

QUEEN'S PARK BOOK FESTIVAL

2 & 3 SEPTEMBER 2023



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The Queen's Park
Book Festival

QUEEN'S PARK
BOOK FESTIVAL

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WELCOME TO QUEEN'S PARK BOOK FESTIVAL

THOMAS DU PLESSIS

Thank you for joining us at the 2023 Queen's Park Book Festival, for what will be an inspiring, creative and energising weekend in the park. The festival now regularly features in the lists of London's best cultural events for the summer and is widely recognised as a festival featuring a broad range of established and emerging talent. Every year, our energy for the festival is renewed with your continued support and enthusiasm.

Our 2023 programme opens and closes with two inspirational local heroes. Opening the festival, Associate Deputy Headteacher at Alperton Community School and winner of the Global Teacher Award, Andria Zafirakou celebrates her second book *Lessons in Life*, sharing wisdom and insight from teachers around the world. Closing the festival on Sunday, celebrated novelist Zadie Smith will return to the festival with her first historical novel *The Fraud*.

In between these events is an exciting and broad programme of fiction, cookery, memoir, poetry and current affairs, featuring over 50 authors in three stages. We are always looking for new ways to attract audiences to our fantastic festival. This year we are launching our first Saturday comedy night, giving you the opportunity to relax with a beer at the end of a great day in the park.

Every year our impact is growing. In 2023 the festival was awarded funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for another year in recognition of its innovation and cultural contribution to Queen's Park and the London Borough of Brent. We remain ambitious and excited as ever to welcome more people to the festival, collaborating with local schools, charities and other organisations to bring literary arts to the heart of London.

I am indebted to my fantastic team, whose commitment, skill and excitement for the festival have given it the strongest possible foundations from which to grow. Please join me in thanking them, as well as all our authors and participants, in another great Queen's Park Book Festival.

Thomas du Plessis
Director





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FESTIVAL TEAM

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PR	Emma Pettit Margaret London
DESIGN & BRANDING	Luke Pajak www.lukepajak.com

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Thank you to Jess Allan and the team at **Queen's Park Books**.
Thank you to Paul Brown and the **City of London** team.
Thank you to Ashley and David Brown and the **Good Space** team.

Thank you to all the many volunteers who join and help make
the Festival happen across the weekend.

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Alexander McKenzie Stage

Walter MacFarlane Stage

Queen's Park Community Tent

11:30

**Children's Event:
Rob Biddulph**

A drawing-filled storytelling event with the bestselling author and illustrator

12:00

12:30

13:00

Lessons in Life:

Andria Zafirakou

Winner of the Global Teacher Prize celebrates her inspiring new book

13:30

14:00

Rory Cellan-Jones. Ruskin

Park: Sylvia, Me and the BBC

A compelling journey of discovery from broadcaster, podcaster & rescue dog tweeter

Queens Park Voices

Hosted by Chrys Salt MBE

Local poets and writers discuss their work and pieces written for the festival

14:30

Michel Roux: At Home

Michelin-starred chef Michel

Roux reveals the joy of cooking simple and delicious French meals at home

15:00

15:30

**Granta Best of Young
British Novelists**

Three award winning authors of different generations discuss their work

Whispering Walls

Poet, scholar and novelist Choman Hardi in conversation with Shyama Perera

16:00

**NHS at 75: How will
healthcare look in the
next decades?**

Isabel Hardman, Henry Marsh and Hugh Pym in discussion

16:30

17:00

**Nick Laird &
Matthew Hollis**

Two distinguished poets reveal their new collections

**Tell Me Who I Am: Marcus &
Alex Lewis with Louise Chunn**

Queen's Park locals discuss their groundbreaking documentary and book

17:30

**Sebastian Faulks:
The Seventh Son**

The best-selling novelist talks about his thought-provoking new book *The Seventh Son*

18:00

18:30

The Big What!

