

# CLEVEDON LITFEST

SUMMER FESTIVAL

10–14 June 2026

AUTHORS ♦ THEATRE ♦ HISTORY



WORKSHOPS ♦ POETRY ♦ MUSIC

# ROOTS AND ROUTES

Art by Isla, Age 10

# Welcome!

Clevedon LitFest is seven years old this year and we are celebrating with a wonderful line-up of events for you. Each year we bring you something you will not find at other literary festivals and 2026 is no exception. On the following pages you will find lots to tempt you – talks, live poetry and music, storytelling and children’s theatre, and a lone bloke with a typewriter punching keys in the sunlight – events for people of all ages, covering issues that matter!

Of course, that is not all we do – our new “Literally Free” mini lending libraries have been popping up in front gardens and community spaces all over town, and the phone box at Salthouse Fields is undergoing refurbishment as a community resource.

We couldn’t do all this without our many friends and collaborators: the wonderful volunteers who show up for each event (and behind the scenes too); our funders and sponsors who help to ensure we have an exciting programme that is also affordable; and our community partners, The Curzon, Theatre Shop, Riff Corner, Books on the Hill and others, who welcome our speakers and performers onto their stages and shelves.

I hope to see you out and about over the June weekend. Come say hello!

Isabel White

Chair of trustees

## GRANTS & SPONSORS



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**SPINNING  
WEAL**  
CLEVEDON



Icons by each event give details about venue facilities.  
See inside back cover for the full key.



Clevedon LitFest is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) no. 1206829

[clevedonlitfest.org.uk](http://clevedonlitfest.org.uk)

[enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk)

# WEDNESDAY

## JUNIOR ATELIER BOOK ART WORKSHOP

## KIDS' WORKSHOP

Wed 10 June 3.45 pm - 5.00 pm

📍 Nicky's Atelier, 1-3 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LZ

🎫 £14



Join Nicky for a special Junior Atelier ‘Book Art’ creative workshop in collaboration with Clevedon Litfest.

Children will explore nautical themes, mysterious stories, pirate ships and the old tale of Harry’s Rocks, to bring their imaginations to life, through storytelling and making art with the written word.

This creative drop-off session is suitable for children aged 5 to 10, with all materials provided. Nicky’s Atelier is attached to The Library Café, Clevedon, so parents are welcome to enjoy a hot drink next door while their little artists create.

For more information and to book your space, click here:

[GET TICKETS](#)

## ROOTS AND ROUTES ART COMPETITION EXHIBITION

Sat 6 June - Sun 14 June

📍 The Library Cafe - 2 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LZ

🎫 FREE DROP IN



Nicky’s Atelier, supported by The Library Café, Clevedon, will be hosting an exhibition of winners, runners up and other selected entries from our Roots and Routes art competition for artists aged 5 to 16 years. On display throughout the week.



## THURSDAY

### IN SEARCH OF SEA DRAGONS – MATTHEW MYERSCOUGH

TALK

Thu 11 June 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

📍 Books on the Hill - 20 Hill Rd, BS21 7NZ

🎟️ £5



Recounting his journey from novice to expert, *In Search of Sea Dragons* follows Matthew's adventures at lesser-known sites in South Wales, Somerset and North Yorkshire, where he makes jaw-dropping discoveries and searches for his dream find – a complete ichthyosaur. His story is one of personal growth and maturing into adulthood, as well as a love letter to the Jurassic oceans.

[GET TICKETS](#)

#### PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT - THE SURGEON, THE MIDWIFE, THE QUACK

+ Livestream

Thu 4 June 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

📍 Books on the Hill - 20 Hill Rd, BS21 7NZ

🎟️ £5



In the run-up to the Summer Festival, journey into the world of Renaissance medicine with Dr. Alanna Skuse. Find more info and book tickets at [www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/tickets](http://www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/tickets)

## FRIDAY

### DAVID OLUSOGA - IN CONVERSATION

TALK

Fri 12 June 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

📍 Curzon Cinema - 46 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN

🎟️ £15



Presented in collaboration with Clevedon Litfest, The Curzon Cinema is delighted to host David Olusoga for an in-person conversation and book signing.



