



Monty LitFest 2026

12-14th JUNE

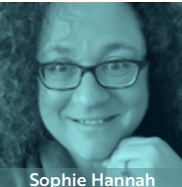
Celebrating writing from Wales,
the Borders and beyond



Zandra Rhodes



Paul Burrell



Sophie Hannah



Tom Heap



Minette Batters



Carwyn Graves



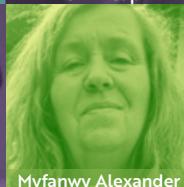
Jay Griffiths



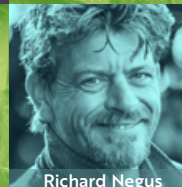
Andrew Logan



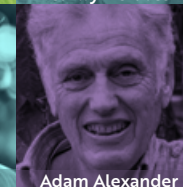
Siân Hughes



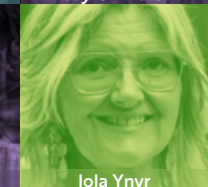
Myfanwy Alexander



Richard Negus



Adam Alexander



Iola Ynry



Keith Cameron



Cynan Jones



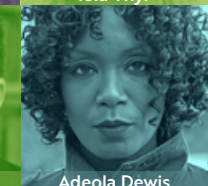
Sarah Siân Chave



Rhys Iwryn



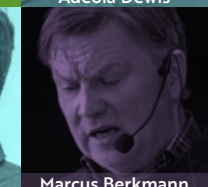
Alex Johnson



Adeola Dewis



Carwyn Jones



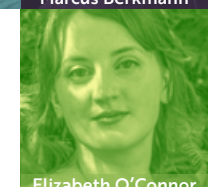
Marcus Berkmann



Gŵyl Llen Maldwyn

12^{fed}-14^{eg} Mehefin 2026

Dathlu llen o Gymru,
y Gororau a thu hwnt



Elizabeth O'Connor

OUR NINTH ANNUAL MONTY LIT FEST – AND PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO

We're a festival that very much celebrates rural life in Wales and the borders.

Landscape is one of major themes this year and you'll see that strongly featured in poetry, fiction and non-fiction. In particular, people's place in landscape is occupying our writers' thoughts; how we use it, how we fear for it, how we love it and, maybe, even lose it.

Not that we're only interested in cosy countryside matters! We like to provoke lively discussion, and with titles like *168 Songs of Hatred and Failure*, *The Royal Insider*, *Vanished Wales* and *Iconic* on the agenda we're

hoping for just that. Get your questions ready...

Poetry and shorter works are additions to this year's programme, and you can still enjoy award-winning fiction, biography, heritage and nature writing, as well as joining our writing workshops. At the Monty Minifest, alongside some wonderful writers for children, we're branching out into young adult fiction with the very best – Nicola Davies, the Children's Laureate.

Plants, animals, people, communities, land: They all matter to us. So do music, fiendish quizzes and some fabulous, fabulous art. (And cake, of course). It's all here!



VISITING MONTGOMERY

The historic town of Montgomery lies in the Welsh Marches, ideally placed for visitors from all directions. Monty Lit Fest is centred around Montgomery's Town Hall, together with a range of other venues throughout the town. For more information about local accommodation, where to eat and drink and the many other things Montgomery and Montgomeryshire have to offer, take a look at the Montgomery Wales (montgomery-wales.co.uk) and the Visit Mid Wales (visitmidwales.co.uk) websites. There are roadworks in Montgomery so please allow extra time to arrive at the venues.

VENUE INFORMATION

The main venue for the event is Montgomery Town Hall. Other sessions take place in The Dragon Hotel and Monty Mini Fest is based at Montgomery Activity Centre. For quick reference see the back cover and the pull-out town map. For information about accessibility, see the Information page at montylitfest.com

BOOKSHOPS

Visitors to Monty Lit Fest 2026 can buy books from not one, but two, local booksellers. Booka Bookshop (bookabookshop.co.uk) will be running a pop-up bookshop at Montgomery Town Hall during the festival. Montgomery is also home

to The Bookshop Montgomery, staunch supporters of the Festival in the local community.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on social media @MontyLitFest for all our latest news. For more information or press passes please e-mail enquiries@montylitfest.com.



Monty Lit Fest is grateful to Literature Wales for its support:





FEATURING...

ADAM ALEXANDER



Adam Alexander is a passionate gardener who has been collecting and saving seeds for over 35 years. He maintains a library of over 550 vegetables, growing out more than 40 varieties every year to refresh his collection and share with fellow gardeners, and is a seed guardian for the Heritage Seed Library. Adam also spent forty years as a successful and award-winning film and television producer and lectures widely on his work discovering, conserving and sharing rare, endangered garden crops. He is the author of *The Seed Detective* and *The Accidental Seed Heroes*.

MYFANWY ALEXANDER



Mae Myfanwy Alexander yn ddarlledwraig ac yn awdures a fagwyd ym mryniâu Maldwyn. Tirwedd, diwylliant a phobl yr ardal unigryw hon yw ei hysbrydoliaeth gyson. Cyflwynodd *A Oes Heddwes* ei ditectif, *Daf Dafis*, sy'n dychwelyd yn *Pwnc Llosg*, *Y Plygain Olaf*, *Mynd Fel Bom a Coblyn o Sioe*. Roedd ei nofel ddiweddaraf, *Cath Fenthyg*, yn un o ddarlenniadau haf BBC Cymru.

MINETTE BATTERS



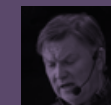
Minette Batters is an award-winning British farmer who was the president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales from 2018 to 2024. She has been a member of the House of Lords since 2024, and has run Barford Park Farm for decades. She is one of the most respected voices in British agriculture, advising both farmers and government, and is a columnist for *Country Life*.

ADAM BEDFORD



Adam Bedford has studied and worked in and around agriculture for the past 20 years. In his day job he represents and advises farmers, and in his spare time runs the *Fieldwork Book Club*, an online book club with 500 subscribers across the world reading books on food, farming and the natural world, and interviews different authors every month. Adam lives rurally near York with his family.

