

DULWICH BOOKS

Presents



BALHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

8th - 11th June 2017

Happy, Healthy, Home?



at The Bedford Pub, 77 Bedford Hill, Balham, SW12 9HD

balhamliteraryfestival.co.uk



DULWICH BOOKS

Presents

BALHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

8th - 11th June 2017

Pop-up bookshop all weekend at The Bedford

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FESTIVAL

10th - 12th November 2017
at Dulwich College

www.dulwichliteraryfestival.co.uk

Welcome to the



BALHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

Happy, Healthy, Home?

Working on the second Balham literary festival set me to musing about the things that make Balham an inspiring place to call home. The second world war of course features in everyone's memories – the tragedy at the underground station of 14th October 1940, the dark rumour that Hitler had planned to set up shop in Du Cane Court. Our neighbourhood has welcomed new arrivals from around the world, including the Polish community and the Windrush generation. Our religious worshippers have founded a mosque, a temple and a synagogue as well as churches. There are cultural landmarks, too – the Lido, the Bedford pub itself – and proximity to important health centres past and present, including St George's Hospital and the former asylum at Tooting Bec. Edward Thomas and Thomas Hardy both have connections to the area, marking our literary heritage. We have a café culture and a relaxed, friendly vibe which makes this place so popular.

I wanted to gather up all these threads and bring together writers – many of whom are South Londoners – to explore themes of war, migration, exile, creating a homeland, home cooking, swimming, mental health and neurosurgery, literature, singer songwriting, the Caribbean today, the lands at the edges of Western Europe, and how children feel about fitting in to their environment. I hope you enjoy the events and I hope they make you feel proud – as I am – to have such a diverse and stimulating home.

Julie Nicklin
April 2017

Venue

The Bedford Pub

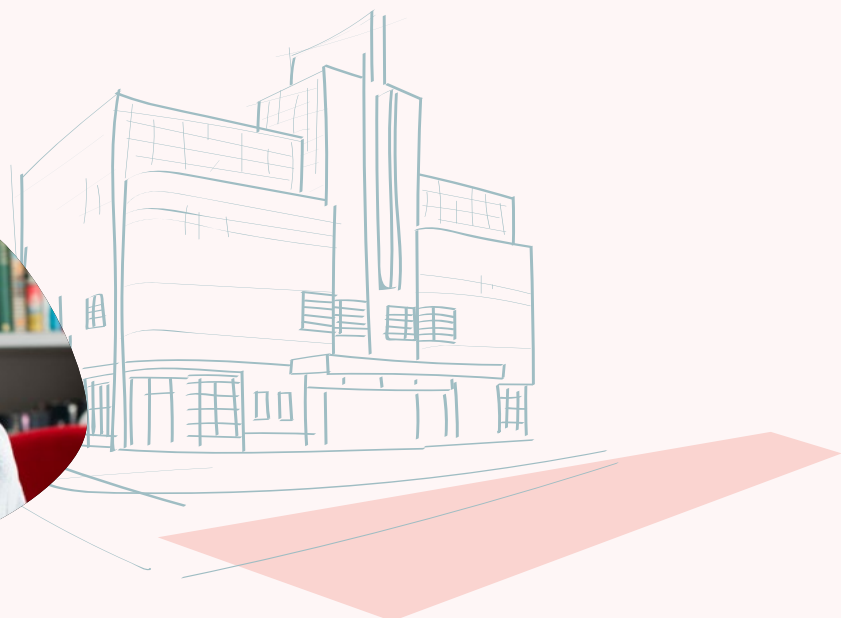
Balham SW12



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Thursday 8th June



7.00pm

Home Cook with Thomasina Miers

Thomasina Miers is a confident, thoughtful and life-enhancing cook, who writes a weekly column for The Guardian. She is also a shrewd and pioneering businesswoman, the co-founder of the famous Mexican restaurant chain Wahaca, and a philanthropist, not to mention the mother of three daughters.

Come and hear her talk about her career to date, and be won over by her enthusiasm and vivacity; and take home a copy of her new book Home Cook to practise her style in your own home.

