



MINEHEAD  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Early bird tickets now on sale for Minehead Literary Festival 2020**

Minehead Literary Festival returns for a second year over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday April 25 and 26 with a fabulous line-up of speakers. The early bird discounted weekend pass for just £30 is available until March 27, 2020, and tickets may be booked online at [www.mineheadliteraryfestival.org](http://www.mineheadliteraryfestival.org).

### **Fact is the New Fiction - writing in a post-fiction world**

Novelist, biographer and critic Dame Margaret Drabble heads an impressive line-up of speakers, including popular children's author Sam Angus, whose first book *Soldier Dog* will be released as a movie this year. Sam will give a talk about historical events as inspiration for her writing.

Exmoor writer and harpist Hazel Prior talks about her first two novels *Ellie and the Harp Maker* and *Away with the Penguins*, which will be published in March.

Cartoonist Kipper Williams, who has drawn for *The Spectator*, *Private Eye* and *The Oldie*, will give an illustrated talk – with examples of his work and some live drawings – about telling stories through cartoons in *Talking Cartoons*.

Film maker and television director David Parker gives an illustrated talk about the interviews he recorded in 1994 with Laurie Lee, who notoriously didn't 'do' television, giving a rare insight into the experiences that shaped one of England's great 20th Century writers and

author of the much beloved *Cider with Rosie*.

Hazel Prior will also give a workshop on writing fiction and getting it published. In her workshop Hazel will look at the elements that make a really good story, examine common mistakes made by budding writers and discover some self-editing tips and tricks. The workshop will also explore different pathways to publication. Tickets for the writing workshop are limited, so early booking is essential.

Speakers at last year's festival Tessa Hadley and Pamela Holmes will also be participating in MLF 2020 and, with Margaret Drabble and Kipper Williams, will take part in the closing panel discussion on this year's theme *Fact is the New Fiction – writing in a post-fiction world*.

A short story competition, with separate classes for adults and children, is being organised in the run-up to the festival, for which the deadline for all entries on March 6, 2020, and further details can be found on the MLF website.

For more information about MLF 2020, please visit the website or call 01643 703921.

**ENDS**

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