MARCUS BERKMANN



Marcus Berkman is the author of, among other books, *Berkman's Pop Miscellany*, *Berkman's Cricketing Miscellany* and *Still a Bit of Snap in the Celery*. He is a regular contributor to *Private Eye*, *Saga Magazine* and the *Daily Mail*, where he reviews books. He has written columns for the *Independent* magazine and *The Spectator*, TV reviews for the *Daily Mail* and sports columns for *Punch*, the *Independent on Sunday* and the *Daily Express*. He also writes and produces fiendish quizzes, and is especially remembered for his time on BBC Radio 4's *Round Britain Quiz*.

PAUL BURRELL



Paul Burrell is a former servant of the British Royal Household, having served the late Queen Elizabeth II and later King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) and Princess Diana. Following his royal service, Paul appeared on *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!*, *Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted!* and *The Real Full Monty: Jingle Balls* to raise cancer awareness following his own prostate cancer diagnosis and recovery. Paul is the author of the International bestseller, *A Royal Duty*, and 2025's *The Royal Insider*.

KEITH CAMERON



A journalist since 1988, Keith Cameron is currently a contributing editor at *MOJO*. He previously worked

for *Sounds* and *New Musical Express*, and his writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *The Times*, the *Sunday Times*, *Scotland On Sunday*, *Kerrang!* and *Q*. He is author of *Mudhoney: The Sound and the Fury from Seattle*, acclaimed by Mark Lanegan as 'the definitive book on '90s Seattle music', and 2025's *168 Songs of Hatred and Failure: A History of Manic Street Preachers*.

SARAH SIÂN CHAVE



Sarah Siân Chave has over thirty years' experience as a teacher and researcher in further and higher education.

Her passions are sustainability, social justice and encouraging educational spaces for exploring new ways of being in the world together. Raised by a Welsh mother in the English Midlands, she enjoys learning about and connecting with her Welsh roots. She now lives in the south west of England near Hafren's banks, and is the author of *Hafren: The Wisdom of the River Severn*.

ADEOLA DEWIS



Adeola Dewis is an artist, university lecturer and Bafta nominated television presenter. She gained a PhD from Cardiff University and her artwork has been exhibited in museums and galleries across the UK. For the last eight years she has been the face and voice of a number of ITV documentaries and factual series. She and Carwyn Jones have been working together on *Vanished Wales* since the very first episode in 2022.

JON GOWER



Jon Gower has over forty books to his name, in Welsh and English, including *Birdland: A Journey Around*

Britain on the Wing; *Raider: The Raymond Chester Story*; *The Turning Tide: A Biography of the Irish Sea*, and *Y Diwedd*, the final volume of his Welsh language crime trilogy. He is also the author of *The Story of Wales* which accompanied the landmark BBC series, *An Island Called Smith* which gained the John Morgan Travel Writing Award, and *Y Storiwr* which won the Wales Book of the Year award. He is a former BBC Wales arts and media correspondent and was for many years the presenter of Radio Wales' arts' programme *First Hand*.

CARWYN GRAVES



Carwyn Graves is a Welsh author, public speaker and gardener. He is the author of the bestselling *Apples of Wales* (2018), *Welsh Food Stories* (2022), *Tir: The Story of the Welsh Landscape* (2024), which was shortlisted for Wales Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and 2026's *Cynefin: Wisdom from a Thousand Years of Welsh Nature Poetry*. He is a founding trustee of the Welsh charity Cegin y Bobl (The People's Kitchen).

JAY GRIFFITHS



Jay Griffiths is the author of *Wild: An Elemental Journey*; *Kith: The Riddle of the Childscape*; *Tristimania*; *Pip*

Pip: A Sideways Look at Time and How Animals Heal Us. She won the Discover award for the best first-time author in the USA; the inaugural Orion award and the Hay Festival International Fellowship. She has been commissioned to write for Radiohead

and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her work has received widespread accolades, including from Gary Snyder, Barry Lopez, Don Paterson, John Berger, Philip Pullman, KT Tunstall and Nikolai Fraiture.

SOPHIE HANNAH



Sophie Hannah is a *Sunday Times*, *New York Times* and Amazon Kindle UK No. 1 bestselling writer of crime fiction, published in forty-nine languages and fifty-one territories. Her books have sold millions of copies worldwide. She writes contemporary psychological thrillers and, at the request of Agatha Christie's family and estate, the new series of Hercule Poirot novels. Sophie is the founder and coach at Dream Author Coaching, a coaching programme for writers and anyone who wants to write. She lives with her husband, children and dog in Cambridge, where she is an Honorary Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College.

TOM HEAP



Tom Heap is a regular presenter on BBC1's *Countryfile*, specializing in the more investigative films, and has made many BBC *Panorama* documentaries on food, energy and the environment. Tom is also the presenter of Radio 4's *Rare Earth* series and the anchor of *The Climate Show* on Sky News. He was the creator and presenter of BBC Radio's flagship climate change podcast *39 Ways to Save the Planet* and is the author of *Landsmart: A Practical Guide to Transforming Our Countryside*.

SIÂN HUGHES



Siân Hughes is a writer who grew up in a small village in Cheshire. Her first collection of poetry *The Missing* (Salt, 2009) was a Poetry Society Recommendation, longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, shortlisted for the Felix Dennis and the Aldeburgh prizes, and won the Seamus Heaney Award. Siân's first novel, *Pearl*, was longlisted for The Booker Prize in 2023 and shortlisted for The Authors' Club Best First Novel Award 2024. Her latest book is *No Such Thing as Monday*, published in April 2026. Siân lives in Cheshire with her son.

ALEX JOHNSON



Alex Johnson is a writer, journalist, half-decent snooker player and amateurish letterpress printer. After 15 years as part of *The Independent* newspaper's online team he is now the Online Editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine, and contributes a regular column to the *Idler* magazine. Alex is the author of various books about books including *Book Towns*, *Improbable Libraries*, *A Book of Book Lists*, *Rooms of Their Own*, *Shelf Life* and 2025's *My Year of Reading Welshly*.

CARWYN JONES



Carwyn Jones is a series producer, director and journalist at ITV Wales, with 25 years of broadcast experience across television, radio and online at ITV and BBC. His *Wonders of the Border* and *Dock of the Bay* series were both Bafta nominated. *Vanished Wales* was RTS nominated and he is the author of the book to accompany the series. Now based in Cardiff, he studied at University of South Wales and gained a Masters at Aberystwyth University.