Price: £10 or £25 including copy of Home Cook



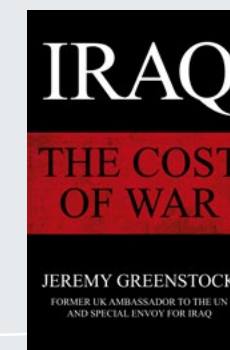
Banish
the election
blues with
Thomasina

Friday 9th June

6.30pm

Iraq: The Cost of War

Sir Jeremy Greenstock in conversation with Patrick Wintour



Scheduled for publication in 2005, Sir Jeremy Greenstock's incendiary Iraq: The Cost of War is one of the most important books ever to be postponed by the British government. It is written by the UK's former ambassador to the United Nations and it describes the role of Britain in the Iraq War from the point of view of an insider. Initially banned by Jack Straw it was finally published last year and explains in detail how we got involved and why.

Sir Jeremy will be interviewed by Patrick Wintour of the Guardian. Between them they will show us how wars are initiated and the impact on civilians and combatants alike.

Balham itself suffered heavily from the effects of World War II and understanding war is an essential component of explaining the need for home.

Price: £10 or £17.50 including a paperback copy of Iraq: The Cost of War

8.00pm

Greatest Hits

Laura Barnett & Kathryn Williams



We turn from war and its aftermath to a fun, music-filled evening of word and song. South Londoner Laura Barnett is the author of the fabulous bestselling novel The Versions of Us. Her new book is Greatest Hits, the story of a former 1970s rock star who looks back at her tumultuous life. This event will be the first opportunity to buy the book before its official publication on 15th June.

Laura will be joined by Mercury Prize nominated, singer-songwriter Kathryn Williams who will perform a series of songs inspired by the novel. Taking the Bedford back to its roots as a premier venue for launching singer-songwriters, including Ed Sheeran, this will be a relaxing Friday night event.

Price: £10 or £20 including copy of Greatest Hits

Saturday 10th June

10.00am

**CHILDREN'S
EVENT**

Neon Leon Visits Balham (ages 3+)

Jane Clarke



Everyone knows that chameleons are the best at fitting in. But not Leon. Leon is neon! In fact, he's SO bright that he keeps all the other chameleons awake at night. But poor Leon is lonely, so he goes off in search of somewhere he can blend in. Will he ever find a place he can fit in...?

Join us for an interactive children's storytelling session with Jane Clarke, author of Neon Leon and 80 other children's books. The children will learn all about Leon and take part in a range of fun arts and crafts activities inspired by his story.

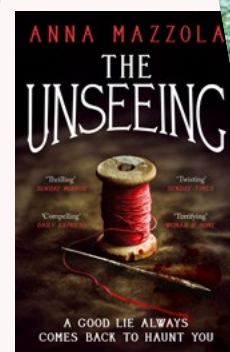
N.B. all children must be supervised by a responsible adult

Price: £5 per child

1.30pm

South London Crime Fiction Extravaganza

Angela Clarke, Anna Mazzola & Annemarie Neary



Veteran Balhamites may remember the none too salubrious history of our venue The Bedford. Once a hang-out for real-life gangsters, on Saturday afternoon the pub will play host to some of the finest crime novelists this side of the river.

We look forward to hearing from Anna Mazzola (The Unseeing), Annemarie Neary (The Orphans) and Angela Clarke (Trust Me), all of whom have written thrilling crime novels set in South London.

If you're looking for a riveting summer read, then this is the event for you. Only fictional gangsters welcome.

Price: £10

3.00pm

A Good Enough Father

Howard Cunnell, Jonathan Dean & Ed Docx in conversation with Susie Nicklin



For many, the concept of home involves a key figure – the mother. Here we look instead at the notion of fatherhood.

Howard Cunnell is a local, Brixton-based author whose family life is complicated, life-enhancing, contradictory and who describes his transgender child's trajectory with love, and luminous prose. Edward Docx has produced one of this year's finest novels, about three sons and their road trip to Switzerland with their complicated father who wishes to end his life via Dignitas, the assisted dying organisation, Jonathan Dean has written about three generations of men and migration, covering stories from Vienna, Cologne, Ukraine and elsewhere, and will talk to us about what it means to be a refugee, to be a European, to be British and to be a father, a son and a grandson. This is a not-to-be-missed unique gathering of three exceptional writers.

Price: £10

4.30pm

Palfest comes to Balham

Jeremy Harding, Rachel Holmes, Sabrina Mahfouz & Ahdaf Soueif



Founded in 2008 with the mission of affirming 'the power of culture over the culture of power', The Palestine Festival of Literature (Palfest) is an annual event that takes place in cities across Palestine and Israel, including Jerusalem, Ramallah, Haifa and Nablus. It has become an iconic emblem of the ways in which writers and readers transcend obstacles to come together and to appreciate literature in all genres.

