

FRINGE FESTIVAL

SAT 7 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie Sea Swim

This unique event celebrates Agatha's love of sea swimming whilst raising money for Rowcroft Hospice and the Agatha Christie Festival Charity.

Broadsands to Goodrington South Sands. 10am – 12pm.

Intrigue at the Library

Join your hosts for a guided mystery trail around Paignton Library. You have 45 minutes to solve the mystery by completing puzzles and clues.

Paignton Library. 10am – 2pm.

Agatha Christie Festival Write Now 2024

An informal scratch performance by talented local young people who have been working with multi-award-winning playwright and screenwriter, Bea Roberts. This project is in partnership with Daisy and MED Theatre, with the support of The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

Paignton Library (Children's area) 1.30pm – 3pm. Free.

Murder at the Manor

Join Moonstone Theatre Company to help them solve a mystery, whilst also enjoying a delicious afternoon tea experience.

Palace Theatre (Stage left), Paignton. 2pm – 4pm.

Underground Cinema

Enjoy a truly underground cinema experience in Kents Cavern and in the very caves that inspired Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit*. *Knives Out* (2019) at 6pm and *Death on the Nile* (1978) at 8.30pm.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay.

SUN 8 SEPTEMBER

Gala Opening of the Fringe Festival: "Sparkling Cyanide – A Scintillating Soiree!"

Agatha Christie Festival & The Lucky 7 Club present a night of vintage cabaret and burlesque-style entertainment and the perfect chance to get dressed up. Expect feisty flappers, femmes fatales, dapper daredevils, moustachioed marvels – innovative, intelligent, provocative, inspiring, jaw-dropping – marvel at the glitterati – and that's just the audience! Please note: The event is strictly over 18s only and will include some adult humour and burlesque-style entertainment.

Brixham Theatre. 7pm – 11pm.

The Wagatha Mystery – “A Tail of Murder on the English Riviera”

Join us for a unique dog walking murder mystery courtesy of Moonstone Theatre Company. Can your dogs follow the leads, sniff out the clues and help you collar the culprit? Due to the popularity of last year's event, there is a brand new plot for your dog-tectives to solve. **Meet outside the front of Torre Abbey. Slots start at 11am, 11.20am, 11.40am, 12pm and 12.20pm.**

A Garden Party to Die For

Join us for a spiffing summer garden party in the heavenly walled gardens at Torre Abbey. Meet the Head Gardener, learn about Agatha Christie's potent and poisonous plants and her time as a pharmacist in Torquay and join us for afternoon tea – if you dare!

Torre Abbey. Sessions start at 12pm and 3pm.

Action, Adventure and International Intrigue

To celebrate 100 years since the publication of *The Man in The Brown Suit*, local writer Emma Seaman explores Agatha Christie's standalone thrillers from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay. 7pm-9pm.

Murder, She Didn't Write

We are delighted to welcome back Degrees of Error with their hysterical improvised murder mystery show, which has been garnering multiple five-star reviews wherever it goes, including selling out every year at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. One not to be missed!

Palace Theatre, Paignton. 7.30pm.

MON 9 SEPTEMBER

Minibus to Greenway House

Responding to your feedback from last year's Festival, we are delighted to be introducing minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway for the first time.

Departs from outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.

Agatha Underground

In this very special tour, learn about Agatha Christie's connections to Kents Cavern (the inspiration for Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit*) as you explore this fascinating cave system.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay. 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

Murder on the Riviera Express

Amateur sleuths are invited to join us for a unique murder mystery experience aboard the very train that Poirot rode in both the *ABC Murders* and *Dead Man's Folly*.

Queen's Park Station, Paignton. 6pm (for a 6.30pm start) – 8.30pm.

TUE 10 SEPTEMBER

Minibus to Greenway House

Responding to your feedback from last year's Festival, we are delighted to be introducing minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway for the first time.

Departs from outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.

Tea and Cake at Agatha's Church

See the marble font where Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was baptised, as well as the family pew. Followed by a short walking tour and then tea/coffee and cake with the vicar.

All Saints' Church, Torre. 11am – 12pm.

A Sparkling Tea on the Terrace
Enjoy a glass of prosecco and delicious afternoon tea on the terrace of the historic Redcliffe Hotel, with live music from their resident singer and taking in some of the finest views in the Bay.

The Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton. 3pm – 5pm.

Underground Cinema

Enjoy a truly underground cinema experience in Kents Cavern and in the very caves that inspired Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit*. *Evil Under the Sun* (1982) at 6pm and *Clue* (1985) at 8.30pm.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay.

