

EMBARGO: 13 JULY 12:00

NEWS RELEASE

11 July 2023

Bloomsbury Festival announces 2023 programme

- **Over 100 events from the worlds of culture, science, literature and the arts are available to book now**
- **The theme of 2023's festival is 'Grow', which covers issues relating to our environment and society, and offers a focus on development opportunities for emerging talent and underrepresented voices**
- **There are two new major creative partnerships launching this year with CityLit and Holborn Library**
- **Across the festival there are free and ticketed events with prices between £3 and £25**

13 – 22 October 2023

@bloomsburyfest | bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

The Bloomsbury Festival announces their full programme of shows, exhibitions, events, concerts, walks and talks in the 2023 programme with the theme 'Grow'. The festival includes free events, family-focused activities, exhibitions and performances created to showcase artists, culture, and community.

Alongside a programme of performance, exhibitions and literature, highlights from the festival include:

A Street Food & Flower Market on Store Street opens the festival. This outdoor event features pop-up entertainment from buskers, local dance groups and performers bringing the street to life. The market will include a curated offering of street food with a global range of stalls, as well as local restaurants and shops taking part in the fun.

A three-day Discovery Hub will take over Holborn Library for families and schools with an exciting mix of creative and cutting-edge science activities from leading local universities and institutions. Discovery activities and exhibitions include a VR drone take-off experience, a creative exhibition of 50 avocado sculptures and the greenest popcorn you may ever eat made using hydrogen fuel cells.

A series of lunchtime concerts providing a platform for emerging talent, featuring free recitals and performances throughout the week from up-and-coming musicians including pianists, singers, string and woodwind players.

A series of theatre productions selected during the festival's annual competition for emerging writers and theatre-makers. The five winners:

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

- Lucy Bailey's *How To Run Away* is the dirty, mucky, sweaty second cousin to *Eat, Pray, Love* telling of the highs, lows, and life lessons of moving halfway across the world with brutal honesty and a ton of belly dancing in the aisles.
- *Goodgirl* by Parbati Chaudhury is a dance-theatre world fusing real stories and pop culture to explore the impact of cultural expectations, conditioning, and prejudice on the lives of South Asian women and girls.
- Rowenna Mortimer's *The Morpheia* is a harsh, fairytale-esque allegory for the power and possibilities of change taking us on a journey through Morpheia's quest to save her canal home as rents rise, homes are lost, and her friends begin to mysteriously disappear.
- Lizzie Milton with *Intransigent Lines*, exploring childhood experiences of neurodiversity told through contrasting worlds above and below the sea drawing on Celtic selkie myth storytelling traditions to create a new mythos for the neurodivergent community.
- New Wave Radio Drama *Petrichor* by Theo Hristov explores the whirlwind falling in love of two seemingly polar opposite seventeen-year-olds after meeting at a warehouse rave in Peckham.

This year sees the introduction of two new major partnerships with CityLit which provides adult education courses and Holborn Library. CityLit will host discussions and workshops as part of their *Mental Wealth Festival*, a forum for informative, challenging, and inspiring events. There will also be a series of productions in their John Lyon's Theatre. Holborn Library will host The Bloomsbury Festival Discovery Hub, a free three-day mix of science, art and creativity for schools, families and the general public around the central theme of growth which is also in partnership with Camden Council Library services.

Festival Director Rosemary Richards has said "Our New Wave and emerging artist opportunities have become a central part of the festival over the last few years alongside our more familiar programme of music, theatre, exhibitions and literature. It's always great to offer a platform to upcoming talent and this year we have an added bonus – we've been creating a New Bloomsbury Set of 10 talented young people from the Bloomsbury area, who have been setting their mark on the cultural life of Bloomsbury against the backdrop of the Bloomsbury Group of a century ago and the literary and garden history of the area. They and their contemporaries are the Bloomsbury of today and tomorrow – culturally diverse, brimming with new ideas and bringing energy, humour and a new slant on the area's cultural heritage."

Festival Patron Her Grace The Duchess of Bedford "Bloomsbury Festival is many things, an artistic enterprise, a community celebration of creativity centred on the square mile of Bloomsbury. The lifeblood of the festival is in the energy and the enthusiasm of so many artists, musicians, academics, scientists, community groups and creative people in the area. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team, the festival has expanded to become more than a ten-day event in October. It was a pleasure to be able to host part of the music trail in February with Hong Kong origin flautist Karen Wong and enjoy all the other events the evening offered. In June, we hosted the judging panel for the art competition. It is always exciting to see the new talent emerging from our art schools and universities, and when you look at the entries, we received it really does feel like we are seeing the professional artists of tomorrow."

@bloomsburyfest | bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

Listings information

13 – 22 October 2023

Various Venues across Bloomsbury, London

bloomsburyfestival.org.uk | 0203 2806905

Tickets prices vary, including a number of free and unticketed events. Top price tickets £15

Programme:

OPENING EVENT

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Street Food & Flower Market on Store Street

Join us for an afternoon street food and flower market with pop-up events, to celebrate the start of the Bloomsbury Festival 2023 including family friendly after-school activities. The food and flower market will open from midday with busking, local dance groups and performers bringing the street to life throughout the afternoon. Local restaurants and shops take part in the fun and there will be music and spoken word events along the street through the event.