We are delighted to welcome its founder, Ahdaf Soueif, to introduce four of the outstanding writers who have taken part over the years and who have contributed to a powerful new anthology – This Is Not a Border - of pieces from and about the festival. They will help us to understand how refugees, displaced people, those whose lives are disrupted daily by politics and those whose country appears on few maps can celebrate and create a home through words. Since Balham has for many decades provided a home for refugees, economic migrants and immigrants we welcome these voices from afar.

Price: £10 or £20 including a copy of This is Not a Border

Sunday 11th June

10.00am

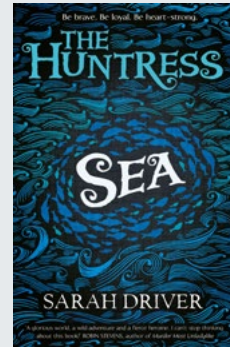
**CHILDREN'S
EVENT**

Sarah Driver Presents The Huntress: Sea (ages 9+)

Sarah Driver

Set in a world of tribes and beasts and mystical powers, Sea is the first book in a brand new fantasy adventure trilogy set aboard The Huntress. Sea-churning, beast-chattering, dream-dancing, whale-riding, terrotyl-flying, world-saving adventure. If you like Northern Lights, The Lie Tree, The Last Wild or Rooftoppers, you'll love Sea.

On Sunday morning we invite children to climb aboard The Huntress for a special interactive session with author Sarah Driver. With storytelling and creative writing activities for the children, it promises to be a fun-filled adventure.



Price: £7.50 including a copy of The Huntress: Sea

12.00pm

Swimming for the Soul

Alexandra Heminsley & Jenny Landreth

Continuing our watery theme from Sarah Driver's wonderful book for children, we now take to the high seas as adults.

Jenny Landreth and Alexandra Heminsley have both written powerful, life-affirming books about the transformative power of swimming. Jenny Landreth's Swell: A Waterbiography is part memoir part social history. It focusses on those pioneering women – the 'swimming suffragettes' – who shrugged off the disapproval of their husbands to liberate swimming for all women. Meanwhile, Alexandra Heminsley's Leap In is the intensely personal story of how wild swimming can heal and liberate.

Pitting women against the waters, each of our speakers will explain the importance of swimming for her and how it can salve the soul.

Given that we have two of the UK's finest Lidos in South London, in Tooting and Brockwell Park, this an event not to be missed. Dive in!



Price: £10

2.00pm

No Place Like Home

Kapka Kassabova & Jan Rüger in conversation with Joshua Jelly-Schapiro

Join us for a soul-searching journey to the edgelands. Kapka Kassabova's brilliant book Border, a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, takes us to the Eastern reaches of Europe, to Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, a region of three alphabets, and reveals for us the human consequences of nationalism and totalitarianism, of the outcome of a narrow focus on identity and ethnicity, of the result of fences and walls.

Jan Rüger takes us to the Northern edge of the continent, to the North Sea and the tiny island of Heligoland, once Britain's smallest colony, an inconvenient and notoriously discontented outpost at the edge of Europe that has become a microcosm of the Anglo-German relationship.

Together they will discuss the places that exist on contested national, cultural and ethnic boundaries. They will be in conversation with Joshua Jelly-Schapiro whose book Island People travels around the Caribbean, another realm of contested borders, an archipelago of languages, religions, ethnicities, geography and history.

Price: £10

3.30pm

The Novel Cure - Afternoon Tea

Susan Elderkin

Are you suffering from heartburn or heartache? From gloom, or doom, or depression, or anxiety? Do you need to curl up with a book as balm, or as ballast for your life's journey? Is there an occasion you need to celebrate, shun, enhance?

Susan Elderkin is your expert. Bring her your problems, your woes, your worries and she will prescribe a book that will soothe and dissipate your cares.

In advance of this event we will be asking you to share your concerns, and over tea Susan will suggest books for the pre-described conditions. For those who have requested solace in advance we'll have copies of the books available in our pop-up shop. Books really can help. Trust us, we're booksellers.