CYNAN JONES



Cynan Jones won a Society of Authors Betty Trask Award in 2007, a Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize in 2014, the Wales Book of the Year Fiction Prize 2015 and the BBC National Short Story Award 2017. His work has appeared in more than twenty countries, on BBC Radio 4 and in *Granta*, *Freeman's*, and the *New Yorker*. He is the author of *The Dig*, *Cove*, *Stillicide* and *Pulse*, which is shortlisted for the *Welsh Book of the Year Fiction Prize 2026*.

ANDREW LOGAN



Andrew Logan is a British sculptor, jeweller, painter and performance artist. Throughout his work, he explores transformation, joy, celebration and beauty. His large-scale mirror and glass sculpture and portraits can be found in art collections across the world. His smaller scale, wearable art pieces are unique, wonderful and collectable jewellery pieces that allow people to take a part of Andrew's world with them wherever they go. Perhaps his most incredible creation is The Andrew Logan Museum of Sculpture in Berriew, Powys, which houses many of his most-loved artworks as well as an archive of *Alternative Miss World* memorabilia.

RHYS MWYN



Rhys Mwyn is a musician, archaeologist, writer and broadcaster. As a music manager, agent, publicist, Record Label and promoter, he has worked with acts as varied as Catatonia, The Rich Kids, Viv Albertine (The Slits), Y Cyrff and Datblygu. He previously played bass guitar in the Welsh Punk band, Anhrefn and established the record label Recordiau

Anhrefn. Rhys is a regular contributor to *Yr Herald Gymraeg* and *Llafar Gwlad*, has published his autobiography *Cam i'r Tywyllch* (Y Lolfa) and written several Welsh language books on Welsh archaeology (Carreg Gwalch). Montgomeryshire born, he now lives in Caernarfon.

RICHARD NEGUS



Richard Negus is a former soldier and professional horseman. He now lays hedges for a living and is an award-winning conservationist, writer and author of *Words from the Hedge*. His writing champions the people, work and wildlife of the countryside and he hosts a weekly podcast - *Countryside* - with fellow countrymen Richard Prideaux and Callum McInerney-Riley, covering life and work in the British countryside. Recognised as one of the country's leading exponents and practitioners in hedgerow management and rejuvenation, Richard lives in the countryside with his wife Clare, son Charlie, and their dogs Mabel and Blyth.

ELIZABETH O'CONNOR



Elizabeth O'Connor is the author of the widely acclaimed novel, *Whale Fall*. Her short stories have appeared in *The White Review* and *Granta Magazine*, and she was the winner of The White Review Short Story Prize in 2020. She has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Birmingham, on the modernist writer H.D. and her writing of coastal landscapes. She lives in Birmingham.

MIKE PARKER



Mike Parker is the bestselling author of *On the Red Hill* and *All the Wide Border* as well other books including *Map Addict* and *The Wild Rover*. He was also the co-author of the first five editions of the *Rough Guide to Wales*. He has written and presented several series of travelogues for ITV Wales, has worked on numerous other TV and radio programmes, and occasionally performs as a stand-up comedian and actor. Born and bred in the Midlands, Mike now lives near Machynlleth, identifying as Cymro o ddewis – a Welshman by choice.

ZANDRA RHODES



Dame Zandra Rhodes is an iconic British designer, known for her dramatic designs and her own distinctive look. Her illustrious career has seen her dress international stars including Freddie Mercury, Diana Ross, Barbara Streisand, Princess Diana and Princess Anne. More recently, she has focussed on strategic collaborations with fashion and lifestyle brands such as IKEA, Happy Socks and Poppy Lissiman. In 2003, she founded London's Fashion and Textile Museum and, in 2020, the Zandra Rhodes Foundation. Her book, *Iconic*, charts her years as a style icon through 50 mementoes she has collected over the years.

ADVOLLY RICHMOND



Advolly Richmond OBE, is a plant, garden and social historian based in Shropshire. A fellow of the Linnean Society, she is also an ambassador for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. She lectures and writes on a variety of subjects from the 16th century through to the early 20th century and teaches Garden History at the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford. Advolly's book, *A Short History of Flowers: The stories that make our gardens*, was published in March 2024. She also contributes garden history features on BBC's *Gardener's World*.

ANTHONY SHAPLAND



Anthony Shapland grew up in Bargoed, South Wales. He is a writer and artist, and founder of g39, an artist-led space in Cardiff. His short story *Foolscape* was shortlisted for the Rhys Davies Award and he was selected for the Hay Writers at Work programme in 2023. His debut novel, *A Room Above a Shop*, was named Waterstones Welsh Book of the Year in 2025 and has been shortlisted for the 2026 Gordon Burn Prize and the Wales Book of the Year Fiction Prize.

JANE SPREULL



Jane Spreull qualified as a vet in 1983 from the Royal (Dick) school of veterinary studies, Edinburgh and currently works at Trefaldwyn Vets in Montgomery. Her particular interests are complementary therapies especially homeopathy. When she is not working, she helps on the beef and sheep farm where she lives in Llangurig and looks after her four grandchildren.

SIONED WILIAM



Sioned Wiliam comes from Barry. She is the author of the novels, *Dal i Fynd*, *Chwynnu*, *Cicio'r Bar*, *Y Gwyliau* and *60-Rhywbeth*. Sioned began her television and radio career at the BBC, before becoming an independent producer. Her credits include *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*, *Game On*, *Big Train* and *Yonderland*. She also produced *iDot* and exec produced *Rhestr Nadolig Wil* for Boom/S4C. She has been nominated for a Bafta award three times and has won a British Comedy Award and a Bronze Rose at Montreux. She was also a Commissioning Editor for ITV and BBC Radio 4 and interim CEO of S4C.

IOLA YNYR



Iola Ynry is a creative facilitator and is passionate about promoting the wellbeing of individuals and communities through creativity and by connecting with the natural world. She won a Wales Book of the Year award for her creative biography, *Camu*, in 2025. Her participatory projects include, *Ar y dibyn*, with Theatr Cymru for individuals that live with dependency. In 2026, she will publish a book on promoting happiness, *Codi Hwyliau*, as well as developing her first novel.

