

FRINGE FESTIVAL

SAT 6 SEPTEMBER

Agatha Christie Sea Swim

300 swimmers will take part in a one-mile swim celebrating Agatha's love of sea swimming, whilst raising money for Rowcroft Hospice and the Agatha Christie Festival Charity.

Beacon Cove to Meadfoot Beach. 4pm – 6pm.

SAT 13 SEPTEMBER

Christie for Kids Day

We have teamed up with Libraries Unlimited to present a free day of mystery-themed activities and author chats with Robin Stevens (*Murder Most Unladylike*) and Abie Longstaff (*Little Bad Wolf*).

Partner Event

The Body on the Beach

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

Saturday 13th and 20th September, Palace Theatre (Stage Left), Paignton. 2pm – 4pm.

Partner Event

Murder on the Dancefloor

Enjoy a very exclusive murder mystery dinner experience with Moonstone Theatre Company at Ugbrooke House, in the ballroom where Agatha Miller first met Archie Christie.

Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh. 6.30pm – 10.30pm.

Partner Event

A Mysterious Affair at Mercure

An evening of mystery, elegance and intrigue at Mercure Paignton, with themed dining, live entertainment, engaging activities and a few unexpected surprises.

The Mercure Hotel, Paignton. 7pm – 11pm.

Partner Event

The Bodies in the Library

A special after-hours event at Paignton Library featuring the amazing 5-piece band, Trips for Biscuits, who perform well-known modern songs in a swinging 1920s style. With licenced bar, DJ and other entertainment.

Paignton Library. 7.30pm – 10.30pm.

SUN 14 SEPTEMBER

Partner Event

Agatha Christie Church Service

Join a very special service celebrating the life of Agatha, in the church where she was baptised and where the Miller family would worship.

All Saints' Church, Torre. 11am – 11.45am.

The Tea and Scandal Garden Party

Join us for an afternoon garden party at Wylam House, a spectacular and historic villa where a young Agatha and her family would have visited. With music, a mystery to solve and a Devonshire cream tea to enjoy.

Wylam House, Haldon Road, Torquay. 2pm – 5pm.

It's A Mystery!

Tim Benzie, award-winning playwright and the acclaimed creator and host of Solve-Along-A-Murder-She-Wrote, presents his new one-man show, a funny and engrossing deep dive into the enduring appeal of murder mysteries.

Torquay Museum. 7pm – 8.30pm.

MON 15 SEPTEMBER

Tea and Cake at Agatha's Church

Join us for coffee/tea and cake and a chance to see the actual marble font where Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was baptised on Thursday 20 November 1890. Includes an (optional) short walking tour of the parish and other locations from the life of young Agatha.

All Saints' Church, Torre. 9.30am – 11am.

Minibus to Greenway House

We are once again offering minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway. Booking essential. **Departs outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.**

Birthday Tea at Burgh Island

What better way to celebrate the birthday of Agatha Christie than at this stunning and unique location where Agatha not only stayed but was inspired to write *And Then There Were None* and *Evil Under the Sun*.

Coach departs from Torre Abbey. 11.30am – 5pm.

Partner Event

Cave Cinema

Enjoy a truly underground cinema experience at Kents Cavern and in the very caves that inspired Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit. Murder at the Gallop* (1963) at 6pm and *The Mirror Crack'd* (1980) at 8.30pm.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay.

Partner Event

Zoo Murder Mystery

Unleash your inner detective as an evening of conspiracy, drama and intrigue unfolds around you at our Zoo Murder Mystery...can you crack the case, solve the murder, and uncover the killer before the night is over.

Paignton Zoo. 7pm – 10pm.

Partner Event

Agatha After Hours

A drinks reception and two specially curated guided tours, 'Childhood to Crime Writer' and 'Behind the Scenes at Greenway'. You will also get the chance to see items not usually on display to the public, including personal effects, signed first editions and objects that inspired her books.

Greenway House and Gardens near Brixham. 6.30pm – 9.30pm.