Murder at the Zoo – Whispers in the Wild

Find yourself immersed in a world of zoological drama, at an evening of conspiracy.

Paignton Zoo. 7pm – 10pm.

WED 11 SEPTEMBER

“All Aboard” the Agatha Christie Model Railway

During the Festival, Torre Abbey will be hosting an Agatha Christie-inspired model railway, constructed for the *Great Model Railway Challenge*. See the masterpiece, before the builders share both their inspirations and challenges and introduce excerpts from the episode.

Torre Abbey. Sessions start at 10am and 2pm.

Minibus to Greenway House

Responding to your feedback from last year's Festival, we are delighted to be introducing minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway for the first time.

Departs from outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.

Afternoon Tea at Burgh Island

Join Miss Lemon and English Riviera Custom Tours for a full afternoon trip to this iconic island hotel where Agatha Christie was inspired to write *And Then There Were None* and *Evil Under the Sun*.

Departs Torquay. 12pm – 5.45pm.

Film Club

Enjoy a screening of *Murder She Said* starring Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, where a young Agatha would enjoy watching plays with her sister Madge and brother Monty.

2.30pm. The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Torquay.

The Swinging Christies

Mark Aldridge and Gray Robert Brown, the presenters of The Swinging Christies podcast, host an illustrated talk containing six fascinating insights into Christie's 1960s writing that didn't make it into the show.

The Royal Torbay Yacht Club, Torquay. 4pm – 5pm.

Underground Cinema

Enjoy a truly underground cinema experience in Kents Cavern and in the very caves that inspired Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit*. *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974) at 6pm and *See How They Run* (2022) at 8.30pm.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay.

The AB Sea Murders

Join us for a boat trip around the Bay, passing beaches and locations loved by Agatha or featured in her works. Why not dress in your best detective outfits, as there's sure to be a mystery to solve along the way.

Departs Beacon Quay, Torquay. 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

The Hot House Combo

After the boat trip, join us for live swing and jazz from the brilliant four-piece Hot House Combo at this popular harbourside venue. Entry is free and

they serve food until 9pm (reservations via their website: offshoretorquay.co.uk/book-a-table or call 01803292108)

Music from 9pm. Offshore Bar and Restaurant, Torquay Harbour.

THU 12 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie at the Palace

Bijou Theatre Productions has performed an Agatha Christie play at the Palace for nearly 20 years. Hear from some of the Bijou members, actors and directors.

The Palace Theatre, Paignton. 10.30am.

SAT 14 SEPTEMBER

Intrigue at the Library

Join your hosts for a guided mystery trail around Paignton Library. You have 45 minutes to solve the mystery by completing puzzles and clues.

Paignton Library. 10am – 2pm.

Greenway 1950s Fête

The National Trust is celebrating the anniversary of Agatha Christie's birthday with a 1950s fête inspired by *Dead Man's Folly*. Come and enjoy the traditional fun and games in the Walled Garden.

Greenway House and Gardens near Brixham. 11am – 4pm.

Murder at the Manor

Join Moonstone Theatre Company to help them solve a mystery, whilst also enjoying a delicious afternoon tea experience.

Palace Theatre (Stage left), Paignton. 2pm – 4pm.

Agatha after Hours

From childhood to crime writer, Greenway House and its collection portrays the incredible life of the bestselling novelist of all time. This is her story.

Greenway House and Gardens near Brixham. 6.30pm.

SUN 15 SEPTEMBER

Agatha after Hours

From childhood to crime writer, Greenway House and its collection portrays the incredible life of the bestselling novelist of all time. This is her story.

Greenway House and Gardens near Brixham. 6.30pm.

Throughout the Festival

An Extraordinary Walking Tour

Join Graham to discover how Agatha became the world's bestselling novelist, despite the challenges she faced professionally and personally.

Meet outside the Visitor Information Centre, Torquay. Various times and dates.

Theatre Productions

THU 12 – SAT 14 SEPTEMBER

Witness for the Prosecution

Agatha Christie's intriguing and widely acclaimed courtroom drama is presented by the award-winning Brixham Operatic and Dramatic Society. Can a man accused of murdering a wealthy heiress, prove his innocence and escape the hangman's noose? **Brixham Theatre. 7.30pm nightly.**

MON 9 – SUN 15 SEPTEMBER

The Unexpected Guest

TOADS Theatre Company presents this Christie classic that sees a stranger seeking refuge from the fog, only to find a man shot dead and his wife standing over him with a smoking gun.