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FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

THE ROYAL INSIDER WITH PAUL BURRELL

Montgomery Town Hall

7.00pm (bar open)

£9.00



Paul Burrell was at the heart of the British establishment for over two decades. As footman to the Queen, butler to the then Prince of Wales and – famously – confidante of Princess Diana, he had a ring-side seat during one of the monarchy's most turbulent periods in recent history. His 2003 book, *A Royal Duty*, about his friendship with Diana, was a bestselling sensation.

Now, with the passing of time, he has returned to writing to 'protect the legacy' of the two royal women who formed such an important part of his life, but are no longer with us. Join us to learn more about Paul's new book, which offers a more personal perspective, interweaving stories of his own life and challenges with untold stories of the Royals at home and abroad.



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FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

LATE LOUNGE WITH KEITH CAMERON IN CONVERSATION WITH RHYS MWYN

Montgomery Town Hall

8.00pm (bar open)

£9.00



Monty Lit Fest's Late Lounge has become one of the weekend's firm favourites and this year promises to be a real treat.

The story of Manic Street Preachers – from an unpromising start and the tragedy of Richey Edwards' disappearance through to rebirth and award-winning, best-selling success – is the stuff of legend. Top music journalist Keith Cameron is our guide as he tells the extraordinary story of the Manics. In conversation with another Welsh music legend, Rhys Mwyn, he'll tell us why he has chosen to chart the history of the band through a deep dive into 168 of their songs and what they can tell us about the evolution and incredible music of Welsh rock royalty.

FOLLOWED BY

Jeb Loy Nichols in concert

An informal set following the Late Lounge.



Photo: Steve Gullick (Keith Cameron)

Monty Lit Fest 2026



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To book a table: 01686 668359 or reception@thedragonmontgomery.co.uk

*Booking is essential. One offer per booking.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

SOPHIE HANNAH IN CONVERSATION WITH MYFANWY ALEXANDER

Montgomery Town Hall

10.00 am

£9.00



Sophie Hannah is a legend in the world of thriller and crime writing.



Her books have sold millions of copies worldwide and include her own brilliant psychological thrillers as well as her series of Hercule Poirot novels, commissioned by Agatha Christie's family.

We'll be talking to Sophie about her writing life, and her two latest publications, *No One Would Do What the Lamberts Have Done* and her new poetry collection, *Work Experience*, which also features the play scripts of her two Agatha-Christie-inspired murder mystery musicals.

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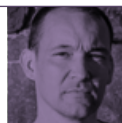
SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

PULSE WITH CYNAN JONES IN CONVERSATION WITH ANTHONY SHAPLAND

Montgomery Town Hall

11.00 am

£9.00



Cynan Jones is the master of the short story and his latest collection, *Pulse*, is another tour de force.



A man heads into the snow to hunt down the bear that has been taking stock from farms in the valley. A father tries to make something go right for the son he no longer lives with. A partner is called to help when a cow's labour goes horribly wrong. A fierce storm threatens to bring down a tree on powerlines over a family's home.

Alongside Anthony Shapland, whose own debut novel was crowned Waterstones Welsh Book of the Year in 2025, Cynan will explore the wonders and challenges of the short form and discuss the many themes – fear, vulnerability, tension, resolve – that course through his latest collection.

Photo: Bernadine Jones



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We champion
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SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

HARVEST WITH MINETTE BATTERS IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM BEDFORD

Montgomery Town Hall

12.00 pm

£9.00



How do we balance the need to feed our nation with the needs of our farmers and farming communities?

It's a question at the heart of a debate that is raging as fiercely as ever. Minette Batters, farmer, campaigner and the first female president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), is as well-placed as anyone to offer some answers.

She joins us to talk about her new book, *Harvest*, a memoir and manifesto, her personal insight into the real lives of farmers at a time when Brexit, Covid and international conflict have threatened to push our farms, and our food production, into a state of crisis. Above all, the book is a love letter to rural life, and a rallying cry to save it – and how.

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SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

HAFREN WITH SARAH SIÂN CHAVE IN CONVERSATION WITH JON GOWER

Montgomery Town Hall

1.30 pm

£9.00



Afon Hafren, the river Severn, is a mighty Welsh river and one well known to the people of Montgomeryshire – and beyond. In this session, Sarah Siân Chave takes us on a journey from Hafren's source to the sea, following the river's route from the Pumlumon hills near Llanidloes and her meandering through England, before she finds her way back home to Wales and to the sea.

Along the way, we'll explore how the river has shaped many histories and is part of many stories. And as she travels along the length of the river, Sarah will also ask what Hafren can teach us about the crucial importance of all rivers in nature and how humans can live more sustainably alongside them.

