

HEREFORD MILITARY HISTORY FESTIVAL

Programme of Events

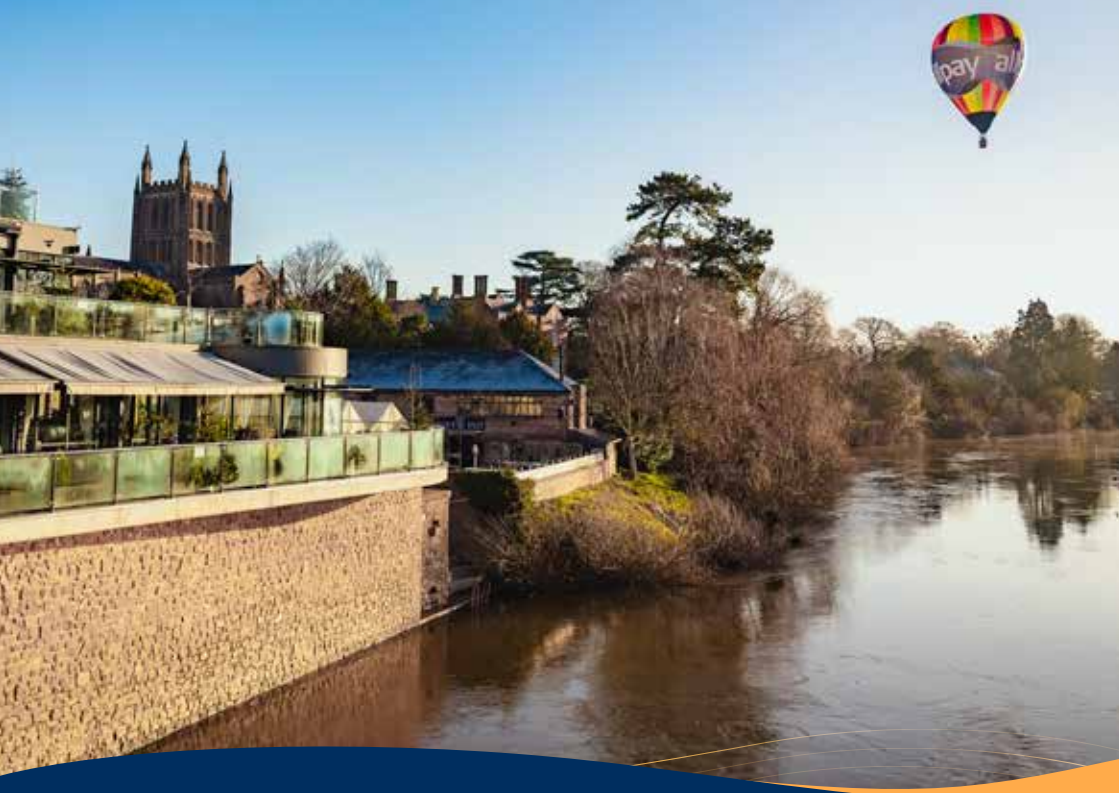
26-28 SEPTEMBER 2025



BOOK TICKETS ONLINE NOW

www.herefordmilitaryhistoryfestival.com

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Welcome to the Hereford Military History Festival 2025

Hereford has played an extraordinary part in Britain's military history – often within a stone's throw from the five venues where this festival is taking place.

From the Roman legionaries who crossed the River Wye in Hereford to put down the druid rebellion in Anglesey in 60 CE, through the establishment in 1067 of the Earldom of Hereford (the most important and powerful of the Marcher Lordships) to the SAS Regiment today, the military history of Britain has been a fundamental part of our city's identity.

This inaugural event celebrates and honours our proud military heritage. With 42 of the world's most acclaimed military historians and speakers coming

to Hereford, we will explore many aspects of the past, present and future of global conflict, addressing the sad reality that war seems to be a constant feature of the human condition.

On behalf of everyone who has worked so hard to make this event possible, I am delighted to welcome you to Hereford. We all hope that you will find the festival enriching, thought-provoking, insightful and inspiring in equal measure and that you will have the opportunity to explore and enjoy our great city and wonderful county.

Christian Dangerfield
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



Follow us on social media



Hereford Military History Festival



HerefordFest



herefordfestival

Festival Office

enquiries@herefordmilitaryhistoryfestival.com

Book now and see full updated programme
at www.herefordmilitaryhistoryfestival.com



Book your tickets

Scan the QR code to book tickets for Festival events,
or visit the Festival website:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/military-history-festival



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Dog Show. Junior Funfair.
Vintage Military Vehicles.
The Sealed Knot Enactment.
DJ Matt Healey. Viking Fries.
Market and Charity Stalls.
and so much more...

Planning Your Visit

How to buy tickets

Scan the QR code or head to TicketSource at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/military-history-festival

Carers are entitled to a free ticket by emailing
enquiries@herefordmilitaryhistoryfestival.com



Buying Books

A team from Rossiter Books will sell copies of the authors' books after each event and most authors will stay after their talks to sign them.



Events

All events last one hour unless otherwise stated. Short descriptions of the events are on the following pages. For fuller descriptions please visit the website: herefordmilitaryhistoryfestival.com

Displays

See page 19 for details, but visit the website for full descriptions.