Performance poetry: Sharmay Mitchell, Basmah Mohamed, Lashay Green, AMD Speaks. Hosted by Prestige Karlla

19:00

Festival Comedy Night | Alexander McKenzie Stage

Featuring Shazia Mirza, Otiz Cannelloni, Mike Gunn and Mark Maier

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

Alexander McKenzie Stage

Walter MacFarlane Stage

Queen's Park Community Tent

**Children's Event:
Christopher Edge**
Save the world in the
ultimate escape room

11:30

12:00

12:30

**Uneasy Inheritances: Polly
Toynbee & Melissa Benn**
Two writers from well-known
radical families debate the
politics of privilege and dissent

**Race, Culture, Identity:
Tomiwa Owolade, Kenan Malik**
Two outstanding writers
challenge our understanding
of race in Britain today

Kilburn Up High!
Celebrating life in Kilburn:
John Morrison & Linett
Kamala in conversation
with Marina Cantacuzino

13:00

13:30

14:00

**Inside Stories of 21st Century
Diplomacy: Catherine Ashton**
A former senior diplomat
speaks about European
history and politics

Matt Adlard: Bake it Better
The baking star shares his
methods for mastering your
baking techniques

Firebrands
Elizabeth Fremantle
in conversation with
Alice Bhandhukravi

14:30

15:00

15:30

**Hitler, Stalin, Mum and
Dad: Daniel Finkelstein**
The celebrated political
columnist and commentator
reveals a powerful family memoir

**Ayòbámi Adébáyò
and Stephen Buoro**
Two young authors of
Nigerian heritage talk
about their new novels

A Matter of Grave Concern
Discover the weird and
wonderful history of our
local burial grounds

16:00

16:30

17:00

The Fraud: Zadie Smith
Queen's Park resident
Zadie Smith returns to the
festival with her new novel

Refugee Stand Up Comedy
The smash hit event returns
to the Community Tent!

17:30

18:00

18:30



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*Happy to Sponsor the
Queen's Park Book Festival*



NATASHA BROWN
Granta's Best of Young British Novelists 5 (2023)

The list that announced **KAZUO ISHIGURO**, **ZADIE SMITH**, **SALMAN RUSHDIE**, **KAMILA SHAMSIE**, **RACHEL CUSK**, **MARTIN AMIS** and many more. Published every ten years since 1983.

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HOW TO BOOK

QUEENSPARKBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Tickets are available to purchase for each event from queensparkbookfestival.co.uk or from the Box Office over the weekend. All events in the Alexander McKenzie and Walter MacFarlane Stages require a ticket.

Please show your mobile or printed tickets to gain entry to the events.

Events in the Queen's Park Community Tent are free and tickets are not required.



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HOW TO FIND US

QUEEN'S PARK, LONDON, NW6 6SG

All events take place inside beautiful Queen's Park. The park is a 5 minute walk from Queen's Park tube station or Brondesbury Park overground station.

There is limited parking immediately surrounding Queen's Park and in the roads immediately adjacent to the park. Patrons are strongly advised to use public transport wherever possible.



RORY CELLAN-JONES

RUSKIN PARK: SYLVIA, ME AND THE BBC

A COMPELLING JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FROM BROADCASTER, PODCASTER AND RESCUE DOG TWEETER @RUSKIN147

After a 40-year career at BBC News, most recently as Technology Correspondent, Rory has written and broadcast on a wide range of subjects. *Always On: Hope and Fear in the Social Smartphone Era* was published in 2021. *Ruskin Park: Sylvia, Me and the BBC*, his latest book out this year, is a memoir of his mother and the BBC from wartime radio broadcasts to the golden era of TV drama. Rory appears on the Movers and Shakers podcast with Jeremy Paxman and others discussing life with Parkinson's. He will be in discussion with BBC Health Editor Hugh Pym.



