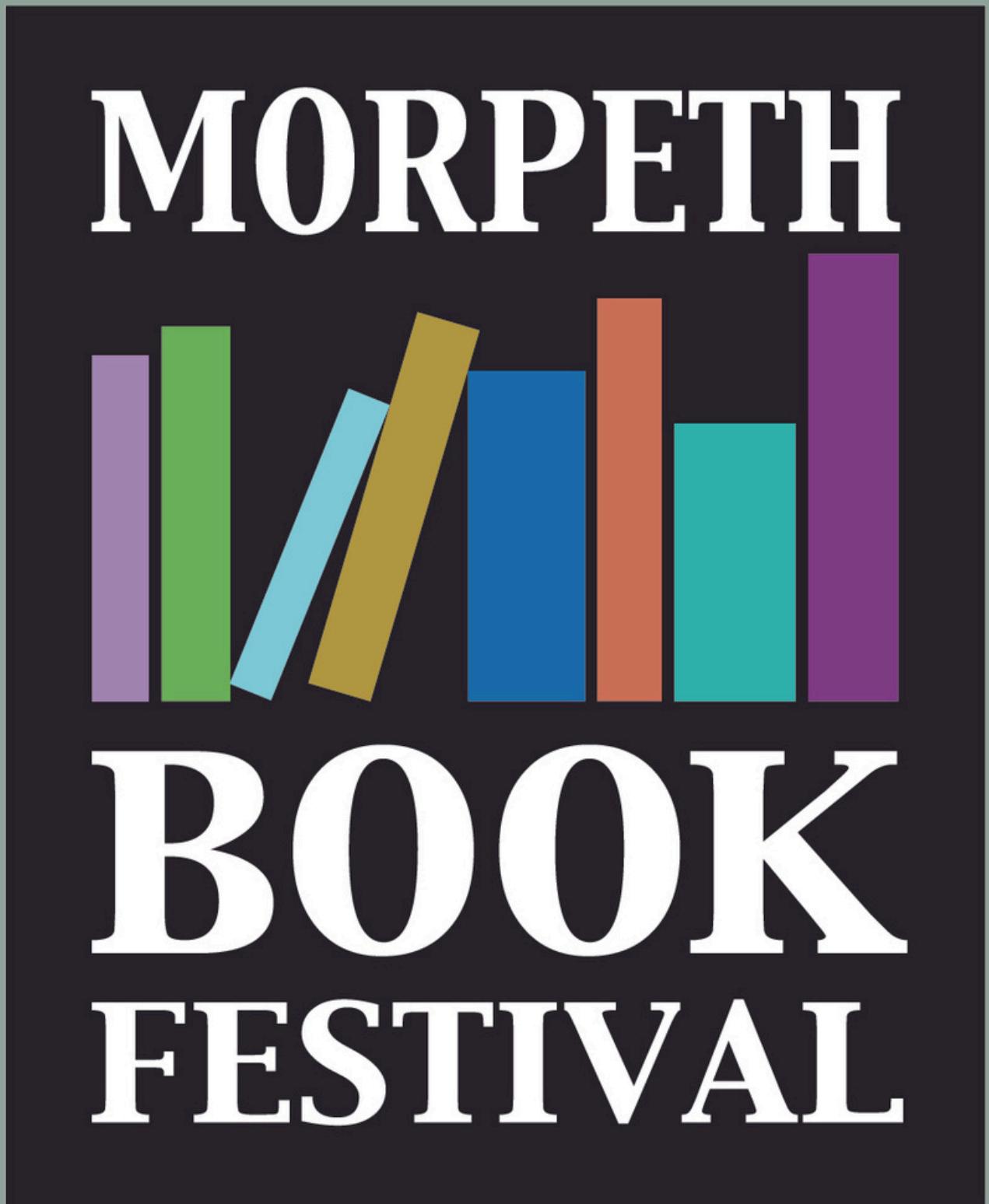
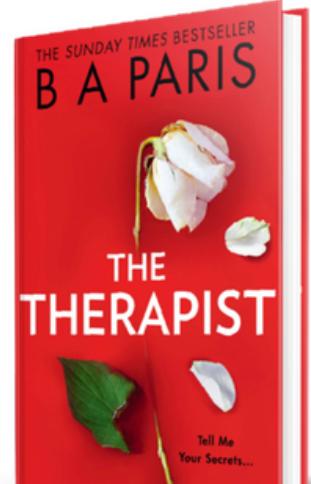




Morpeth Book Festival 2026



Zonic Holdings Limited: A local company investing in Morpeth

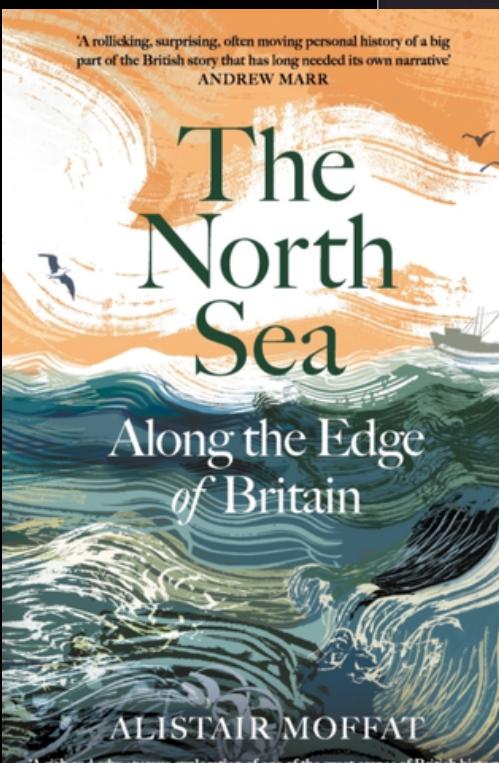
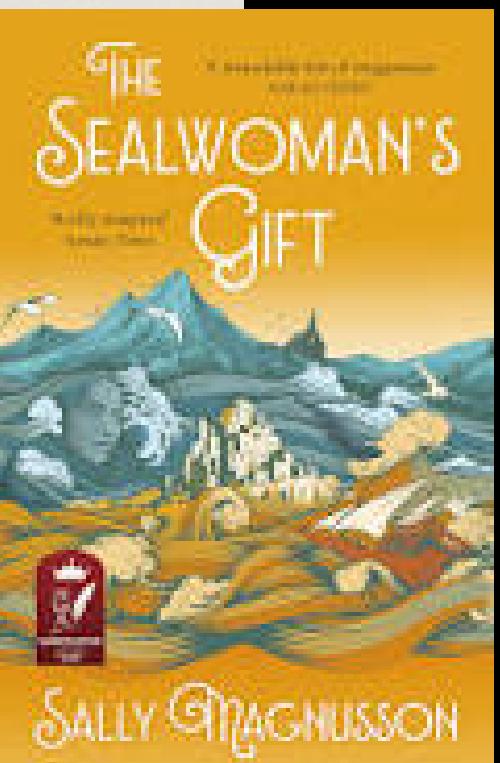


'One of the greatest feats ever achieved by an investigative reporter'
Sebastian Faulks

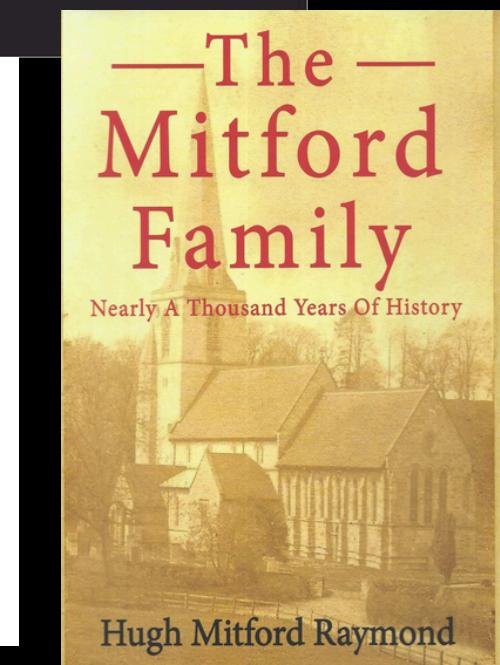
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The Birmingham Bombings and the Scandal that Shook Britain