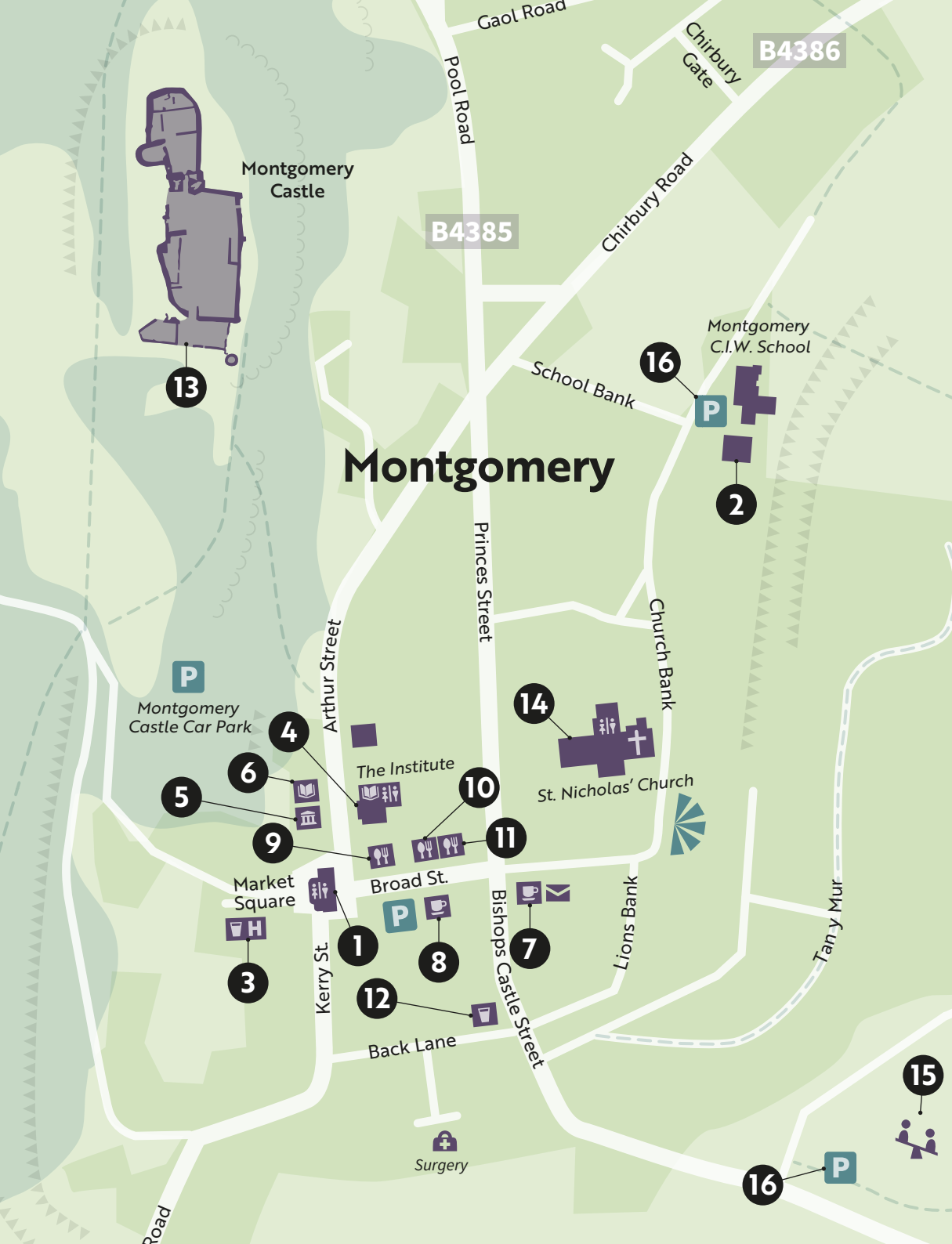
In conversation with Festival favourite, Jon Gower, this promises to be a journey we'll all want to share.

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SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025





THANK-YOU

Monty Lit Fest would like to thank the people, businesses and organisations of Montgomery for their generous support of the festival.

Hoffai Gŵyl Lân Maldwyn ddiolch i bobl, busnesau a sefydliadau
Trefadwyn am eu cefnogaeth hael i'r ŵyl

KEY

Event venues

- 1 The Town Hall
- 2 The Activity Centre
- 3 The Dragon Hotel
- 4 The Institute
- 5 The Old Bell Gallery

10 Montgomery Fish Bar

- 11 The Checkers
- 12 The Crown Inn
- 13 Montgomery Castle
- 14 St. Nicholas' Church
- 15 Play Park
- 16 Car Parks

Also don't miss

- 6 The Montgomery Bookshop
- 7 Ivy House Cafe
- 8 Castle Kitchen
- 9 Spar

*Please Note: There are accessible
toilets in the Town Hall, the Activity
Centre and the Church.*



SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025



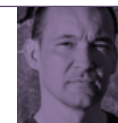
SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

WRITERS' WORKSHOP #1 WRITING SHORT STORIES WITH CYNAN JONES

The Dragon Hotel

2.00 pm

£10.00



Short stories and the short-form novel are having something of a moment. It's a tradition that has always been popular in Welsh literature and there is no better exponent than the award-winning Cynan Jones.

So we're delighted that Cynan will be sharing his experience and top tips in the first of our two writers' workshops.

As this is a hands-on workshop, places are limited to 15 people, so sharpen your pencil or charge up your laptop and book your ticket now.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

CYNEFIN WITH CARWYN GRAVES IN CONVERSATION WITH SIONED WILIAM

Montgomery Town Hall

2.30 pm

£9.00



Carwyn Graves is already a firm Monty Lit Fest favourite for his much-loved books *Welsh Food Stories* and *Tir*. Now he wants us to reimagine our relationship with the natural world through the Welsh poetic tradition.

Carwyn will be with us to explore how this tradition offers a different view of nature and our place in the world. He wants us to hear the voices of people down the centuries who have, through poetry, expressed a different way of connecting with the living world around us.

From the cuckoo's song to the ecological sensibilities of medieval poems and the generosity of the water that drives the water wheel, this is a new way to see the natural world, one that promises a fascinating new perspective on biodiversity loss and climate grief.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

MY YEAR OF READING WELSHLY WITH ALEX JOHNSON IN CONVERSATION WITH MIKE PARKER

Montgomery Town Hall

3.30 pm

£9.00



What happens when an Englishman from the Welsh Marches decides to read a book from or about Wales every week for a year? This is your chance to find out.



Join Alex Johnson as he takes us through the eclectic collection of novels, poetry and non-fiction from the last century – written in English or translated from Welsh – that he chose to help him understand Welsh literature and culture.

From classics such as *Under Milk Wood* and *Ivor the Engine*, through to Manon Steffan Ros's *The Blue Book of Nebo*, explore how Alex found both a distinctive Welsh voice and so many universal themes.

In conversation with Festival favourite, Mike Parker, it's your chance to see if he chose your favourite – and maybe take the Reading Welshly Challenge yourself.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

VANISHED WALES WITH CARWYN JONES AND ADEOLA DEWIS

Montgomery Town Hall

4.30 pm

£9.00



Vanished Wales is one of ITV Wales' most popular shows. It explores the fascinating stories of lost landmarks, places in Wales that have disappeared from towns, cities and villages within living memory.

Now, its producer has captured this missing heritage in a book that shines a spotlight on these lost worlds: communities, hives of industry, popular public buildings, cultural and sporting venues, wartime placements, Victorian superstructures and even entire villages.

Join Carwyn Jones and presenter Adeola Dewis as they share stories of once prominent places that have been wiped off the map and the local people who still have a deep personal connection with the remarkable sights that were once on their doorstep.