Saturday 2 September 13:00 - 14:00
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £8)

QUEEN'S PARK VOICES

LOCAL POETS AND WRITERS DISCUSS THEIR WORK AND PIECES WRITTEN FOR THE FESTIVAL

Local poets and writers Sue Greenhill, Catherine Nicolson, Simon Savage and Ghareeb Iskander discuss their work and read pieces written especially for the book festival. Hosted by the actor and award-winning poet Chrys Salt MBE.

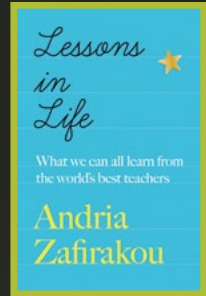


Saturday 2 September 13:00 - 14:00
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)

LESSONS IN LIFE: ANDRIA ZAFIRAKOU

WINNER OF THE GLOBAL TEACHER PRIZE
CELEBRATES HER INSPIRING NEW BOOK

Teachers spend a lot of time with their pupils – talking and listening to them, observing, and guiding them. What can we learn from teachers about helping kids become compassionate, contented, and successful grown-ups, as well as conscientious global citizens? In *Lessons in Life*, Andria Zafirakou – the 2018 Global Teacher Prize winner – talks to 30 of the best teachers in the world willing to share their insight and wisdom, gained from years of working with children of all ages. The result is an inspiring, moving, and fascinating read that will help parents identify a child’s potential and give them the tools to shine. Andria will be in conversation with festival director Thomas du Plessis.



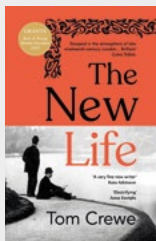
Saturday 2 September 13:00 - 14:00
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)



GRANTA BEST OF YOUNG BRITISH NOVELISTS

THREE AWARD WINNING AUTHORS OF DIFFERENT
GENERATIONS DISCUSS THEIR WORK

Every ten years since 1983 *Granta* magazine has published a list of twenty of the best young novelists of the day. This year Tom Crewe, whose first novel *The New Life*, is on the list. Ten years ago Adam Thirlwell, whose latest novel is *The Future Future*, was selected, and twenty years ago Andrew O'Hagan, whose most recent novel is *Mayflies*, was selected. Tom and Adam will be in conversation with Andrew about their novels and about what it means to be a *Granta* Best of Young British Novelist. This event is sponsored by *Granta*.



GRANTA

Saturday 2 September 14:30 - 15:30
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £8)

WHISPERING WALLS

POET, SCHOLAR AND NOVELIST CHOMAN HARDI
IN CONVERSATION WITH SHYAMA PERERA

Renowned poet, scholar, novelist and Queen's Park local Choman Hardi discusses her life and work with the writer and broadcaster Shyama Perera. In association with refugee charity Salusbury World.

Saturday 2 September 14:30 - 15:30
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)



MICHEL ROUX: AT HOME

MICHELIN-STARRED CHEF MICHEL ROUX REVEALS THE JOY OF COOKING SIMPLE AND DELICIOUS FRENCH MEALS AT HOME

Celebrated chef and restaurateur Michel Roux joins the festival to share his latest feast of mouth-watering everyday recipes with his new book *At Home*. Focusing on some of his favourite French food to cook at home, Michel will delight in family classics that have been passed down through the generations. He will be joined by award-winning writer, journalist and broadcaster Jay Rayner to discuss his remarkable career and his tastiest recipes from *At Home*.

Saturday 2 September 14:30 - 15:30
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)



This event is proudly sponsored by

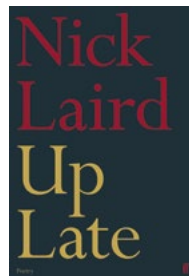
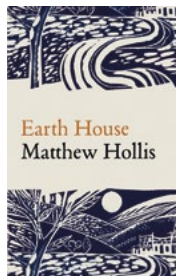


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NICK LAIRD & MATTHEW HOLLIS

TWO DISTINGUISHED POETS REVEAL THEIR NEW COLLECTIONS

Poet and novelist Nick Laird and poet and biographer Matthew Hollis have recently published new collections. In *Up Late* Nick confronts questions of aloneness, friendship, and the push and pull of daily life. At the book's heart lies a profound meditation on a father's dying. In *Earth House* Matthew Hollis evokes the landscape, language and ecology of the isles of Britain and Ireland to explore how our most intimate moments have resonance in the wider cycle of life.



