



Charity Number 1169618

ILF 2022
Newsletter 2

Warmest thanks to everyone who came to the 2022 Festival, May 21st – 28th

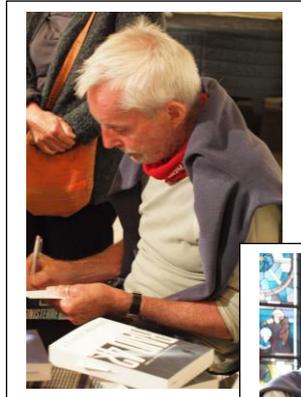
Thanks also to our Advertisers and Sponsors, listed later in this Newsletter, to the Friends of ILF for their ongoing support and to our partner venues – Ilminster Arts Centre, The Warehouse Theatre, The Monks Yard, The Minster & Minster Rooms, Seavington Millennium Hall, The Studio at Rose Mills, Nyanza Masonic Lodge, The Shrubbery Hotel.

Festival photographs.....



My son loved your session!

Harry Venning unlocking his Inner Cartoonist



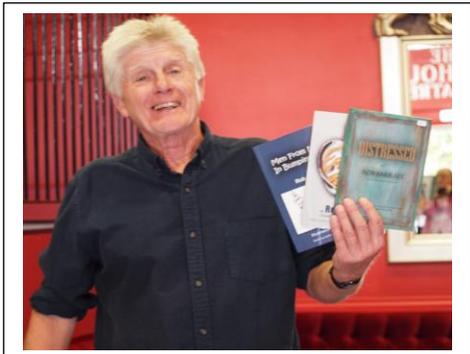
Author Graham Hurley + with wife Lynne (his muse!)



Philip Serrell, well known antiques expert & author



Cara Hunter, left (DI Adam Fawley books) in conversation with Lynda Creek



Humourist, singer & poet Rob Barratt

ILF 2022 featured both a childrens' Poetry Competition and a session with childrens' author Nicola Skinner, who visited Swanmead School.....

Nicola spoke to about 140 pupils from Years 5 and 6 who quietly listened as she took them through her role as a writer. Using 'Starboard', from which she read extracts, she explained how a visit to the S.S. Great Britain had been her inspiration but this was then followed by painstaking research of the ship's archive to 'flesh out' her knowledge and understanding. She revealed that writing was not always easy; that some chapters rolled off the pen but some had to be ground out.

She then invited the children to take part in a Q and A session which they entered into with real gusto. Every question was fielded with great aplomb even when one little lad posed a very searching literary query - 'Miss, how old are you?'

There then followed a book signing. Francesca, the Literacy coordinator, was very pleased with the way things went and said it was an event she would like to repeat in the future. Nicola (pictured below right) said that the children had been a joy to work with and that for her it had been a very successful morning.

Roger Swann ILF

It was fantastic to be able to give the children the experience of an author visit and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Nicola was so engaging to listen to and the children found the workshop both interesting and entertaining. **Francesca Coleman, Swanmead Literacy Coordinator**



More Festival photographs.....

Host Sophie Layzell (left) with guest speakers at the Local and New Authors Forum



Auctioneer from Bearnese, Hampton and Littlewood, 'bluffing' the audience at Antiques Call My Bluff, a joint ILF / Rotary event



Neil Hanson, author + one time keeper of Britain's highest pub

Author Annie Garthwaite at Book Club event



Sally Nex, 'High Priestess of low carbon gardening'!

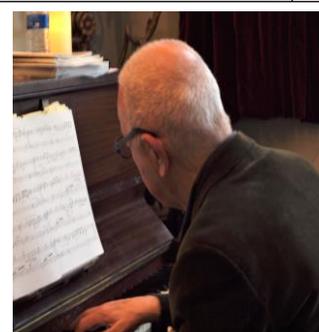


ILF Sponsors 2022

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- Silver Street Dairy
- The Trading Post Lopen
- A J Wakely & Sons
- Ilminster Cricket Club
- Symonds & Sampson
- The Yard at Rose Mills

Thank you to them all.

Launch Event for Friends of ILF at the Somerset Bar, Phoenix Studios, by kind permission of our patron Alice Temperley



Literary Drinks on offer

- Casino Royale
- The Hemingway Daiquiri
- Tequila Mockingbird
- Trollope Alcohol Free Mocktail
- Above – Tom the Mixologist



Visit the Gallery page of our website –
ilminsterliteraryfestival.org – to see
more 2022 Festival photographs

Festival dates for ILF 2023 :
**Thursday June 1st to Thursday June 8th
inclusive.**

Please let us know your thoughts :

Festival speakers and costs

Ticket prices for ILF 2022 reflected all round rising costs. Ideally, income from ticket sales will cover venue hire, speaker fees, travel, any overnight accommodation and VAT if applicable, plus hopefully produce a modest profit for financial reserves . Despite best efforts, Festivals occasionally run at a loss, demonstrating why those reserves are essential.

As the economic situation hits hard for us all, Trustees aim to do everything possible to protect ILF's future. In particular we want to keep ticket costs for 2023 at a reasonable level, while maximising audience enjoyment and covering outlay. Audiences of course want to see good speakers and attend events that interest them – which is why **your** opinion is important to helping us get the right content and balance.

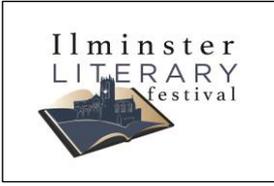
With that in mind please spare a few minutes to complete and return the short questionnaire on the next page.

It will tell us more about what you'd like to see and help to shape the 2023 programme. A posted reply is fine but a separate copy of the form is attached to the e mail that brought this Newsletter, so that you can download, complete and return it online, if preferred. The questionnaire is also available on our website, ilminsterliteraryfestival.org, do please encourage friends, neighbours, family and other contacts of all ages to complete and return one. That includes those who have never attended ILF – we would like to know why that is and what might attract them.

Requests for a particular author / speaker

Quite a lot of better known ones ask for very high fees, which ILF could never afford. One well known news correspondent for example, whom many of us would enjoy hearing, quoted £10,000 for a one hour session, an overnight stay in executive accommodation, plus executive car from London and back. Perhaps he wasn't keen on coming! Don't let that depress you too much, not every big name is overly expensive and there are of course a wealth of lesser known but extremely interesting authors and speakers to draw on.

Thank you so much for your anticipated help via the questionnaire.



QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete and return – [your input matters](#)

How did you first find out about Ilminster Literary Festival?

If you came to no or very few events this year, why was that? Please tick -

- a) Covid caution
- b) Not interested in topics / speakers
- c) Tickets too expensive
- d) Didn't know the Festival was on, or what was on

Other _____

Looking to next year's programme, please tick the kinds of talks that would appeal to you

- a) Talks by established authors about their books and work
- b) Talks by media personalities promoting their books
- c) Talks about Current Affairs / Politics
- d) Talks about Sport
- e) Talks about Drama / Theatre/ Film
- f) Talks on Travel
- g) Talks on History
- h) Talks on Gardening
- i) Talks on Nature and Conservation
- j) Talks about Somerset
- k) Talks on Scientific subjects
- l) Concerts
- m) A Poetry with Music event

n) Other _____

o) Name of any author / speaker you would particularly like to hear:

Please return the completed form ASAP and by July 21st at the latest.

By post to – ILF Festival Office, Bay House East, Bay Hill, Ilminster TA19 0AT

By e mail to – susancollard@btinternet.com

Thank you.