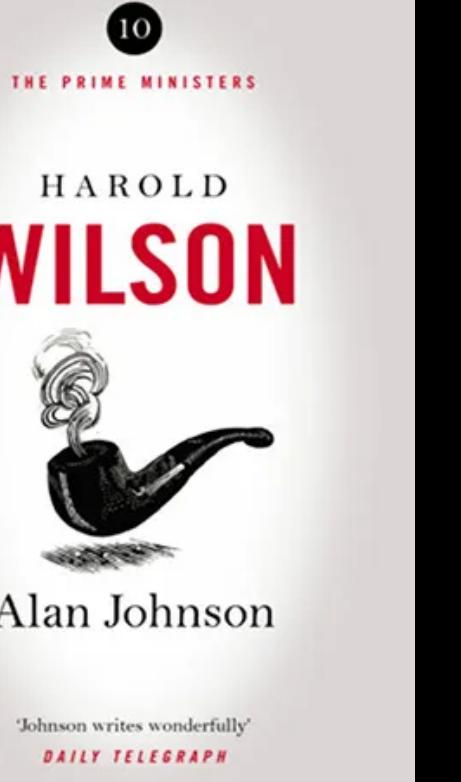
Chris Mullin



MORPETH BOOK FESTIVAL



Hugh Mitford Raymond

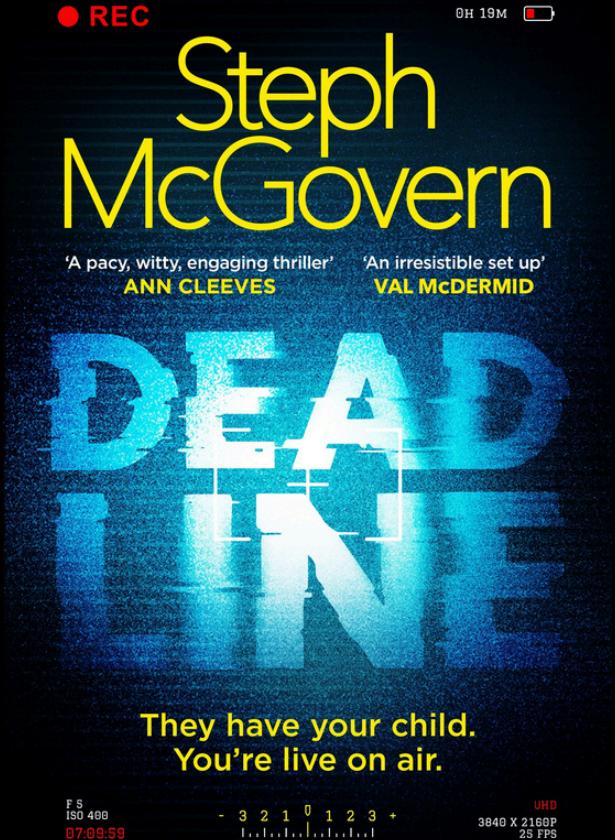


'Johnson writes wonderfully'
DAILY TELEGRAPH

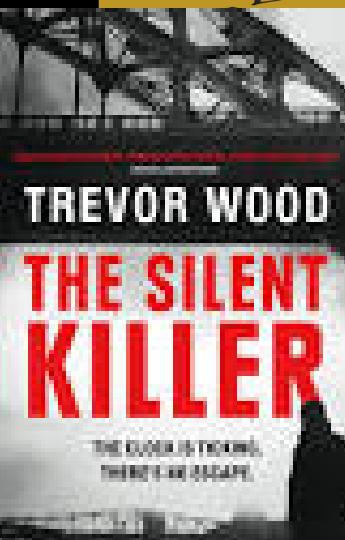
FIVE MINDS

'Blows your mind... An addictive read' THE TIMES
GUY MORPUSS

'Pacy, exciting and most unusual' GUARDIAN

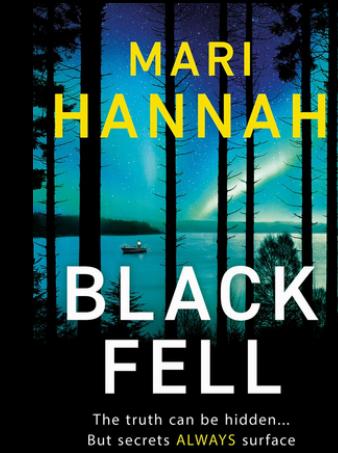


A Sandhills Legacy



MORPETH BOOK FESTIVAL

Mari Hannah

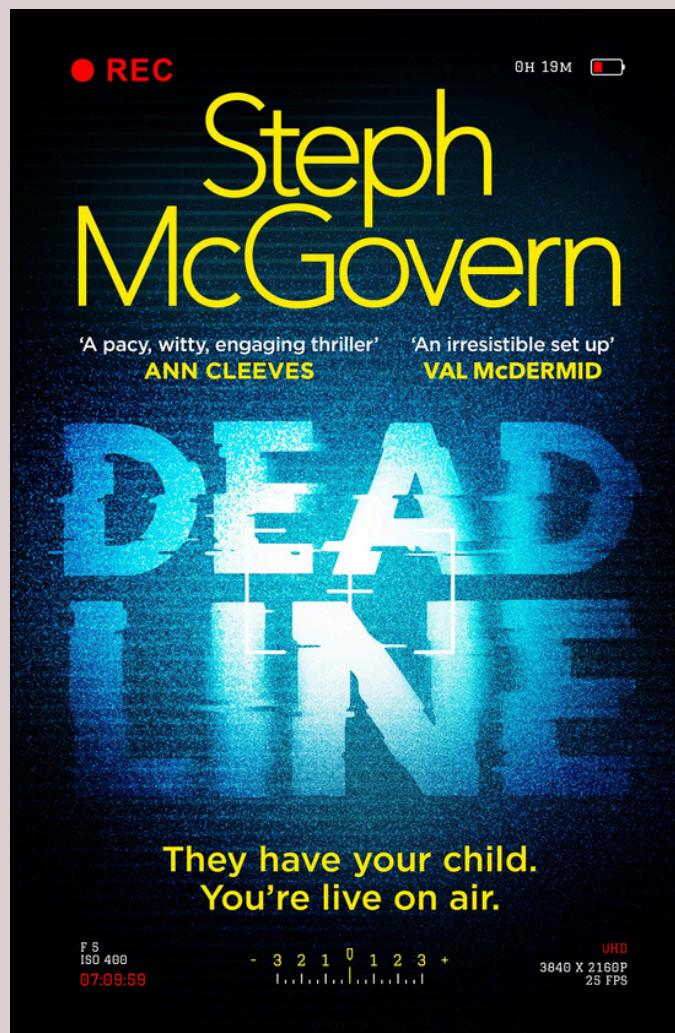


Hello, everyone. I'm very excited to tell you that the wonderful Morpeth Book Festival will be back on Saturday March 21st and Sunday 22nd 2026. This celebratory weekend (a must in my diary every year), brings writers and readers of all ages together with the support of local businesses, Greater Morpeth Development Trust and Northumberland Libraries. Since its inaugural event, it has been a joy to watch the festival become an important part of the regional book festival calendar, showcasing established and exciting new voices to entertain you with fascinating talks and the inside track on their journeys to publication and beyond. As festival patron, I am confident that whatever your taste in books, our director Frank Rescigno, our programming committee and brilliant volunteers have you covered.

Save the dates! We'd love to see you there.

Mari Hannah
Patron Morpeth Book Festival

Steph McGovern is an award-winning broadcaster who currently presents The Rest is Money podcast with Robert Peston. Steph has worked in journalism for over twenty years, eight of them as part of the BBC Breakfast family. She went on to present her own BAFTA-nominated live daily show, Steph's Packed Lunch, on Channel 4 and is a regular Have I Got News for You panelist and host.



