

# BINSTED ARTS FESTIVAL



Programme of Events  
4, 10, 11 and 12 June 2022



*Meadow Lines*: screenprint by Gilly McCadden

Celebrating the artistic, cultural and natural heritage of Binsted,  
near Arundel, with a series of events in the creative arts

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# Events at a Glance

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## Saturday 4 June

**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** **Talk: *When Binsted Caught the Gothic Bug: How St Mary's Came to Look the Way We Expect Churches to Look* by Martin D W Jones**  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (£7.50)

## Friday 10 June

**2.00 pm - 3.30 pm** **Talk: *Dickens's Women* by Oliver Hawkins**  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (£7.50)

**6.30 pm - 8.30 pm** **Poetry evening with competition prize-giving, and readings by prizewinners and judge Naomi Foyle**  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (free event)

## Saturday 11 June

**10.00 pm - 12.00 pm** ***Binsted's Wildlife and the A27 Arundel Bypass***  
**Guided walk led by Tony Whitbread**  
Meet at St Mary's Church, Binsted (£10.00)

**2.00 pm - 5.00 pm** **Pottery workshop led by Mike Copley**  
Forge Gallery, Walberton (£15.00)

**7.00 pm - 9.00 pm** ***Lines of Enquiry: a rhyming crime show written and performed by Simon Brett***  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (£12.00)

## Sunday 12 June

**11.30 am - 1.00 pm** **Talk: *Halnaker Hill and Beyond: Exploring the Past* by James McInnes**  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (£7.50)

**6.30 pm - 8.30 pm** **Climate emergency: reflecting on climate change through poetry and prose, with kora music, introduced by David Johnson**  
St Mary's Church, Binsted (free event)

## Saturday 4 June

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
St Mary's Church, Binsted  
Cost: £7.50

# WHEN BINSTED CAUGHT THE GOTHIC BUG: HOW ST MARY'S CAME TO LOOK THE WAY WE EXPECT CHURCHES TO LOOK

## Talk by Martin D W Jones

The restoration of St Mary's in 1868-69 created the church we see today. Why was this done? What was wrong with the church as it was? What was changed? What did it cost? Who paid for it? Was it modern or Medieval copyism?

In a mixture of PowerPoint talk and guided tour, Martin Jones will examine how a Victorian upgrade changed the way St Mary's was understood and experienced by the people of Binsted.

The architect responsible was Thomas Graham Jackson (1835-1924). He would make his name designing buildings for Oxford University and half of Oxford's colleges and became pivotal in the Arts and Crafts movement, decisive in art education and an authoritative architectural writer. At the start of his 63-year career, still a struggling unknown, he restored four West Sussex churches: Madehurst, Slindon, Binsted and Burpham. Binsted helped to set him on his way.



Martin Jones is an ecclesiastical historian by training and an architectural historian by interest. Now retired after a career as a teacher and an exam board officer, he has been studying the work of Sir Thomas Graham Jackson for thirty years and helped to secure the recent National Heritage List upgrade of St Mary's to Grade 2\*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

For information about booking, please see inside back cover.

Friday 10 June

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: £7.50

## DICKENS'S WOMEN: ANGELS OR DEMONS?

Talk by Oliver Hawkins

In 1844, Charles Dickens was invited to deliver a speech in Liverpool. Dickens was already well known, principally for the enormously popular *Pickwick Papers*, whose character Sam Weller's name had become almost synonymous with his own. So when Dickens found that the young pianist performing at the event was called Christiana Weller, he was greatly amused and invited his friend Thomas (Tommy) Thompson to go with him. Christiana played, and Dickens was enraptured.

Dickens was married, already with four children, and he very properly turned his attention to winning Christiana's hand for his friend Tommy. But his momentary infatuation reflects his deeply conflicted attitude to women, who appear either as angelic young creatures to be cherished, or wearisome, if not downright malignant, older matrons.

Oliver Hawkins will investigate the nature and origins of Dickens's views, both in his life and in his writings.



Arundel resident Oliver Hawkins is the great-great-grandson of Thomas (Tommy) Thompson, who met his future wife, Christiana Weller, through Dickens. The two men were close friends and their families remained close, with Dickens's younger brother Fred marrying Christiana's younger sister Anna.

Oliver is, of course, very grateful to Dickens for having brought his great-great-grandparents together.