13 October, 12:00 - 17:00

Store Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7BT

FREE – Just Turn Up | Suitable for all ages

PERFORMANCES

New Wave Theatre: Goodgirl

Parbati Chaudhury

It's the final weeks of Suhana's pregnancy. While closest friends, Padma and Brinda, go all out to offer their invaluable, though mildly chaotic support, Suhana's maternal instincts kick in.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

14 – 15 October, 2pm

RADA Studios, 16 Chenies Street, WC1E 7EX

£5

New Wave Theatre: The Morphea

Rowenna Mortimer, Further Than The Edge

"Water, water everywhere and not a place to sleep?" Morphea's home on the canal is being disturbed, so off she sets on a journey...

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

14 – 15 October, 5pm

RADA Studios, 16 Chenies Street, WC1E 7EX

£12 (£10 conc)

Rey Camoy

Tarinainanika Theatre

Breath-taking physical theatre from Japan, inspired by the life and work of a little-known painter. *Rey Camoy* is a gut-wrenching love song to beauty - the kind worth living and dying for.

14 – 15 October, 7:30pm

City Lit, John Lyon's Theatre, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

Oils

Jessica Rachid

A gripping show about survival, trauma, and the unyielding strength of a woman. Follow the journey of a courageous mother as she navigates domestic violence, while simultaneously managing a thriving kebab shop in the vibrant landscape of East London.

14 – 15 October, 7:30pm

RADA Studios, 16 Chenies Street, WC1E 7EX

£12 (£10 conc)

Stand-Up Comedy Meets Classical Piano

Aïda Lahlou

Mixing live piano performance and stand-up comedy, Aïda explores the realities of being a classical pianist today, from managing parental expectations to the comical quirks of working within the classical music industry.

14 October, 8pm

William Goodenough House, Goodenough College Mecklenburgh Square, WC1N 2AN

£8 (£6 conc)

I Dream In Colour

Jasmin Thien, Extant

This one woman play explores memory, loss, and the intersection between disability and culture, drawn from experiences growing up fighting eye cancer and eventually blindness as a Bruneian-born Chinese woman.

15 October, 4pm

City Lit, John Lyon's Theatre, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

New Wave Theatre: Intransigent Lines

Lizzie Milton

In search of their long-lost mother, two sisters embark on a perilous sea voyage when one of them begins turning into an octopus. A rehearsed reading of a coming-of-age story exploring neurodiversity.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

15 October, 6pm

City Lit, Cultureplex, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£5

2nd Picture of Dorian Gray

Vyte Garriga, Macready Theatre Young Actors Ensemble

Nine teenagers. One baritone saxophone. A futile search for a theme. The possibility that someone is the great-grandchild of Dorian Gray.

15 October, 6:30pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

Free – Just turn up

Rhubarb and Custard

Stupid and Brave Theatre

A one woman show about grief and jazz piano, with original music. The show is about what it means to love someone that both hurt you profoundly and made you who you are.

15 October, 7pm

City Lit, Recital Room, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

New Wave Radio Drama: Petrichor

Theo Hristov, Ducktape

Stella and Alex meet in the early hours of the night and fall madly in love. They're both seventeen and from London. But that's where the similarities end. And tonight, there's a storm coming.

Presented as a radio play by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

15 October, 7pm

Listen at Bloomsbury Radio

Phoenix

Helen Percival

A whirlwind of spoken word poetry, movement and music that takes audiences on a journey to explore healing, transformation and connection.

A love song to life, the show investigates how we might find gold in our darkest times.

18 October, 7pm

The Crypt Gallery, Euston Road (Entrance in Duke's Rd), NW1 2BA

£8 (£6 conc)

Heaven Can Wait

Be Wilder Theatre

Presenting the tragicomic theatrical tale of an artist on their life-changing journey to reach Paradise, in search of inspiration for their craft and a renaissance of their spirit.

18 October, 7pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£15 (£10 conc)

New Wave Theatre: How To Run Away

Lucy Andrina, Hot Trip Theatre

This new play is the dirty, mucky, sweaty second- cousin of *Eat, Pray, Love*. Forget meditating for ten weeks on a remote mountain, instead try crying in showers on different continents.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

18 – 20 October, 9pm

The Crypt Gallery, Euston Road (Entrance in Duke's Rd), NW1 2BA

£8 (£6 conc)

Life Lines: Poetry, Dance and Music

Sage Dance Company, Rack Press Poets

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

A cabaret style event mixing poetry, music and contemporary dance, with Sage Dance Company, a ballet-based dance company for ages 55+, and Rack Press Poetry, an independent poetry press based in Bloomsbury and Wales.