The Little Theatre, Torquay. 7.30pm nightly and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

LITERARY FESTIVAL

THU 12 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.

10am – 12pm. Pitch and Putt, Torre Abbey Meadows.

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Murder Mystery Bingo. Each of the bingo calls will be related to Agatha Christie or the murder mystery genre in general. Will you be the first to get a full house, or will your number be up? Sponsored by Kents Cavern.

1.30pm – 2.30pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Opening Event: Lynda La Plante

To coincide with the launch of her memoir, *Getting Away with Murder: My Unexpected Life on Page, Stage and Screen*, we are delighted to be opening the Agatha Christie Literary Festival with the legend that is Lynda La Plante.

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Agatha Christie She Watched

Join Teresa Peschel, the author of *Agatha Christie, She Watched* who will be discussing some of the 201 international Agatha Christie films from around the world that she has seen and how other cultures adapt Agatha's work.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

All About Agatha Live! “The Greatest Screen Adaptation”

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

7pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

FRI 13 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Travels

Andrew Eames is the bestselling author of *The 8.55 to Baghdad*, in which he retraces a solo journey made by Agatha Christie from London to Baghdad in 1928, a journey that was to change her life completely.

10am. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Agatha Christie and the Crime that Dare not Speak its Name

Caroline Derry's talk will explore how Agatha Christie represented lesbians in her post-war novels, and the insights they offer into the criminal justice system's attitudes to lesbianism. **12pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.**

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Book Club. Join Mark Aldridge and Gray Robert Brown, presenters of The Swinging Christies podcast for a fun and informal chat about *The Mirror Crack'd* from *Side to Side*. Sponsored by Kents Cavern.

1.30pm – 2.30pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Lost Lingo: Decoding the 1920s Novels for Today's Reader

Kate Gingold, the author of *Agatha Annotated* invites you to dust off the pages of Agatha Christie's Golden Age novels to uncover quips and references that have faded over the last one hundred years.

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Agatha Christie: Forensic Detective

In this illustrated talk, Carla Valentine explores the burgeoning science of forensics (including blood spatter, autopsy, fingerprints and toxicology) through the lens of Christie's works, as well as the true crimes which inspired her.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Joan Hickson's Miss Marple – The Definitive Expert on Wickedness?

In this entertaining illustrated talk, 'Agathologist' Dr Mark Aldridge discusses the search for a definitive portrayal of Miss Marple on screen, drawing on new research undertaken for his book *Agatha Christie's Marple: Expert on Wickedness*. The talk is followed by a screening of *The Murder at the Vicarage* (BBC, 1986), starring Joan Hickson.

7pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

SAT 14 SEPTEMBER

Past Perfect? Agatha Christie and Changing Times

Dr Jamie Bernthal-Hooker, author of *Agatha Christie: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction*, looks at how the Queen of Crime changed with the world around her – and uncovers her complex relationship to the past.

10am. Bygones, St Marychurch.

Murder Mystery Writing Masterclass with Greg Mosse

Suitable for stage and screen, as well as novelists, Greg Mosse will share ten dynamic techniques for murder mystery writers, generating compelling scenes of conflict that reveal and develop character – plus clever ways to integrate these scenes into powerful broader storylines, full of red herrings and robust clues.

10am. Torquay Museum.

The Jewellery Cases

Meenakshi Reddy Madhavan discusses the various mentions of rings and necklaces and precious stones found in Christie's books and what their historical (and personal) relevance was.

12pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Mystery Quiz. Bring a team (or we will team you up) and prepare to exercise those little grey cells. No in-depth knowledge of Agatha Christie books will be needed at this relaxed and social event, but you may need to remember who sang *Murder on the Dance Floor*! Sponsored by Kents Cavern.

1.30pm – 2.30pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Miss Marple and the Secret History of Female Sleuths

Join Caitlin Davies, author of *Private Inquiries*, for a journey through the history of Britain's real-life women detectives. What was the truth behind the fictional image, and what characteristics did they share with Christie's imaginary counterpart?

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Agatha Christie's Doctors

Join Raye Green, the author of *Agatha Christie's Doctors*, as she investigates the many hundreds of doctors, nurses and medics in Christie's stories.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

A Marple-ous Garden Party

An evening drinks party with jazz and swing music from Just Misbehavin', a mystery to solve and special guest Annette Badland reading 'Miss Marple Tells a Story' with an introduction from Mark Aldridge. Supported by Poi Roger Champagne.