Saturday 2 September 16:00 - 17:00
Walter MacFarlane Stage (*Tickets £8*)

TELL ME WHO I AM: MARCUS AND ALEX LEWIS WITH LOUISE CHUNN

QUEEN'S PARK LOCALS DISCUSS THEIR GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY AND BOOK

Queen's Park locals Alex and Marcus Lewis discuss their colourful careers and their groundbreaking book and documentary *Tell Me Who I Am* with award-winning journalist and founder of the therapy platform 'Welldoing', Louise Chunn.



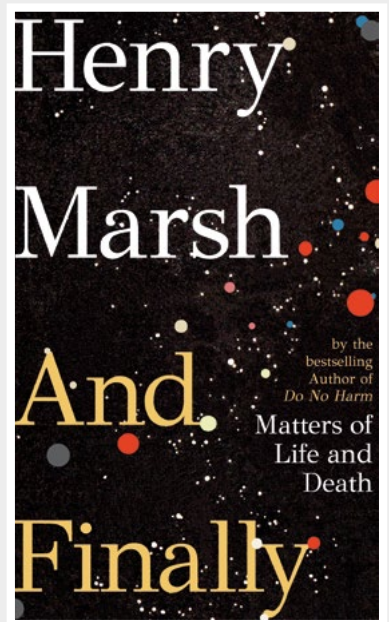
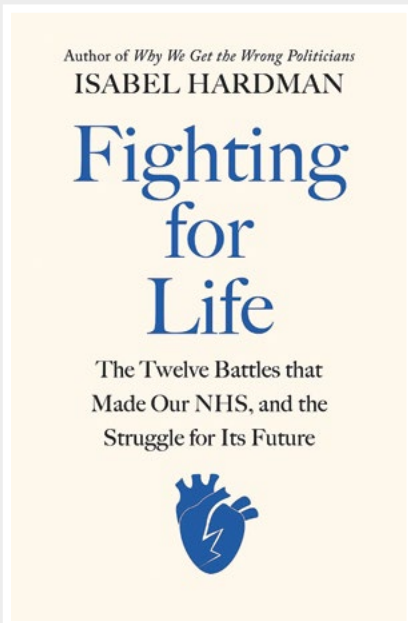
Saturday 2 September 16:00 - 17:00
Queen's Park Community Tent (*Free Event*)

NHS AT 75: HOW WILL HEALTHCARE LOOK IN THE NEXT DECADES?

ISABEL HARDMAN, HENRY MARSH AND HUGH PYM IN DISCUSSION

The NHS has marked its 75th birthday this year. But celebrations were muted given an uncertain outlook for the health service. The continuing impact of the pandemic on waiting lists and public health has cast a long shadow. Strike action by NHS staff has dominated headlines. Debates about long term funding and workforce planning continue. At the same time technology and digital services offer intriguing possibilities for future patient care. To discuss the state of UK health now and in the future, Isobel Hardman and Henry Marsh join BBC Health Editor Hugh Pym.

Saturday 2 September 16:00 - 17:00
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)

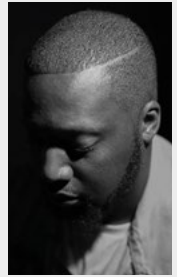
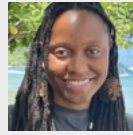


THE BIG WHAT!

PERFORMANCE POETS RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY TENT!

The Community Tent is delighted to present more fabulous performance poetry from some of Brent's finest poets. With Sharmay Mitchell, Basmah Mohamed, Lashay Green and AMD Speaks. Hosted by performance poetry maestro Prestige Karlla.

