

## Abergavenny Writing Festival Schedule April 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

**Tyler Keevil 'The Writer's Habit & Finding Your Muse', Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10-11am, Kings Arms Hotel, £6 [Buy tickets here](#)**

In this workshop, award-winning author and Creative Writing lecturer Tyler Keevil will guide participants through the initial stages of the creative process. It is aimed at beginning and aspiring writers looking to find out more about the craft, and have some fun while doing so.

**Rhys Milsom 'Poetry Workshop', Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 11.30am-12.30pm, Kings Arms Hotel, £6 [Buy tickets here](#)**

A chance for participants to craft a poem based on their own mindset and experiences that is unique to them. This workshop will focus on enjambment and free verse style with participants using stimuli to spark ideas and creativity.

**Simon Lancaster 'Speak like a leader speechwriting workshop', Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 1-3pm Kings Arms Hotel, £15 [Buy tickets here](#)**

In his new book, *Winning Minds: Secrets from the Language of Leadership*, top speechwriter Simon Lancaster combines ancient rhetoric and neuroscience to create the ultimate user's guide to that secret language. In this workshop, you will learn the secret tricks you can use to sound like a great leader. You will never think about language the same again.

**Writing For Fun 'Writing Family Stories & Memoir workshop', Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 3.30-5pm, Kings Arms Hotel, £6.50 [Buy tickets here](#)**

Remember Granny's button jar? Grandad's paper knife? What Aunt Miranda did in 1948 . . . Bring along an object as inspiration for a workshop on capturing family stories and writing memoir. Suitable for all writing levels beginner or old hand.

**'Bookshops Confidential' with Jack Thurston, Jane Blank and Joanna Chambers, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 6-7pm, Broadleaf Books, £5 [Buy tickets here](#)**

A good bookshop is a secret weapon in the writer's armoury: as a source of inspiration and ideas, a resource for research and a place of refuge. Poet and novelist Jane Blank and travel writer Jack Thurston share their love of bookshops with Joanna Chambers, owner of Broadleaf Books.

**'Opening night' with Paul Henry, Charles Way, Patrick Hannay, D. D. Johnston and Eddie Butler, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7-11pm, Kings Arms Hotel, £8 [Buy tickets here](#)**

An entertaining and inspiring evening of writers reading their work, sharing insights and singing! The fabulous and eclectic line-up includes: the much respected poet's poet Paul Henry; novelist and creative writing teacher D.D. Johnston, highly esteemed playwright Charles Way, journalist and editor Patrick Hannay and sports commentator and former Welsh rugby union player Eddie Butler.

**Fergus Collins, editor of BBC Countryfile Magazine, 'how to get published', Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10-11am, Kings Arms Hotel, £6.50 [Buy tickets here](#)**

Fergus Collins, editor of BBC Countryfile Magazine will share his insights on: Easy ways to get a head-start over most other writers; What editors are looking for from YOU; How to write the perfect pitch – and get it noticed; How to follow up a pitch and get commissioned (and paid!); How to write articles for the web that people want to read and a discussion about how to generate great, original copy.

**'Foraging talk and walk' with Adele Nozedar, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 11.30am-12.30pm, starting and finishing at Kings Arms Hotel, £6 [Buy tickets here](#)**

Adele Nozedar is the author of bestselling books 'The Hedgerow Handbooks' and 'The Garden Forager'. Join her in a taster forage around Abergavenny, taking in both wild plants and 'tame' ones.

**Abergavenny Chronicle, 'How to write effective press releases & get them noticed', Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1-2pm, Abergavenny Chronicle offices, £3 [Buy tickets here](#)**

If you are acting as a press or marketing officer get tips from the experts in this hour-long workshop session with Abergavenny Chronicle editor Liz Davies and the Borough Theatre's communications manager Lynsey Wheeler. The introduction to press and marketing will include tips on how to write effective press releases and how to get your information noticed.