David is a British Nigerian historian author, presenter, BAFTA winning film-maker and Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester. Specialising in the history of the British Empire and how we experience its lasting effects in modern society, David's expertise and knowledge will produce fascinating historical insight and context to where Britain finds itself today. The evening will be hosted by author, journalist, and screenwriter, Nikesh Shukla.

**SOLD OUT**

## SATURDAY - THE BARN

### THE MISSING MOON - A SPACE ADVENTURE

INTERACTIVE FAMILY THEATRE

Sat 13 June 10.00 am & 12.00 pm

📍 The Barn - Great Western Rd, BS21 6HB

🎟️ £3.50



Space cadets needed to complete an important mission - finding the lost moon! We'll be singing and playing across the galaxy with DragonBird's resident rocket scientist, Professor Propeller Klunkers, exploring faraway planets, jumping around with the stars under a giant universe net and trying to escape from a super massive black hole!



DragonBird's 50-minute sessions explore vivid worlds through gentle theatrical play and song for children aged five and under. Our sessions are all about engaging with immersive stories through theatrical sets, props and characters. But above all, the sessions are a relaxed and inclusive place for little ones and their grown-ups to play, imagine and sing together.

[BOOK 10.00 am](#)

[BOOK 12.00 pm](#)

*DragonBird Theatre is an early years theatre production company based in Bristol.*

### STORYTELLING DRAMA WORKSHOP

KIDS' WORKSHOP

Sat 13 June 2.00 pm & 4.00 pm

📍 The Barn - Great Western Rd, BS21 6HB

🎟️ £12



Join Travelling Light for a fun and interactive storytelling drama workshop. Bring your imagination and join us on a magical journey to create and perform a brand-new story in just one hour!

Suitable for children aged 5 – 11.

[BOOK 2.00 pm](#)

[BOOK 4.00 pm](#)

*Travelling Light Theatre Company is a children's charity based in Barton Hill, Bristol, that creates theatre with and for children.*

Please note that for all of our children's events, parents/carers must stay at the venue with their child for the full duration of the event, and may also be asked to complete a short consent form.

## CLEVEDON LITFEST'S BANDSTAND TAKEOVER

Sat 13 June 11.00 am - 4.00 pm  Bandstand - Elton Rd, BS21 7EH

 FREE DROP IN  



Our bandstand takeover will feature lots of great things to watch, including poetry from Bristol-based ensemble members Hi-Art & Mischief (with mystery guests!), a performance by young people from Clevedon's twinning partners in Ettlingen, plus music and storytelling from local performers. So pull up a deck chair and enjoy the sun, sea and festival atmosphere!

Find listings for the day at the venue.

### Deckchairs Return!

*Pay what you want - donations help fund Clevedon Litfest.  
Available to hire from the bandstand.*



## CLEVEDON TWINNING ASSOCIATION & NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE

Creative arts charity Never Such Innocence has partnered with the Clevedon Twinning Association to deliver poetry workshops for students in Clevedon and our twin town of Ettlingen, Germany. Students will perform a selection of poems on the theme 'In Someone Else's Shoes' at the Bandstand.

**Clevedon Twinning Association**



Friendship links with

Ettlingen 1980

Épernay 1991

Middelkerke 1991



## TALKS4CHANGE: BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT

## EXHIBITION

Sat 13 June 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

 Clevedon Seafront - Elton Rd, BS21 7EH

 FREE DROP IN



Sat 13 June 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

 TBC

 FREE DROP IN



Step aboard a vintage bus and discover the powerful story of the Bristol Bus Boycott, a pivotal moment in the UK's civil rights history.

Curated by Julz Davis of Curiosity UnLtd in collaboration with Clevedon LitFest, this free, immersive mini exhibition brings the past into the present through carefully selected stories, images, and voices. Set within a restored vintage bus, the experience invites you to explore the events of 1963 in an intimate and accessible way, right at the heart of the community.

