



Newsletter 2

2023 - 24 Season



Charity Number 1169618

Ilminster Literary Festival 2024

Thursday May 30th to Thursday June 6th inclusive

For Literature and Arts lovers everywhere

The strap line above says it all – ILF is a literary festival which also includes the wider arts. Plus politics. Plus current affairs. Plus any topic that we hope will be of interest to audiences. While it's great to welcome authors both well and lesser known, the content of annual programmes doesn't stop there. A mix of events and speakers, with something for everyone, has characterised past festivals and seen audience numbers grow noticeably over the past 7 festivals.

So look out for number 8!

We're especially pleased to be working more closely than ever before with The Warehouse Theatre / Ilminster Entertainments Society and Ilminster Arts Centre. In the past they've often acted as festival venues but this year will be enriching ILF by also contributing a number of their own events.

Full details will of course be in the Programme Brochure published in spring and freely available in Ilminster and surrounding areas. But you'll find a few nuggets of info around before then, some in this and later newsletters, others in the local press.

ILF A.G.M.

This is on **Tuesday February 13**, 7.30 pm at Ilminster Bowling Club. The bar will be open and entry is free to anyone wanting to find out more about the festival. Sam Powell, Manager of Greenslade Taylor Hunt will be giving a short, lighthearted talk about an Estate Agent's world – your chance to also get an expert view on the state of the housing market!

ILF Launch 2024

Monday April 15, 7.30 pm at Ilminster Arts Centre. A social event for Friends of ILF, with drinks, a light buffet and a talk by Richard Kay - "Travels With My Gavels" **PLUS a chance to buy festival tickets in advance.**

Please see overpage for info on how to become a Friend.



2024 Festival Events for Young People

Since it started in 2016 ILF has featured a childrens' Poetry Reading competition organised in liaison with local primary schools. The final is judged by members of the ILF committee and the date and venue for that this year is Tuesday June 4, 6pm at Herne View School. As always there's likely to be a large, enthusiastic audience of parents and family friends.

NEW!

As part of festival week, the Warehouse Theatre will be holding DISCOVER, an Arts Award day run through Trinity College, London for children aged 5 to 8. It will take place at the Warehouse on Sunday June 2 from 10.00 to 3pm. The usual cost for the day is £30 but a subsidy from ILF reduces that to £10 per child, to cover tuition, a booklet, moderation, materials used and a certificate. Only 12 places will be available, so do act quickly once booking opens to the general public if you think your child or grandchild would enjoy and benefit from this great opportunity.

Writing Competition for 5 to 18 year olds – searching for the next generation of authors, this is a chance to let imaginations go wild on the page! There are 3 categories :

5 to 7 year olds. Subject - What Do You Like Best About Winter? (150 words max)

8 to 11 year olds. Subject – Write a story that starts “One morning when I woke up I was invisible and there was a note on my bed saying it would only last for 12 hours....” What did you do? Did you get up to mischief? Was it fun or scary? How did you manage to explain where you were when the spell wore off? (500 words max)

12 to 18 year olds. Subject – Let your imagination run wild and write a story that starts “The sky was pitch black and the wind could be heard howling through the trees.....” (1000 words max)

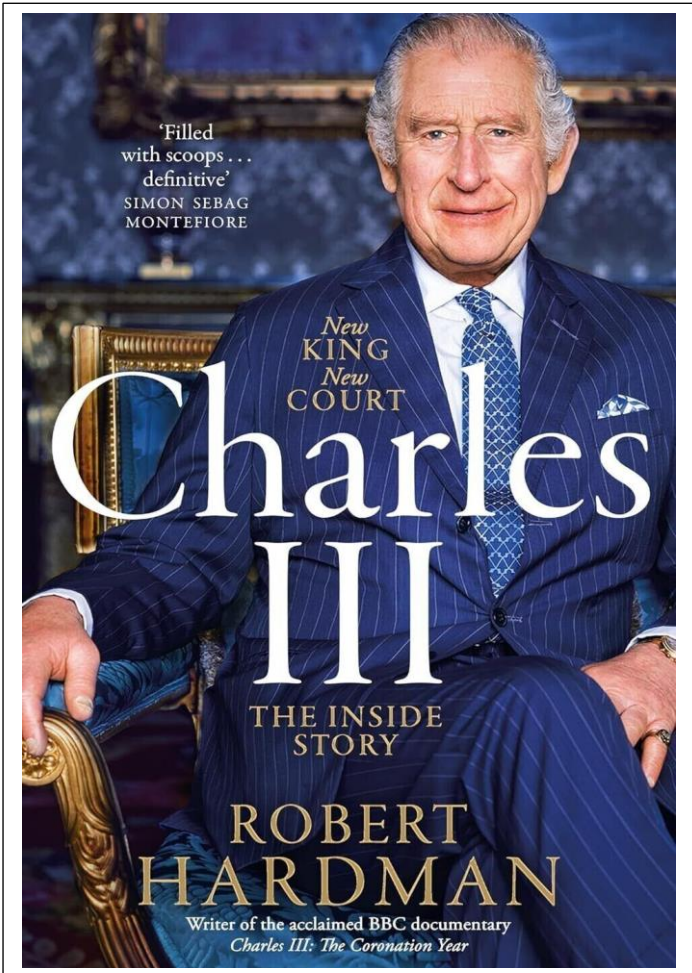
The competition is **NOW OPEN**. Hard copy entries, prose or poetry, to be sent to the Festival Office. Bay House East, Bay Hill, Ilminster TA19 by **MARCH 1**. Please attach another sheet with the author's name, age (as of August 31 2024) & contact details.

Become a Friend of ILF / Join our mailing list

Please consider becoming a Friend of the festival for 2024. In return for a subscription you receive not only our grateful thanks but a special Friends' event and other benefits. For full details and an application form email ilminsterlitfest@gmail.com Current Friends should by now have received a renewal form for 2024.

Please email the same address if you would like to be added to our mailing list and automatically receive newsletters and other information to your inbox.

Appearing at ILF 2024.....



ROBERT HARDMAN is a British journalist, author and documentary filmmaker. An authority on the Royal Family, he has been part of the BBC commentary team at every major state occasion of recent years, including the coronation of King Charles and funerals of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. He has been Royal Correspondent for The Daily Telegraph and currently writes for The Daily Mail.

Robert will be speaking about his latest book, just published – see cover and title on the left.



WES STREETING (left) is a Labour Party politician and Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. Previously he was Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty and before that for Schools.

Repeating an appearance at Cheltenham Literary Festival, Wes will be in conversation with Alan Johnson, a former politician himself and one of ILF's patrons.

Their topic will be Wes's book "One Boy, Two Bills and a Fry Up", about growing up in the East End of London and how family and education helped him escape poverty and transform his life.

For Literature and Arts Lovers Everywhere