SPECIAL FESTIVAL DINING OFFER

The Green Dragon Hotel is proud to be the event's leading hospitality partner.

We've created a special two-course menu that you can pre-order and enjoy before or after you see many of the incredible events. By pre-ordering, you can guarantee there's no waiting around to dine and no time wasted, just a relaxed, enjoyable meal in the heart of Hereford City.
Scan the QR code to pre-order.



Venues & Accessibility

Please see the map on the page 24 for locations.

Hereford Cathedral – allpay Stage & College Hall

The main body of Hereford Cathedral is wheelchair accessible. To help visitors plan their visit, our Access Map marks all the level, ramped, and stepped access points. The main North Porch entrance is level, as are the entrances from Chapter House Gardens and the Lady Arbour. There is a shallow ramp at the St John's door entrance, which is the entrance nearest the car park. Please note that the floor can be a little uneven in places. For full details of accessibility options visit www.herefordcathedral.org/accessibility

Hereford Town Hall – Selection Stage

There is an entrance at the back of the Town Hall, which is on ground level and has electric doors for access. There is a temporary manual stair lift which can be used to move wheelchairs up and down the stairs.

Green Dragon Hotel

The hotel can be accessed via the main entrance or the carriage entrance at the rear of the hotel. The doors from the rear car parks have three steps but a portable ramp can be laid upon request. The restaurant is situated on ground level and is accessible from the reception area or Broad Street. The Ballroom is located down steps but can be accessed via the carriage entrance.

Castle Green Pavilion

Recently refurbished, The Pavilion is fully accessible.

Travel & Timings

Train: Hereford is well connected to the national rail network. On arrival at Hereford Train Station, it is just a 20 minute walk to Hereford City.

Coach: National Express coaches run nationwide services. Travel from London Victoria and Birmingham to Hereford. To book your journey call National Express Customer Contact Centre on 08717 818 181.

Car: The principal roads to Hereford are the A49 from Ludlow and Shrewsbury to the north and Gloucester and Ross-on-Wye to the south, the A465 from South Wales and the A4103 from Worcester to the east. The nearest motorway connection is Junction 4 on the M50 (14 miles), which connects to the M5.

Parking: See map on page 24 for car parks in Hereford.

Refunds

Refunds are only issued if the event itself is cancelled.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Hereford Military History Festival.

More information

Check the events booking page for more detailed event information.

1



Geopolitics: The State We're In

Hereford Cathedral | 1:00–2:00pm | £12

This event, chaired by **Jesse Norman** (MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire), brings together a panel including **Robin Niblett**, distinguished fellow at Chatham House, **Stephanie Baker**, author and Bloomberg journalist and **Terry Stiastry**, Times Radio journalist and author to discuss the current state of global geopolitics and how it is likely to develop in the months and years ahead, addressing the evolving threat landscape and, hopefully, providing some reasons for optimism.

2

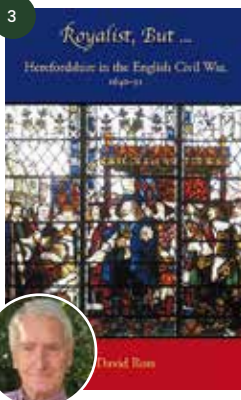


Paul Beaver: Mitchell, Father of the Spitfire

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 1:30–2:30pm | £10

Reginald Mitchell is one of the greatest names in aviation history. A visionary engineer with a passion for speed, his legacy is the most iconic fighter aircraft of all time: The Spitfire. Though he did not live to see the Spitfire in action, his work led to triumph at the Battle of Britain. **Paul Beaver** takes us behind the scenes, exploring the creative genius of a man devoted to pushing the boundaries of technology.

3



David Ross: Herefordshire in the English Civil War

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 1:30–2:30pm | £8

On the eve of the Civil War in 1642, Herefordshire's leading families were all, to a greater or lesser extent, for the King – with the one notable exception of the Harleys at Brampton Bryan. Local author **David Ross** talks about his book *Royalist, But...*, the fascinating history of Herefordshire during the Civil War.

4



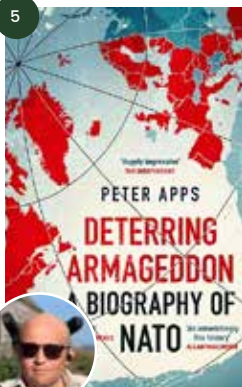
Resilience, Leadership and Adaptability

Castle Green Pavilion | 1:30–2:30pm | £5

Join **Craig Smith**, Head of Education at Minerva Elite Performance for a compelling hour-long seminar exploring the transformative power of continuous professional development beyond military skills. Be inspired to invest in your growth, embrace learning, and redefine your potential – because true strength extends far beyond the battlefield.