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SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

MONTY LIT FEST'S BIG QUIZ NIGHT WITH MARCUS BERKMANN

Montgomery Town Hall

8.00 pm (bar open)

£2pp / £15 per team of 8



It wouldn't be Monty Lit Fest without our annual quiz night with resident quizmaster, Marcus Berkmann.

Marcus is well known to Lit Fest regulars as the deviser of fiendish quizzes. We invite both the initiated and first-timers to join us for the chance to pit your wits against him in the glorious surroundings of Montgomery Town Hall.

Come with team already formed, or join one on the night. But be prepared for much head-scratching and brain taxing. Who knows: this could be your team's year.

To help us use the space we have available at the Town Hall to best effect, please buy a table/team ticket where possible so that we can allocate tables accordingly. Smaller teams might have to share tables or include people who have bought tickets but are not already part of a team.

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SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

WHALE FALL WITH ELIZABETH O'CONNOR IN CONVERSATION WITH MYFANWY ALEXANDER

Montgomery Town Hall

10.30 am

£9.00



Every now and then, a debut novel comes along that sweeps all before it. That's certainly the case for Elizabeth O'Connor's widely acclaimed *Whale Fall*.

It is 1938 and on an island off the coast of Wales, Manod is trying to imagine her future. Her choices are stark. But when two English anthropologists arrive on the island, she senses the possibility of a thrilling new life. But, as she becomes entangled in their work, and their strange relationship, the outside world she had yearned for appears a much darker place than she could ever have imagined.

We'll be talking to Elizabeth about her extraordinary novel, her writing life and what's coming next.

Photo: Ilona Denton

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

NO SUCH THING AS MONDAY WITH SIÂN HUGHES

Montgomery Town Hall

11.30 am

£9.00



We loved meeting Siân Hughes when she joined us to talk about her amazing debut novel, *Pearl*. So, we're delighted to welcome her back to talk about her new novel, *No Such Thing as Monday*.

Her new book introduces us to Steffi, haunted by what happened to her sister when they were children, and stuck in a loop of self-destruction, defiance, and shame. When her violent, bullying father dies, it sparks a reckoning that cracks open her past.

What follows is an extraordinary portrayal of life lived on the edge and the redemptive journey of a woman trying to piece herself together in a world that failed to make space for her.

Photo: Stretton Studios

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

CATH FENTHYG EFO MYFANWY ALEXANDER MEWN SGWRS IOLA YNYR

Gwesty'r Ddraig

12.00 pm

£9.00



Mae Cath yn wraig fferm ganol oed, yn fam i ddau o blant yn eu harddegau ac yn ceisio'i gorau i jyglo bywyd bob dydd. Un diwrnod daw ei gŵr adref a datgan ei fod yn ei gadael i fynd i fyw at amgylcheddwraig, yr eco-dywysoges, Petal. Mae'n rhaid i Cath ddelio â'r canlyniadau.

Dewch i ddeall pam mae Myfanwy wedi penderfynu i greu stori sy'n gyfuniad o amaethyddiaeth, tor priodas, Gwrthryfel y Pasg 1916, chwant, Clybiau Ffermwyr Ifanc, twf Ffasgiaeth yn yr Eidal, Wotsits a magu teulu, wedi'i hadrodd gyda hiwmor miniog, oll ar gefnlen mwynder Sir Drefaldwyn gyda'i geirfa a'i hacen gynnes, gyfoethog.

Nofel ddoniol, grafog sy'n portreadu bywyd cefn gwlad ar ei orau a'i waethaf.



SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

HOW ANIMALS HEAL US WITH JAY GRIFFITHS IN CONVERSATION WITH JANE SPREULL

Montgomery Town Hall

12.30 pm

£9.00



Most of us instinctively know that being with animals is good for our wellbeing. Now, celebrated author Jay Griffiths tells us why.

We're delighted to welcome Jay to Monty Lit Fest to talk about her book, *How Animals Heal Us*, a unique and heartfelt insight into the healing nature of our relationship with animals.

From a pot-bellied pig who saved her owner's life to the lions who guarded a girl from kidnappers and dolphins and whales rescuing people in danger, we'll learn how animals can have a role in every level of healing – both for individuals and society as a whole.



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SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

WRITERS' WORKSHOP #2 WRITING OURSELVES WITH IOLA YNYR

The Dragon Hotel

1.30 pm

£9.00



Iola Ynyr's collection of biographical essays, *Camu*, was named the Welsh Language Wales Book of the Year in 2025.

So it's a pleasure to have Iola with us to run a writers' workshop focussing on how we can write convincingly about ourselves. With memoir a perennially popular – yet challenging – genre, it's the chance to learn from someone who has mastered the art and is passionate about the power of creativity to shape lives.

As this is a hands-on workshop, places are limited to 15 people, so sharpen your pencil or charge up your laptop and book your ticket now.

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

LANDSMART WITH TOM HEAP IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM BEDFORD

Montgomery Town Hall

2.00 pm

£9.00



Many of us will know Tom Heap from his investigative work on food, energy and the environment for BBC's *Countryfile* and elsewhere.



In his book, *Landsmart*, he brings this thinking together to explore how we can get more from our land to meet our growing need for food, renewable energy, carbon storage and housing.

Join Tom as he tours the British countryside showcasing the innovative farmers whose yields feed four times the global average, the soil scientists upending the limits to crop growth, and the conservationists and industry leaders salvaging habitat, harnessing solar and radically reimagining land use to provide a hopeful blueprint for a better future.

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SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

WORDS FROM THE HEDGE WITH RICHARD NEGUS IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM BEDFORD

Montgomery Town Hall

3.00 pm

£9.00



What does our countryside look like from the perspective of a hedgelay? And what can those hedges tell us about the health of our natural world?



Hedges may be as old as civilisation but, according to Richard Negus, they're in danger of going unnoticed and underappreciated. In this session, Richard takes us on a journey to explore why these ribbons of thorn and barb are so much more than mere decoration or boundary markers: they are essential for much-needed wildlife recovery.

Along the way, we'll meet a lively band of Richard's fellow countrymen and countwomen whose skill and labour is essential if we are to use hedges to make the British countryside a place where nature has a home.