Please send your dilemmas to hello@dulwichbooks.co.uk with subject The Novel Cure

Price: £10 including tea/coffee and scones



5.00pm

Tristimania : Jay Griffiths in conversation

Jay Griffiths



Tristimania tells the story of Jay Griffith's devastating year-long episode of manic depression, culminating in a long solo pilgrimage across Spain. The book is a rare record of the experience of mania and shows how the condition is at once terrifying and also profoundly creative, both tricking and treating the psyche. In particular, it focusses on how literature might serve to alleviate the suffering and torment of mental illness.

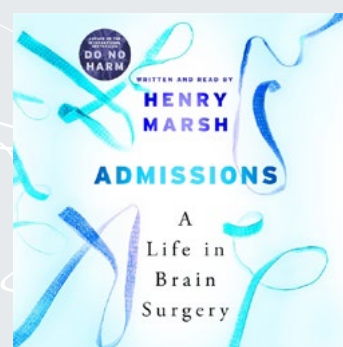
Join Jay as she discusses her experiences of depression and recovery, considering what we can all learn from her story.

Price: £10 or £15 including a copy of Tristimania

7.00pm

A Life In Brain Surgery with Henry Marsh

Henry Marsh in conversation with Rosemary Leonard



One of our bestselling titles at Dulwich Books, Henry Marsh's Do No Harm described his life as a brain surgeon with searing honesty and breathtaking, excruciating detail. In this new memoir he takes us through his career and reflects on a life of service.

Henry Marsh has operated in Nepal, Albania and the Ukraine but above all he spent thirty years at St George's Hospital in Tooting. We are honoured that he has agreed to return to SW London to speak to us about his books and his life. He will be in conversation with a well-known local GP, Rosemary Leonard, who is herself an author and whose practice is local to Dulwich Books.

Price: £15 or £30 including a copy of Admissions

Artists

Laura Barnett

Friday 9th June 8pm



Laura Barnett is a born and bred South Londoner. Her debut novel, *The Versions of Us*, was published in May 2015 and spent ten weeks in *The Sunday Times* hardback bestseller list. To date, over 250,000 copies of the book have been sold. It was nominated for the 2016 BBIA Award for Debut Fiction, and won the Richard and Judy Spring 2016 Book Club. Laura has published widely as a freelance arts journalist, features writer and theatre critic.

Saturday 10th June 1.30pm

Angela Clarke

Angela is a bestselling author, playwright, columnist and professional speaker. The second instalment in her Social Media Murder Series *Watch Me*, shot straight up to number 15 in the UK Paperback Chart in January 2017, and her debut crime thriller *Follow Me* was named Amazon's Rising Star Debut of the Month January 2016. Angela also works for The Literary Consultancy critiquing manuscripts and mentoring. A sufferer of the debilitating chronic condition Ehlers Danlos III, she is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and volunteers with Womentoring, Meet a Mentor and at HM Prisons.



Jane Clarke

Saturday 10th June 10am



Jane Clarke is the author of over 80 books for young children, including the award-winning *Gilbert the Great* series and *Stuck in the Mud*. Jane's latest picture book is *Neon Leon*, gloriously illustrated by Britta Teckentrup. Jane enjoys visiting nurseries and primary schools, and loves animals, country walks, fossil hunts, meeting up with her sons and their families in the UK and USA, and having fun with her granddaughters.

Saturday 10th June 3pm

Howard Cunnell

Howard Cunnell has a Ph.D. from the University of London, and has been a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Sussex. He is the editor of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road: The Original Scroll*, which the *New York Times* described as "the living version for our time", and two novels: *Marine Boy* and *The Sea on Fire*. He lives in London with his wife and children.



Jonathan Dean

Saturday 10th June 3pm



Jonathan Dean is the author of *I Must Belong Somewhere*. He is Senior Writer for *Sunday Times Culture*, regularly interviewing the world's biggest stars. He has also contributed pieces to *Sunday Times News Review* on subjects ranging from Remembrance Day to racism in the Oscars nominations, and occasionally writes for the *Pool*. He lives in Walthamstow, London.

Saturday 10th June 3pm

Ed Docx

Edward Docx is the oldest of seven children. He is half Russian on his mother's side. He went to school in Moss Side in city-centre Manchester and then on to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read English Literature. He has lived in London for the last twenty years where he works. He started writing fiction when he was in his teens and completed three unpublished novels before *The Calligrapher*, his debut, was bought by 4th Estate and published in 2003. *Let Go My Hand* will be his fourth novel.