Supported by Spectra

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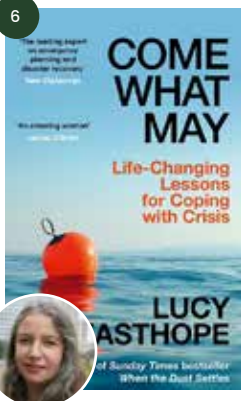
Deterring Armageddon

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 3:00–4:00pm | £8

Peter Apps reveals the tension, danger, rivalry, conflict, big personalities and high-stakes military and diplomatic posturing – as well as espionage, politics and protest at the heart of the NATO project. *Deterring Armageddon* tells how the alliance has shaped and been shaped by history – and looks ahead to what might be the most dangerous era it has ever faced. Chaired by **Ash Bhardwaj**.

Sponsored by GRC

6



Disaster Planning and Coping with Crisis

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 3:30–4:30pm | £10

Lucy Easthope is an emergency planner whose job is to support survivors of major disasters. She has been there after countless earthquakes, fires and floods, and knows all too well the terrible trauma of conflict. In *Come What May*, she distils what she has learned about how to carry on during and after terrible times. Chaired by **Julia Wheeler**.

7



Endurance and Resilience

Castle Green Pavilion | 3:30–4:30pm | £8
£5 for Concessions

Join **Ian Rivers** as he takes us through his remarkable journey, testament to his physical prowess and his exceptional mental resilience. Throughout his career in the military and beyond, Rivers has faced numerous challenges and adversities, including combat operations, hostage situations, and extreme physical endeavours.

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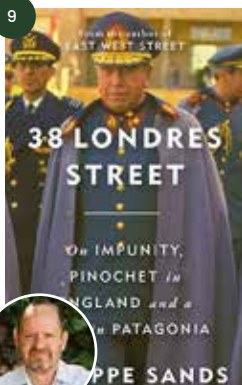
Patrick Baty: Artists Rifles

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 5:30–6:30pm | £8

The Artists Rifles was perhaps the most curious regiment in the British Army. It was formed in 1860 by a group of painters, architects, poets, sculptors, musicians and actors concerned about the threat of a French invasion. The Pre-Raphaelites were early members as were William Morris and Frederic Leighton, and it was still the natural choice for such men in 1914, with artists like John and Paul Nash, the poets Edward Thomas and Wilfred Owen and the playwright Noël Coward joining the regiment. **Patrick Baty** takes us through the history of the regiment and explains how it became the SAS of today.

Sponsored by Christian Dangerfield

9



Philippe Sands: The Secrets of 38 Londres Street

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 6:00–7:00pm | £10

A blend of personal memoir, historical detective work and gripping courtroom drama probing a secret double story of mass murder, revealing a shocking thread linking the horrors of the 1940s with current times. Human rights lawyer **Philippe Sands** discusses with **Julia Wheeler** how he linked the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet to a fugitive SS officer Walther Rauff, whilst acting as a barrister for Human Rights Watch.

Sponsored by Charles and Sarah de Rohan

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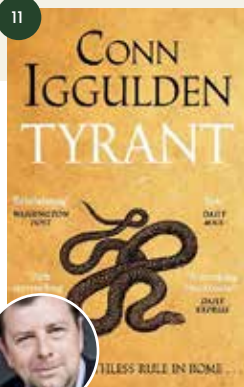
Ben Macintyre: The Siege

allpay Stage, Hereford Cathedral | 7:45–8:45pm | £12

On 30th April 1980, six heavily armed gunmen burst into the Iranian embassy in London. There they took 26 hostages, including embassy staff, visitors, and four British citizens. A tense six-day siege ensued as millions gathered around screens across the country to watch the outcome. Join **Ben Macintyre** as he discusses *The Siege* with **Julia Wheeler**, drawing on unpublished source material, including interviews with the SAS, and testimony from hostages, negotiators, intelligence officers and the on-site psychiatrist.

Sponsored by The Green Dragon Hotel

11



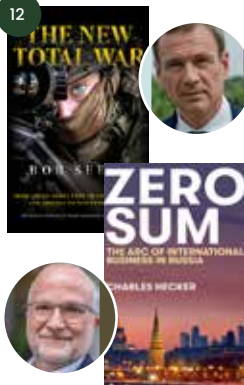
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

Conn Iggulden: Tyrant

Green Dragon Ballroom | 11:00–12:00pm | £10

Join bestselling author **Conn Iggulden** in conversation with **Louise Savidge** as they delve into *Tyrant*, his gripping new novel of Ancient Rome. From scandal and ambition to betrayal and blood, discover how Nero's path to power was shaped by a mother's ambition – and a city's thirst for control.

12



Bob Seely and Charles Hecker: Russia

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 11:00–12:00pm | £10

Bob Seely (*The New Total War*) and **Charles Hecker** (*Zero Sum*) join **Caroline Lang** to explore how Russia and other authoritarian regimes use unconventional tactics such as drones, disinformation and coups, to challenge the West for global supremacy to undermine our beliefs, power and influence, from a financial and political perspective. From post-Soviet hopes to modern hybrid warfare, they trace three decades of political, economic, and military confrontation with the West.