Friday 10 June

6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: Free

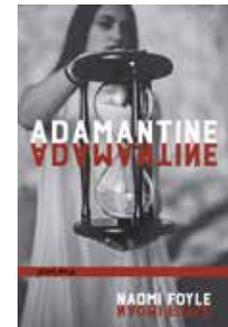
## POETRY EVENING

South Downs Poetry Festival Competition  
results and readings

This event is the culmination of the South Downs Poetry Festival poetry competition, which has been running through the spring 2022. The winners and commended poets are invited to read their poems in Binsted Church, and the competition judge Naomi Foyle will give a reading of her own poems and present the Binsted Prize.

All who love poetry will find this an enchanting experience, hearing poetry read in an intimate and historic setting, with traditional and contemporary music from Sussex folk group Rattlebag. Comments from previous years bear witness: 'An utterly charming event, delightful venue, and the poetry enhanced by words and music harmonising with the peaceful bucolic view.' 'What a treat, to hear poetry read as the sun goes down over the valley outside and birdsong can be heard from nearby trees.'

An anthology of prizewinning and commended poems will be available on the evening.



Naomi Foyle is an award-winning British-Canadian writer, editor and educator. Her many poetry publications include *The Night Pavilion*, an Autumn 2008 PBS Recommendation, *The World Cup* (2010), also from Waterloo Press, and *Adamantine* (Red Hen/Pighog Press, US/UK, 2019). She is also the author of five science fiction novels, two verse dramas, and various essays and short stories, and has read her work in the UK, North America, Europe and Iraq.

Based in Brighton, she is a Reader in Critical Imaginative Writing at the University of Chichester and the Deputy Director of Waterloo Press.

Saturday 11 June

10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Meet at St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: £10.00

## BINSTED'S WILDLIFE AND THE A27 ARUNDEL BYPASS

Guided walk led by Tony Whitbread

The walk will take us to different landscapes and over superb wildlife habitats which would be ruined by the proposed A27 Arundel bypass. These will include the Binsted rife valley, a remote 'flushed fen' that would be under a viaduct; a field that would be turned into a replacement golf course; a wooded area where new planting and run-off ponds would affect the woodland edges; and a magnificent old hedge, rich in biodiversity, which would be torn down by the road and a bridge crossing.

Places are limited to 25 participants.



Tony Whitbread is President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, and national spokesman on woodland issues for the Wildlife Trusts. He continues to support conservation in the Arun area of Sussex as a trustee of the Arun Countryside Trust.

Saturday 11 June

2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Forge Gallery, Walberton

Cost: £15.00

## POTTERY WORKSHOP

Led by Mike Copley

Mike will lead a small group in hand building a vessel with impressed decoration of flowers and seed heads harvested from the surrounding countryside. The work will be coloured with oxides and later glazed and fired, creating a beautiful vase for participants to collect another day.

Beginners welcome. Places are limited to 6 participants.



Mike has many years' experience teaching slab work and throwing on the wheel to beginners. His own pots are functional stoneware, and he mixes and develops his own glazes.

Saturday 11 June

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: £12.00

## LINES OF ENQUIRY: A RHYMING CRIME SHOW ON THE THEME OF A POLICE PROCEDURAL

Written and acted by Simon Brett

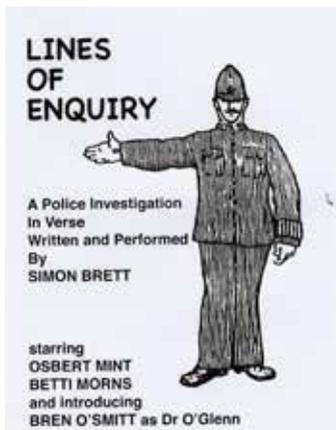
Simon Brett has published over a hundred books, many of them crime novels, including the Charles Paris, Mrs Pargeter, Fethering and Blotto & Twinks series. His stand-alone thriller, *A Shock to the System*, was made into a feature film starring Michael Caine.

Simon's writing for radio and television includes *After Henry*, *No Commitments* and *Smelling of Roses*. The actor Bill Nighy currently plays Charles Paris in the Radio 4 adaptations of his books.

In 2014, Simon was presented with the Diamond Dagger for lifetime achievement by the Crime Writers' Association; in 2016, he was awarded an OBE 'for services to literature'.