Open, thoughtful, and rooted in real voices, this is a chance to step inside history and hear the stories that shaped a city.

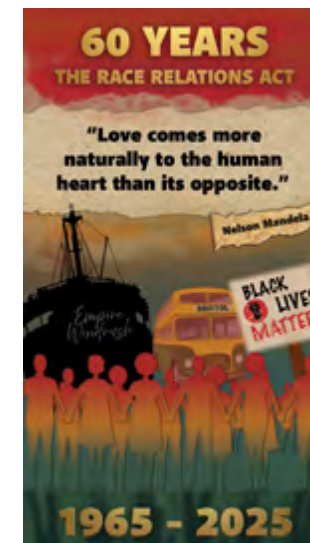
## TALKS4CHANGE: BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT

## TALK

Sat 13 June 12.00 pm - 12.30 pm

 The Riff Corner - 17 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LU

 FREE DROP IN



Join us at The Riff Corner for a free talk expanding on the exhibition. Julz Davis will host a discussion with individuals directly connected to the boycott, sharing their lived experiences and personal reflections. An audience Q&A will follow.



**THE UNQUIET LANDSCAPE – ADAM SCOVELL**

TALK

Sat 13 June 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm

The Riff Corner - 17 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LU

£6



Exploring the uncanny nature of rural landscapes and works by writers, artists and filmmakers who were equally inspired by England's unquiet lands.

Adam Scovell is a writer and filmmaker from Merseyside, now living in London. He completed his PhD in Music at Goldsmiths University in 2018, and now writes regularly for the BBC, the BFI and many other outlets. He is also the author of *Folk Horror: Hours Dreadful and Things Strange* (2017), alongside three novels and a collection of non-fiction all published by Influx Press.

**GET TICKETS**

+ Livestream

**NEW FOR 2026: LIVE STREAMED EVENTS**

This year, selected events at The Riff Corner will also be available to watch online. Tickets to the livestream will be available alongside tickets to the event. For more information on how to tune in remotely, visit [www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/online-events](http://www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/online-events)



**LITERALLY FREE! – MINI YOUNG ADULT BOOK SWAP LIBRARIES**

Have you seen our 'Literally Free' mini book swap libraries popping up around town full of free YA books to borrow?

We want to extend our thanks to Clevedon Men's Shed for their help making the boxes, and to The Barn, YMCA, JHF Youth Charity, and Town Councillors Kate Amor and Michael Harriott for providing homes for our libraries.

Do you have books to donate or know a spot where we could place the next library?

Get in touch:

[enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk)



**WE CAME BY SEA – HORATIO CLARE**

TALK

Sat 13 June 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

St. John's Hall - St. John's Rd BS21 7XJ

£6



Every day and every night when the sea was calm they came, and most days the newspapers and the websites said the same thing: 'migrants' in 'small boats' were crossing the English Channel. Rescuers were 'overwhelmed', coastal towns were 'up in arms'. Over and over, the headlines and the photographs told us this story.

But no story has only one side, as Horatio Clare discovered when he began his journeys between Dover and Calais, where he met and listened to the volunteers who help thousands of people every year, from the lifeboat crews mounting operations to the countless unrecognised, uncelebrated British people who are giving their all to help the vulnerable and desperate.

*We Came by Sea* bears witness to hope and humanity. It is a journey through an unexamined nation – a nation which is every bit as great and good as the people in the dinghies believe it to be. This is not the story that we have been told, but it is a true story.

**GET TICKETS**

**FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP PARTNER  
BOOKS ON THE HILL**



Mon - Sat 9.30 am - 5.00 pm 20 Hill Rd, Clevedon, BS21 7NZ

Clevedon LitFest is delighted to partner with Books on the Hill as our festival bookshop.

Books by many of our wonderful speakers will be available to buy at events, or from the shop on Hill Road, throughout the festival.