13

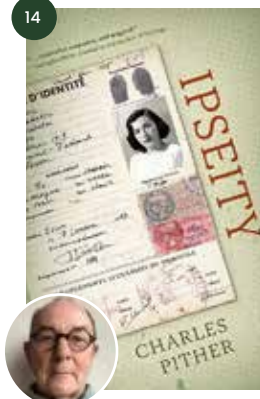


Facing Coming Storms: History's Lessons for Current Conflicts

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 11:00–12:00pm | £10

From Ukraine to the Gulf, space to the South China Sea, the 2020s are proving as rife with current confrontations as any point in history – almost all with deep roots in the past, and profound importance for the future. Join the *Facing Coming Storms* international defence podcast for a live recording with host Reuters defence columnist **Peter Apps**, legendary military historian **Antony Beevor** and former soldier, author and academic **Patrick Bury**. **Podcast available online.**

14



Charles Pither: Wartime Forgery and SOE

Green Dragon Ballroom | 12:30–1:30pm | £10

From 1940, Briggens House in Essex housed SOE Station XIV, where all the forged documents were created on which the lives of every Allied agent dropped into enemy territory depended. Unearthing the workings of this crucial but scarcely known unit, **Charles Pither** discusses with **Clive Dickinson** his meticulously researched novel *Ipseity*, set in the house.

15



Tony Rushmer: SAS Duty Before Glory

Castle Green Pavilion | 12:30–1:30pm | £8
£5 for Concessions

Tony Rushmer shares his highly acclaimed biography, *SAS: Duty Before Glory*, the inspirational story of SAS original Reg Seekings, recently a major character in the hit BBC series, *SAS Rogue Heroes*. With an instrumental role in the SAS during the Second World War, Seekings became one of the British Army's most highly decorated non-commissioned officers of WWII.

Supported by Spectra

16



Anna Reid and Jen Stout: Ukraine & Russia – The Human Impact

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 12:30–1:30pm | £10

Anna Reid (*Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine*) and **Jen Stout** (*Night Train to Odesa*) discuss the impact of war in Ukraine from the early twentieth century to the current day, unpicking the past, present and future of this bloody and complex borderland, looking at the human cost and the bigger picture. Chaired by **Damian Collins**.

Sponsored by Rose Regeneration

17



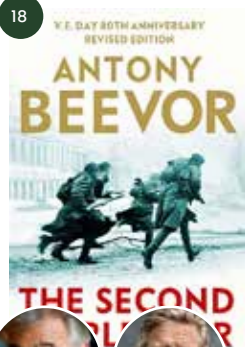
Poems of War and Life with Larry Lamb

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 12:30–1:30pm | £8

“The rhythms of poetry run deep in me, read to me by my poetry-mad dad. Then in 1983 I got my first big job away on location. It didn’t just change me physically... poems started to pour out of me, poems that still resonate 40 years later.” Join the actor **Larry Lamb** – more commonly known for his roles in *Gavin & Stacey* and *EastEnders*, for anecdotes, war poetry and an injection of his own personal poems that will make you laugh and cry in equal measure.

Supported by Lyndy Cooke

18



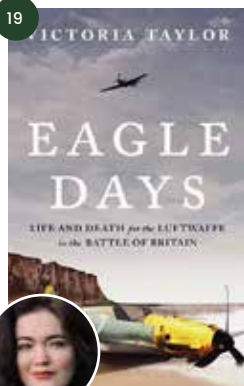
Antony Beevor and Arthur Denaro: The Changing Face of Warfare

allpay Stage, Hereford Cathedral | 1:00–2:00pm | £12

The number one bestselling historian **Antony Beevor**, who profiles his latest book *The Second World War* is joined by **Major General Arthur Denaro**, who spent 40 years as a British soldier, commanded his Regiment in the war to liberate Kuwait and was Chief of Staff of some 44,000 multinational troops during the Balkans conflict. They explore the evolution of warfare, from conventional battles to modern conflict, and the battle against future enemies. Chaired by **Lucy Easthope**.

Sponsored by Antony Hitchens

19



Victoria Taylor: Eagle Days

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 2:00–3:00pm | £8

Transforming the Luftwaffe's historical role during the RAF's 'Finest Hour' from a cartoonish antagonist to a multidimensional, flawed-yet-formidable opponent, **Dr Victoria Taylor** discusses with **Ash Bhardwaj** not just the voices of the aircrews who conducted the fighting, but uniquely never-before-translated primary source material of other contemporary eyewitnesses.

20



Tim Willasey-Wilsey: Espionage and Intrigue: The Spy and the Devil

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 2:00–3:00pm | £10

The Spy and the Devil is a riveting tale of espionage, intrigue, and the untold impact of one man's secret mission on the course of history. Bill de Ropp, the forgotten British spy who worked tirelessly to avert catastrophe, and discover the secrets that history almost left behind. After surviving 26 years spying for MI6, Bill de Ropp spent his final years in Peterchurch in Herefordshire. **Tim Willasey-Wilsey** offers an insider's view of this outstandingly effective but enigmatic British spy.

21



Nicholas Soames: Churchill

allpay Stage, Hereford Cathedral | 2:30–3:30pm | £12

Nicholas Soames, Lord Soames of Fletching, is a British politician and was Minister for the Armed Forces between 1994 and 1997. He has a deep interest in and knowledge of defence and international relations, and speaks regularly in the House of Lords on matters of national security. Nicholas is the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill and will be talking about Churchill, the Great Human Being.