Steph McGovern

- In conversation with by Mari Hannah
- Sat 21st March 2026
- 11:30 AM
- St. George's Church, Morpeth
- Tickets: £10

TM Logan's thrillers have sold more than two million copies in the UK and are translated into 22 other languages. Six of his novels have been Sunday Times bestsellers and two of them – THE HOLIDAY and THE CATCH – have been adapted for television. A former national newspaper journalist, Tim now writes novels full-time, and lives in Nottinghamshire with his family. His next book, THE WEEKEND, will be published in the UK in February 2026.



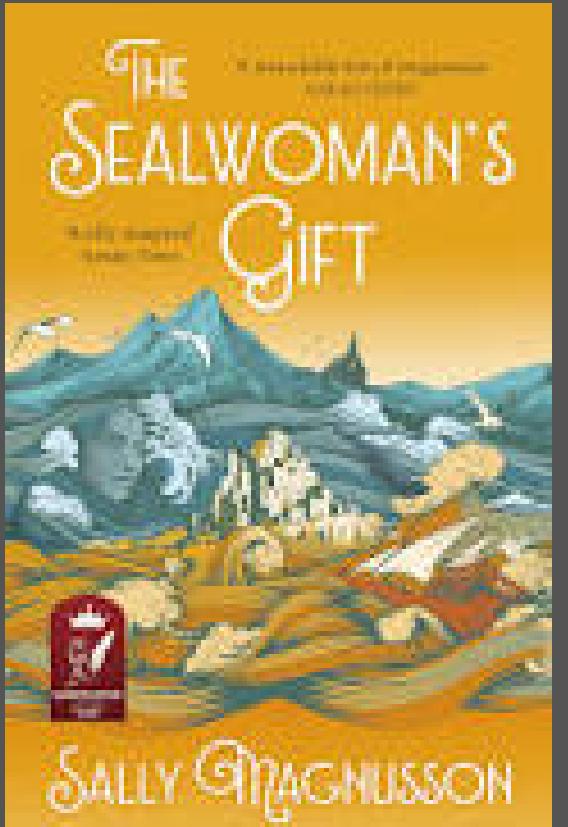
T M Logan

In Conversation with Gerry Foley

Sat 21st March 4:30pm
St George's Church Morpeth.
Tickets £10



Sally Magnusson



Sat 21st March 2026 at 3pm, @ St George's Church in Morpeth.
Sally will be interviewed by Edward Bindloss.

Tickets £10 .

"I'm looking forward to being at Morpeth very much. I'll be talking about The Shapeshifter's Daughter. it's my fourth novel and one that stems directly from tales that my father, Magnus Magnusson, used to tell me about the Norse myths from his northern homeland of Iceland. In this novel some of the old stories about the gods and goddesses of Asgard - Odin, Thor, Loki and especially Hel, queen of the underworld, are mingled with the experiences of characters in modern Orkney, especially those of Helen Firth, who has returned to the islands after many years in England to learn how to die. It's a novel exploring life and hope and golden new possibilities amid the darker shadows that have befallen both Helen and Hel - a story for our times.'



An interview about the concise biography of Harold Wilson 'Harold Wilson - 20th Century Man' .

With Chris Mullin

'Harold Wilson - 20th Century Man' - Swift Press recently won 'Best Biography' at the Westminster Book Awards.

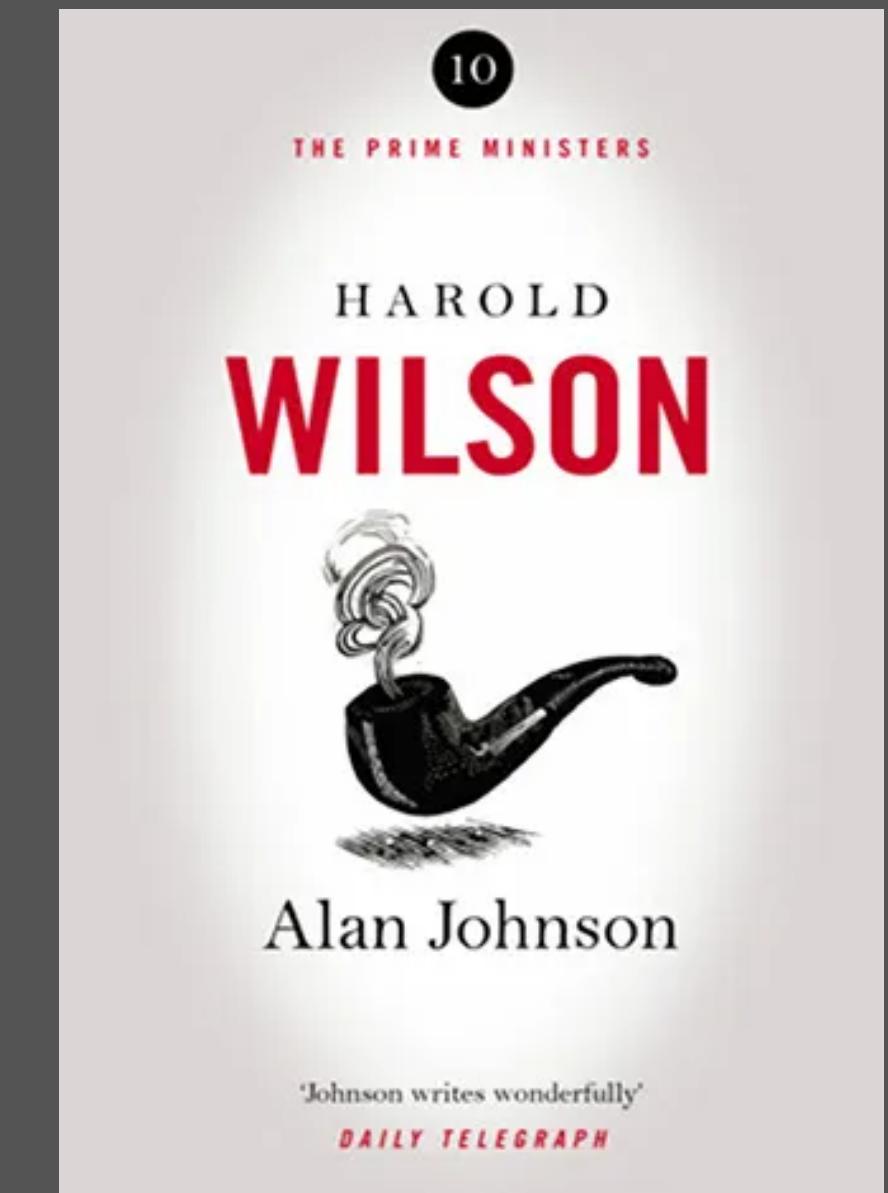
Alan Johnson

With Chris Mullin

St George's Church Morpeth

Sun 22nd March 1pm

Tickets £10



'One of the greatest feats ever achieved by an investigative reporter'
Sebastian Faulks