Saturday 2 September 17:30 - 18:30
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)

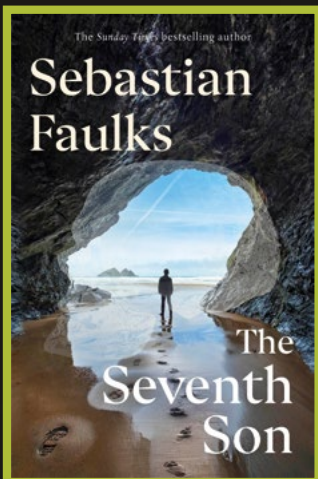


SEBASTIAN FAULKS: THE SEVENTH SON

THE BEST-SELLING NOVELIST TALKS ABOUT HIS
THOUGHT-PROVOKING NEW BOOK THE SEVENTH SON

When a young woman named Talissa answers an advert to carry a child she cannot begin to imagine the consequences. Behind the doors of the Parn Institute a billionaire entrepreneur plans to stretch the boundaries of ethics as never before. Through a series of IVF treatments he sets in motion an experiment that is set to transform the human race as we know it. *The Seventh Son* is a profound examination of what it is to be human. Sebastian will be in conversation with Peter Kemp, Chief Fiction Critic on the *Sunday Times*.

Saturday 2 September 17:30 - 18:30
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £12)



FESTIVAL COMEDY NIGHT

FEATURING SHAZIA MIRZA, OTIZ CANNELLONI, MIKE GUNN, MARK MAIER

Put down your books, grab a beer and join us for our first ever Saturday night Comedy Night with four award-winning comedians in our festival main stage! In this fantastic line up, Shazia Mirza, Otiz Cannelloni and Mike Gunn will bring their distinctive performances with Mark Maier as MC. 90 minutes, including 15 minute interval

Saturday 2 September 19:00 - 20:45
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £15)





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SATURDAY CHILDREN'S EVENT

ROB BIDDULPH

A DRAWING-FILLED STORYTELLING EVENT WITH THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Join award-winning and Lockdown Legend Rob Biddulph for a fun, drawing-filled, story-telling event! Rob will launch his new, action packed book, *Peanut Jones and the End of the Rainbow*, the final book in the bestselling Peanut Jones trilogy, and early copies will be available to buy before it hits the shops! Rob will tell us how his notorious villain Mr White will stop at nothing to wipe out colour and creativity everywhere. But he's gone too far! This time he's lured Peanut's mum into terrible danger and only Peanut and her friends can save her... Age guide: 6+



Saturday 2 September 11:30 - 12:30
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £5)



SUNDAY CHILDREN'S EVENT

CHRISTOPHER EDGE

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE MANY WORLDS OF ALBIE BRIGHT,
THE JAMIE DRAKE EQUATION, THE INFINITE LIVES OF MAISIE DAY

Welcome to The Escape – the ultimate Escape Room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. But wait, this is no ordinary game... Do you dare to play? Join author Christopher Edge on a heart-racing journey as he brings The Escape to life and explore the imaginative, empowering world of his mind-bendingly brilliant novel, *Escape Room*. Can you help find the Answer and save the world?

Sunday 3 September 11:30 - 12:30
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £5)

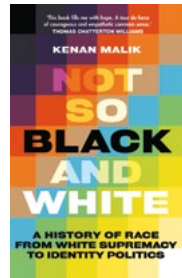


RACE, CULTURE, IDENTITY: TOMIWA OWOLADE, KENAN MALIK

TWO OUTSTANDING WRITERS CHALLENGE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF RACE IN BRITAIN TODAY

The past few years have seen issues of race, culture and identity brought to the centreground of political and social debate. As these ideas remain contested, two writers have made subtle and compelling cases for a reassessment of the many assumptions that govern these discussions. Tomiwa Owolade's new book *This is Not America* provides a humane, empirical and passionate argument for a new and bold framework for understanding race in Britain today. In *Not So Black and White*, Kenan Malik approaches the issues with a long view of race, upending many assumptions that underpin today's heated debate around race and culture. They will discuss their new work with festival director Thomas du Plessis.