19 October, 7pm

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

£10 (£8 conc)

Blue Light

Kast Art Association

A one-act theatrical monologue with music telling the tales of the remarkable life of Marie Curie; the woman, the mother, the widow, the scientist, the Nobel prize winner, who shattered barriers and changed the course of history.

19 October, 7pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£12 (£10 conc)

Inua Ellams and Fuel Present: An Evening With An Immigrant

Inua Ellams, Fuel

Littered with poems, stories and anecdotes, award-winning poet Inua Ellams tells his ridiculous, fantastic immigrant-story of looking for a country to belong to and a place to call home.

19 October, 7pm

Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

£15 (£12 conc)

Young Voices @ Bloomsbury

A curated screening of essay films exploring the theme of 'Grow' made by young filmmakers working in Bloomsbury, in collaboration with students from the MA Film Programming and Curating at Birkbeck, University of London.

20 October, 2:30pm

Birkbeck Cinema, 43 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PD

Free – Just turn up

The Dreamquest of Unknown Kadath

Vulcanello Productions, Shivers

An adventure into perhaps the most peculiar corners of even H P Lovecraft's imagination, read to the accompaniment of shadow puppetry and a live theremin soundtrack. Watch out for space cats.

19 - 20 October, 6:30pm

The Crypt Gallery, Euston Road (Entrance in Duke's Rd), NW1 2BA

£15 (£12 conc)

The Life of Meena Kumari, Bollywood Star

Mukul and Ghetto Tigers

Exploring the dark inner life of one of India's most loved Bollywood icons, Meena Kumari and how it contrasted with the glamour the public saw on the silver screen. This is a bilingual production in English and Bengali.

20 October, 6:30pm

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

£12 (£10 conc)

Language Is A Skin

Vyte Garriga

This visual theatre piece explores language from a Lithuanian female foreigner's point of view and the urge to grow into the language to learn to communicate, fit in and survive.

20 October, 7pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£12 (£10 conc)

A Victorian Megastar's Story

Friends of St George's Gardens

In a presentation about the occupants of this old graveyard, two actors tell the story of Julia Betterton Glover, an actor buried there in 1850 after a long and acclaimed career on the London stage.

21 October, 3pm

St George's Gardens, Heathcote Street, WC1N 2NU

Free – Just turn up

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Forest of Thorns

The Still

An hour of forest-themed folklore, fairy-tale and soundscape. Step into a world of danger and renewal as we forge a path through enchanted thorns to what lies beyond.

21 October, 7:30pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£12 (£10 conc)

Histoire Du Tango

Show & Milonga

Contemporary Tango Show re-imagining Piazzolla's iconic piece *Histoire du Tango*. A journey charting the growth of Argentine tango through the ages. Followed by a 'Milonga' - an evening of social dancing.

21 October, 7:30pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

£15 (£12 conc)

London: A Bloom of Consciousness

*A*suming Co Lab*

A site-specific immersive soundscape and dramatic tour of Bloomsbury. Three performer- guides trace connections to Virginia Woolf, herself an avid streetwalker of London, and explore our own relationships with Woolf's writing and the global cities in which they grew up; Kolkata, Lima and Wu Wei.

22 October, 11:30am and 12:30pm

Fitzrovia Mural, 8 Tottenham St, W1T 4RB

£12 (£10 conc)

An Unsuitable Job For A 19th Century Woman!

Pascal Theatre Company

What happens when women trespass into the rooms which say Keep Out? A dance theatre performance dramatising the lives of a doctor, a classicist and an accountant.

22 October, 2pm and 3pm

Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, WC1H 0DG

Free – Just turn up

Encore

An invitation to our audience, performers and partners to come and enjoy spoken word and music at this end of festival celebration.

See website for programme details at the time of the festival.

22 October, 7:30pm

London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8UE

Free – Just turn up

MUSIC

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: The Four Seasons

Song Recital

Soprano Charlotte Jane Kennedy and pianist Frasier Hickland present a special selection of songs for all seasons from composers including Bizet, Schumann, Puccini, Fauré, and Sibelius.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

14 October, 1pm

The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HZ

Free – Just turn up

Immersive Listening: Live Music with Nika Shoot and Bobby Williams

Nika Shoot, Bobby Williams

An ambient, immersive musical experience, creating live music soundscapes for deep listening and exploring deep meditative states of being.

14 October, 6pm

William Goodenough House, Goodenough College Mecklenburgh Square, WC1N 2AN

£12 (£10 conc)

If Walls Could Sing! A Musical History of An Address In Bloomsbury

The Good Companions

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Exploring Bloomsbury's fascinating history through the story of one house - 49 Great Ormond Street - and the people who lived there, using a lively combination of narration and vintage songs.

14 October, 7:30pm

The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HZ

£12 (£10 conc)

Baluji Shrivastav OBE and Jazz Orient

Celebrating jazz with Indian and Latin influences combined with intricate patterns of percussive footwork from Indian dance. Featuring sitar, dilruba, tablas, keyboards, sax and vocals.

14 October, 7:30pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£12 (£10 conc)

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: Piano Works of Serbian Contemporary Composers

Ana Bursac.