Sponsored by allpay

22



Bill Jackson and Kate Andrew: 1,000 years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire

Castle Green Pavilion | 3:30–4:30pm | FREE but ticketed

Bill Jackson launches *1000 Years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire* by **Katherine Andrew** FMAPACR with original archival research by Dr Silvia Pinches, commissioned by Bill Jackson Esq. (High Sheriff 2016 – 2017). The talk by Bill and Kate will highlight their impact, role and influence in shaping the county over 1,000 years.

23



Hilary Meredith-Beckham: Military Law

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 3:30–4:30pm | £10

Hilary Meredith-Beckham is a solicitor, lobbyist and campaigner, best known for her work on behalf of UK service personnel, veterans and their families. Her career in protecting the welfare of the armed forces spans cases from Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Gulf War 1, Afghanistan and Iraq including incidents on manoeuvres and in training. Hilary discusses her campaigns and her highs and lows within the legal system and the armed forces.

24



Clare Mulley: Agent Zo

Green Dragon Ballroom | 3:45–4:45pm | £10

Agent Zo, shortlisted for The Women's Prize for Non Fiction, tells the incredible story of courageous resistance fighter Elżbieta Zawacka, aka 'Zo'. The only woman to parachute from Britain into Nazi-occupied Poland, Zo not only established a crucial intelligence network and couriered microfilm across wartime borders while just one step ahead of the Gestapo, but also played a key role in the Warsaw Uprising. Imprisoned and silenced by the post-war Communist regime, Zo's remarkable story was kept hidden for over forty years. **Chaired by Julia Wheeler.**

25



Angharad Hampshire: The Mare

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 4:00–5:00pm | £8

Shortlisted for The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction 2025, *The Mare* is based on the true story of Hermine Braunsteiner, the first person to be extradited from America for Nazi War Crimes. Hermine worked as a female concentration camp guard and was nicknamed 'the Mare' by prisoners because she kicked people to death. After the war, she fled back to Austria and married an unsuspecting American man from whom she hid her past. **Angharad Hampshire** is in conversation with **Louise Savidge**.

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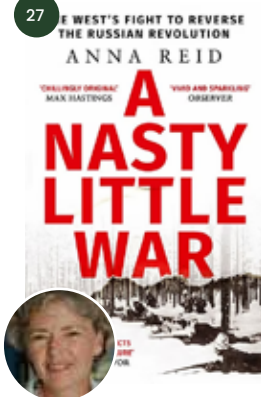
Ash Winter & Paul Vicary: Overcoming Adversity

Castle Green Pavilion | 5:00–6:00pm | £8
£5 for Concessions

Join us for an inspiring Q&A session with **Ash** and **Vic** as they share their powerful journey of overcoming adversity. From physical and mental setbacks, to finding strength and purpose in a military pathway, they now work side by side, supporting others on their own paths.

Supported by Spectra

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Anna Reid: A Nasty Little War

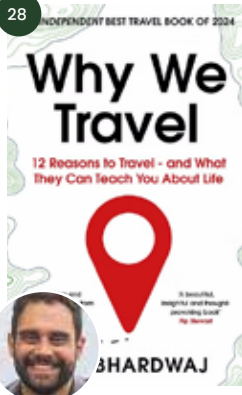
Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 5:00–6:00pm | £10

In the closing months of the First World War, Britain, America, France and Japan sent arms and 180,000 soldiers to Russia trying to overthrow the new men in the Kremlin. Two years later they left again, as port after port fell to the Red Army. Later, American veterans compared the humiliation to Vietnam. Drawing on previously unused diaries, letters and memoirs, *A Nasty Little War* brings this forgotten war vividly to life. **Anna Reid** talks to **Lucy Easthope**.

Sponsored by Edward and Tamsin Clive

28

INDEPENDENT BEST TRAVEL BOOK OF 2024



Why Military History Will Make Your Travel Better

College Hall, Hereford Cathedral | 5:30–6:30pm | £8

Ash Bhardwaj is a broadcast journalist (BBC, Sky News, Telegraph, Times), Army Reserve Officer, and travel expert. In this talk, drawing on his award-winning book, *Why We Travel*, Ash reveals how military history made his travels – from Ukraine to New Zealand and India to Albania – more fulfilling, what it taught him about life, and how you can do the same in your own travels.

29



Tim Bouverie and Nicholas Soames

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 6:30–7:30pm | £10

Tim Bouverie's bestselling *Allies at War*, is based on material drawn from over one hundred archives. Using vivid, first hand accounts and unpublished diaries, we enter the rooms where the critical decisions were made while going beyond the confines of the Grand Alliance. **Nicholas Soames, Lord Soames of Fletching**, has in-depth knowledge of defence and international relations and is the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill.