7pm. The Walled Gardens at Torre Abbey (or The Spanish Barn in inclement weather).

SUN 15 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie and the Rolling Stone!

Mark Wiltshire from Christie's headed up the sale of rare Christie collectables assembled by the late Rolling Stones drummer, Charlie Watts. He talks about the market for Christie collectables.

10am. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Tommy and Tuppence and The Great Detectives

Dr John Curran investigates the Great Detective characters in whose style Tommy and Tuppence solve their cases in *Partners in Crime*. Were they all Great Detectives? How well did Agatha Christie capture their styles? And why have some survived and some vanished?

12pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Jamie Bernthal-Hooker will give a fun and fascinating talk about the history of the popular board game, which turns 75 years old this year. People will then have the chance to play a game of Cluedo in our mini-championships.

1.30pm – 2.30pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

The Art & Artists of Agatha Christie

Join David Morris, author and editor of *Collecting Christie*, as he shares fascinating insights into the iconic dust jacket artwork that adorned Agatha Christie's British and American first editions.

3pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Closing Talk: Ragnar Jónasson and Benjamin Stevenson (in conversation with Jake Kerridge)

This year's closing event will see two huge and entertaining writers in the murder mystery genre chat about their love of Agatha Christie and her influences on their work.

5pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Birthday Event: Hercule Poirot's Favourite Case

Join Brad Friedman, a theatre director and educator from the United States, and the author of the classic crime blog *Ah Sweet Mystery*, as he discusses *Cards on the Table*, one of Christie's most ingenious novels set at an after-dinner bridge tournament. Following the talk, Alex Maddocks from Torquay Bridge Club will provide an introduction to the game and the chance to play a mini-tournament.

7pm. The Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

FREE BOOKS!

The Book Fairies will be in Torbay during the Festival, hiding books for you to find out in the wild! 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

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Poirot in the 1930s

#READCHRISTIE

For fun extracts, features, reading lists and trivia sign up to the Agatha Christie newsletter.



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



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programme, ticket information and
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For the latest updates, visit our website at:

www.agathachristiefestival.com

7-15
SEPT
2024

Welcome

Greetings from the birthplace of Agatha Christie!

We are so excited about this year's Festival, which is packed with treats for fans of both Agatha Christie and the genre of crime fiction in general.

Our Fringe Festival will again be taking full advantage of our unique ability to hold events in actual places with a tangible Christie connection. This year that includes All Saints' Church where she was baptised, the Royal Torbay Yacht Club where her father was a member, Paignton Zoo where she attended the 25th anniversary celebrations and several events at her former holiday home at Greenway.

We are also hosting a murder mystery on the steam train ridden by both Agatha herself, and Poirot in two of her novels. 2024 is also the 100th anniversary of *The Man in the Brown Suit*, and Kents Cavern (which appears at Hampsley Cavern) in the book, have a series of talks, special tours and even an Underground Cinema Festival.

The Literary Festival will be held in the Spanish Barn at Torre Abbey, with an impressive line-up of speakers who will be chatting about various aspects of Agatha's life and works, as well as wider aspects of the crime fiction genre. Opening our talks is a very special headline guest, Lynda La Plante.

The four-day Literary Festival closes with Ragnar Jónasson (Dark Iceland series) and Benjamin Stevenson (*Everyone In My Family Has Killed Someone*) chatting to Jake Kerridge about their love of Agatha Christie and her influences on their work.

New for 2024 is the Lunchtime Murder Club and your chance to take part in free and social activities, from quizzes to bingo and a book club to a game of Cluedo. Our new partners, East Gate Bookshop, in Totnes will be running our pop-up bookshop.

The Agatha Christie Festival is a registered charity. The programme of events wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the following organisations: Torbay Council, The English Riviera BID Company, The Colwinston Charitable Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Kents Cavern, Great Western Railway and Agatha Christie Limited.

The 2024 Festival is delivered under the patronage of the UK National Commission for UNESCO.

Matt Newbury, Creative Director

ENTER OUR PRIZE RAFFLE

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 Festival, we will be running a raffle with some amazing prizes up for grabs. These include a two-night break at the Hampton by Hilton at next year's Festival, tickets to a Murder Mystery event at The Old Swan in Harrogate and a book bundle courtesy of Harper Collins. You can also win theatre tickets to see *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Mousetrap* and *Witness for the Prosecution*.

With more prizes still to be announced, do please support our charitable aims by buying a raffle ticket from one of our volunteers. And good luck!

We will be holding the draw and announcing
the winners on Sunday 15th September.