In *Lines of Enquiry*, Simon wittily sends up the clichés of police procedural crime fiction. Join him as he performs his one-man rhyming crime show. Spot the familiar tropes, unravel the anagrams and have a laugh at and with the characters.

After his performance, Simon will chat informally about his career as a writer, what he loves about performing his own work and what he plans to write about next. He will be happy to take questions from the audience.



Sunday 12 June

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: £7.50

## HALNAKER HILL AND BEYOND: EXPLORING THE PAST

Talk by James McInnes

Dr James McInnes will explore the way that people, over thousands of years, have created the Sussex landscape from the river Arun westwards. He will begin by looking at the windmill and other sites on Halnaker Hill, and then discuss topics such as Ancient Woodland and the Chichester Entrenchments.

His talk will focus on the range of techniques for finding out about the past, which can be used by members of the community to explore their own locality.



James McInnes comes from a teaching background and has a particular interest in landscape history and the way we memorialise the past.

He currently chairs the South Downs National Park Cultural Heritage volunteer group, which continues the work of the SDNP's *Secrets of the High Woods* project. This combined aerial surveying techniques (LiDAR), ground-truthing, documentary research and oral histories to reveal the cultural heritage of the area.

Sunday 12 June  
6.30 pm - 8.30 pm  
St Mary's Church, Binsted  
Cost: Free

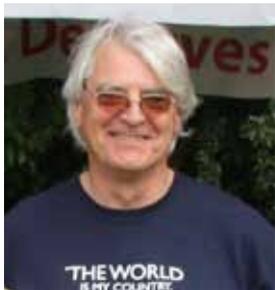
## CLIMATE EMERGENCY: REFLECTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH POETRY AND PROSE

Readings interspersed with music played on the kora  
(West African harp) by Storme of Earthsong Music  
Introduced by David Johnson

'Man is part of nature and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.' (Rachel Carson, from *Wild Reckoning*, ed. John Burnside and Maurice Riordan)

This event looks at how different writers (poets, commentators, novelists) have responded to the challenge posed for our planet by climate change resulting from the actions of human societies. This crisis has stimulated all sorts of reactions - from apocalyptic scenarios, through mourning for what has already been lost, to re-imaginings for a new relationship between humankind and the Earth.

The event is neither a call to arms nor a recipe for practical solutions, but rather aims to help us consider the climate emergency at both global and local level, and feel solidarity with others thinking and writing on the subject.



David Johnson lives on Shoreham Beach where, ten years ago, he co-founded Shoreham Wordfest. He chaired CPRE Sussex (the countryside charity which aims to shape the future of Sussex) for more than six years, placing a response to the climate emergency at its heart. In the past, David taught on international MBAs in China, Japan, Argentina and Europe, having previously worked to develop public services and racial equality.

## HOW TO BOOK

To reserve a place at any of the events, please use the booking form enclosed in the printed programme or downloadable from the website ([www.binsted.org/arts-festival](http://www.binsted.org/arts-festival)).

Places can be reserved by email ([bafbooking@edmart.plus.com](mailto:bafbooking@edmart.plus.com)) or by phone (01243 555778). Once availability is confirmed, payment in advance is requested, either by cheque (payable to 'Binsted Arts' and posted to Binsted Arts Festival, Manor Lodge, The Street, Walberton, BN18 0PJ) or by BACS:

- Account Name: Binsted Arts
- Sort Code: 60-05-24
- Account Number: 24887048
- Reference: TICKETS

Places on the walk and workshop are strictly limited. If you book and then cannot attend, please inform us so that someone else can be offered a place

## WHERE TO FIND US



**St Mary's Church, Binsted is at BN18 0LL.** If coming west along the A27, take the left turn marked Binsted. (Sat Navs and Google Maps suggest that a left turn nearer Arundel goes through to Binsted - it doesn't.) Parking is at the **Old Rectory**, just past St Mary's Church on the left. There is no parking in Binsted Lane.

**Forge Gallery, Walberton is at BN18 0PQ.** From the A27, take the B2132 south to the mini roundabout, turn right into The Street and the venue is immediately on the right. Parking is at the **village car park** in Walberton, just past the parade of shops and before you reach the Holly Tree pub.

The nearest train station is **Barnham**. There is a taxi office next to the station (01243 551753).

# THANKS

The Binsted Arts Festival Committee is grateful to Lollipop Print in Chichester for the programme design, and to the session leaders and all who have helped make the Binsted Arts Festival possible this year.