Sponsored by allpay

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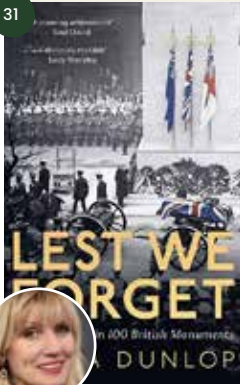


Festival Guests and their memorable historical moments

allpay Stage, Hereford Cathedral
7:00 – 8.15 pm with short interval | £5

Curated and led by the hugely entertaining and legendary **Larry Lamb** this memorable evening will include many of your favourite speakers appearing at the festival alongside well known personalities from around Herefordshire. The surprise speakers will delight you with maybe a poem, a piece of writing or simply their memorable snippet of Military History. Check the website for updates.

31



Tessa Dunlop: Lest We Forget

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 11:00–12:00pm | £10

Dr **Tessa Dunlop** is an award-winning broadcaster, historian, and author. She has featured in numerous historical and royal documentaries and is co-host of the new Global podcast *Where Politics Meets History*. In *Lest We Forget*, Tessa travels the length and breadth of the country, uncovering powerful personal stories that are commemorated across the British Isles. In conversation with **Damian Collins**.

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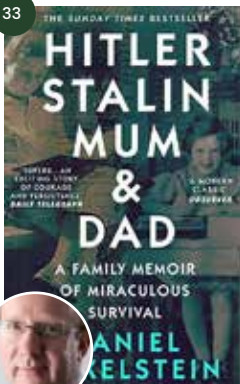


Damien Lewis: SAS Great Escapes Four

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 12:30–1:30pm | £10

Sunday Times bestseller **Damien Lewis** has established himself as one of the most popular WWII historians, selling several million copies of his books. In *SAS Great Escapes Four* he recounts the escape of three SAS captains from an Italian POW camp in 1943, a hazardous journey across occupied Europe aided by Dutch and Belgian Resistance networks, and a tense return to Britain by sea, tunnel, and train. Chaired by **Louise Savidge**.

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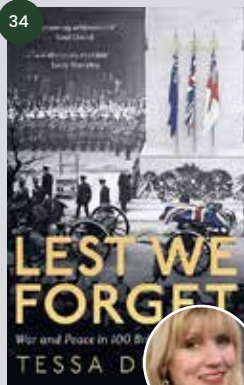


Daniel Finkelstein: Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad

Selection Stage, Hereford Town Hall | 2:00–3:00pm | £10

Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad is a deeply moving, personal and at times horrifying memoir about the experiences of Finkelstein's parents at the hands of the two genocidal dictators of the twentieth century. **Daniel Finkelstein** discusses the story of persecution, survival, and the consequences of totalitarianism, highlighting the almost unimaginable bravery of two ordinary families with **Julia Wheeler**.

34



Tessa Dunlop: Lest We Forget: War and Peace in 100 British Monuments

Castle Green Pavilion | 2:00–3:00pm | £8
£5 for Concessions

Dr Tessa Dunlop is an award-winning broadcaster, historian, and author of *Lest We Forget: War and Peace in 100 British Monuments*. Join Tessa as she discusses with **Simon Davies** the importance of oral history in the retelling of our recent past with an audience of military veterans.

Supported by Spectra

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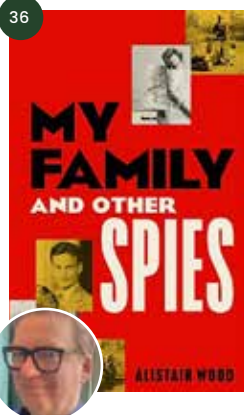
Anne Sebba and Wendy Holden: Remarkable People of Auschwitz

Selection Stage Hereford Town Hall | 3:30–4:30pm | £10

Anne Sebba (*The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz*) and **Wendy Holden** (*The Teacher of Auschwitz*) explore the tangled questions of deep moral complexity in their books which cover some of the extraordinary people in the death camp. Their stories serve as a powerful and timely reminder that we can all make the choice to stand up for others, and we do not have to be silent in the face of hate. Chaired by **Damian Collins**.

Sponsored by Robin and Sarah Thorne

36



Tea with Alistair Wood: My Family and Other Spies

Green Dragon Restaurant | 3:30–4:30pm | £12

My Family and Other Spies is part family memoir, part spy story, part detective investigation and part Cold War history. **Alistair Wood**, the only non-spy in a family trading in espionage, paints a gripping portrait of a top secret world, from parents who both worked for Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, to a childhood growing up in an MI6 training compound. Join Alistair and **Julia Wheeler** over a cup of tea and a slice of cake as they discuss.

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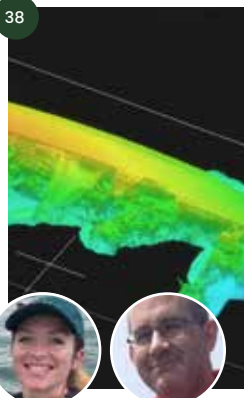
Veterans Walk with Ash Winter

Meet at The Pavilion, Castle Green | 3:30–5:15pm FREE

Join us for a Veterans Walk for Wellbeing – a powerful walk of connection, reflection, and support. In partnership with **Hereford Military Festival**, **Help for Heroes**, and **Men Walking & Talking**, this walk offers a safe space to share, listen, and enjoy being outside with like-minded individuals. Open to all veterans and their families. Approx 5 miles, taking in some important sites within the veteran community including St Peter's Square, St Martin's Church, Rotherwas and the Canary Bridge.