Explore a beautifully curated selection of piano pieces by Serbian 20th and 21st century composers, performed by Serbian pianist Ana Bursac.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

14 October, 1pm

The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HZ

Free – Just turn up

Ricercare

Victor Braojos

This solo piano recital presents a journey through works by Granados, Franck & Beethoven, written in their last years, as the artistic culmination of a lifetime.

15 October, 3pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

Rachmaninoff At A Mirror

Flavio Villani

Crossing Rachmaninoff (2015 documentary) subject Flavio Villani presents a programme of Rachmaninoff's Preludes Op.23 intertwined with his own semi-improvised works.

15 October, 5pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: Duo Neul

Seungyeon Lee (Guitar) & June Lee (Violin)

Recent graduates of The Royal College of Music, both originally from South Korea, present a delicate and emotional performance of four contrasting pieces and styles.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

18 October, 1pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8EP

Free – Just turn up

Finegan Viscardi Duo Ep Launch: Uncovered Roots

The Finegan Viscardi Duo

The Finegan Viscardi Duo launch their debut EP, featuring folk music from the UK and Ireland in different contexts, arranged for saxophone and harp. A new work by harpist-composer Anne Marie O'Farrell will also be showcased. With guest artist, violinist Martha Campbell.

18 October, 7pm

The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT

£12 (£10 conc)

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: Michelle Hromin's Sonic Exploration

Michelle Hromin

Featuring works by Steve Reich, Liza Lim, Unsuk Chin, Paquito d'Rivera, as well as her own compositions, redefining the sonic possibilities of solo clarinet playing.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

19 October, 1pm

The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HZ

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Free – Just turn up

A Music Party At Montagu House

Bloomsbury Baroque

A programme of vocal and instrumental music performed on period instruments, inspired by Marcellus Laroon's 1730s painting *A Music party at Montagu House*. The programme includes music by Pepusch, Handel and Sancho.

19 October, 7:30pm

St George's Church Bloomsbury, Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SA

£12 (£10 conc)

Giant Folk

Alternative folk-jazz group led by vocalist Rowan Flack present mysterious folk songs, hidden and understated jazz standards and their esoteric, original compositions which are experimental and magical in nature.

19 October, 8pm

London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8UE

£12 (£10 conc)

Bloom

Daniella Sicari, Mark Rogers & Caroline Bordinon With Bloomhouse Projects

A multidisciplinary concert incorporating art song, visual art and live inspired painting, centred around the imagery of flowers. Expect to hear music by Boulanger, Strauss, Sibelius and more.

20 October, 7pm

William Goodenough House, Goodenough College Mecklenburgh Square, WC1N 2AN

£15 (£10 conc)

Grand Union Orchestra Presents: From Bengal To Bloomsbury

Welcoming some of the UK's foremost Bengali singers and instrumentalists, alongside Grand Union Orchestra's musicians from world-wide musical cultures. Tabla maestro Yousuf Ali Khan will lead an evening of traditional songs by Lalou and Nazrul, alongside emotional ragas as we explore the music, language and culture of Bangladesh and its diaspora.

20 October, 7:30pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

£12 (£10 conc)

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: Mirrors With Aïda Lahlou (Piano)

Aïda Lahlou

Ravel's beautiful and kaleidoscopic *Miroirs* interspersed with gem-like, lesser known, miniatures from the piano repertoire. A recital with a story.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

21 October, 1pm

The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HZ

Free – Just turn up

The Bloomsbury Beast Pipe Organ - Silent Film Double Bill

This filmic double-bill is an opportunity to hear the pipe organ of Bloomsbury Baptist Church as never before: accompanying two classic silent films.

2pm: Harold Lloyd's 1923 riotous comedy *Safety Last!* - accompanied by Donald MacKenzie (world renowned organist from the Odeon Leicester Square)

7pm: 1925 American silent horror film *The Phantom of the Opera* - accompanied by Aaron Hawthorne (international, multi-award-winning organist)

21 October, 2pm and 7pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8EP

£7/£10 for both screenings (Under 16s FREE)

Discovery And Legacy

Goodensemble Orchestra

A concert not to be missed. As the Orchestra gets ready for its 10th anniversary, the College is preparing you for a feast of rich fresh voices, sounds, and experiences.

21 October, 7pm

London House, Goodenough College, Mecklenburgh Square, WC1N 2AB

£12 (£10 conc)

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

New Wave Lunchtime Concert: Karen Wong (Flute) & Lance Mok (Piano)

A varied programme of music for flute and piano featuring works from underrepresented and contemporary composers, highlighting themes of equality, inclusiveness and our relationship with the natural world.

Presented by Bloomsbury Festival as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent.

22 October, 1pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

Free – Just turn up

Paris Chapters

Clara Barbier Serrano & Robert Finegan

A performance exploring French Irish relations in literature and music through new compositions and songs, following the day of an imaginary Irish author in Paris.