**Rob Yorke 'Walk & talk on the art of pithy prose', Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2-3pm, start and finish at The Kings Arms Hotel, £6 [Buy tickets here](#)**

'I haven't the time to write a short letter!' How to fit more into less; from Letters to The Times to pithy tweets, Rob Yorke discusses the art of communicating pithy prose. Join Rob, an independent commentator on rural affairs, for a walk and talk around The Meadows.

**Arts Alive Creative Network, 'Meet the Professionals: Editing & Publishing', Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 4-5.30pm, The Kings Arms Hotel, £7 [Buy tickets here](#)**

Hosted by the Creative Network this event will provide a professional insight into getting your work published. If you want to learn more about the publishing process and how to expand your readership join us for an informative panel discussion with leading authors Tom Bullough and Rachel Trezise, Seren editor Penny Thomas and publisher Simon Hicks.

**'Wild Mapping' with Wild Tots, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 10-30am to midday, Linda Vista Gardens, £4 [Buy tickets here](#)**

This event is inspired by the 'Childish' chapter in Robert MacFarlane's book 'Landmarks'. A chance for children to explore and enjoy outdoor spaces together. For 0-7 year olds and their families.

**Imaginary Monsters with Naomi Doyle, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 10-11am The Kings Arms Hotel, £3 [Buy tickets here](#)**

In this fun and fearsome workshop we will imagine, describe and make monsters in person and on paper. Through writing and rhyming, performing and improvising, we will bring our creatures to life and scare ourselves silly! For 7-11 year olds.

**'Percy the Pom Pom bear book launch', Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 11.15-11.45am, The Kings Arms Hotel, FREE [Reserve ticket here](#)**

Come and meet Welsh writer Mari Ellis Dunning reading from her new book 'Percy the Pom Pom Bear.' Percy came to her late one night while she was still studying for her undergraduate degree at Aberystwyth University. The book is aimed at 3-6 year olds.

**'Children's Poetry Workshop' with Young People's Laureate for Wales Sophie McKeand, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2-3pm, The Kings Arms Hotel, £3 [Buy tickets here](#)**

Working together our group will be masters of invention, dreaming up new words and language inspired by Roald Dahl's writings. We'll climb inside words, chew them up, garble them through translation systems, draw them huge, tear them up and stick them together again as we then focus on how to shape all this on the page. Finally we'll work on some performance techniques before reading our poetry at the end of the session. Aimed at children aged 8-11.

**Reading 'The Magic Piano' with author Helen O'Sullivan, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 3.30-4pm, Kings Arms Hotel, FREE [Reserve your ticket here](#)**

Come and listen to Helen read the enchanting adventures of Freddie and POCO: who are magically transported by Magic Piano to exciting foreign locations. In this adventure they discover the wonders of Paris, the eternal city of light. Join our intrepid explorers in their latest adventure.

**'Creative Ways to Write with Matthew James Dicken', Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 4.30-5.30pm, Kings Arms Hotel, £3 [Buy your tickets here](#)**

The session is aimed at children (aged around 9-14), their parents and aspiring children's writers. In this session, writer Matthew will give you an opportunity to try out some of the ways he uses to inspire writing and description. This interactive session will include a special sneak-peak reading of Matthew's new trilogy due to be published next year.

**'Word fuelled Saturday night shindig with Robert Penn, Mark Blayney, Jonathan Edwards, Matthew Plumb and Sophie McKeand', Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7-11pm, Kings Arms Hotel, £8 [Buy your tickets here](#)**

Robert Penn, writer and broadcaster author of 'The Man Who Made Things out of Trees' and 'It's all About the Bike' will give a talk and compere the evening. Writer and performer Mark Blayney, will perform his hilarious solo show: 'Be your own Life Coach with Abba.' Costa poetry prize winner Jonathan Edwards and "Tree Surgeon Poet" Matthew Plumb will read some of their own poems. And Sophie McKeand (young people's Laureate, Wales) will host an open-mic poetry session.