Sarah Driver

Sunday 11th June 10am



Sarah Driver is a nurse and midwife, and a graduate of the Bath Spa Writing for Young People MA, during which she won the Most Promising Writer prize in 2014. Sarah started writing stories as a small child and lists her influences as Spellhorn by Berlie Doherty, A Necklace Of Raindrops by Joan Aiken and the Carbonel books by Barbara Sleigh. The Huntress: Sea is Sarah's debut novel, the first in a trilogy. Sarah was born in West Sussex, where she still lives close to the sea with her street-wise ginger cat and her miniature lop-eared bunny.

Rachel Holmes

Saturday 10th June 4.30pm



A PalFest veteran, Rachel Holmes is the author most recently of Eleanor Marx: A Life. Her previous books include The Hottentot Venus: The Life and Death of Saartjie Baartman and The Secret Life of Dr James Barry. She co-edited Fifty Shades of Feminism and I Call Myself a Feminist. Holmes curated many programmes with Palestinian artists while Director of Literature at London's Southbank Centre. From 2009 to 2014 she was tutor and writer in residence at the Palestine Writing Workshop in the West Bank, a PalFest initiative. She is currently writing about Sylvia Pankhurst, and is associate scholar at Ruskin College, Oxford.

Sunday 11th June 3.30pm

Susan Elderkin



Susan Elderkin is the author of two critically-acclaimed novels, Sunset over Chocolate Mountains and The Voices. One of Granta's 20 Best Young British Novelists in 2003, she has taught creative writing at all levels, from Arvon courses to the creative writing MAs at Birkbeck and Goldsmith's. She also works as a critic, a journalist, and a bibliotherapist for The School of Life.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock

Friday 9th June 6.30pm



Sir Jeremy Greenstock joined the Diplomatic Service in 1969. In the early 1970s, he studied Arabic in Lebanon and was posted to Dubai and Washington DC. He later served in Saudi Arabia and Paris, worked on Bosnia and the Balkans in the 1990s, and returned for a second stint in Washington before becoming the Foreign Office's Political Director in London. Greenstock was UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 1998 to 2003, and then went to Baghdad in September 2003 as UK Special Envoy for Iraq.

Sunday 11th June 5pm

Jay Griffiths



Jay Griffiths was born in Manchester and studied English Literature at Oxford University. She spent a couple of years living in a shed on the outskirts of Epping Forest but for many years she has been based in Wales. She is the author of 5 books, of which the most recent is Tristimania - the story of a devastating year-long episode of manic depression. She regularly writes for The Guardian, Orion magazine and The Idler and has broadcasted widely on BBC radio.

Jeremy Harding

Saturday 10th June 4.30pm



Jeremy Harding is a contributing editor at the London Review of Books. His translations of Rimbaud are published in Penguin Classics. He is the co-translator of Modern French Philosophy by Vincent Descombes. His memoir Mother Country is about the discovery of parents, absent and present. He has reported often on refugees and migrants in Europe, North Africa and the US. Border Vigils: Keeping Migrants out of the Rich World appeared in 2012. He has also reported from sub-Saharan Africa and run non-fiction and editing workshops in Palestine.

Sunday 11th June 12pm

Alexandra Heminsley



Alexandra Heminsley is a journalist, broadcaster and ghostwriter. She is author of the bestselling memoir Running Like a Girl, which has now been published in thirteen countries. She is the books editor at thedebrief.co.uk and the reviews app 60secondreviews. She writes fitness coverage for the-pool.com, and continues to write and review for several national papers and magazines.

Sunday 11th June 2pm

Joshua Jelly-Schapiro



Joshua Jelly-Schapiro is the author of Island People: The Caribbean and the World and the co-editor, with Rebecca Solnit, of Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas. His work has appeared in The New York Review of Books, Harper's, The Believer, The Nation, Artforum, American Quarterly and Transition, among many other publications, and he is the recipient of fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Science Research Council. He is currently a visiting scholar at the Institute for Public Knowledge at NYU.

Kapka Kassabova

Sunday 11th June 2pm



Kapka Kassabova was born in Bulgaria in 1973 and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. She is the author of three poetry collections, numerous travel essays, the novel Villa Pacifica, and the acclaimed memoirs Street Without a Name: Childhood and Other Misadventures in Bulgaria and Twelve Minutes of Love: A Tango Story. She has written for the Sunday Times, the Guardian, Vogue, Newsweek and 1843 magazine.

