

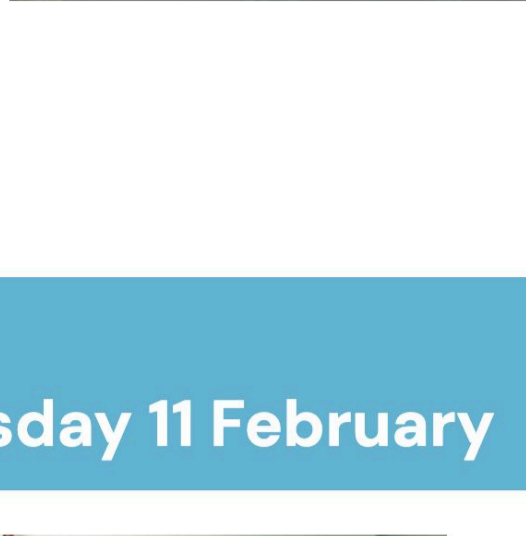
**FEEL GOOD
EXCITING
INSPIRING**

Welcome

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a brilliant festive season.

There are now under four months to go until the Winchester Books Festival 2025.

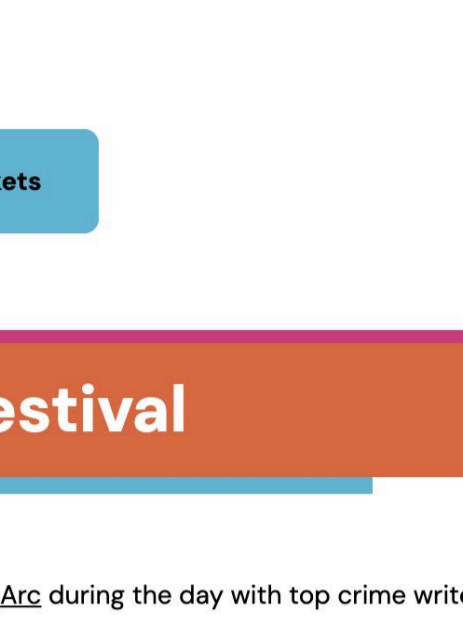
Tickets for our main festival events will be available by the end of February. Please follow us on social media and our newsletter for up to date information.



We are delighted to announce that our new website is now live and tickets for our David Nicholls event can be purchased via the link below.

**On sale now...
David Nicholls, Tuesday 11 February**

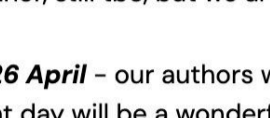
David Nicholls
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday 11 February 2025
[The Arc](#)



David Nicholls, bestselling author of *One Day*, will be in Winchester and in conversation with writer and interviewer **Rebecca Fletcher**. This is a joint event with Winchester Library. Copies of *You Are Here* and all of David's books can be found at [Winchester Library](#) or can be ordered from [P&G Wells](#).

David's books will be on sale on the evening and he will be signing books.

Sponsored by



[Buy tickets](#)

Preview the 2025 Festival

Friday 25 April is Fiction Friday – we will be at the [Arc](#) during the day with top crime writers **L.V. Matthews**, **Clare Douglas** and **G.D. Wright** talking about *Writing to Thrill*. In addition we will have two fantastic debut authors – **Kate Kemp** (*The Grapevine*) and **Joanna Miller** (*The Eights*) in conversation with **Rebecca Fletcher**. In the afternoon we are delighted to welcome **Tracy Chevalier** speaking about her new book *The Glassmaker*. Throughout the day at the [Library](#), there will be free events for children. We will move to the [Guildhall](#) for our evening author, still tbc, but we are very excited!

Saturday 26 April – our authors will be at the [Guildhall](#), with a Festival Hub and a café. The authors that day will be a wonderful mix – something for everyone. **Ben Pentreath** speaking about interior design and urban planning, **Chris Jackson** sharing his thoughts about 20 years of photographing the Royal Family, **Marcel Dirsus** discussing *How Tyrants Fall*, **Kathryn Sutherland** sharing insights about Jane Austen, Instagram sensation **William Hanson** talking about etiquette for today and **Paula Sutton** sharing details about living stylishly.

For children we'll have the brilliant **Maz Evans**.

As if all that wasn't enough, in the evening we are delighted welcome double Olympic champion Col. **Dame Kelly Holmes** MBE talking about her amazing life as an army officer and top athlete.