[www.booksonthehill.co.uk](http://www.booksonthehill.co.uk)



**BELONGING AND IDENTITY – FIONA WILLIAMS**

TALK

Sun 14 June 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm The Riff Corner - 17 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LU £6



Fiona Williams is a British novelist whose work explores belonging, identity, and the quiet tensions of contemporary rural life. Her debut novel, *The House of Broken Bricks*, was widely praised for its lyrical prose and deeply observed portrayal of community, class, and migration in modern Britain.

Set in the West Country, the novel follows a Somali family navigating life in a small English village, capturing both the beauty and fragility of connection across cultures. Fiona’s writing is known for its emotional precision and its ability to illuminate the unspoken dynamics that shape everyday lives.

**GET TICKETS**

+ Livestream

**LOST PEOPLE – MARGARET ELPHINSTONE**

TALK

Sun 14 June 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm The Riff Corner - 17 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LU £6



Margaret Elphinstone will be reading from her novel *Lost People* (shortlisted for the 2024 Saltire Award) which focuses on hope and renewal in an unspecified world of trauma and devastation.

She will be discussing the themes of exile, displacement and journeys through liminal places which not only permeate *Lost People* but underpin her earlier historical novels, along with an intense awareness of the landscape and natural world with which human lives are intertwined.

**GET TICKETS**

+ Livestream

**NEVER MISS AN EVENT – SUBSCRIBE!**

If you want to stay up to date on all our future events and projects, be sure to sign up for our email newsletter at:

[www.clevedonlifefest.org.uk/join-our-mailing-list](http://www.clevedonlifefest.org.uk/join-our-mailing-list)



**THE WEST COUNTRY TRILOGY – TIM PEARS**

TALK

Sun 14 June 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm Walton Park Hotel - Wellington Terrace, BS21 7BL £6



In conversation, Tim Pears will discuss his West Country Trilogy: *The Horseman* (2017), *The Wanderers* (2018) and *The Redeemed* (2019).

Tim Pears is the author of eleven novels, including *In the Place of Fallen Leaves* (which was awarded the Hawthornden Prize 1994) and *In a Land of Plenty* (made into a ten-part BBC series). He writes occasional essays about literature, and about sport and society.

**GET TICKETS**

**FAMILY FUN FOLK TALES**

STORYTELLING

Sun 14 June 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm Walton Park Hotel - Wellington Terrace, BS21 7BL £6



Join Marcus Fagon for a lively journey into the rich storytelling traditions of Africa and Europe. Gather round as he tells tales brimming with humour, mischief, and joyful surprises. Expect vibrant imagery, playful sounds, and maybe even a moment or two of quiet reflection. Perfect for families, and anyone who just likes stories!

**GET TICKETS**

**LOVE FORMS – CLAIRE ADAM**

TALK

Sun 14 June 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Walton Park Hotel - Wellington Terrace, BS21 7BL £6



In *Love Forms*, Claire Adam explores the shifting terrain of love, motherhood, and personal freedom. At once intimate and unsettling, the novel asks what it means to build a life, and who is affected by the choices we make. With clarity and emotional precision, she examines the boundaries of love, asking how far it can stretch, and what happens when it is tested.

**GET TICKETS**

## LIL' WRITING SHED – ROOTS, GROWTH AND BELONGING

KIDS' WORKSHOP

Sun 14 June 10.00 am - 11.15 am  Clevedon Library - 37 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN  £15  



What would it be like to be a tree rooted to the ground?

What might the roots that help us to grow look like?

In what, whom, or where do we, or our characters, find a sense of belonging?

Come join in as we explore such questions through poetry, personal writing and fiction. Samantha will share lots of tips on how to ground your writing in place and body, and make your stories come alive on the page.

Writing workshop for kids aged 9 to 12. Please bring a pen and notebook with you to this event.

[GET TICKETS](#)

## LIL' WRITING SHED – WHERE WILL THEY GO AND HOW WILL THEY GET THERE?

KIDS' WORKSHOP

Sun 14 June 1.00 pm - 2.15 pm  Clevedon Library - 37 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN  £15  



So many ways to travel, so many routes to get to the same place, so many adventures to happen along the way.