Sunday 11th June 12pm

Jenny Landreth



Jenny Landreth is a script editor and writer. She has written two guide books – on the great trees of London, and on the best places to swim in the capital. Jenny was the main contributor to the Guardian's weekly swimming blog, writing on everything from pool rules, to swimming with children, and where to swim in New York. She lives in London and is available for interview | @jennylandreth

Rosemary Leonard

Sunday 11th June 7pm



Dr Rosemary Leonard's work as a consultant to national television, radio and newspapers makes her one of the country's best-known doctors. She has been the resident doctor on BBC Breakfast, and also writes a weekly page for the Daily Express and a weekly column in S Magazine. She is the medical editor and regular feature writer for Woman and Home magazine. Her first book, The Seven Ages of Woman, came out at the start of 2007. She is still very much a practicing doctor, working as a part-time GP partner in a busy practice in South London. Rosemary was awarded an MBE in 2004.

Saturday 10th June 4.30pm

Sabrina Mahfouz



Sabrina Mahfouz is a British Egyptian playwright, poet and screenwriter. Her 2016 plays are With a Little Bit of Luck (Paines Plough), Slug (nabokov), Battleface (Bush Theatre), Layla's Room (Theatre Centre) and The Love I Feel Is Red (Tobacco Factory Theatres). Her TV short Breaking the Code was produced by BBC3 and BBC Drama earlier this year. Her play Chef won a 2014 Fringe First Award, and Clean was produced by Traverse Theatre and transferred to New York in 2014. She has been the Sky Arts Academy scholar for poetry, Leverhulme playwright in residence and associate artist at the Bush Theatre.

Sunday 11th June 7pm

Henry Marsh

Henry Marsh was one of Britain's foremost brain surgeons, and worked as Consultant Neurosurgeon at Atkinson Morley's/St George's Hospital in London for thirty years. Since retiring from full-time work in the NHS, he has continued to operate and lecture abroad, in Nepal, Albania and Ukraine. His prize-winning memoir, *Do No Harm*, was a Sunday Times and New York Times bestseller. He has been the subject of two award-winning documentary films, *Your Life In Their Hands* and *The English Surgeon*. He was made a CBE in 2010..



Friday 9th June 8pm

Kathryn Williams

Kathryn Williams is a Mercury-nominated singer-songwriter who has released 13 studio albums. Her 14th album, co-written with Laura Barnett (with whom she'll appear at the Balham Literary Festival), is based on Barnett's novel *Greatest Hits*. Her album *Hypoxia* was inspired by Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*.



Anna Mazzola

Saturday 10th June 1.30pm

Anna Mazzola is a writer of historical crime fiction. Her acclaimed debut novel *The Unseeing*, published in July 2016, is based on the life of a real woman called Sarah Gale who was convicted of aiding a murder in London in 1837. Anna studied English at Pembroke College, Oxford, before becoming a human rights solicitor. She lives in Camberwell, South London, with two small children, two cats, one husband and many books.



Thursday 8th June 7pm

Thomasina Miers

Thomasina Miers was the winner of BBC MasterChef in 2005. She is a cook and food writer whose work has ranged from cheese-making and running market stalls in Ireland, cheffing with Skye Gyngell at Peterham Nurseries, to co-founding the restaurant group Wahaca, winner of numerous awards. She is the author of many popular cookery books, of which the latest is *Home Cook* (Faber). She has presented various cookery TV programmes and writes a regular column, 'Weekend Cook', in the *Guardian Weekend* magazine.



Annemarie Neary

Saturday 10th June 3pm

Annemarie Neary was born in Northern Ireland and educated at Trinity College Dublin, King's Inns and the Courtauld Institute. She lives in London. Annemarie's short fiction has won awards in the UK, US and Ireland.



Saturday 11th June 2pm

Jan Rüger

Jan Rüger is Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London. He is the author of *The Great Naval Game: Britain and Germany in the Age of Empire* (2007) and joint editor of *Rewriting German History*.



Adhaf Soueif

Saturday 10th June 4.30pm

Ahdaf Soueif is the author of the Booker Prize- shortlisted *The Map of Love* as well as the memoir of the January 2011 revolution, *Cairo: A City Transformed*. She co- founded the Palestine Festival of Literature and is based in both Cairo and London.