22 October, 4pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

Madeline Dring Celebration Concert

Join Nicholas Daniel OBE & Antonio Oyarzabal for a concert celebrating the life & music of Madeline Dring. Award-winning writer Leah Broad will open with a talk introducing Dring's fascinating story.

22 October, 5:30pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

£13 in advance / £15 on door (concessions available)

From Dowland To Britten: English Nature Through Music

Duo Fabulae

A journey through time with music inspired by the natural world by Dowland, Bridge and Britten. The programme includes an original silent film by Radu Rojas to accompany Bridge's cello sonata.

22 October, 7pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£12 (£10 conc)

EXHIBITIONS

New Wave: Art Prize 2023

Ella Jackson & Tara Ryan

A specially commissioned exhibition from the winners of the 2023 Bloomsbury Festival Art Competition responding to the theme of Grow.

A Bloomsbury Festival Production supported by The Bedford Estates.

14 – 22 October, Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm; Sat 10am - 2pm

Holborn Community Association, Holborn House, 35 Emerald Street, WC1N 8JU

Free – Just turn up

New Bloomsbury Set Silks

Bloomsbury Festival & Kinetika

A set of 6 silk flags that represent the diverse identity, culture, and history of Bloomsbury's residents, created by artists at Kinetika and community groups from across Bloomsbury, Holborn and Kings Cross.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.

14 – 21 October, 10am - 5pm Mon - Fri, 11am - 4pm Sat (closed Sun)

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Free – Just turn up

A Room Of One's Own

Giuseppe Mario Urso

Enter this room and be surprised by an intimate video installation which intertwines space and emotion, to reveal other aspects of the church around you. Don't miss the chance to step inside this wonder-box.

14 – 22 October, 11am – 2pm

St Pancras Church, Euston Road, NW1 2BA

Free – Just turn up

26 Plants - 26 Writers

International writers' group and regular Bloomsbury Festival collaborators 26 respond in poetry and prose to vulnerable plants selected by Wildlife Trusts. Their stories will appear online daily during the festival.

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

13 – 22 October
Online at bloomsburyfestival.org.uk
Free

Deaf Mosaic

Stephen Iliffe

Intimate photographic portraits celebrating the UK's deaf community, an astonishingly diverse mosaic of ethnicity, class, religion, sexual orientation and different occupations and interests. Deaf Mosaic has a vital message to share: with the right support, deaf people can do anything.

Supported by City Lit.

13 – 22 October
Brunswick Square Gardens, WC1N
Free – Just turn up

Endless

Presented By Uplight

Internationally renowned street artist ENDLESS has created a piece of art juxtaposing religious and commercial imagery raising questions around the blurred lines in our modern world between sacred and secular.

14 – 20 October
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8EP
Free – Just turn up

Jessica's Flowers

Jessica Strang

Jessica Strang photographed flowers - some given as gifts, and others adorning her home - capturing rare glimpses of succulents blooming, down to the weeds amongst the pavement cracks. This exhibition of her photographs captures their glorious colours and remembers Jessica's fascination with flowers.

13 – 22 October
Store Street, WC1E
Free – Just turn up

The New Bloomsbury Set Exhibition

An outdoor exhibition curated by the Festival's own *New Bloomsbury Set*, a group of local young people reviewing and reshaping the cultural, literary and heritage landscape of Bloomsbury.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.

13 – 22 October
Brunswick Square Gardens, WC1N
Free – Just turn up

We Were Here - Camden Black British History

A collection of eight biographies of significant individuals of African and Caribbean heritage who have lived, worked or studied in Camden, and whose achievements led to significant social change in local, national and international contexts.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.

14 – 21 October, 9am – 8pm (closed Sunday)
Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU
Free – Just turn up

Rugby Estate's Flower Trail

Dawson Flower & Landscapes Ltd

Featuring individually arranged flower installations, this trail is inspired by the independent traders and history of the Rugby Estate.

14 – 22 October
Lambs Conduit Street & Rugby Street, WC1N
Free – Just turn up

Entwine: The Avocado Sculptures

Ghost And John

An exhibition of 50 avocado sculptures grown in the artists' home, witnessing every laugh and tear of the couple. Exploring alternative ways to measure growth and new models of creative presentation that focus on community building, love and kindness, and personal life satisfaction.

14 – 21 October, 10am - 5pm Mon - Fri, 11am - 4pm Sat (closed Sun)
Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Free – Just turn up

Reclaiming

Carolyn Murphy

A panel montage reflecting on nature's power to reclaim with additional artworks exploring the habitats and fragility of the world we share.

14 – 21 October, 10am - 5pm Mon - Fri, 11am - 4pm Sat (closed Sun)

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Free – Just turn up

TALKS AND LITERATURE

Encouraging Healthy Growth In Specific Populations

UCL Institute Of Education

This panel discussion explores with experts how healthy growth can be encouraged in specific populations. From eating disorders to vision impairment, we will discuss what research indicates as beneficial for people experiencing such conditions.

Presented in partnership with City Lit's Mental Wealth Festival.