Error of Judgement

The Birmingham Bombings and the Scandal that Shook Britain

Chris Mullin

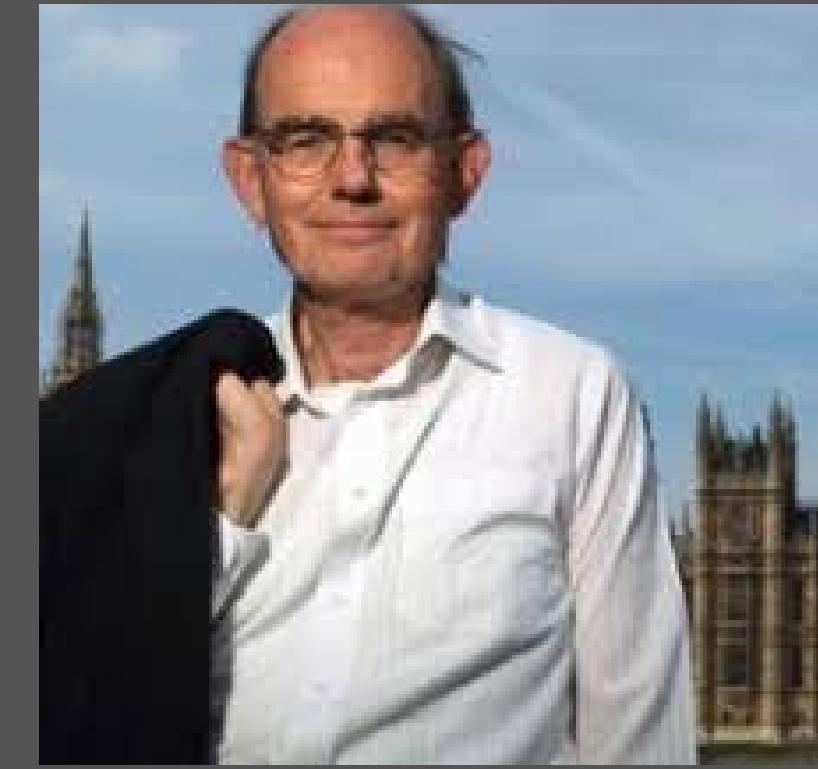
Listen to my recent adventures on a literary pilgrimage across the USA, Also making a return visit to the festival will be former journalist, MP for Sunderland South, A former more than 20 years justice campaigner, renowned diarist and novelist Chris Mullin. Chris was a prominent campaigner in overturning the convictions of 6 men jailed for the killings of 21 people in the notorious Birmingham pub bombings of 1974 where another 170 people were seriously injured. At the festival Chris will talk about his book 'Error of Judgement': The Truth About The Birmingham Pub Bombings.