TUE 16 SEPTEMBER

Minibus to Greenway House

We are once again offering minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway. Booking essential. **Departs outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.**

The 11:15 from Paignton

Guests ride aboard the very steam train that Poirot rode in both *The ABC Murders* and *Dead Man's Folly*, before enjoying an hour-long cruise on the River Dart, followed by some free time in Dartmouth before returning to Paignton by steam train.

Departs Queen's Park Station, Paignton. 10.45am – 4.30pm.

Partner Event

Agatha Underground

In this very special tour, learn about Agatha Christie's connections to Kents Cavern as you explore this fascinating cave system.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay. 11am & 2pm

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Greenway House and Gardens near Brixham. 6.30pm – 9.30pm.

Partner Event

Murder, She Didn't Write

We are delighted to welcome back Degrees of Error Theatre with their hysterical improvised murder show. Each show, this extraordinarily talented company use audience suggestions to create a unique, original and extremely comical improvised murder mystery just for you. All you have to do... is solve it! **Palace Theatre, Paignton. 7.30pm – 10pm.**

WED 17 SEPTEMBER

Minibus to Greenway House

We are once again offering minibuses to Agatha Christie's former holiday home at Greenway. Booking essential. **Departs outside Torquay Pavilion. 10am – 3pm.**

Partner Event

"Seeing the Light"

The Agatha Christie Window at Churston Ferrers

In this unique free event organised by the Devonshire Association, and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dr Sue Andrew shares

the story of the stained glass window that Agatha donated through the sale of one of her stories. She will be joined by Sandy Howard, a volunteer at Greenway, for a second short talk called Glimpses of Greenway. Refreshments will be provided.

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Churston Ferrers. 10am – 11.30am.

Agatha Christie's Mysterious Dartmoor

Join us for a very special afternoon where we will visit places that helped transform the young Agatha into the bestselling novelist she became, including Ugbrooke House and the Moorlands Hotel. Includes a Devonshire cream tea and a talk by Victoria Dowd.

Departs from Torre Abbey. 1pm – 5.30pm.

Partner Event

Sparkling Afternoon Tea on the Terrace

Enjoy a glass of prosecco and delicious afternoon tea on the terrace of the historic Redcliffe Hotel.

The Redcliffe Hotel, 4 Marine Drive, Paignton TQ3 2NL. 1pm.

Partner Event

Cave Cinema

Enjoy a truly underground cinema experience at Kents Cavern and in the very caves that inspired Hampsley Cavern in *The Man in the Brown Suit. Witness for the Prosecution* (1957) at 6pm and *Death on the Nile* (1978) at 8.30pm.

Kents Cavern, Wellswood, Torquay.

The Mysterious Mix and Mingle

Ahead of the start of the Literary Festival, we are hosting an informal mix and mingle event to allow guests to meet each other over a drink or two. Join us upstairs in The Yacht, an ultra-glamorous new venue on the harbourside.

The Yacht, Victoria Parade, Torquay. 7.30pm onwards.

THU 18 SEPTEMBER

Partner Event

Agatha Christie Literary Daughter of South Devon

As part of their monthly An Audience at the Palace talks, the Place Theatre present an in-depth talk about Agatha Christie – with John Risdon.

Palace Avenue, Paignton. 10.30am – 11.30am

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

An Extraordinary Walking Tour

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

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

Offshore Bar and Restaurant

This harbourside bar and restaurant has an Agatha Christie-inspired menu, including the author's favourite food. They also serve three Agatha-themed cocktails.

Offshore, Vaughan Parade, Torquay.

Afternoon Tea at the Imperial

Enjoy a themed afternoon tea in the sun lounge of the Imperial Hotel, which inspired at least three of Agatha Christie's novels.

The Imperial Hotel, Torquay.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

MON 15 SEPTEMBER – SAT 20 SEPTEMBER

The Hollow

TOADS theatre company presents an amateur production of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* where the murder of Dr John Christow is investigated.