Sunday 27 April – we have events in two venues – the [Arc](#) and the [Wessex Learning Centre](#) (WLC). Amongst many authors we are thrilled to be hosting bestselling historian **Tom Holland**, tennis expert **Judy Murray**, and gardening sensation **Pollyanna Wilkinson** all at the Arc. At the WLC, **Kate Nicholson** will share the story of the previously invisible Ruth Mallory, wife of George Mallory, in *Behind Everest*, **Franco Fubini**, founder of [Natura](#), in conversation with **Dr Federica Amati** ZOE's Head Nutritionist, **Eleanor Mills**, Founder of [Noon](#), with advice about living your best life from middle age onwards, and young naturalist **Hannah Bourne-Taylor** talking about how nature needs us. We will end the day at the Arc with **Claire Fuller** hosting **Ferdia Lennon** for another Big Bookclub event, which was so popular at last year's festival.

Ben Macintyre, Wednesday 7 May

Ben Macintyre
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Wednesday 7 May 2025
[The Guildhall](#)



Ben Macintyre will be coming to Winchester to talk about his latest book, *The Siege*, a 'remarkable story of the greatest SAS hostage drama'. Save the date!

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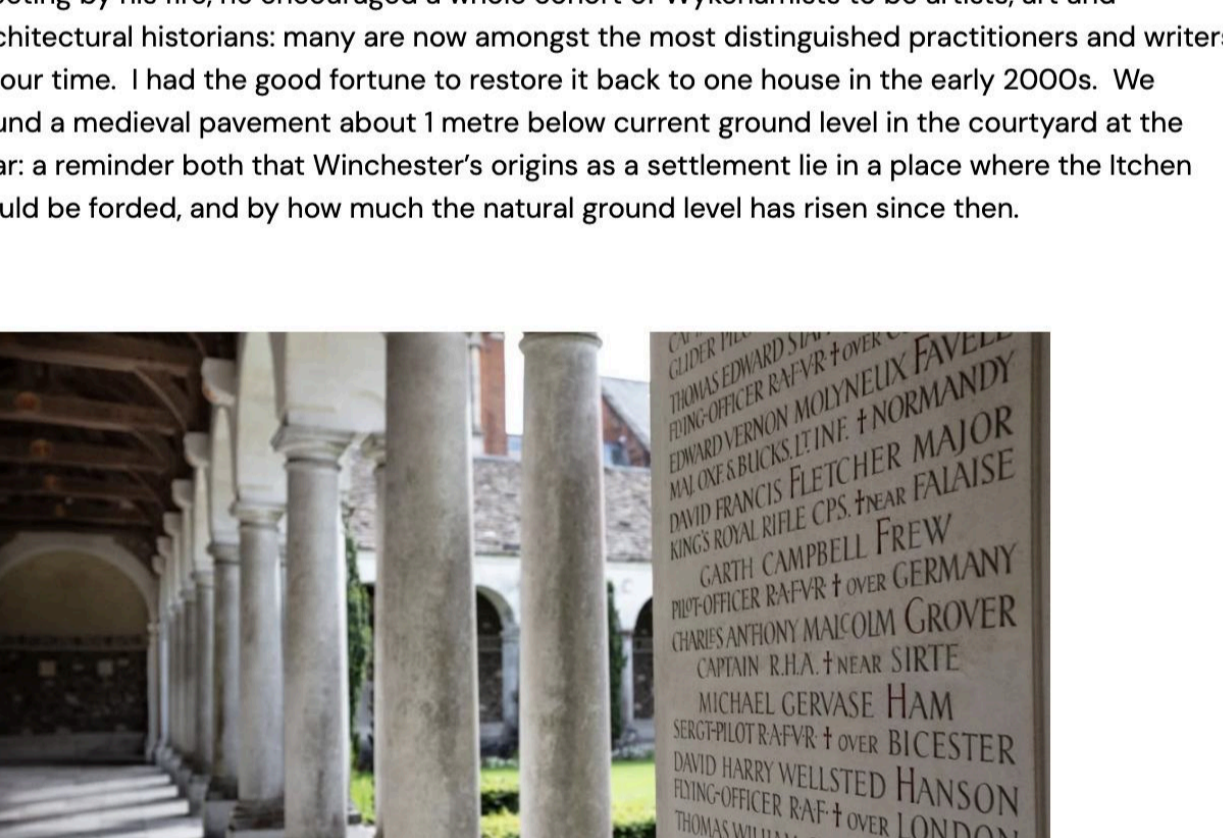
Hugh Petter's Winchester

We are lucky to live in beautiful Winchester and always keen to share insiders information about the City.