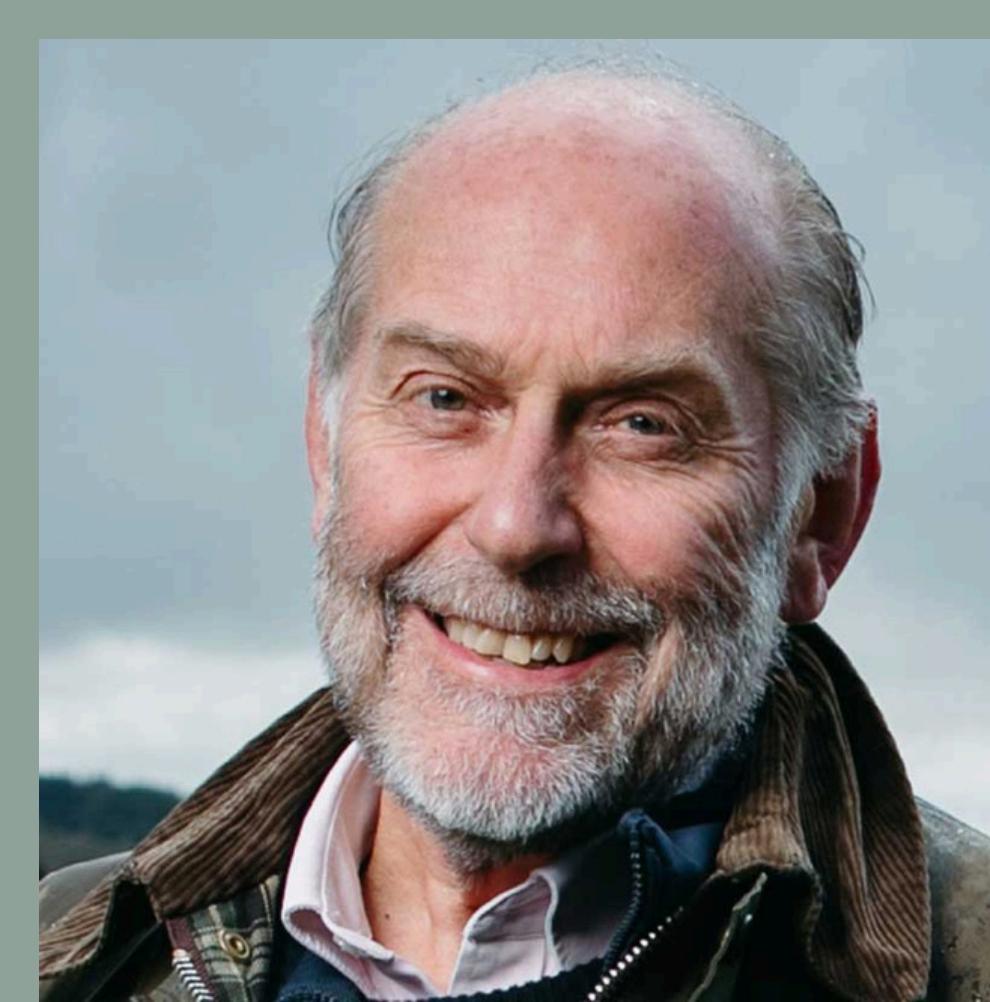
Chris Mullin

The Truth about the Birmingham Pub Bombings

Sun 22nd March 4pm

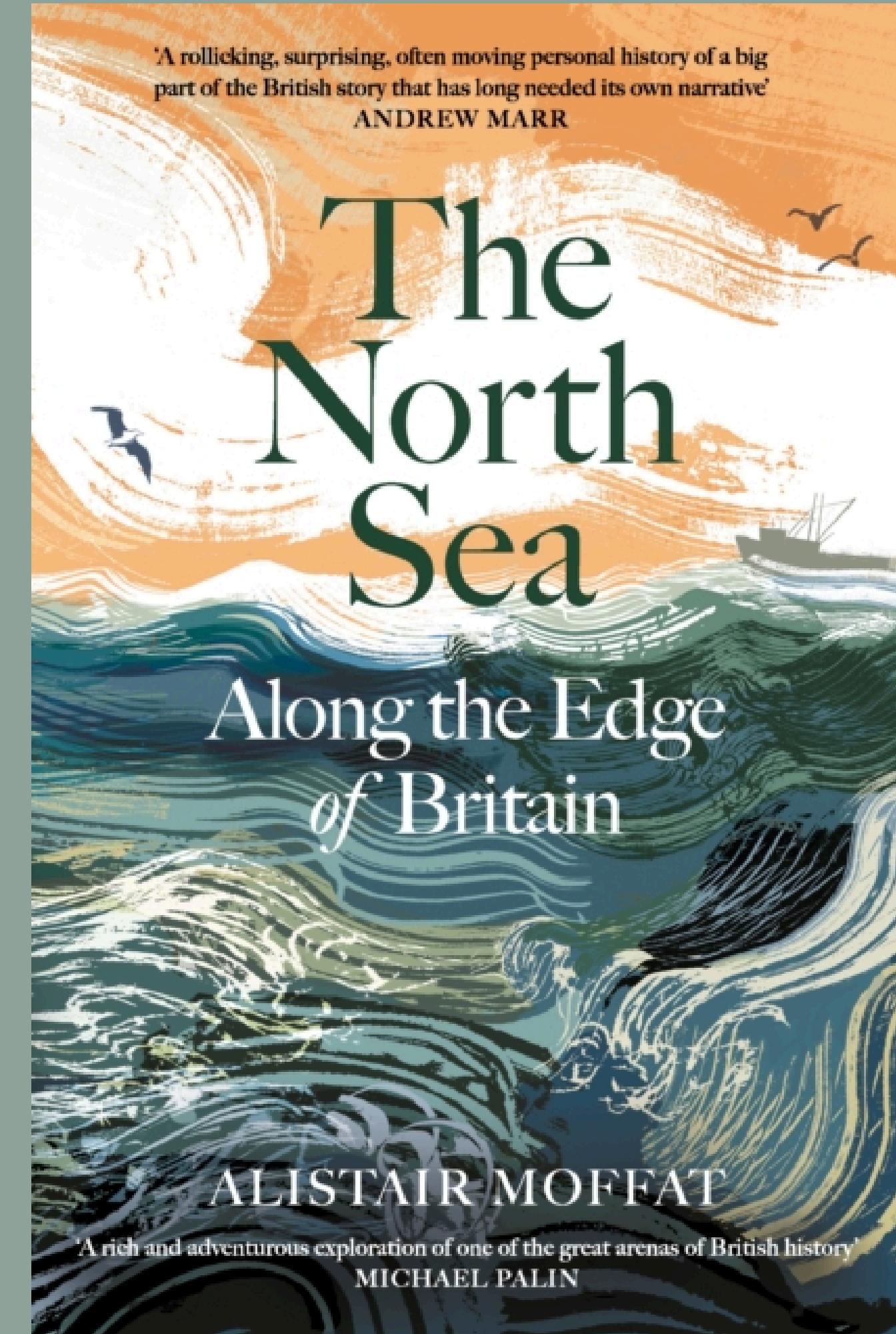
St George's Church Morpeth £10

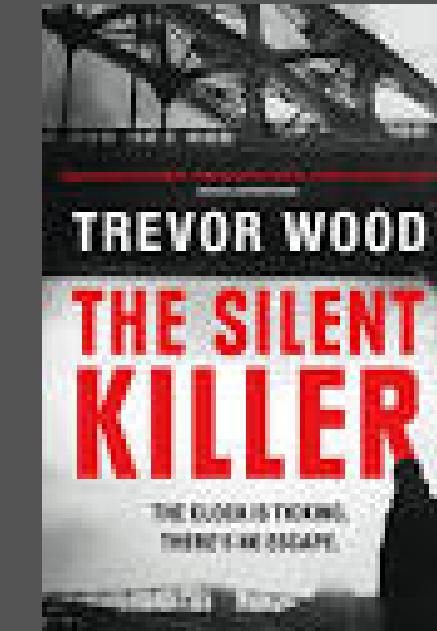
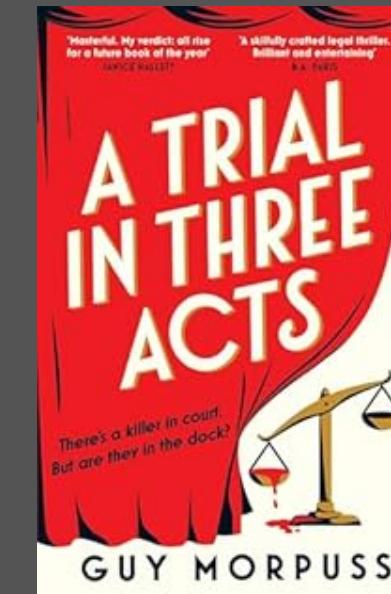




Alistair Moffat
Legendary Scottish author
and television presenter
Sun 22nd March 2026
St George's Church
Morpeth 2.30pm .
Tickets £10

Moffat takes us on an epic, sweeping history from the white cliffs of Dover to flooded homes, crossing wild fenland and Brexit fault lines, visiting well-worn seaside towns and windswept island monasteries. The story he tells is one of newcomers and the mark they left, of Roman invasions, the arrival of the Saxons and the Viking raids. But it is also a story of those they met, of Pictish citadels and Orcadian stone circles. It is a story of technological advancement, of submarine engineering and weather forecasting. It is a story of huge industry, from whaling expeditions and fishing trawlers to the boom of North Sea oil and offshore wind farms. This is the story of how the North Sea shaped us and will continue to do so; it is above all a story of insistent, inescapable change.





Crime Masters' Q & A with B A Paris, Trevor Wood and Guy Morpuss

Sat 21st March 1pm

St George's United Reformed Church £10

A trio of authors all making a return visit to Morpeth Book Festival, will join forces to answer audience questions about crime writing and their own work. B A Paris is a New York Times and Sunday Times best-selling author of seven novels which have sold more than seven million copies and been translated into 41 languages. Trevor Wood is an award-winning writer of gritty crime novels set in the North East. His debut novel collected a clutch of awards as well as being shortlisted as a crime novel of the year. His latest series of books featuring DCI Jack Parker, has been optioned for television. His book A Trial in Three Acts by barrister turned novelist Guy Morpuss KC, combined nail-biting courtroom drama with a Christie-esque locked room murder mystery in a page-turning legal thriller.

Poetry and Music



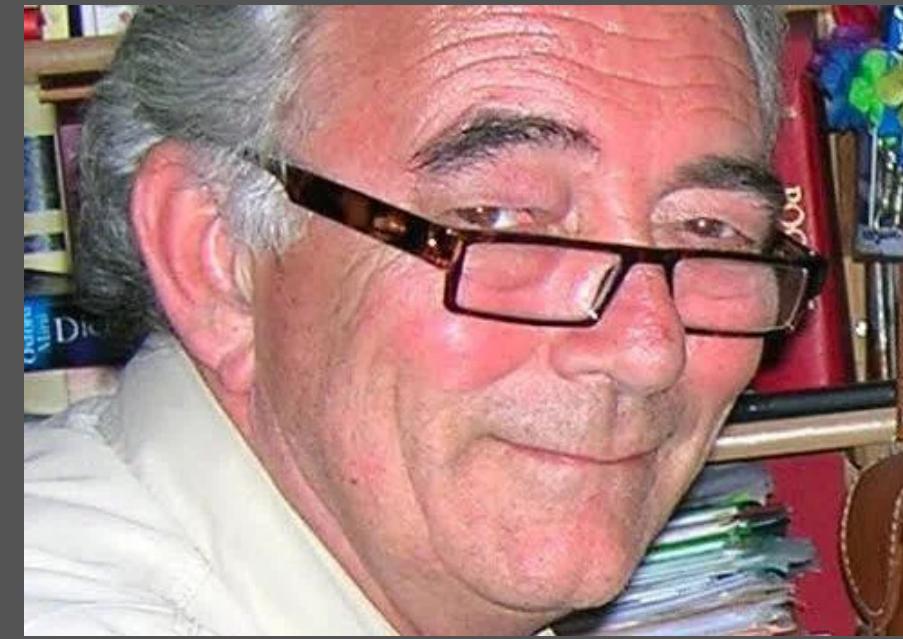
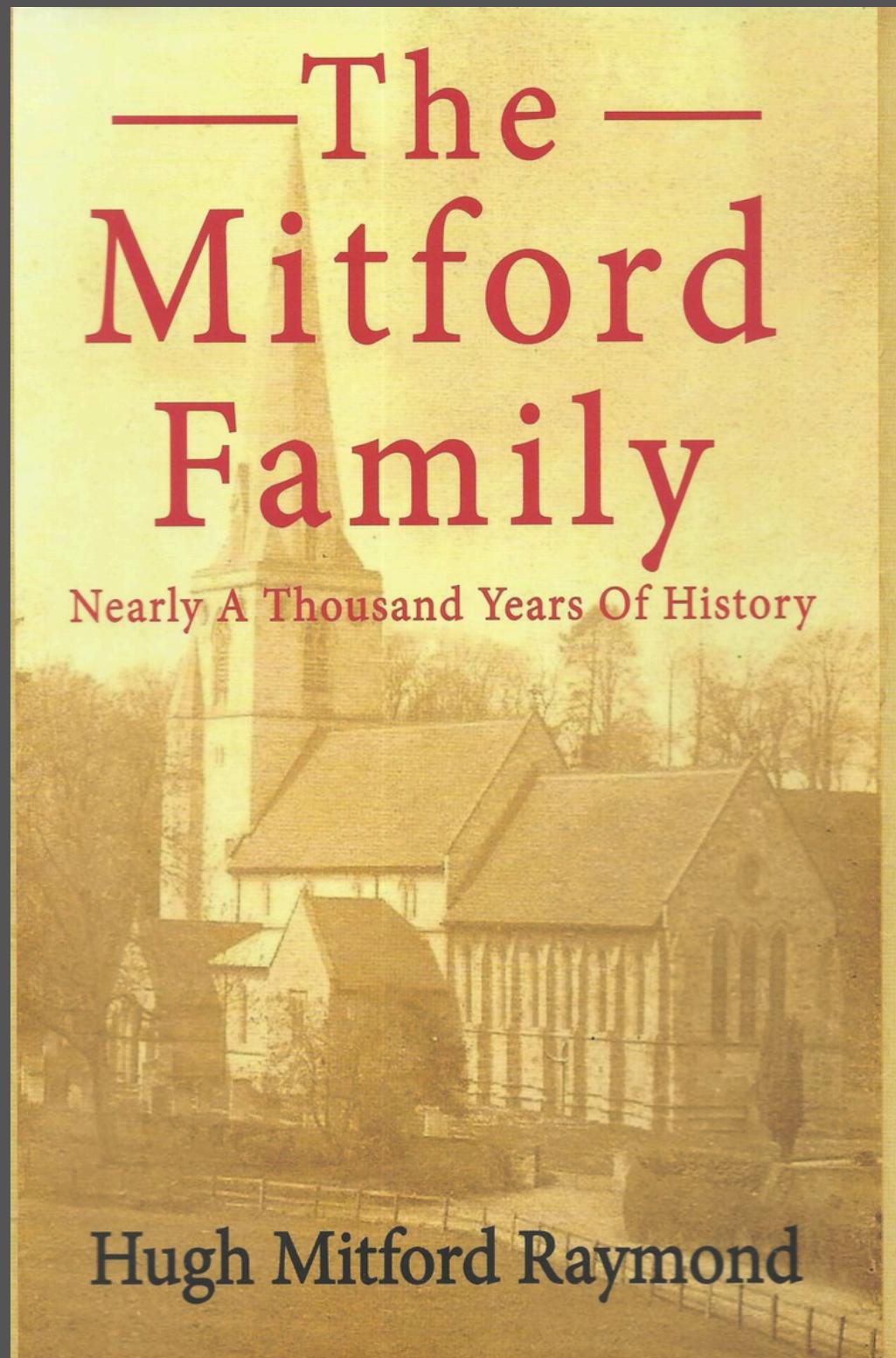
Major General Timothy John Hodgetts, CB, CBE, KHS, DL
is a senior British Army officer and medical doctor.
He served as head of the Army Medical Services and then
as Surgeon General of the United Kingdom Armed Forces.