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

THE SEED DETECTIVE WITH ADAM ALEXANDER IN CONVERSATION WITH ADVOLLY RICHMOND

Montgomery Town Hall

4.00 pm

£9.00



Have you ever wondered how everyday staples such as peas, kale, asparagus, beans, squash and sweetcorn ended up on our plates?



Well, so did Adam Alexander. Adam's passion for heritage vegetables was ignited when he tasted an unusual, sweet and fiery pepper while on a filmmaking project in Ukraine. Smitten by its flavour, he began to seek out local growers of old and near-forgotten varieties in a mission to bring home seeds to grow and share – saving them from being lost forever.

In conversation with plant and garden historian, Advolly Richmond, Adam will talk about his work as a 'seed detective', sharing the stories behind our everyday vegetables and the heroes who are keeping these traditions alive today.

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SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

ICONIC: ZANDRA RHODES AND ANDREW LOGAN

Montgomery Town Hall

5.00 pm

£9.00



Iconic is not just the title of Zandra Rhodes's memoir. It's also a fitting description for two creative legends who will grace the Monty Lit Fest stage this year.

Zandra Rhodes is British fashion royalty. Andrew Logan is an internationally renowned artist. Together, they'll be sharing stories from their long and illustrious careers: their influences, triumphs and challenges; the people they've worked with and dressed; the strategic partnerships, events and museums that owe them their existence.

It's a chance to meet two artistic titans and to learn what has inspired – and continues to inspire – work that brings beauty, joy and celebration into our world.

Photos: Christopher Bissell (Zandra Rhodes)
Christina Wilton (Andrew Logan)

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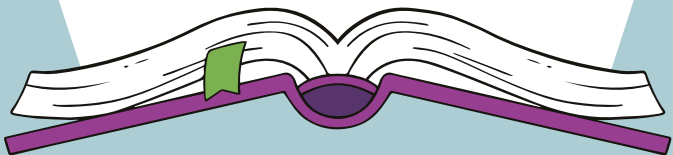
Monty MINIFEST

Children's Book Festival



GŴYL FACH Maldwyn

Gŵyl Lyfrau i Blant



WELCOME to the Jill Kibble

☆ Monty Minifest ☆

In association with Firefly Press

After a successful first year in 2025, we're back with our mini festival of literature for children and young adults on Sunday, June 14th.

Named in honour of the much-missed Jill Kibble of Montgomery this is a lively day of story-telling and story-making, with plenty of fun and full of ideas to spark young readers - and maybe writers!

An exciting new event in the Montgomeryshire Literary Festival, find full details at montylitfest.com



Nicola Davies

Emma Rea

Rhiannon Oliver

Sharon-Marie Jones

Georgia Dickinson

Cyndy Humphreys

CROESO i Wyl Fach Maldwyn, Gŵyl Jill Kibble

Mewn cydweithrediad â Firefly Press

Ar ôl blwyddyn gyntaf lwyddiannus yn 2025, rydym yn ôl efo'n gŵyl lenyddiaeth fach i blant ac oedolion ifanc ar ddydd Sul 14eg Mehefin.

Wedi'i henwi er anrhydedd i Jill Kibble o Drefaldwyn, sydd wedi cael ei cholli'n fawr, mae hwn yn ddiwrnod bywiog o adrodd straeon a chreu straeon, efo digon o hwyl a syniadau i sbarduno darllenwyr ifanc – ac efallai awduron ifanc!

Digwyddiad cyffrous newydd yng Ngŵyl Lên Maldwyn, dewch o hyd i fanylion llawn ar montylitfest.com



10.00–10.30am

**Storytime for the under 7s.
(Adults FREE)**

Join local storytellers Georgia Dickinson and Cyndy Humphreys for stories and fun for the under-7s.

**Straeon a hwyl i blant dan 7 oed
(Oedolion AM DDIM)**

Ymunwch â'r adroddwyr straeon lleol Georgia Dickinson a Cyndy Humphreys am straeon a hwyl i blant dan 7 oed.



10.45–11.30am

**The Grace-Ella books with
Sharon Marie-Jones**

Join Sharon Marie Jones on a witchy wander through the *Grace-Ella* series. Lots of magical fun and games!
Ages 5–8

**Y Llyfrau Grace-Ella gyda
Sharon Marie-Jones**

Ymunwch â Sharon Marie Jones ar daith hudolus drwy gyfres *Grace-Ella*. Llauer o hwyl a gemau hudolus!
Oedran 5–8



11.45 am–12.30pm

***Fresh* with Rhiannon Oliver**

Join Rhiannon Oliver to hear poems from her debut collection *Fresh* inspired by everything from cat fleas to cloud gazing. There will also be a chance to write some short poems of your own. **Age 7+**

***Fresh* gyda Rhiannon Oliver**

Ymunwch â Rhiannon Oliver i glywed cerddi o'i chasgliad cyntaf *Fresh* wedi'i ysbrydoli gan bopeth o chwain cathod i sylu ar gymylau. Bydd cyfle hefyd i ysgrifennu rhai barddoniaeth eich hun. **Oedran 7+**



12.45–1.30pm

***Entangled* with Emma Rea**

Top Dog author Emma Rea introduces her new book, *Entangled*, and takes you on your own Venetian adventure. Find out how you can write exciting stories! **Age 7+**

***Entangled* gyda Emma Rea**

Awdures *Top Dog*, mae Emma Rea yn cyflwyno ei llyfr newydd, *Entangled*, ac yn mynd â chi ar eich antur Fenisaid eich hun. Siawns i ddarganfod sut allwch chi ysgrifennu straeon cyffrous eich hunain! **Oedran 7+**



ALL SESSIONS IN ENGLISH

POB SESIWN YN SAESNEG

1:45–2:30pm

**Nicola Davies, Children's
Laureate Wales**

Monty Mini Fest is delighted to welcome Nicola Davies to talk about her books and her role as Children's Laureate Wales.

Nicola is the award-winning author of the highly acclaimed *Skrimtsli* and double Carnegie nominated *The Song That Sings Us*. She has been writing for children for more than 20 years and is a presenter for *The Really Wild Show* and the BBC Natural History Unit. **Age 12+**

**Nicola Davies, Children's
Laureate Cymru**

Mae Gŵyl Fach Maldwyn yn falch iawn o groesawu Nicola Davies i siarad am ei llyfrau, a'i rôl fel Bardd Plant Cymru (Saesneg).

