

FRINGE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie Sea Swim

This unique event celebrates Agatha's love of sea swimming whilst raising money for Rowcroft Hospice.

Beacon Cove to Meadfoot Beach. 10am – 12pm

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers

For one night only, this crime-writing supergroup comprising Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Mark Billingham, Luca Veste, Doug Johnstone and Stuart Neville will be rocking out on the stage instead of the page.

The Palace Theatre, Paignton. 8pm – 10pm.

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

Framed! By Paddleboat Theatre Company

This thrilling family whodunnit was commissioned by the Agatha Christie Festival and includes music, puppetry, physical comedy and more.

Paignton Library. Performances at 10am and 2pm.

The A B Sea Murders

A pleasure cruise around the Bay passing beaches and locations loved by Agatha or featured in her works. There will also be a murder mystery to solve along the way, courtesy of Moonstone Theatre.

6.30pm – 8.30pm. Departure Point E Beacon Quay (in front of Below Decks).

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

The Wagatha Mystery

Join us for this unique dog walking murder mystery, courtesy of Moonstone Theatre Company. Can your dog help you to follow the lead, sniff out the suspects and collar the culprit?

Meet outside Cantina, Goodrington. Various sessions between 11am and 1pm.

A Garden Party to Die For

Join us in the gardens of Torre Abbey for tea and cake on the lawn, as well as period music, games and a murder mystery treasure hunt to solve. Feel free to dress for the occasion!

Torre Abbey. 3pm – 5pm.

Agatha Christie Underground Film Festival

The ultimate underground film festival at Kents Cavern, showing a double bill of Christie classics – *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974) and *Death on the Nile* (1978) in an atmospheric subterranean setting.

Kents Cavern, Torquay. Screenings at 6pm and 8.30pm.

Festival Lit Hop

Our literary take on a bar crawl, visiting some quirky and unusual venues around Torquay harbour where you can expect readings, poetry, music and surprises along the way.

Meet at Torquay Museum. 7pm – 9.30pm.

MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

70 Years of *The Mousetrap*

Join former festival director Tony Medawar for a fascinating talk about the history of the world's longest running play (with tea/coffee and cake) before enjoying the opening night of the play itself.

The Princess Theatre. Talk 2pm – 3pm. Evening show commences at 7.30pm.

11 – 16 SEPTEMBER

The Mousetrap 70th Anniversary Tour

As news spreads of a murder in London, a group of seven strangers find themselves snowed in at a remote countryside guesthouse with a killer in their midst. Can you solve this world-famous mystery for yourself?

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

South West Film Premiere: *A Haunting in Venice*

We are thrilled to be hosting the reginal premier of *A Haunting in Venice*, directed and starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot. The film is being screened with the generous support of 20th Century Studios and The Walt Disney Company. Please note this is a strictly ticket event.

The Vue Cinema, Paignton.
6pm for a 6.30pm start.

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

What's Your Poison?

Caroline Hostein highlights cocktails in Christie's work, while award-winning cocktail mixologist, Cosmo Boardman, will be making a few for attendees to sample. Feel free to dress for cocktails.

Livermead House Hotel, Torquay. 7pm – 9pm.

13 – 16 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie – Her Life in Words and Music

Unleashed Theatre Company presents a brand new musical review telling the life of Agatha Christie through the songs of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Tom Lehrer and more.

Royal Lyceum Theatre, Torquay. 7.30pm – 10pm.
Saturday matinees 2.30pm – 5pm.

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Agatha's Adventures in Archaeology

Local author Emma Seaman illuminates Agatha's travels abroad and the excavations at archaeological sites that provided the intriguing settings and plots for some of her most famous books.

Palace Theatre, Paignton. 10.30am – 11.30am.

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER AND SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Dinner at Greenway

Two exclusive and intimate dinners for just 20 guests each night at Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway. Dr Mark Aldridge and Dr John Curran are the after-dinner speakers at these unique events.

National Trust Greenway House.
7.00pm - 10.30pm

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Lurker-Linane Investigations

A mystery to solve whilst playing a round of golf on the pitch and putt course in front of Torre Abbey. Prizes will be awarded for the first detective to solve the crime, the best golf score, and the best golf attire.

Pitch and Putt, Torre Abbey Meadows. 3pm – 5pm.

LITERARY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Opening Event: Robert Thorogood & Ruth Ware

To open this year's Literary Festival, we are delighted to welcome Robert Thorogood (*Death in Paradise* and *Beyond Paradise*), and Ruth Ware (*The IT Girl*, *The Turn of the Key* and other crime thrillers).

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Online Short Film Festival Brad Friedman presents: Directing Christie

In this short film which he describes as a "labour of love", high school drama teacher Brad Friedman shares how he took every opportunity to introduce his students and local community to his favourite author.

Screened for free in the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey at 4pm.

