

PRESS RELEASE

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

Literary Festival 2017

In association with



BROOKS MACDONALD



CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE
Literary Festival

NEW TITLE SPONSOR ANNOUNCED ALONG WITH IMPRESSIVE LINE UP FOR SECOND LITERARY FESTIVAL



Following the success of last year's inaugural event at Chiddingstone Castle, the organisers are delighted to reveal the line-up for next year's Literary Festival, taking place during and after the May Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 30 April-Tuesday 2 May 2017.

Announcing a new partnership, next year's Title Sponsor of the Literary Festival will be **Brooks Macdonald**, an award winning company that specialises in providing investment management services across the UK and internationally.

Chiddingstone Castle will welcome an impressive selection of authors covering a wide-range of topics. Highlights include **Terry Waite**, 25 years after his release from solitary imprisonment as a hostage in Beirut, talking about his life then and now, and his thoughts on the current situation in the Middle East. Biographers **Artemis Cooper** and **Adam Sisman** will discuss the life and writings of acclaimed travel-writer *Patrick Leigh Fermor* and Artemis will also talk about her latest biography of *Elizabeth Jane Howard*. Radio 4 presenter of Saturday Live, **Rev. Richard Coles** will be sorting the wheat from the chaff in his reflective account of life as a parish priest and broadcaster. Grief psychotherapist **Julia Samuel** (author of *Grief Works*) and **Imogen Lycett Green**, writer and founder of the Narrative Medicine Workshop in Brighton, will be in conversation with Guardian journalist **Decca Aitkenhead** (author of *All at Sea*) about the death of her husband and coming to terms with love, loss and the taboo of death.

Educationalist and biographer **Anthony Seldon** will be in conversation with **David Walsh**, and presenter of BBC TV's *Coast* **Nicholas Crane**, will present his new book on the making of the British Landscape. Best-selling writer of historical fiction **Alison Weir** will launch *Anne Boleyn: A King's Obsession*, the latest title in her *Six Tudor Queens* series and the highly-praised biographer **Anne Sebba** will shed light on how the women of Paris lived, loved and died in the 1940s. **Rachel Kelly** will introduce *The Happy Kitchen* (written with nutritionist Alice Mackintosh); an inspirational range of recipes scientifically proven to boost energy, relieve low mood, provide comfort and keep the blues at bay. No 1 bestselling author of the *Emperor, Conqueror* and the *Wars of the Roses* series **Conn Iggulden** will talk about his latest novel *Dunstan* with local historical fiction writer **Angus Donald** (author of *The Outlaw* series), about a tenth century Archbishop of Canterbury.

For children, there are appearances from prize-winning authors **Piers Torday** and **Lauren St John**, poet **A F Harrold** and local author **Christopher Lloyd**. There will be a performance of *The Ugly Duckling* by award-winning theatre company **Pericles**, along with storytelling shows from **Mr Dilly's World of Wonder** and **Really Big Pants Theatre Company**. The festival is expanding with the addition of a second marquee providing a space for workshops, storytelling, Sock Puppet Theatre and much more.

Events will take place over three days with a special programme for local schools on Tuesday 2 May. There will be vintage food vans, a bar and organic coffee trikes, along with the Castle's own courtyard tea rooms serving cakes, sandwiches and light lunches.

During the build-up to the event, children are invited to enter a **Short Story Competition** (two categories: age 7-9 and 10-13). The winning entries will be read out at the festival on Bank Holiday Monday and winners will receive a signed copy by one of our children's authors.

Tickets for each event on Sunday and Monday will be £12 for adults and £5 for children including entry into the Castle and Collections. Online ticket booking will be available via the Castle website from 1st March with discounts for Early Birds. Tickets for the school events on Tuesday will be £4 per student and are available for purchase directly from the Castle from 1st February 2016.

Chiddingstone Castle is an impressive Historic House in an idyllic country setting, which houses the unique and remarkable collections of the late antiquarian, Denys Eyre Bower. Today it is a fascinating museum, a visitor attraction and an award-winning wedding venue.

Press enquiries to Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 or email: caroline@penningtonpr.com

For further information about the Literary Festival contact Victoria Henderson email: literaryfestival@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk or visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk/literary-festival

Notes to Editors:

Chiddingstone Castle Literary Festival committee members:

Victoria Henderson – Literary Festivals Co-ordinator for Lovereading Ltd and previously held PR roles in publishing

Ali Ditzel – Director of Chiddingstone Castle

Mark Streatfeild – formerly Sales Director at Orion Publishing Group

Lisa Prifti – formerly advertising and sponsorship in TV and press

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About Brooks Macdonald

Brooks Macdonald Group plc, through its various subsidiaries, provides leading investment management services in the UK and internationally. The Group, which was founded in 1991 and began trading on AIM in 2005, had discretionary funds under management (FUM) of £8.92bn as at 30 September 2016.

Through its core divisions, Brooks Macdonald offers a range of investment management services to private high net worth individuals, pension funds, institutions, charities and trusts. The Group also provides financial planning as well as offshore fund management and administration services and acts as fund manager to regulated OEICs, providing specialist funds in the property and structured return sectors and managing property assets on behalf of these funds and other clients.

The Group has twelve offices across the UK and the Channel Islands including London, Tunbridge Wells, Edinburgh, Guernsey, Jersey, Hale, Hampshire, Leamington Spa, Manchester, Taunton and York.

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