hold an audience rapt.

This is where visits to other Literary and Book Festivals come in very useful. Apart from giving a useful insight into how other Festivals operate they also allow us to suss out who to possibly invite to Ilminster. An example of an author found in this way who will be appearing at ILF in May is **Julie Summers**, spotted at the Chalke Valley History Festival. Her book **Dressed for War** is the story of Audrey Withers the editor of Vogue magazine from the Blitz to the Swinging Sixties. A remarkable woman who steered the magazine through this difficult time and the eventual split from the American owners of the magazine.

We trust you appreciate the hard work of the committee to bring you a complete festival. Fortunately it does have its rewards, by way of a job well done and a festival enjoyed by audiences.

**Ian is an ILF Planning Committee member and Trustee**

## **Festival Dates**

**Saturday May 21**

**To**

**Saturday May 28**

## **Tickets**

**Online at**

**ilminsterliterary  
festival.org from  
April 26**

**By post from April  
26 via the booking  
form in the Festival  
Brochure**

**In person from  
Ilminster Arts  
Centre 10.30-12.30  
on:  
Saturday May 7**

**Tuesday May 10**

**Wednesday May 11**

**Thursday May 12**

**Friday May 13**

**Saturday May 14**

**Tuesday May 17**

**Wednesday May 18**

**Thursday May 19**

**Friday May 20**