**HELP for
HEROES**

38



MOD Wrecks

Hereford Town Hall | 5:00–6:00pm | £10

Harriett Rushden and **Matthew Skellhorn** take us through The DE&S SALMO Wreck Management Program (WMP) as they assess the environmental and safety risks associated with the UK MOD's global inventory of over 5,700 Potentially Polluting Wrecks (PPWs). The work requires the team to dive into the history of the ships, from initial build to survivor's accounts of their sinking, as well as surveying and removing the pollutants from the wrecks.

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Dinner with Kate Adie

Green Dragon Restaurant | 6:30pm | £75

Join us for an evening of conversation over great food and wine with legendary correspondent **Kate Adie**. A brilliant raconteur, Kate has a way of telling the stories of her myriad of experiences reported from war zones around the world like no other. With behind the scenes highlights *From Our Own Correspondent* on BBC Radio 4, Kate will surprise and enlighten us as she talks to **Julia Wheeler**.

Sponsored by Arthur and Maggie Denaro.

Sealed Knot

Castle Green | Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th | 10am-4pm

The Living History Campsite will be open from 10am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Firing displays will be at 11:30 and 2:30 with scattered pike, sword and other demonstrations throughout the day. Come and see Sir Gilbert Hoghtons Regiment of foot, part of the Sealed Knot Society as we reenact the Royalist Garrison of Hereford in July 1645 just before the city was taken by an Army from Scotland. We will have a Living History Campsite on Castle Green with some weapons displays and talks happening throughout the weekend. Come on over and learn about the City's gloried past, try on some clothes, hold some weapons, maybe even have a go at some 17th Century Pike Drill.

Herefordshire Regiment

Open 11am-6pm daily with the exception of when events are taking place in the room

The Herefordshire Regiment was one of the Territorial Regiments created under the 1908 Haldane Army Reforms. Many members of the old Rifle Volunteers enlisted and the ranks were filled with local men. The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum tells the story of these men. It is the story of a Volunteer Regiment from a small English county. A story of bravery, determination, and devotion to duty, of sadness of comrades lost, but also that of a job well done.

MOD Shipwrecks Exhibition

Castle Green Pavillion | Open 11am-6pm daily

The exhibition will showcase HMS CASSANDRA, a WWI era cruiser of the 6th Light Cruiser Squadron, which struck a mine and sank in the Baltic in December 1918. Following a detailed survey in June 2025 by the DE&S SALMO Wrecks team of the risk she presents (of polluting oil and chemicals from ammunition) the results, hot off the press, will be showcased here, alongside survivor's accounts of her sinking. **Harriett Rushton** and **Matt Skellhorn** will be available to answer your questions daily between 12-1pm & 3-4pm.

Laguna's Spitfire Legacy

High Town | All day Saturday 27th September

The Lagunas Spitfire Legacy display showcases some of the recovered parts of Mk IIb Spitfire P8331 Sumatra which was flown by a number of well-known pilots from Polish No 303 Squadron, one of the most famous and high-scoring squadrons in the Battle of Britain. The team behind the restoration project plan to restore P8331 to flying condition and believe that its historical significance in terms of its rarity and links to No 303 Squadron make it one of the top three most important Spitfires in the world. Only 170 Mk IIb Spitfires were built, and while three survive, none are in flying condition.

Free Displays

For family fun,
check out Mil-Fest
on Castle Green
Sunday 11-4pm



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Many thanks to the local businesses and organisations who have sponsored events and given their services.

Special thanks to our participating authors, their publishers, the chairs, and the many hardworking volunteers who donate their time free of charge, and whose support helps us raise money for our charitable partners.

Information is correct at time of going to press. Programme and other details subject to change. More events may be added – see posters, notice boards and Festival website for updates.

This festival has been possible only thanks to the very generous support of the following sponsors and patrons:

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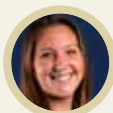
All members of the Festival's Executive Team and Steering Group, Lyndy Cooke, Jo James,
Helen Bowden, Julian Vaughan, Mark James (Workshop 65), Claire Frowd, Fiona McMorrough,
Kealey Ridgen, Ned Green, Rosie Penny and Kitty Clive.

Festival Team & Supporters



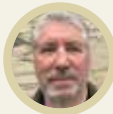
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Christian Dangerfield



VETERANS AND SCHOOLS

Samantha Lewis



VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

Pete Ward



DISPLAY AND EXHIBITION CURATOR

Andy Taylor



Programme and Producers



Technical Production

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WEEKEND OF MISTAKES

An event for the economically curious – back for its third year. Learn from the lessons of the past with some of today's sharpest economic thinkers, including Russell Napier, Merryn Somerset Webb, David McWilliams, Helen Thompson, Edward Chancellor, and more.