14 October, 11am

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

Suggested donation of £5 when booking

Why Education Matters For Growth

UCL Institute Of Education

Experts discuss how healthy growth can be encouraged in specific educational environments. From greenery and nature to mental health in schools, the panel will discuss what research indicates as beneficial for human development.

Presented in partnership with City Lit's Mental Wealth Festival.

14 October, 12:45pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

Suggested donation of £5 when booking

Urban Greening: Cities Of The Future

Corstorphine & Wright Architects

This talk by award winning architects will demonstrate and discuss the importance of the grown within the city. From the origins in Tropical Modernism to the established frameworks of Biophilic design.

14 October, 1pm

Corstorphine & Wright, 21-27 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1N 3N

Free – Just turn up

Cold Islanders Presents: Caribbean Folklore

Cold Islanders

Join Cold Islanders in their storytelling space as they read, reminisce and discuss Caribbean folklore and cherished fairytales. Cold Islanders is a community-based platform that endeavours to celebrate, appreciate and educate people about Caribbean culture.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set 'Writers of Colour' Book Club programme.

14 October, 2pm

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Free – Just turn up

Indie Zines Panel Talk & Zine Creation Session

Join zine creators as they explore the current climate of independent creation publishing. Followed by a zine making workshop by Arda Awais and Savana Surana @Identity 2.0.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set 'Writers of Colour' Book Club programme.

15 October, 1pm Talk / 2:30pm Workshop

Waterstones, 82 Gower Street, WC1E 6EQ

Talk: Free – Just turn up / Workshop: £15 (£12 conc)

Spirit Of Place: Landscape And Self

When we look at the landscape, what do we see? Authors Will Ashon and Dr Susan Owens explore what we see in the British landscape, and how place and history shape us.

15 October, 3pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

£9 (£6 conc)

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Growing In Love: Exploring Folk Romance Of The Indus

Discover the power of storytelling with Faheem Hussain, exploring the timeless folk romance of Sohni-Mahiwal, inspiring introspection, growth, and a deeper understanding of what it means to be human. Ages 16+

15 October, 3:30pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£8 (£6 conc)

Bloomsbury & Kings Cross Group Bookshop Crawl - 2 Hour Crawl

An exploration of the second hand, specialist, indie and chain bookshops of Bloomsbury led by Bookshop Crawl UK. Meet fellow book lovers, swap book recommendations and explore bookshops and literary landmarks.

18 October, 2pm

St Pancras Church Gardens, Euston Road, NW1 2BA

£8

Writers Of Colour Digital Book Club

In this online event we will be reading and discussing the instant no.2 New York Times bestselling book *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. Hosted by freelance writer and digital storyteller Tamera Heron.

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set 'Writers of Colour' Book Club programme.

18 October, 5:30pm

Online at bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

Free

Who Were The Bloomsbury Group?

A digital panel discussion introducing different aspects of the Bloomsbury Set of a century ago, their lives, writing, art and changing attitudes towards gender and sexuality in the 1920s. With Darren Clarke (Charleston Trust), Thomas Kennedy (Tate Britain) and Nino Strachey (author).

This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set 'Writers of Colour' Book Club programme.

18 October, 7pm

Online at bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

Free

The Intelligent Solution? You Decide: Ai In Healthcare

UCL (WEISS)

Tour a facility where lifesaving research takes place and be part of a jury deciding right from wrong in a near future where Artificial Intelligence is entering medicine.

19 – 20 October, 6pm

A Secret Facility in Bloomsbury

Donation when booking online

Poetry's Circle Of Growth

Dark Angels

An inspiring live performance of poetry on the theme of 'Grow' by Dark Angels poets. Features new poems specially written for the festival. An uplifting and accessible evening of poetry, offering new ways to connect with poetry for everyone.

19 October, 6:30pm

The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT

£8 (£6)

One Hundred Books For The Next Twenty Years

London Review Bookshop

Twenty celebrated writers chose the five books we need to help us navigate the next twenty years, to mark the London Review Bookshop's twentieth birthday. Four of them discuss their choices.

19 October, 7pm

London Review Bookshop, 14-16 Bury Place, WC1A 2JL

£10

Seed

Corrupted Poetry

Language is the seed, the action that breaks the silence. An evening of poetry, art and sound, featuring Luke Kennard, L Kiew, Helen Bowell and Richard Price, plus an exclusive event pamphlet.