Come along to step onto a path in your imagination you never knew you would tread, pick up lots of writing craft tips and let your words flow towards that sparkling destination.

Writing workshop for kids aged 12 to 16. Please bring a pen and notebook with you to this event.

[GET TICKETS](#)

### About Lil' Writing Shed

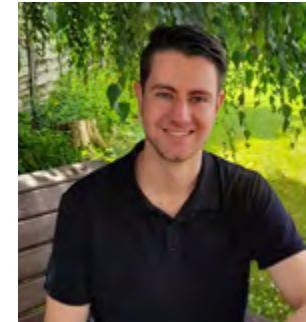
*Samantha Forrest is a writer and teacher of creative writing, based in Bristol. She has a sensitive and fun-loving approach and likes to create a supportive atmosphere, with lots of laughter too.*



## FANTASY MAP DRAWING

KIDS' WORKSHOP

Sun 14 June 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm  Clevedon Library - 37 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN  £10   



Ever wanted to draw your own Fantasy World!? In this workshop by Cartographer and Adventure Author, A.D. Downton, you will venture forth in the realm of maps and everything that goes into them! You will learn how to begin your own Fantasy Map, the techniques for building them, and how to turn a page of scribbles into an amazing final sheet any explorer would be proud of! For kids aged 8+.

[GET TICKETS](#)

## FINDING MEANING WITH MYTHS

INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING

Sun 14 June 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm  Clevedon Library - 37 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN  £15  



An evening for ages 16+ where African and European folklore come to life through oral storytelling, personal reflection and discussion. Reconnecting with our ancestors, making sense of our lives through the timeless tales that have been shared for generations.

After a story is performed, the audience will be asked to reflect with questions; 'Where do you find yourself in this story? How does it resonate with your life?'

[GET TICKETS](#)

## POETRY & FLASH FICTION COMPETITIONS 2026

Closing date: Sat 22 August

[See website for full terms and conditions](#)

Clevedon Litfest once more invite poets and writers of all ages and abilities to enter our Annual Poetry and Flash Fiction Awards.

Poetry – submit up to three poems of up to 40 lines).

Flash Fiction – submit one short story of up to 500 words.

Prizes for each category – £300 / £100 / £50

£6 per entry.

[www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/competitions](http://www.clevedonlitfest.org.uk/competitions)



## THE MARBLES WITH PROF. DAN HICKS

## FILM SCREENING AND TALK

Sun 14 June 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

📍 Curzon Cinema - 46 Old Church Rd, BS21 6NN 🍷 £12<sup>50</sup> ♿ WC 🍵 📖  
\*stepped access to bar.



*The Marbles* is a compelling new documentary examining one of history's most controversial cultural disputes – the removal of the Parthenon Marbles – and the ongoing campaign to return them to Greece. From imperial acquisition to modern-day advocacy, this is the story of heritage, identity, and justice.

This event is a film screening, discussion and book signing.

[GET TICKETS](#)

## ALSO ON IN CLEVEDON

### CLEVEDON CARS & COFFEE

### VINTAGE CAR RALLY

Sat 13 June 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

📍 All around Clevedon!



Calling all petrolheads! Clevedon's regionally renowned monthly vintage car rally returns!

Events will be happening all over Clevedon, including Prince's Hall, Sixways and Salthouse Fields. Visit the Clevedon Cars and Coffee website for more info.

[www.clevedoncarsandcoffee.com](http://www.clevedoncarsandcoffee.com)

### MUSIC @ THE RIFF CORNER

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

All week 6.00 pm until late

📍 The Riff Corner - 17 Old Church Rd, BS21 6LU



There's live music and entertainment almost every night at The Riff Corner, from local bands to jazz jams, music quizzes and more. Don't miss fabulous food from Wren's Pizzas on selected nights.

