

#Low House LitFest

SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST

Remarkable Journeys – A post-lockdown celebration

All events followed by signings in Pavilion



Emma Shercliff

Barn-loving Emma has swapped woodworms for bookworms. Queen of the Lit Fest schedule, she's taken inspiration from British Leyland - turning her hand to a Maxi or a Mini.



11.00 – 11.45

Pathways to Publishing: Ask the Agent - Meet the Publisher

Emma Shercliff | Phoebe Morgan | Camilla Balshaw



Phoebe Morgan

Raised in Suffolk, Phoebe likes to fill the pages of her thrillers with characters who all seem to be guilty of something. It's a bit like an evening in the smoking shelter down the Low House.

Written a book but not sure how to get it published? Want to know more about the role of a literary agent? Suffolk-based literary agent Emma Shercliff and publisher Phoebe Morgan, editorial director at HarperFiction, are here to answer your questions about the publishing process. They are joined by author Camilla Balshaw, a graduate of Goldsmiths Creative & Life Writing MA.



Camilla Balshaw

Yoga-teaching Camilla can easily stretch to award-winning writing too. After living around the world for many years she swapped it all for the bright lights of Norfolk. She's happy on or off the mat which is just as well when you look at the floor in this tent.

12.00 – 12.45

Slightly On Th'Huh: Charlie Haylock speaks Suffolk with Lesley Dolphin

Charlie Haylock has spent decades documenting the Suffolk dialect, writing mardles and monologues, and visiting local schools to lecture on the history of the English language. His first book, *Slightly On Th'Huh*, outsold Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* in Suffolk. Charlie shot to national fame in 2020 as the dialect-coach on 'The Dig', tutoring actors Ralph Fiennes and Monica Dolan to perfect their pronunciation. Charlie discusses his work, and the importance of preserving our precious Suffolk dialect, with Radio Suffolk's Lesley Dolphin.



Charlie Haylock

From Suffercating film scripts to larning local school children the importance of preserving our dialect, Charlie is one of Suffolk's bestselling authors. No furrener to these parts, he once spent the night in the Low House Pavilion!



Lesley Dolphin

Raised across the border, Lesley has been keeping listeners company at Radio Suffolk for over 30 years. A huge supporter of local authors, we're delighted that Dolphin's Dart has landed in Laxfield for this year's Litfest.

13.00 - 13.45

Jenni Keer & Lesley Kara

In conversation with Phoebe Morgan



Jenni Keer

Suffolk-based novelist and formation dance enthusiast. The self-declared Eric Morecambe of romance writers, Jenni is equally at home in the exciting world of contract flooring.

Bestselling authors Lesley Kara and Jenni Keer – who both publish their third books in 2021 - discuss their paths to commercial success with crime author and commercial fiction publisher Phoebe Morgan. Lesley's first novel *The Rumour* was the highest selling print crime fiction debut of 2019, has been optioned for TV and sold in over 18 territories. Jenni's first book, *The Hopes and Dreams of Lucy Baker* was shortlisted for the Katie Fforde Debut Romantic Novel Award – a happy ending for an author who wrote four full-length novels before finding a publisher.



Lesley Kara

Queen of the thriller, best-seller Lesley hails from the county with hardly any crime... Essex. In her latest novel "The Dare", a mystery in the countryside changes lives forever, much like a trip to Laxfield.

Low House LitFest

14.00 - 14.45

Remarkable Journeys of the Second World War Victoria Panton Bacon & Wendy Holden

In conversation with Rob Nisbet



Victoria Panton Bacon, author of *Remarkable Journeys of the Second World War*, has spent years documenting the memories and testimonies of WW2 veterans, a literary journey that began with the discovery of her grandfather's memoirs in a garage. Wendy Holden is the author of more than 40 books, including Sunday Times bestseller *Born Survivors*, which documents the experiences of three mothers sent to Auschwitz and their 'miracle babies' born in the camps. Wendy has her own remarkable story, moving in with Captain Tom Moore and his family under lockdown to help write his autobiography *Tomorrow Will Be a Good Day*. Victoria and Wendy reveal their research processes and what drives them to capture other people's stories.



Victoria Panton Bacon

Bungay's own Victoria owes much to a chance discovery in a cardboard box. Her grandfather's memoirs inspired her career in war writing. Proof if it were needed of the value of hoarding.

Wendy Holden

Hit writer Wendy swapped war reporting for Suffolk. Her years in combat were perfect preparation for navigating the pavements in Aldeburgh in August. From Captain Tom to Dean Martin, she's captured the stories of some of life's most captivating names.

15.00 - 15.45

Esther Freud

In conversation with Emma Shercliff



Esther Freud's nine novels include two set in Suffolk - *The Sea House* and *Mr Mac and Me*, winner of Best Novel in the East Anglian Book Awards - and the semi-autobiographical *Hideous Kinky*. Her latest novel, *I Couldn't Love You More*, is the story of three generations of women and their journeys through love, marriage, pregnancy and motherhood, from the 1960s to the present day. Esther talks about her writing life, her literary inspiration and her attachment to Suffolk.



Robert Nisbet

Debonair Debenham-dwelling train-spotter. After years on TV, Robert's now running the railways, and is equally at home in the boardroom or the tap room.



Esther Freud

Suffolk star who fills bookstores with hit titles but didn't learn to read till she was ten. Her Walberswick home was once the village inn, joining many in the audience who basically live in a pub. Drink up when told - she once had a role in The Bill!

16.00 - 16.45

Richard Mabey

In conversation with Paddy O'Connell



Richard Mabey has been a pioneering voice in modern nature writing for five decades. His latest book, *Turning the Boat for Home*, is a collection of pieces from his rich writing life that reflect on how his ideas evolved as well as the profound changes in our environment. In conversation with Paddy O'Connell, Richard will reflect on his work, and how limitations on travel have encouraged many to engage more closely with the nature around us.



Richard Mabey

Norfolk-loving woodsman and godfather of nature writing. From foraging to mental health, Richard's put it all down on paper, and on the small screen too. Even he can't escape the muntjacs which eat his tulips.

17.15 - 18.00

Judging the (Laxfield) Booker Prize



Laxfield Book Club Supremo Bill Shuttle has spent more than a decade trying to corral the unruly members of his local book group, even developing a scoring system used to decide the annual Laxfield Booker Prize. He compares notes, and awards ceremonies, with Gaby Wood, Literary Director of the (actual) Booker Prize. Paddy O'Connell presides.



Paddy O'Connell

A broadcast favourite, Paddy loves to fill a room with the sound of laughter... normally his own. With the perfect face for radio, he only works at weekends, when the Low House is finally open.



Gaby Wood

Gaby may run the top prize in books but she's in the right place today... she dreams of being a florist. Let's hope Kirk has watered the Low House pots. She often reads twenty-five books at the same time - more than Paddy O'Connell's read in his life.



Bill Shuttle

Laxfield's Richard Osman runs one of the village book groups. Like the TV star quiz host, his rules on the winning book thrill his fans but are largely pointless.