Bookings will open to the general public from 1st July 2025.

The Little Theatre, St Mark's Road, Torquay. 7.30pm with Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

WED 17 SEPTEMBER – SAT 20 SEPTEMBER

Hay Fever

Unleashed Theatre Company presents an amateur production of Noël Coward's iconic, hilarious and subversive comedy in the Torquay theatre that Agatha would often attend with her siblings.

Royal Lyceum Theatre, Abbey Road, Torquay. 7.30pm with Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

THU 18 SEPTEMBER – SAT 20 SEPTEMBER

Murder in the Studio

Local theatre group Project X will perform Agatha Christie's *Murder in the Studio*, with the audience invited to take a trip back in time to the 1950s and the golden age of radio. The actors will recreate the live recordings of three Agatha Christie radio plays, with sound effects created on stage for the audience's enjoyment.

Brixham Theatre, Brixham Town Hall. 7.30pm.

LITERARY FESTIVAL

THU 18 SEPTEMBER

The Agatha Christie Mile 1920s Costumed Promenade

Start the Literary Festival off in style! Dress up in 1920s clothes and join us for this free event, promenading along the Agatha Christie Trail from the brand-new sculpture, past the Agatha Christie bust and along to Princess Pier.

Meet at the Agatha Christie Sculpture on The Strand. 10am – 11am.

Opening Event:

Continuing Marple and Poirot

Bestselling authors, Lucy Foley and Sophie Hannah, will be in conversation with David Brawn about continuing Agatha Christie's two iconic detectives.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 12pm – 1pm.

In Conversation with Chris Chibnall: From Broadchurch to Death at the White Hart and Agatha Christie

In an interview with our guest host, author and screen writer, Chris Chibnall, will discuss his debut novel, *Death at the White Hart*, as well as his work writing for television, including *Broadchurch* and *Dr Who* and adapting *The Seven Dials Mystery* for the screen.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 2pm – 3pm.

All About Agatha LIVE Episode! True Crime Queen: The Real-life Murders in Agatha Christie's Fiction

All About Agatha host and mystery author, Kemper Donovan, will talk about the true crime cases that inspired some of Agatha Christie's novels.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 4pm – 5pm.

'Tom Adams: The Art of the Artist' followed by an exclusive viewing of the exhibition, 'Tom Adams and Agatha Christie: Partners in Crime'.

In this illustrated talk David Morris, author of *CollectingChristie.com*, will share exclusive insights into the creative genius of Tom Adams. Following David's talk, attendees will be invited to a drinks reception that celebrates the launch of a new and related exhibit 'Tom Adams and Agatha Christie: Partners in Crime', with exclusive access to view the exhibition before its opening to the public on Friday 19th September.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey/Torre Abbey Museum. 5.30pm – 8pm.

FRI 19 SEPTEMBER

Exhibition:

Tom Adams and Agatha Christie: Partners in Crime

A unique opportunity to view some of Tom Adams' original artwork, objects featuring on his iconic covers, and some never-before-seen material showing how Tom's artistic processes brought these covers to life.

Torre Abbey. From Friday 19th September until November.

Agatha Christie and the Murder Game

Internationally recognised expert on Christie's work, Dr John Curran, looks at Golden Age detective fiction as a literary game and explains how Agatha Christie was the greatest player. Ever.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 10am – 11am.

A Bundle of Fun

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Secret of Chimneys*, Devon-based bestselling author, Victoria Dowd, will give an entertaining talk on Bundle Brent.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 12pm – 1pm.

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Book Club: Mark Aldridge and Gray Robert Brown, hosts of the Swinging Christies podcast, discuss *Endless Night*. Sponsored by Kents Cavern.

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

Agatha Christie's Devon

Agatha Christie biographer, Laura Thompson, will explore Agatha Christie's relationship - both personal and literary - with the county that she loved so deeply.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 3pm – 4pm.