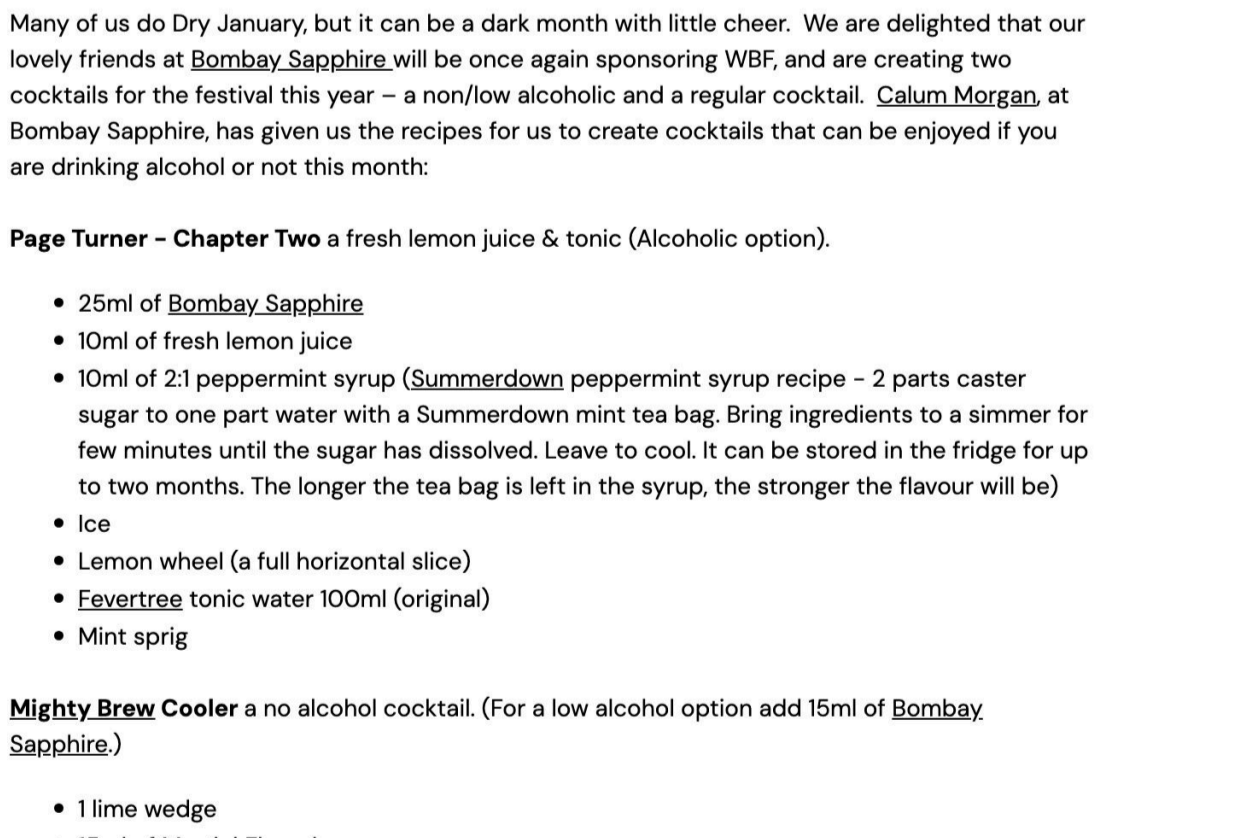
This month we asked **Hugh Petter**, one of the world's leading traditional architects and Design Director at Winchester based architecture practice, [ADAM Architecture](#), to share his three favourite buildings in Winchester.

Hugh and ADAM Architecture are wonderful supporters and sponsors of WBF and Hugh spoke about his book at our 2024 festival. [Living Tradition: The Architecture and Urbanism of Hugh Petter](#).