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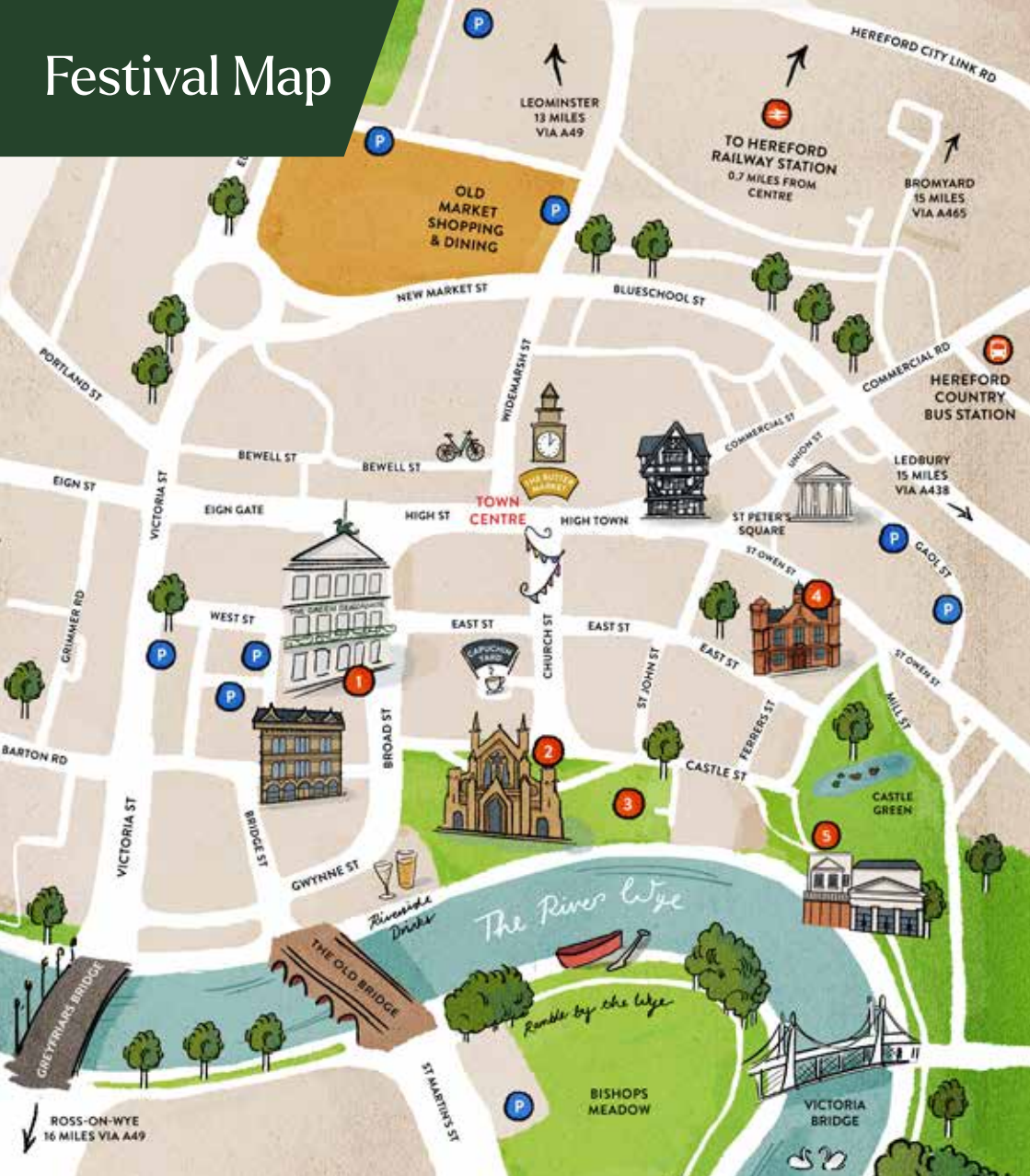
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- Crashes & Panics, Scandals & Frauds • Trumponomics: State Capitalism or Shakedown?
- The Business of Football • How to Fix Britain • Where to Put Your Money in 2026
- Default: The History, Art & Ethics of Not Paying Back What You Owe

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO BE THERE?

Early bird tickets out soon. Email enquiries@weekendofmistakes.org to stay updated.
Watch our two-minute video at weekendofmistakes.org



Festival Map



VENUES

- 1 Green Dragon Hotel
- 2 Hereford Cathedral - allpay Stage
- 3 Hereford Cathedral - College Hall
- 4 Hereford Town Hall - Selection Stage
- 5 Castle Green Pavilion

TRANSPORT

- P Parking
- Train Station
- Coach/Bus Station

Map courtesy of the Green Dragon Hotel



The Offa Bar



the hereford
BAR & BRASSERIE



The Orange Bar



OUR BEDROOMS



The Garrick Lounge



GREEN DRAGON
HOTEL

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As one of Hereford's most historic buildings, the Green Dragon Hotel is proud to support the UK's first dedicated Military History Festival as both an official hotel, hospitality partner and a host venue.

Located in the heart of the city, just moments from Hereford Cathedral, the hotel will be home to a selection of festival events, as well as a welcoming space to enjoy lunch, dinner and drinks throughout the weekend.

We've created a special two-course menu that you can pre-order and enjoy before heading off to see many of the incredible speakers. By pre-ordering, you can guarantee there's no waiting around to dine just a relaxed, enjoyable meal in the heart of Hereford City.



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