Publishing Agatha Christie

HarperCollins' head of literary estates David Brawn marks 30 years in his role as Agatha Christie's publisher by taking us behind the scenes of her UK publishing house and giving a unique insight into how the author's complete canon of novels and short stories continue to thrive.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 5pm – 6pm.

The Swinging Christies LIVE: Groovy Graphics and Cool Covers: Packaging Christie for the Sixties

Join Dr Mark Aldridge (*Agatha Christie's Marple: Expert on Wickedness*) and Gray Robert Brown for their first ever LIVE recording of hit podcast The Swinging Christies.

The Livermead Hotel, Torquay. 7pm – 10pm.

SAT 20 SEPTEMBER

Making Enquiries: Inquiries into Information in A Murder is Announced

A Murder is Announced celebrates its 75th anniversary of publication in 2025. Dr Michelle Kazmer investigates the importance of information systems in one of the most beloved Miss Marple novels.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 10am – 11am.

Agatha Christie and the Occult

Join former Festival director, Tony Medawar, for a spinechilling insight into Agatha Christie's many stories of the supernatural.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 12pm – 1pm.

The Lunchtime Murder Club

Free concert: Enjoy your lunch listening to the sounds of the Interstellar Duo, playing an Agatha Christie-inspired programme of beautiful smooth period jazz. Sponsored by Kents Cavern

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

Witness For the Prosecution: From Page to Stage and Screen

Dr Mark Aldridge explores the fascinating story of one of Christie's greatest successes on page, stage and screen.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 3pm – 4pm.

Super Panel: The Importance of Settings in Christie's Books

Bestselling authors, Tom Hindle, Alex Michaelides and C.B. Everett, discuss the importance of settings in Agatha Christie's books and the influence it has on their own crime novels.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 5pm – 6pm.

The Affair at the Victory Ball

Join us for an evening of celebration at the Grand Hotel! As part of our commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day you are invited to enjoy a welcome drink followed by a three-course meal and then dance the night away to the sounds of 17-piece AJ's Big Band.

The Grand Hotel, Torquay. 7pm – 11pm.

SUN 21 SEPTEMBER

Secrets and Spies: Agatha Christie the War Writer

Dr Jamie Bernthal-Hooker explores Christie's often overlooked thrillers, to unlock the mysteries of a remarkable twentieth century chronicler of war and warfare.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 10am – 11am.

Agatha Christie at Isokon - the Modernist War Years

Between 1941 and 1947 Agatha Christie lived in the Lawn Road Flats in Hampstead, now known as the Isokon.

Leyla Daybelge and Magnus Englund, Trustees of The Isokon Gallery, will tell us more about this iconic building and Agatha's time there.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 12pm – 1pm.

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 fun event. Sponsored by Kents Cavern.

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

And Then There Were Teens: Portrayal of Teenagers in Christie

Australian YA crime novelist, Troy Hunter, talks about how teenagers are portrayed in Agatha's books.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 3pm – 4pm.

Super Panel: The Never-Ending Golden Age – Taking Christie's Blueprint in New Directions

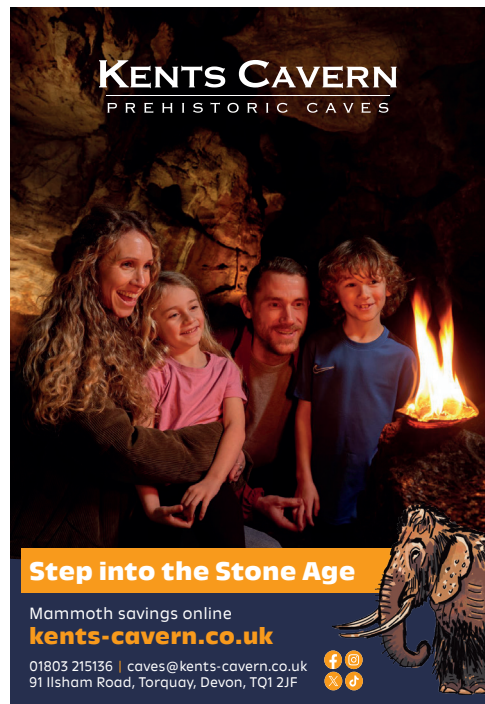
Best Selling authors Janice Hallett, Vaseem Khan (and a TBA third writer) discuss the never-ending Golden Age and how their novels are taking Christie's blueprint in new directions.

Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey. 5pm – 6pm.

Closing Event: Death Comes as the End

Join us for our fabulous closing event to this year's Festival. Our final panel event will be followed by a fun and traitorous murder game all against the backdrop of the beautiful Bay at sunset.

Pier Point Restaurant. 7pm - 9pm.



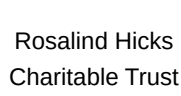


Scan this QR Code for the full programme, ticket information and the latest updates.

Under the Patronage of the UK National Commission for UNESCO



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



Famous Author Talks | Literary Events | Theatre | Film | Murder Mysteries |
Sea Swim | Day Trips | Garden Parties | Guided Walks | Treasure Hunts |
Children's Events | and so much more...

For the latest updates, visit our website at:

www.agathachristiefestival.com

13-21
SEPT
2025

Welcome

Greetings from the birthplace of Agatha Christie!

We can't wait to welcome friends old and new to this year's Festival, once again taking place right across Agatha Christie Country.

We begin in style with our six-day Fringe Festival, brimming with killer fun in some truly unusual locations - from Cave Cinema at Kents Cavern to a murder mystery at Paignton Zoo. This year we've also added a range of glamorous evening socials, including a lively Swinging Christies night at the Livermead House Hotel and a closing night of talks and traitorous games at Pier Point.

On stage, there's something for every theatre lover: an unmissable one-man show *It's A Mystery!* at Torquay Museum; TOADS Theatre Company performing *The Hollow* at The Little Theatre; and Project X presenting Agatha Christie's *Murder in the Studio* at Brixham Theatre. We're also delighted to welcome back the ever-popular *Murder, She Didn't Write* - an improvised murder mystery at Paignton's Palace Theatre.

The Literary Festival unfolds in the historic Spanish Barn at Torre Abbey, boasting an impressive line-up of speakers. We open with Sophie Hannah and Lucy Foley, discussing how they've brought Poirot and Miss Marple to life for a new generation. Joining them is an array of acclaimed crime writers and Christie experts - Chris Chibnall, Tom Hindle, Alex Michaelides, C.B. Everett, Janice Hallett, Ragnar Jónasson and Vaseem Khan — alongside much-loved friends of the Festival: Dr Mark Aldridge, Gray Robert Brown, Kemper Donovan, Dr John Curran, Tony Medawar, Dr Jamie Bernthal-Hooker, and Victoria Dowd.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary

of VE Day, and we'll be hosting special talks exploring Agatha's life during the Second World War - from her time in London to the ways the conflict shaped her writing. There will also be a glamorous soirée called *The Affair* at the Victory Ball at The Grand Hotel (where Agatha spent her honeymoon) featuring a 17-piece big band.

The Agatha Christie Festival is a registered charity, made possible thanks to the generous support of Torbay Council, The English Riviera BID Company, The Colwinston Charitable Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust, HarperCollins UK, Kents Cavern, Great Western Railway, The Christie Archive Trust, and Agatha Christie Limited. The 2025 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 a ticket you are supporting our aims to promote literacy, creativity and a love of reading amongst young people in Torbay.

Prizes include:

- 4-night stay at the Hampton by Hilton in 2026 and tickets to the whole Literary Festival
- Tickets to see *Death on the Nile* at the Princess Theatre and a stay at the Redcliffe Hotel
- Book bundles donated by Harper Collins
- Games and goodies donated by Agatha Christie Ltd

We will be holding the draw and announcing the winners at *The Affair at the Victory Ball* on Saturday 20 September*

* You do not have to be at the ball to win a prize, as we will contact all of the winners and arrange to get their prizes to them.