Rtd Major General Tim Hodgetts
What poetry can bring to medicine
Sat 21st March 6pm

St George's United Reformed Church £10

In 2024 when he retired from the Army after 41 years' service across six different conflict zones where he was the medical director for field hospitals, Major General Tim Hodgetts held the rank of surgeon-general. During that service keeping a diary and writing poetry was his 'safety valve'. At Morpeth Book Festival he will talk about his poetry and – with the help of singers and musicians will present and perform some of his poems which have been set to music.





Hugh Mitford Raymond

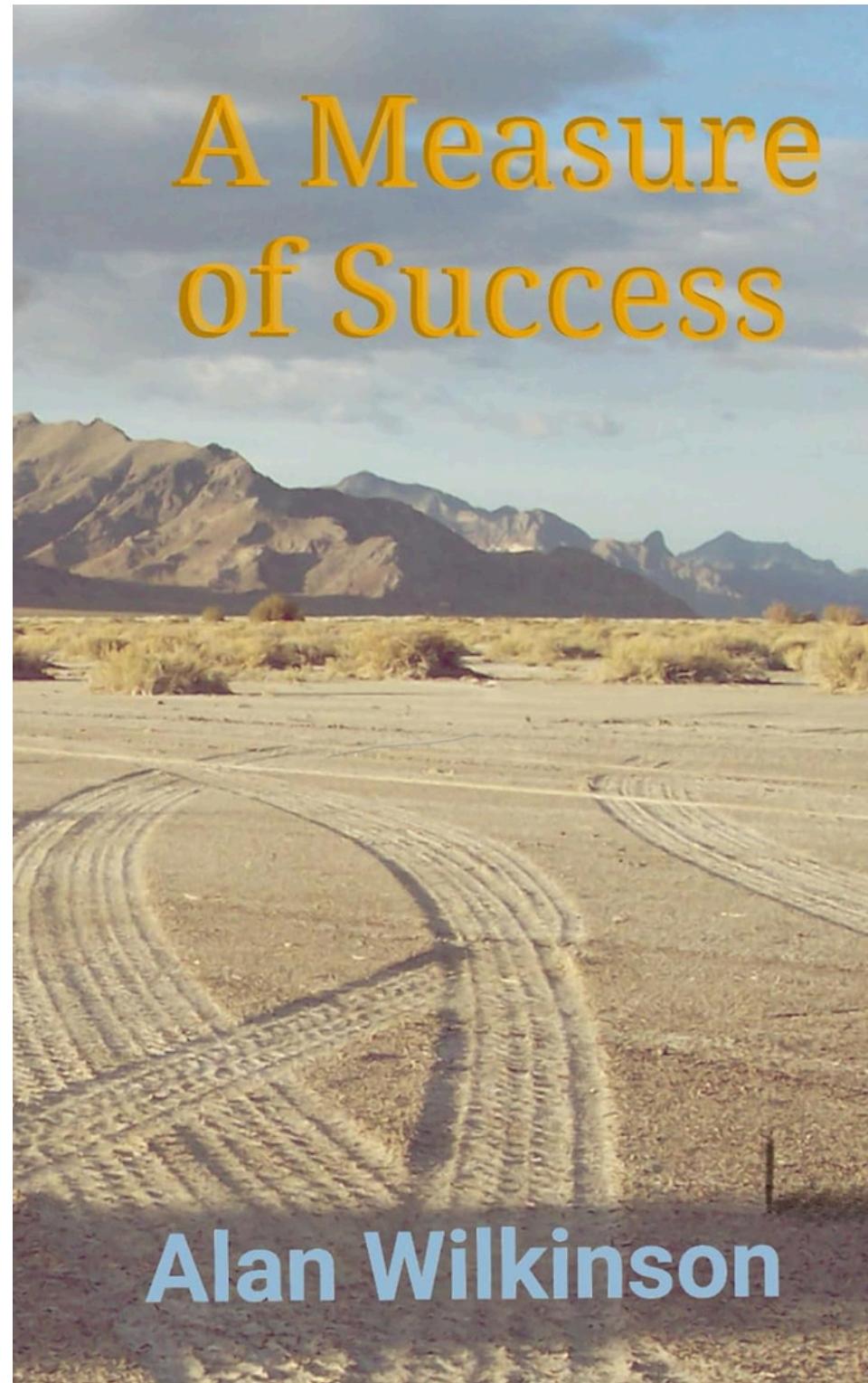
A Thousand Years of Family History

Sat 21st March 10am

St George's United Reformed Church

Tickets £10

For nearly a thousand years the Mitfords were one of England's most extraordinary families, overseeing the running of the estate on the outskirts of Morpeth. They built the now demolished Mitford Castle, the church and the hall and over the generations they became landowners and philanthropists, writers and historians, activists and controversially fascists with some of the notorious 'Mitford Sisters', becoming friends with Hitler, a famous author and a Duchess! South African-born Hugh Mitford Raymond, a direct descendant of the last seven squires of Mitford, and author of *The Mitford Family – Nearly A Thousand Years of History*, will recall the story of his ancestors at Morpeth Book Festival.



Alan Wilkinson



Sat 21st March 2026
3pm at Morpeth Chantry
Tickets £10

An account of my recent literary pilgrimage across the USA,
A Measure of Success. I'll be talking about that journey and its underlying quest
what is the nature of success?



Morpeth Storyteller Bridgett Gubbins

My Mother and the Curate

My Mother and the Curate

Sat 21st March 11am

Morpeth Chantry, Morpeth £10

Bridget Gubbins at Morpeth Book Festival

My Mother and the Curate – A Story of Two Lives, One Village

What could a Victorian curate and a 1950s mother possibly have in common?

Bridget Gubbins invites you to find out in her beautifully crafted new book, My Mother and the Curate. Set in the enchanting Welsh border village of Hay-on-Wye, this unique narrative draws from two deeply personal diaries—written 83 years apart—revealing a shared love of the countryside, quiet reflection, and heartfelt longing.

In her own inimitable style, Bridget has woven together diary extracts spanning ten months to create a vivid snapshot of rural life across generations. From peaceful walks through rolling hills to intimate confessions of joy and sorrow, this is a story of connection, memory, and place.