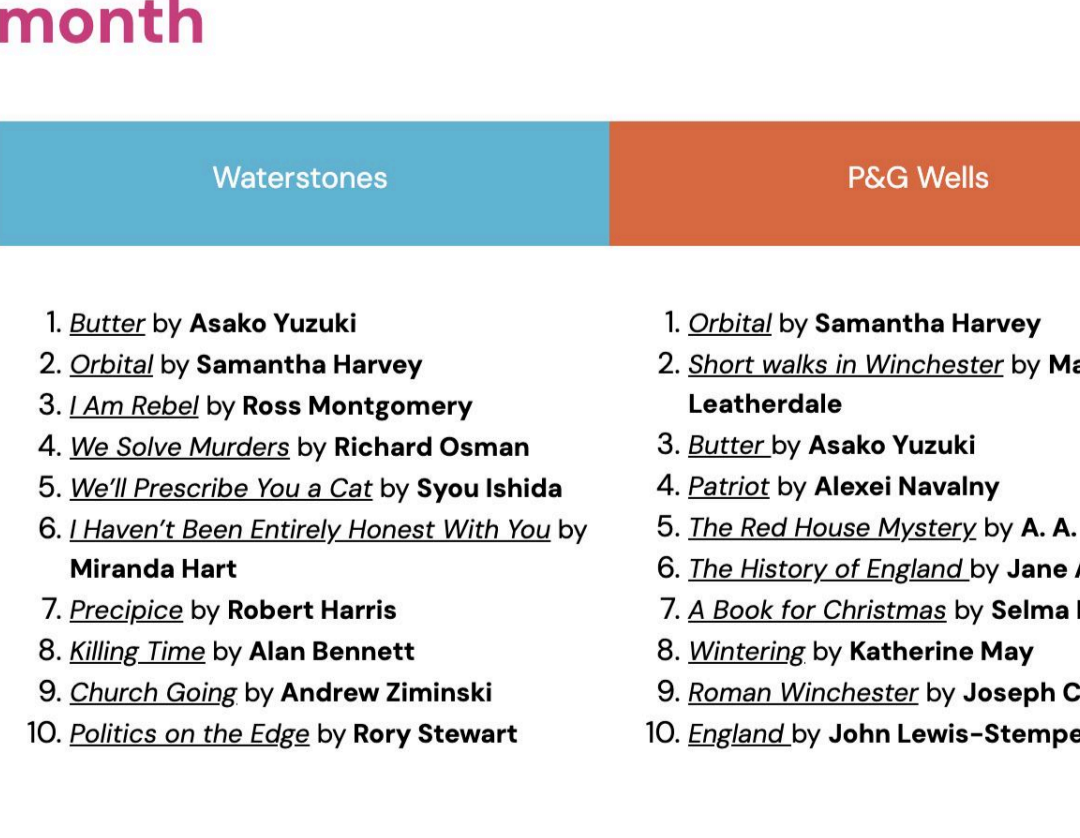
[Old Hyde House, 75 Hyde St.](#) Image courtesy of ADAM Architecture and Hampshire Heritage Open Days

This is ADAM Architecture's main office building and is a site with a long, complex and fascinating history. Originating the huge Hyde and Abbey complex, the site was founded during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In 1546 a wealthy city merchant and future Mayor of Winchester, Richard Bethell, bought the manor from The Crown and set about building the great Hyde House, the service wing of which, with its Dutch gable, is still visible on Hyde St today; this building reuses roof timbers from the C12th. In the C18th Hyde became an area of the city focused upon growing hops and brewing; the barn, which sits perpendicular to the surviving wing of the house, dates from that time and sits on the site of the main block of Bethell's manor house. Both buildings on site today incorporate medieval masonry. This story has been assembled by our own brilliant in-house architectural historian, Dr Helen Lawrence Beaton, whose long awaited monograph on the early English baroque Architect, Thomas Archer, will be published by Unicorn towards the end of 2025.



[Minster House, Cathedral Close.](#) – Image courtesy of British Listed Buildings

A picture perfect 5 bay early Georgian townhouse facing the west from the cathedral and with a first floor drawing room looking out over The Close. This must surely be one of the prettiest and most iconic houses in the city. Built circa 1710 it was originally only one room thick with a stair tower at the rear. It was added to several times and for a while served as a bank before being divided up into flats in the C20th. The Winchester College don Graham Drew lived there. Meeting by his fire, he encouraged a whole cohort of Wykehamists to be artists, art and architectural historians: many are now amongst the most distinguished practitioners and writers of our time. I had the good fortune to restore it back to one house in the early 2000s. We found a medieval pavement about 1 metre below current ground level in the courtyard at the rear: a reminder both that Winchester's origins as a settlement lie in a place where the Itchen could be forded, and by how much the natural ground level has risen since then.



[War Cloister, Winchester College.](#) Image courtesy of Winchester College Instagram.

I will never forget standing there in golden autumn sunshine for a Remembrance Day event when I was at The Abbey and, being addressed by the head of the army, General Sir Nick Carter, himself an old Wykehamist, who told the assembled company that 1915 was the only time in the 500 year history of the school that no boy went up to Oxford or Cambridge. Instead they were all sent off to fight for God and Country on the Western Front. Looking out over a sea of bright young faces, it brought home the full horror of war. Even thinking of it now brings a lump to my throat.