Mysterious Affairs with Style

Moira Redmond, the creator of the Clothes in Books blog, will be discussing Agatha Christie as social observer and clothes detective.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

All About Agatha Live "Agatha Christie's Greatest Short Story"

In this panel discussion, Kemper Donovan of the All About Agatha podcast will be joined by Christie authorities, Dr John Curran, Dr Jamie Bernthal-Hooker, Dr Mark Aldridge and Victoria Dowd.

7pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

'Mother in Mind' with Rachel Trethewey

We are delighted to welcome Torbay writer Rachel Trethewey, author of *Mothers of the Mind*, a new book in which she describes the remarkable women who shaped the lives variously of Agatha Christie, Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath.

10am. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Agatha and America

Christie super-fan Jaclyn Lurker will be flying across the pond to speak about Agatha Christie and her American connections, including her family, her travels and the portrayal of Americans in her novels.

12pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Online Short Film Festival Agatha Christie and Italy: the legacy of her works

Italian editor and translator Marco Amici discusses Christie in translation and the obstacles her works found in Italy in the '30s and '40s, as well as how Italy and its people are portrayed in her works.

Screened for free in the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey at 1pm.

Agatha Christie on Stage

David Morris, editor and author of the Collecting Christie authoritative website will explore Agatha Christie's stage plays – including her original plays, adapted plays, those adapted by others and even her unpublished plays.

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

How to Survive an Agatha Christie Novel

Join Kate Jackson, writer, blogger and classic crime expert, as she offers tips on how to survive should you find yourself unexpectedly caught within the pages of an Agatha Christie mystery.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Official Birthday Event: *Towards Zero*

The Festival Players present a rehearsed and costumed reading of Agatha Christie's 'lost play' *Towards Zero* made possible by the generous support of the Colwinston Charitable Trust. It is being directed and introduced by Dr Julius Green, who discovered the missing script in New York in 2014.

7.30pm. Palace Theatre, Paignton.

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Christie and the Clerics

Join Dr Jamie Bernthal-Hooker, joint editor of *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Agatha Christie*, for an entertaining, sometimes quirky talk on the Queen of Crime's vicars in the unique setting of Cockington Church.

10am. Cockington Parish Church, Cockington.

The Fabulous Flapper

Sarah Martin identifies some of Agatha's most wonderful, and downright scandalous, representations of the flapper girl as detective in Agatha Christie's work. Be prepared for outrageous outfits, fantastic fashion, and daring dresses!

12pm. Cockington Court, Cockington.

Ann Cleeves in conversation with Jake Kerridge

Author and journalist Jake Kerridge chats to Ann Cleeves, the author of *Vera*, *Shetlands* and the *Two Rivers* mysteries set in North Devon where she was raised.

2pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

By Royal Appointment – The Queen of Crime and the Royal Family

If any writer of the twentieth century could claim to have been by royal appointment, then it was Agatha Christie. In this coronation year, Dr Julius Green's illustrated talk examines the many and varied royal connections to her work.

2pm. Torquay Museum.

Penguin Books and Classic Crime

Join Penguin Press publishing director Simon Winder who had the challenge of reading hundreds of books to decide which titles should be revived as part of the Crime and Espionage series.

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Online Short Film Festival Tito Prates presents - Agatha Christie: The Brazilian Passion

Brazil has the third biggest Agatha Christie fan club in the world and Tito and his guests explain why the author is so popular in the South American country, as well as sharing some items from his personal collection.

Screened for free in the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey at 4pm.

Agatha Christie at Home with Hilary Macaskill

Hilary Macaskill chats about the homes that meant the most to Agatha Christie and the insights they offer into her life and work.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Margaret Rutherford's Miss Marple: Murder & Mirth

Dr Mark Aldridge explores the behind-the-scenes story of the Miss Marple films starring Margaret Rutherford, before a screening of *Murder at the Gallop*.

7pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Christie on the Shelf

Internationally recognised expert on Christie's work, Dr John Curran, will look at the books about Agatha Christie that every aficionado should have on their shelves. And a few they should shun.

10am. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Hercule Poirot's *Silent Night* with Sophie Hannah

Sophie Hannah talks to David Brawn about her upcoming fifth Poirot novel, in which the legendary sleuth puts his little grey cells to work solving a baffling Christmas mystery.

12pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Murder and the Monarchy

For our closing event, Paul Doherty, historian and critically acclaimed author of *The Sorrowful Mysteries of Brother Athelstan*, the Hugh Corbett mysteries and countless other novels, explores how murder has often lurked in the shadows around the throne.

7pm. Kents Cavern, Torquay.

FREE BOOKS!

To mark the 70th anniversary of *The Mousetrap*, The Book Fairies will be hiding 70 books around Torquay during the festival. With the generous support of HarperCollins UK, keep your eyes peeled and perhaps bag yourself a free Agatha Christie book. And look out for clues on our social media and website during the festival.