Sunday 3 September 13:00 - 14:00
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £8)



KILBURN UP HIGH!

CELEBRATING LIFE IN KILBURN WITH JOHN MORRISON & LINETT KAMALA

With their photographic portraits on display in the Community Tent, we will be celebrating life and art in Kilburn with award-winning journalist and photographer John Morrison and interdisciplinary artist, educator and carnivalist Linett Kamala. Chaired by the author and broadcaster Marina Cantacuzino.

Sunday 3 September 13:00 - 14:00
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)

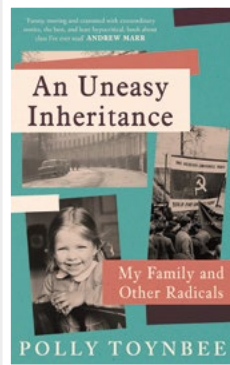


UNEASY INHERITANCES: POLLY TOYNBEE & MELISSA BENN

TWO WRITERS FROM WELL-KNOWN RADICAL FAMILIES
DEBATE THE POLITICS OF PRIVILEGE AND DISSENT

While for generations Polly Toynbee's ancestors have been committed left-wingers, they could never claim to be working-class, settling instead for the prosperous worlds of academia and journalism. The Benn family have a long history of public radicalism, and Tony Benn famously renounced his peerage. In this event Polly and Melissa talk about the enduring power of social class in modern Britain, and how it works for – and against – those who call for social change. Polly's new memoir *An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals*, will be on sale in the festival bookshop.

Sunday 3 September 13:00 - 14:00
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)



MATT ADLARD: BAKE IT BETTER

THE BAKING STAR SHARES HIS METHODS FOR MASTERING YOUR BAKING TECHNIQUES

Instagram, Youtube and TikTok sensation Matt Adlard shares his tried-and-true baking approach to help you advance from intermediate to master baker. With passion and flair, Matt will share his secrets to elevating baking from refreshingly refined to extraordinarily elegant.

Sunday 3 September 14:30 - 15:30
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £8)



FIREBRANDS

ELIZABETH FREMANTLE IN CONVERSATION WITH ALICE BHANDHUKRAVI

Critically acclaimed local author Elizabeth Fremantle discusses her new book *Disobedient*, about the artist Artemisia Gentileschi, and the forthcoming feature film *Firebrand*, adapted from her novel *Queen's Gambit*, with TV news journalist Alice Bhandhukravi.

Sunday 3 September 14:30 - 15:30
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)



INSIDE STORIES OF 21ST CENTURY DIPLOMACY: CATHERINE ASHTON

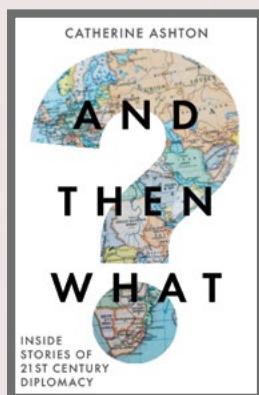
A FORMER SENIOR DIPLOMAT SPEAKS ABOUT EUROPEAN HISTORY & POLITICS

Baroness Ashton was from 2009 to 2014 High Commissioner of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. As such she was effectively the European Union's foreign minister. She won high praise for her role in bringing Serbia and Kosovo to terms in 2013. In her new book *And Then What?* she gives a colourful insider's account of European diplomacy at a critical time. She will be in conversation with Misha Glenny, who is Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, and author of the book and television series *McMafia*.

Sunday 3 September 14:30 - 15:30
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)

'Fascinating and illuminating reading.'