Partners

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How to book

Tickets can be booked online at **balhamliteraryfestival.co.uk**

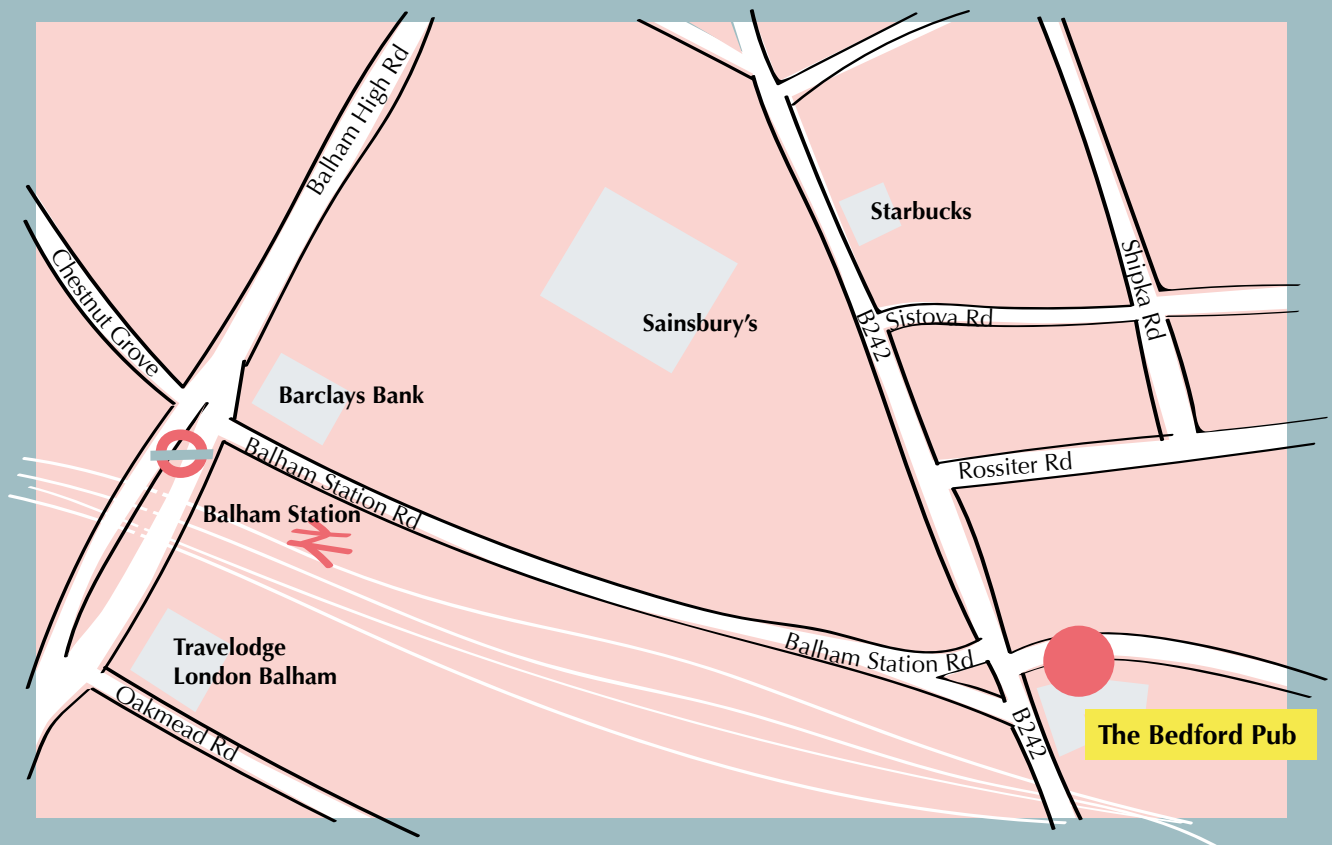
You can also book tickets at **Dulwich Books, SE21 8SW**
or over the phone on **020 8670 1920**

Please note that we are unable to refund tickets except when an event is cancelled.
The contents of this programme are accurate at the time of print in April 2017.

How to Get There

The Balham Literary Festival will take place at **The Bedford, 77 Bedford Hill, Balham, SW12 9HD**

The Bedford is a short walk from Balham Station, on the Northern Line and National Rail routes



balhamliteraryfestival.co.uk