Find out more about
the Book Fairies at:
ibelieveinbookfairies.com

HAVE YOU DUNNIT?

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
The Mousetrap

70th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Princess Theatre Torquay,
Mon 11 Sep - Sat 16 Sep
2023

8-17
SEPT
2023

www.agathachristiefestival.com
Festival Programme



A week-long celebration of the Queen of Crime across the English Riviera

Famous Author Talks | Literary Events | Theatre | Film | Live Music | Sea Swim | Cocktail Workshop | Comedy | Murder Mysteries | 70th Anniversary of The Mousetrap | Boat Party | Guided Walks | Treasure Hunts | Children's Events | And so much more...

For the latest updates, visit our website at:

www.agathachristiefestival.com

8-17
SEPT
2023

Welcome

Welcome to our week-long celebration across the English Riviera of Torquay-born Agatha Christie.

This year's Festival runs from 8th to 17th September with special highlights planned for Agatha's 133rd birthday on 15th September. Our packed line-up includes an active, varied and entertaining fringe alongside the core festival of literary events. Look for Robert Thorogood, writer of *Death in Paradise*, Ann Cleeves, writer of *Vera* and *Shetland*, Ruth Ware, author of *The IT Girl*, and Sophie Hannah, official author of the Poirot sequels. Enjoy a concert with the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers, a crime writing supergroup with Val McDermid on vocals, or celebrate the Queen of Crime's birthday with a costumed reading of Agatha Christie's 'lost play' *Towards Zero* at the Palace Theatre.

This year is the 70th anniversary of Christie's *The Mousetrap* and we're delighted that the touring production of the world's longest running play will be visiting Torquay's Princess Theatre during the Festival. To mark the milestone we're working with The Book Fairies and HarperCollins UK and will be hiding 70 Agatha Christie books across the Bay during the Festival – with daily clues to help you find them.

We're previewing a brand new video game of *Murder on the Orient Express* with gaming pods at Torre Abbey and Paignton Library.

The Bookery will once again be running our pop-up bookshop in the Spanish Barn at Torre Abbey where most of our literary talks take place.

The Agatha Christie Festival is a registered charity. By buying an event ticket you are supporting our aims to promote literacy, creativity and a love of reading and enabling our community projects across the year engaging children and young people in Torbay. Throughout the week we are also offering the opportunity to enter a draw to win a week's stay for two at *Hampton by Hilton* during the Agatha Christie Festival 2024, with free tickets to all the main events.

The Agatha Christie Festival is made possible through the generous support of the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Torbay Council, English Riviera BID Company, The Colwinston Charitable Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust, The Elmgiant Trust and Agatha Christie Limited. We are a project partner of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and Exeter UNESCO City of Literature.

Matt Newbury, Creative Director

WIN A GOLDEN TICKET TO NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL!

Win a stay at the Hampton by Hilton and tickets to the 2024 Agatha Christie Festival!

To raise money for the Agatha Christie Festival Charity and to support our aims of promoting literacy and a love of reading, we will be running an amazing raffle during the festival. One lucky person will win a stay in a king-size bedroom for two people on a bed and breakfast basis at the Hampton by Hilton for the entire festival (7th – 15th September 2024). They will also win a pair of tickets to all the main events during the festival itself. *

This is a prize valued in excess of £1700. Tickets to the raffle can also be bought via our website during the festival. We will be holding the draw and announcing the winner on Sunday 17th September.

* some exclusions apply e.g. events organised by third parties

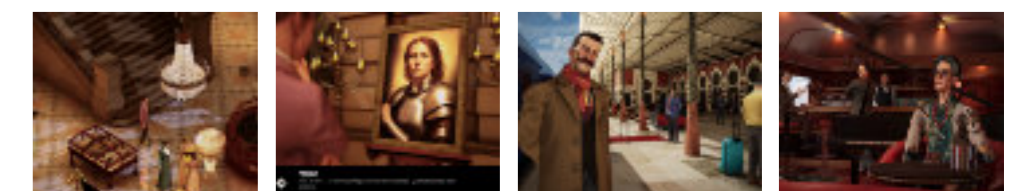
Full a full list of exclusions and the terms and conditions of the competition, please see our website at www.agathachristiefestival.com



VIDEO GAME PODS

We are delighted that festival attendees will be giving people the opportunity to sample two brand-new Agatha Christie video games for free at the festival. *Hercule Poirot: the London Case* has been developed by award-winning Blazin Griffin studio and published by Microids. The story sees the Belgian detective and his beloved sidekick Arthur Hastings in an original adventure involving a priceless piece of art. Fans will also have the exclusive chance to play *Murder on the Orient Express* ahead of its official release date on 18 October. The game brings the classic tale to life in a way that will surprise even the most dedicated fan.

Sample the games at Paignton Library on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th September and in the Medieval Undercroft at Torre Abbey on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September.



Scan this QR Code for the full programme, ticket information and the latest updates.

Kindly Supported by



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