Whether you're drawn to history, nature, or the quiet power of personal storytelling, this event promises to be a highlight of the festival.

Come and be transported to the countryside of Hay-on-Wye, and discover the legacy of two lives beautifully intertwined.

BIPC Presents !

With Elaine Cussack
& Hannah Hoare



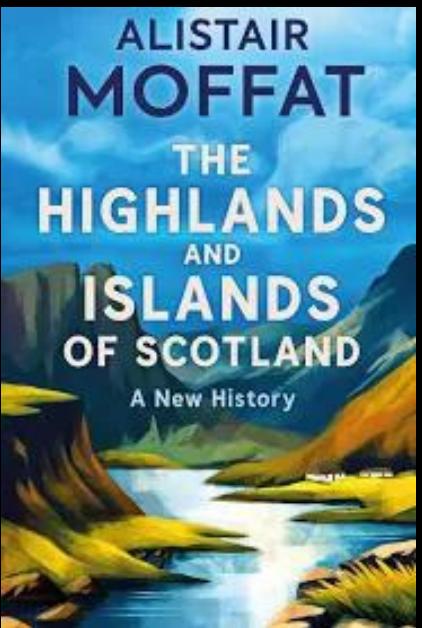
Talking Business with Writers

Saturday 21st March 2pm

The Northern Poetry Library at Morpeth Library

Free Event

Elaine and Hannah, officers of the Business & IP Centre, North East, help local businesses to thrive, and, as writers themselves, one of their favourite things to do is support local writers. The afternoon will be divided into two halves, the first being in insight into different routes for writers to achieve their writing goals and the pitfalls to avoid. In the second half Elaine and Hannah will invite writers to share their stories or poems in an open mic session, network and ask questions.



'One of the greatest feats ever achieved by an investigative reporter'

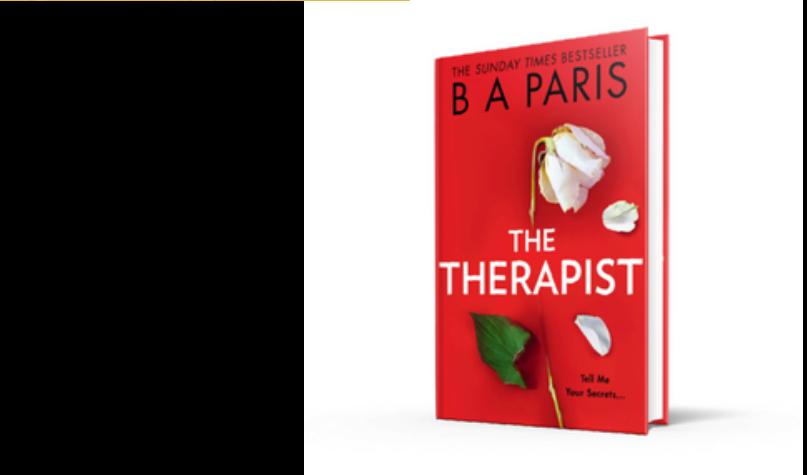
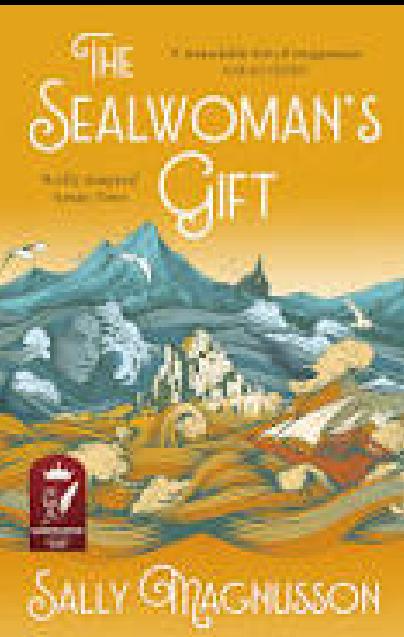
Sebastian Faulks