The Cloister is arguably the best work of the distinguished Edwardian architect Sir Herbert Baker who, like his friend and colleague Sir Edwin Lutyens, evolved from his Arts and Crafts origins into an accomplished designer of classical buildings all over the world. War Cloister synthesises these two architectural strands with great sensitivity and elegance. Its proportions, materials, quality, character, detail and the horrific names of countless young lives cut short in the service of our country give one pause for thought, rather as Sir Nick Carter's words did for me nine years ago.

Anyone for cocktails?

Many of us do Dry January, but it can be a dark month with little cheer. We are delighted that our lovely friends at [Bombay Sapphire](#) will be once again sponsoring a regular, and are creating two cocktails for the festival this year – a non/low alcoholic and a regular cocktail. [Calum Morgan](#), at Bombay Sapphire, has given us the recipes for us to create cocktails that can be enjoyed if you are drinking alcohol or not this month:

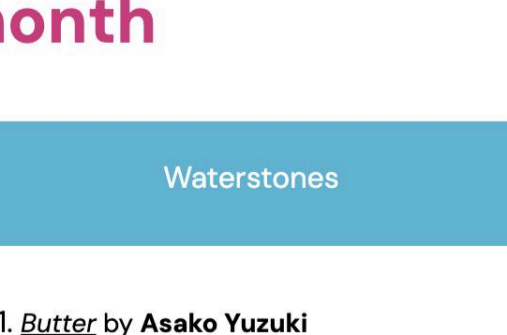
Page Turner – Chapter Two a fresh lemon juice & tonic (Alcoholic option).

- 25ml of [Bombay Sapphire](#)
- 10ml of fresh lemon juice
- 10ml of 2:1 peppermint syrup ([Summerdown](#) peppermint syrup recipe – 2 parts caster sugar to one part water with a Summerdown mint tea bag. Bring ingredients to a simmer for few minutes until the sugar has dissolved. Leave to cool. It can be stored in the fridge for up to two months. The longer the tea bag is left in the syrup, the stronger the flavour will be)
- Ice
- Lemon wheel (a full horizontal slice)
- [FeverTree](#) tonic water 100ml (original)
- Mint sprig

Mighty Brew Cooler a no alcohol cocktail. (For a low alcohol option add 15ml of [Bombay Sapphire](#).)

- 1 lime wedge
- 15ml of [Martini Floreale](#)
- 30ml of apple juice
- 90ml of [Mighty Brew Lemongrass Kombucha](#)

Please remember, with all alcoholic drinks to drink responsibly.



Bestselling books in Winchester this month

Waterstones

P&G Wells

1. *Butter* by **Asako Yuzuki**
2. *Orbital* by **Samantha Harvey**
3. *I Am Rebel* by **Ross Montgomery**
4. *We Solve Murders* by **Richard Osman**
5. *We'll Prescribe You a Cat* by **Siyou Ishida**
6. *I Haven't Been Entirely Honest With You* by **Miranda Hart**
7. *Precipice* by **Robert Harris**
8. *Killing Time* by **Alan Bennett**
9. *Church Going* by **Andrew Ziminski**
10. *Politics on the Edge* by **Rory Stewart**

1. *Orbital* by **Samantha Harvey**
2. *Short walks in Winchester* by **Malcolm Leatherdale**
3. *Butter* by **Asako Yuzuki**
4. *Patriot* by **Alexei Navalny**
5. *The Red House Mystery* by **A. A. Milne**
6. *The History of England* by **Jane Austen**
7. *A Book for Christmas* by **Selma Lagerlöf**
8. *Wintering* by **Katherine May**
9. *Roman Winchester* by **Joseph Chittenden**
10. *England* by **John Lewis-Stempel**

P&G Wells' bestselling children's books

1. *The Nutcracker* by **Jessica Courtney-Tickle**
2. *How does Santa go down the Chimney?* by **Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen**
3. *The Story Orchestra: I Can Play The Nutcracker* by **Jessica Courtney-Tickle**
4. *The Night Before Christmas* by **Clement C. Moore**
5. *Mouse on the River* by **Alice Melvin**

We hope you have a good month. If you feel you need a bit of a cheering up during the dark days of the British winter, we have both enjoyed reading *Love Nina* by [Nina Stibbe](#). It is a book that cannot fail to raise your spirits.

We will notify you all when tickets go on sale for WBF25 and will be back next month with more details about the authors we will be welcoming in April. Do let us know if you have any questions, but until then we send our best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2025.

Happy reading!
Sian and Sophie
info@winchesterbooksfestival.com