Lord George Robertson,
Former Secretary General, NATO



AYÒBÁMI ADÉBÁYÒ AND STEPHEN BUORO

TWO YOUNG AUTHORS OF NIGERIAN HERITAGE
TALK ABOUT THEIR NEW NOVELS

Ayòbámi Adébáyò's new novel *A Spell of Good Things* is a dazzling story of modern Nigeria and two families caught in the riptides of wealth, power, romantic obsession and political corruption. In Stephen Buoro's first novel *The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa* the fifteen year-old protagonist hangs out in Kontagora with his droogs, fantasizing about white girls. Ayòbámi and Stephen will be in conversation about their books with Claire Armitstead, Associate Editor of Culture at *The Guardian*.



Sunday 3 September 16:00 - 17:00
Walter MacFarlane Stage (Tickets £8)

A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN

DISCOVER THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL
HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL BURIAL GROUNDS

Local historian and Blue Badge guide Irina Porter and the Head of Heritage for the United Synagogue Miriam Marson will be revealing the weird and wonderful history of our local burial grounds, including Paddington Old cemetery, Willesden Jewish cemetery and Kensal Green cemetery. Chaired by actor and writer Mike Simkins.



Sunday 3 September 16:00 - 17:00
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)

HITLER, STALIN, MUM AND DAD: DANIEL FINKELSTEIN

THE CELEBRATED POLITICAL COLUMNIST AND
COMMENTATOR REVEALS A POWERFUL FAMILY MEMOIR

Daniel Finkelstein is one of Britain's most celebrated journalists and opinion writers, awarded Political Columnist of the Year four times. In this moving and unflinching memoir, he relates the extraordinary story of his parents' experience at the hands of two genocidal dictators, Hitler and Stalin. Having moved his family to Amsterdam, Finkelstein's grandfather was arrested together with his wife and children, and sent to starve in Bergen-Belsen, whilst his father Ludwik was deported to Siberia and survived work as a slave labourer on a collective farm, building a tiny house made of cow dung. *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad* is a *Sunday Times* bestselling memoir, depicting one family's story of bravery, resilience and survival during one of the most terrible periods in human history. He will be in conversation with author and broadcaster Georgina Godwin.

Sunday 3 September 16:00 - 17:00
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £8)

'Finkelstein has written an elegant, moving account of the history of one family, and in doing so shines light on the history of the twentieth century.'

Anne Applebaum,
Author of *Gulag: A History*



REFUGEE STAND UP COMEDY

THE SMASH HIT EVENT RETURNS
TO THE COMMUNITY STAGE!

LaffUccino, in association with Salusbury World, present an hour of riotous comedy in support of refugees. Featuring: Adam Coumas, Stella Graham, Shalaka Kurup and Selam Amare.

Sunday 3 September 17:30 - 18:30
Queen's Park Community Tent (Free Event)

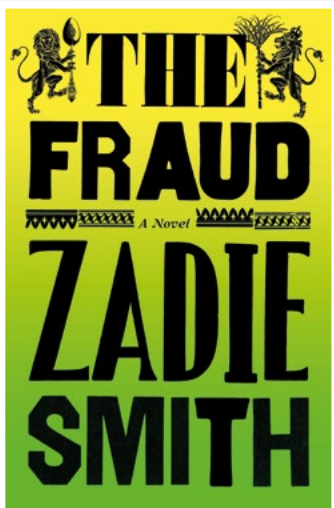


THE FRAUD: ZADIE SMITH

QUEEN'S PARK RESIDENT ZADIE SMITH RETURNS
TO THE FESTIVAL WITH HER NEW NOVEL

Zadie Smith's new novel *The Fraud* is set in the 1870s in Kilburn and Jamaica. The famous 'Tichborne Claimant' trial has galvanized Britain. Two people, a widowed housekeeper and a former slave, have very different perspectives on the case and what it says about Britain, its people and its history. Zadie's first historical novel explores how, in a world of hypocrisy and self-deception, deciding what is true can be a complicated task. She will be in conversation with author and journalist Alex Clark.

Sunday 3 September 17:30 - 18:30
Alexander McKenzie Stage (Tickets £15)







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