Error of Judgement

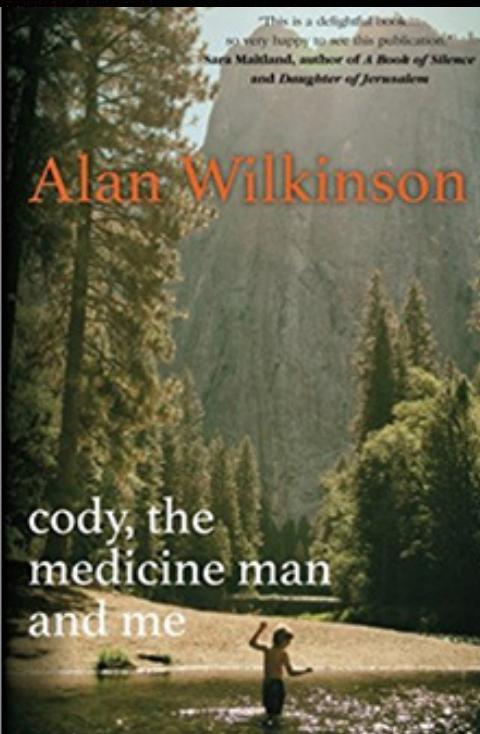
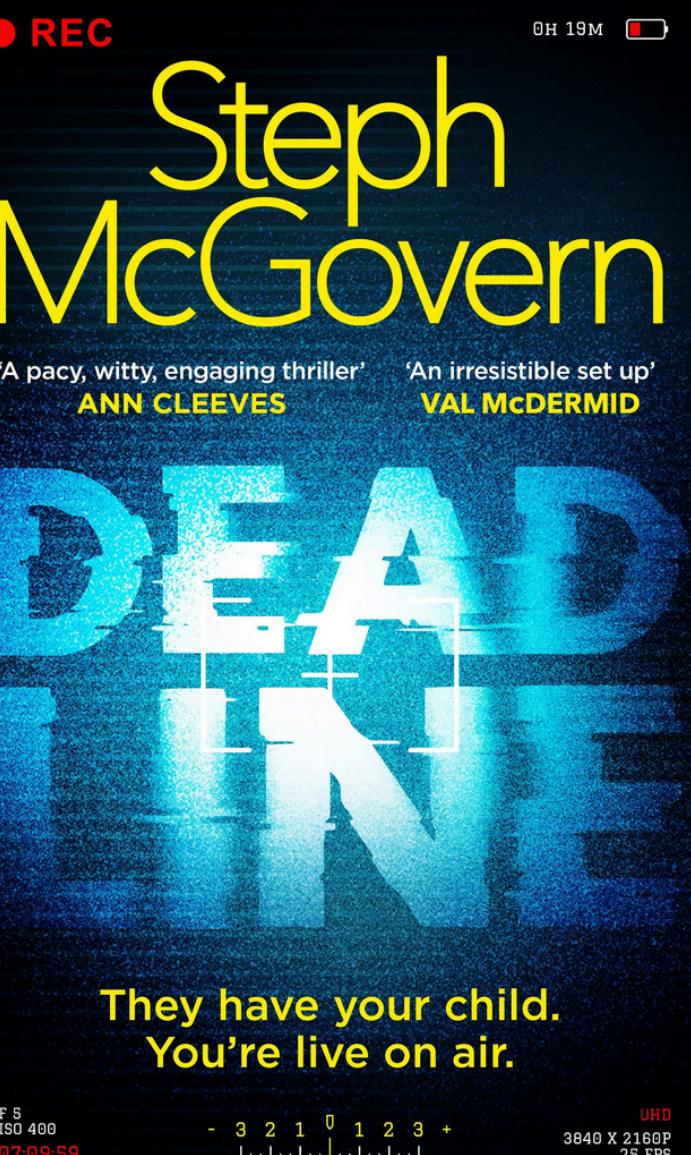
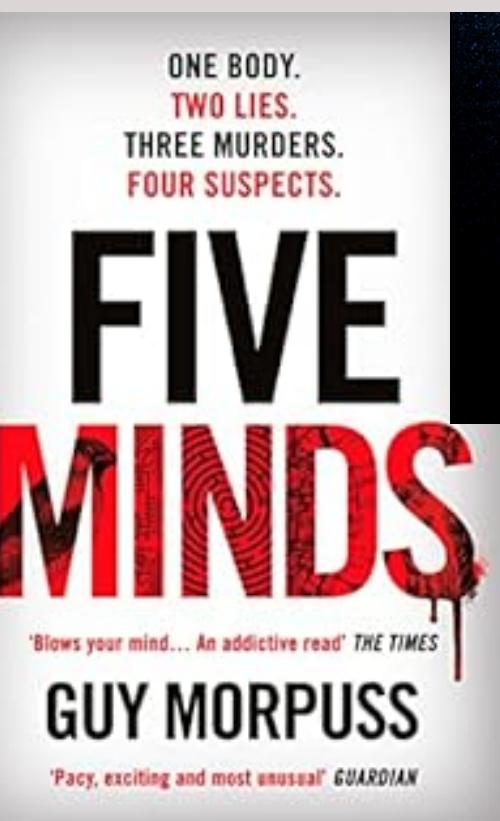
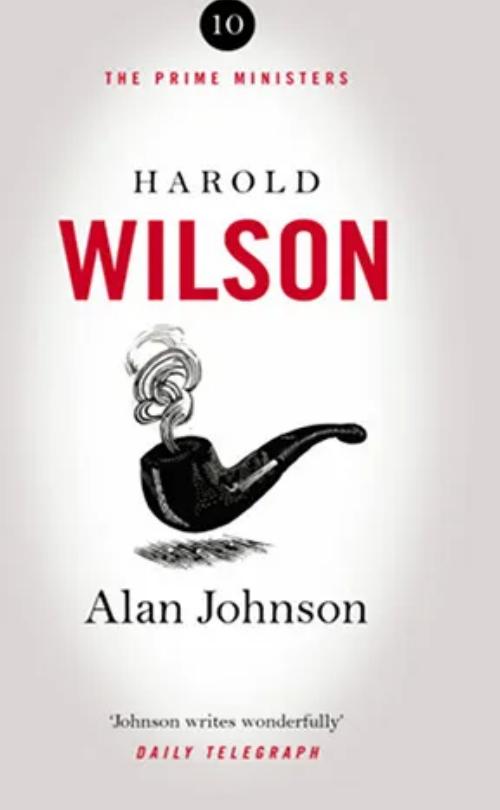
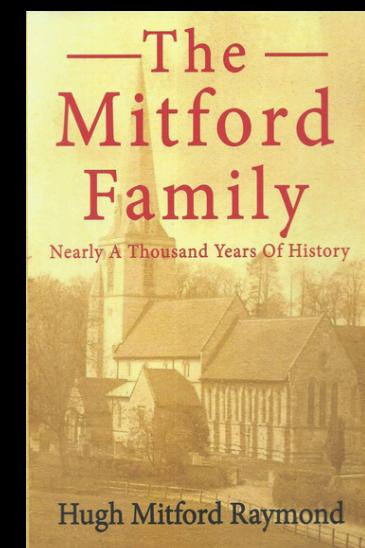
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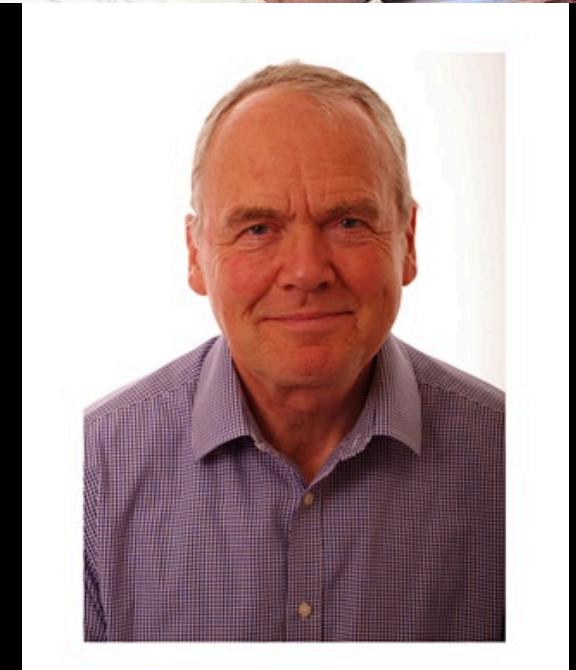
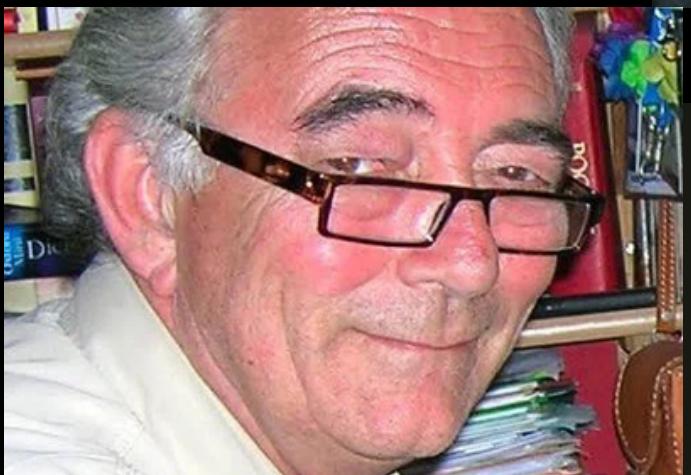
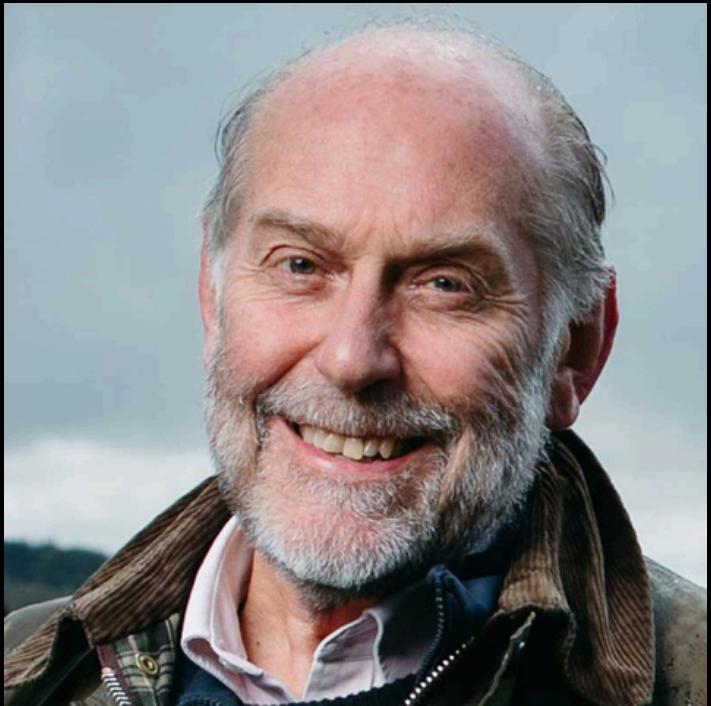
Chris Mullin



MORPETH BOOK FESTIVAL

March 21st 22nd
2026







THURSDAY 19 MARCH

Paul Ferris – former Newcastle United footballer

Once Upon A Toon

Thursday 19 March 7.30pm

Morpeth Rugby Club £10

In a pre-festival weekend special event, Paul Ferris offers his own unique perspective on life beyond the pitch at St James Park over his 18-year-long association with Newcastle United as a player, physiotherapist and then a key member of Alan Shearer's management team during his brief spell as club manager. Toon legends Kevin Keegan, Paul Gascoigne, Jack Charlton, Peter Beardsley, Sir Bobby Robson and Shearer himself among many others, get a mention in his book by Paul who arrived at the Toon as a teenage winger from Belfast in 1981 following the footsteps of the one-and-only George Best. A must-not-miss event for any Toon fan

MORPETH



BOOK FESTIVAL



ZONIC
HOLDINGS LTD