19 October, 7:30pm

The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT

£10 (£7 conc)

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

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The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Poetry And Music Evening

Curated social evening, looking at poems set to music, centring migrant diasporic voices and shared experiences of movement and migration.
20 October, 7pm
Pushkin House, 5a Bloomsbury Square, WC1A 2TA
£8 (£6 conc)

Picasso In Bloomsbury

Anthony D Padgett

This talk and walk discuss Pablo Picasso's visits to Bloomsbury in 1919 and 1950 and his relationships to literary, political and scientific figures in the area, with a focus on his artworks featuring plants and children.
21 October, 11am
City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA
£14 talk only / £20 talk & walk

Words From Elsewhere: Small Press Publishing

Books can change the world. Conway Hall welcomes three radical small press publishers - Strange Attractor Press, Guts Publishing and Past Tense publications - to share their stories.
21 October, 12:15pm
Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL
£10 (£8 conc)

The Hidden History Of The Foundling Hospital

Marianne Nichols

Explore the creation of the Foundling Hospital, and the lives of the foundlings themselves. Reflecting on the memory of place and ancestral history.
21 October, 1pm
Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU
£6 (£3 conc)

26 Wordstock @ The Bloomsbury Festival - 26 Writers

A mini festival within a festival, celebrating words, people and the natural world through talking, listening and writing together. How do words grow with us, and how do they help us grow? In partnership with the Wildlife Trusts.
21 October, 2pm
Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL
£12 (£10 conc)

Young Bloomsbury: A New Queer History

Nino Strachey

Nino Strachey shines new light on the queer history of the Bloomsbury Group, revealing changing attitudes towards gender and sexuality in 1920s London.
This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.
21 October, 2:30pm
City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA
Free – Just turn up

An Apothecary Of Art: Journeys For Emotional Growth

Lisa Azarmi Of Ravenous Butterflies

A journey through emotions and how art can promote personal growth. Lisa Azarmi shares her own experiences and will immerse you in soothing paintings and prose from her book *An Apothecary of Art, to soothe your soul*.
21 October, 4:30pm
City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA
£8 (£6 conc)

How Can We Radically Re-Define Growth?

Ghost And John

Is it possible to measure growth as strengthening relationships, building peace across borders, and spreading love and kindness? Art duo Ghost and John invite a panel of thinkers to gather and dream up new thinking models with a holistic approach.
22 October, 12pm
City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA
£5

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Bloomsbury & Kings Cross Group Bookshop Crawl - 4 Hour Crawl

An exploration of the second hand, specialist, indie and chain bookshops of Bloomsbury led by Bookshop Crawl UK. Meet fellow book lovers, swap book recommendations and explore bookshops and literary landmarks.

22 October, 1pm

St Pancras Church Gardens, Euston Road, NW1 2BA

£12

From Fields To Faculties

Alec Forshaw

This richly illustrated talk will cover the development of Bloomsbury over the last 500 years, from when it was fields and market gardens supplying the City of London, to the present day.

22 October, 3pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

Free – Just turn up

From Fields To Faculties

Alec Forshaw

This richly illustrated talk will cover the development of Bloomsbury over the last 500 years, from when it was fields and market gardens supplying the City of London, to the present day.

22 October, 3pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

Free – Just turn up

Grassroots Protest: Activism From Below

Change begins from below. Join activists Leila Hassan and Andy Worthington as they discuss campaigns against racism in the 1980s, the New Cross Fire murders, Guantánamo and much more.

22 October, 3pm

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

£9 (£6 conc)

Paradise Planet Earth: A Cosmic Miracle Under Threat

Dr Francisco Diego

Projections, storytelling, poetry, body language and music tell the long story of a cosmic miracle, now under threat. What is life? How did the Earth become a Paradise? Where do humans come from? Why is there so much injustice and destruction in the world? The event ends with a guided discussion about Paradise Planet Earth.

22 October, 3:30pm

Holy Cross Church, 98 Cromer Street, WC1H 8JU

£8 (£6 conc)

Nurturing The Planet

Kate Noakes and Cath Drake

Exploring through poetry how we can reach a more sustainable future. Including poems drawn from Kate and Cath's various collections, as well as new work written especially for the festival.

22 October, 5pm

City Lit, 1-10 Keely Street, WC2B 4BA

£5

FAMILY

Peter Pan Family Adventure Walk

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Eilika McAuley for children under 10 and their families. Explore the gardens of Bloomsbury through a series of themed challenges and learn about the area's connection to Peter Pan.

14 October, 11am

The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT

£14 (£3 children)

Growing Up With Witch Powers

Dr Simona Di Martino

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

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The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Exploring witches in children's literature with family friendly chats, personality quizzes, and a draw along session, this workshop investigates the appeal to young children of witches as the main characters of successful children's books and as comic heroines.

14 October, 11am

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Free – Just turn up

Discovery Hub - Grow

An exciting mix of science and creativity for three days for schools, families, and the general public.

See website for full programme and opening times: bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

19 - 21 October

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Free – Just turn up

WALKS

Peter Pan Family Adventure Walk

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Eilika McAuley for children under 10 and their families. Explore the gardens of Bloomsbury through a series of themed challenges and learn about the area's connection to Peter Pan.

14 October, 11am

The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT

£14 (children £3)

Rebels And Blue Stockings

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Oonagh Gay. Discover how the New Victorian Women aimed to live independently of their family, earn a wage, and in doing so attracted political and literary attention.

14 October, 2pm

Blooms Cafe, The Royal National Hotel, 51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0JR

£14

Legendary Women Of Bloomsbury

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Zhanna Macmillan. Following the footsteps of the remarkable women of Bloomsbury's history, and showing how they shaped the world we live in.