[www.theriffcorner.co.uk](http://www.theriffcorner.co.uk)

- 1 Walton Park Hotel
- 2 Books on the Hill
- 3 Bandstand / Seafront
- 3 The Barn
- 5 Curzon Cinema
- 6 Clevedon Library
- 7 St. John's Hall
- 8 The Riff Corner
- 9 Nicky's Atelier / The Library Café



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#### ACCESSIBLE VENUE

The venue for the event has level access and is wheelchair accessible.



#### REFRESHMENTS

Will be available to buy at the venue or nearby.



#### TICKETS

Priced and "free ticketed" events can be booked online or on arrival, **unless otherwise stated**. Booking is not required for "free drop in" events.



#### TOILETS

Venue has an accessible toilet.



Venue has standard toilets with level access.



Venue has standard toilets with stepped access.



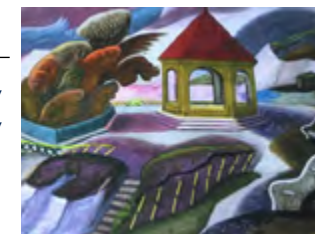
#### BOOKSHOP

Books and/or CDs will be available to buy at the event.

### THE ICONIC ART OF DORIS HATT

Prints are available to buy from Clevedon Community Bookshop, Books on the Hill, or can be ordered by email. Proceeds support the festival.

Email: [enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@clevedonlitfest.org.uk)



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## SUMMER FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

### WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

<b>JUNIOR ATELIER BOOK ART WORKSHOP</b> (AGES 5-10)	3.45 pm	Nicky's Atelier	£15
<b>ROOTS AND ROUTES ART COMPETITION EXHIBITION</b>	All week	The Library Café	FREE

### THURSDAY 11 JUNE

<b>IN SEARCH OF SEA DRAGONS – MATTHEW MYERSCOUGH</b>	5.00 pm	Books on the Hill	£5
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### FRIDAY 12 JUNE

<b>DAVID OLUSOGA: IN CONVERSATION</b>	7.00 pm	Curzon Cinema	SOLD OUT
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### SATURDAY 13 JUNE

<b>BANDSTAND TAKEOVER</b>	All day	Clevedon Seafront	FREE
<b>TALKS4CHANGE – BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT</b> (EXHIBITION)	All day	Clevedon Seafront	FREE
<b>THE MISSING MOON – A SPACE ADVENTURE</b>	10.00 am 12.00 pm	The Barn The Barn	£3 <sup>50</sup> £3 <sup>50</sup>
<b>THE UNQUIET LANDSCAPE – ADAM SCOVELL</b>	2.00 pm	The Riff Corner	£6
<b>STORYTELLING DRAMA WORKSHOP</b> (AGES 5-11)	2.00 pm 4.00 pm	The Barn The Barn	£12 £12
<b>WE CAME BY SEA – HORATIO CLARE</b>	5.00 pm	St. John's Hall	£6

### SUNDAY 14 JUNE

<b>LIL' WRITING SHED CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP</b> (AGES 9-12)	10.00 am	Clevedon Library	£15
<b>BELONGING AND IDENTITY – FIONA WILLIAMS</b>	12.30 pm	The Riff Corner	£6
<b>THE WEST COUNTRY TRILOGY – TIM PEARS</b>	1.00 pm	Walton Park	£6
<b>LIL' WRITING SHED CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP</b> (AGES 12-16)	1.00 pm	Clevedon Library	£15
<b>LOST PEOPLE – MARGARET ELPHINSTONE</b>	2.30 pm	The Riff Corner	£6
<b>FANTASY MAP DRAWING WORKSHOP</b>	3.00 pm	Clevedon Library	£10
<b>FUN FAMILY FOLK TALES – MARCUS FAGON</b>	3.30 pm	Walton Park	£6
<b>FINDING MEANING WITH MYTHS – MARCUS FAGON</b>	5.00 pm	Clevedon Library	£15
<b>LOVE FORMS – CLAIRE ADAM</b>	5.00 pm	Walton Park	£6
<b>THE MARBLES – SCREENING PLUS TALK WITH PROF. DAN HICKS</b>	6.30 pm	Curzon Cinema	£12 <sup>50</sup>