15 October, 2pm

Blooms Cafe, The Royal National Hotel, 51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0JR

£14

Hidden Bloomsbury

Camden Tour Guides Association & The New Bloomsbury Set Project

This guided walk explores some of the hidden histories of Bloomsbury. Led by Camden Tour Guides with the participation of festival trainees from the New Bloomsbury Set project. This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.

15 October, 2pm

Blooms Cafe, The Royal National Hotel, 51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0JR

FREE - Just turn up

The Bright, The Gifted And The Fearless

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Penny Burns, following fascinating females, memorable men and inspiring institutions in and around Bloomsbury.

18 October, 11am

Friends House Gardens, 173-177 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BJ

£14

A Green Thread - Camden Tour

Guides Association

A walk led by Maggie Coates. Take a stroll through interesting green spaces and growing places in eastern Bloomsbury. Hear about some of the area's stories and characters along the way.

19 October, 11am

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Rd, London WC1X 8PA

£14

The Smaller Squares Of Bloomsbury

Seekout London & Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Mike Marriott. Explore some of the less visited squares of Bloomsbury, discovering their histories and what can be seen, enjoyed and admired in them today.

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

MOBIUS.

The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

19 October, 2pm
Senate House steps, Malet St, London WC1E 7HU
£14

Bloomsbury's Women Medical Pioneers

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Elena Paolini. Learn about the trailblazing women who paved the way for today's women in medicine and discover which Bloomsbury institutions supported them.

20 October, 1pm
St Pancras Church Gardens, Pancras Road, NW1 0PE
£14

On The Beat In Bloomsbury

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Chris Foster. A light-hearted hour of some of Bloomsbury's iconic buildings, magnificent green open-air spaces and ways of life, sprinkled with some of Chris's stories and memories from when he was a Bobby on the Beat in the area fifty years ago.

20 October, 3.30pm
Blooms Cafe, The Royal National Hotel, 51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0JR
£14

Emancipated Women Of Bloomsbury

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Mike Marriott and Sam Nicholls. Walking through the squares to the eastern side of Bloomsbury this walk discovers where an extraordinary range of women lived.

21 October, 11am
St Pancras Church Gardens, Pancras Road, NW1 0PE
£14

Picasso In Bloomsbury

Anthony D Padgett

This talk and walk discuss Pablo Picasso's visits to Bloomsbury in 1919 and 1950 and his relationships to literary, political and scientific figures in the area, with a focus on his artworks featuring plants and children.

21 October, 11am
City Lit, 15 Gordon St, London WC1H 0AH
£14 talk only / £20 talk & walk

New Women In East Bloomsbury

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Sue McCarthy. Discover the rich history of the women of East Bloomsbury who seized new opportunities in the rapidly changing world of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

21 October, 2pm
The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT
£14

Air Pollution In Bloomsbury - What Can We Do? A Sensor-Ey Walk

This gentle 90-minute walk with a mobile Breathe London sensor includes stops along the way to share good and bad practice. Plus, practical hints about what you can do - for free - to help yourself.

22 October, 11am
Friends House Gardens, 173-177 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BJ
FREE - Just turn up

London: A Bloom Of Consciousness

*A*Musing Co Lab*

A site-specific immersive soundscape and dramatic tour of Bloomsbury. Three performer-guides trace connections to Virginia Woolf, herself an avid streetwalker of London, and explore our own relationships with Woolf's writing and the global cities in which they grew up: Kolkata, Lima and Wu Wei. Not suitable for children. This event is part of the festival's New Bloomsbury Set programme.

22 October, 11.30am & 2.30pm
Fitzrovia Mural, 8 Tottenham St, London W1T 4RB
£12 (£10)

Bloomsbury North: Gardening, Building, History-Making

Camden Tour Guides Association

A walk led by Paul Guest, covering parts of north and north-east Bloomsbury. It highlights the area's growth in terms of open spaces, urban planning and historic achievements.

22 October, 2pm
Blooms Cafe, The Royal National Hotel, 51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0JR
£14 (£12)

[Notes to editors](#)

Press Contact: Lorn Elvin at Mobius 07849 369 254 lorn@mobiusindustries.com

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The Lower Vestry
St George's Bloomsbury
6-7 Little Russell St
London WC1A 2HR

Bloomsbury Festival: For hundreds of years Bloomsbury has been a catalyst for ideas that have impacted across the world. The Festival celebrates contemporary Bloomsbury; a hotbed of creativity and pioneering development with one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the country.

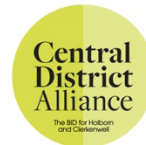
Each October for 10 days, the streets, parks, museums, laboratories and public and private buildings of this vibrant historic area host up to 130 events which attract audiences from across London and beyond.

Bloomsbury Festival is funded and supported by many organisations and businesses across Bloomsbury and beyond including major funders The Bedford Estates, University of London, UCL, Camden Council and Arts Council England alongside major sponsors, SHM Foundation and Central Alliance Business Investment District.

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