Nicola Davies yw'r awdur arobryn o *Skrimtsli* a *The Song That Sings Us* a gafodd ei enwebu ddwywaith am Wobr Carnegie. Mae hi wedi bod yn ysgrifennu i blant ers dros 20 mlynedd ac yn gyflwynydd i *The Really Wild Show* ac Uned Hanes Naturiol y BBC. **Oedran 12+**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

ART EXHIBITION

Enjoy the work of our talented local creatives

Thursday 11th–Sunday 14th June
10.00am–4.00pm **Free entry**

The Montgomery Institute and The Old Bell Gallery, Arthur Street
The fifth annual Monty Lit Fest art exhibition celebrates the breadth of creative talent across Montgomeryshire. The showcase brings together artists and makers working in painting, textiles, photography, sculpture to celebrate nature.
Facebook: @celftrefaldwyn
Instagram: @CelfTrefaldwyn

ANDREW LOGAN TRAVELLING MUSEUM
12–14 June Arthur Street, outside The Montgomery Institute

ART WORKSHOPS

Something for budding artists of all ages

Children's tree art workshop (Age 5+)
Saturday 13th June 1.30–2.30pm

Montgomery Activity Centre,
Young artists, accompanied by a parent, are invited to join local landscape artists Alex Harbron and Lucie Smith-Davies for this special art workshop inspired by the ogham tree calendar. Materials provided to create a wonderful image of the tree and its roots.

Family workshop: nature gelli printing with Catherine Jones
Saturday 13th June 3.00–4.00pm

Montgomery Activity Centre,
This family workshop is designed to fit perfectly with the natural world theme of the Festival's art exhibition. Gelli printing is so exciting!

Inspired by nature: an art/textiles workshop with Catherine Jones

Sunday 14th June 1.30–3.30pm

The Computer Room, Montgomery Institute
Enjoy a relaxing couple of hours using first some background watercolours, and then bits and bobs of textiles and embroidery to create a landscape – or use flowers and foliage as your inspiration. You don't need experience in embroidery or watercolours to create something lovely.

Booking for workshops is essential. For conditions and what you need to bring, please see montylitfest.com/?page_id=9950

STREET MUSIC

Courtesy of Monty Folk and friends

Saturday 13th June
9.00–10.00am **Broad Street**
10.00am **Arthur Street**
12.45–1.30pm **Broad Street**

Sunday 14th June
9.30–10.30am **Broad Street**

THE DRAGON'S PEN

Saturday 13th–Sunday 4.30–5.30pm
Dragon Hotel The latest work from Montgomery's creative writing group

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

We have a wide range of food and drink options for Festival visitors over the weekend.

Festival coffee and cake

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June
9.30am–12.30pm and 1.30pm–4.30pm

Montgomery Town Hall, Broad Street
Back by popular demand, coffee, tea and home-made cake at the main Festival venue courtesy of four Montgomery community groups raising funds for the Montgomery Street Fair; Trefaldwyn Ladies Club; the Montgomery Show and St Nicholas Churchyard.

Ivy House Cafe

Church Bank Local café with home-cooked food and great view over the main square

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th June
10.00am–5.00pm

Sunday 14th June
10.00am–2.00pm

The Dragon Hotel Market Square

Lunch 12.00–2.30pm

Evening meals 6.00–9.00pm

Bar meals and bistro to book call 01686 668359.

Stwff and Things

Saturday 13th June 12.00pm–4.00pm
Sunday 14th June 12.00pm–5.00pm
Broad Street

Delicious wood-fired pizzas straight from the oven. Enjoy traditional favourites like pepperoni or Hawaiian or customise with your own toppings. Veggie and gluten free options available.

Castle Kitchen Broad Street

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th June
Café 10.00am–3.00pm
(lunch served 12.00–2.00pm)
Wine bar: 5.30–9.30pm.

Sunday 14th June

Café 10.00am–3.00pm
(lunch served 12.00–2.00pm)

Delicious food all freshly prepared and baked on the premises, served in the gorgeous courtyard garden or indoors – and why not stay for an early evening glass of wine too?

The Checkers Broad Street

Lunch *Thursday–Saturday*
12.00–1.30pm

Dinner *Wednesday–Saturday*
7.00–8.30pm

5-star restaurant with rooms:
checkerswales.co.uk.

The Crown Bishops Castle Street

Open 6.00–11.00pm

Montgomery Fish Bar Broad Street

Open 12.00–11.00pm every day

FRIDAY 12TH June 2026

The Royal Insider with Paul Burrell	7.00 pm	Town Hall +bar
Late Lounge: Keith Cameron in conversation with Rhys Mwyn followed by Jeb Loy Nichols in concert.	8.00 pm	Town Hall +bar

SATURDAY 13TH June 2026

In conversation with Sophie Hannah	10.00 am	Town Hall
Pulse with Cynan Jones	11.00 am	Town Hall
Harvest with Minette Batters	12.00 pm	Town Hall
Hafren with Sarah Siân Chave	1.30 pm	Town Hall
Writers' workshop #1: Writing Short Stories with Cynan Jones	2.00 pm	Dragon Hotel
Cynefin with Carwyn Graves	2.30 pm	Town Hall
My Year of Reading Welshly with Alex Johnson	3.30 pm	Town Hall
Vanished Wales with Carwyn Jones and Adeola Dewis	4.30 pm	Town Hall
Monty Lit Fest's Big Quiz Night with Marcus Berkmann	8.00 pm	Town Hall +bar

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

Whale Fall with Elizabeth O'Connor	10.30 am	Town Hall
No Such Thing As Monday with Siân Hughes	11.30 am	Town Hall
Cath Fenthyg efo Myfanwy Alexander	12.00 am	Gwesty'r Ddraig
How Animals Heal Us with Jay Griffiths	12.30 pm	Town Hall
Writers' workshop #2: Writing Ourselves with Iola Ynyr	1.30 pm	Dragon Hotel
Landsmart with Tom Heap	2.00 pm	Town Hall
Words from the Hedge with Richard Negus	3.00 pm	Town Hall
The Seed Detective, Adam Alexander	4.00 pm	Town Hall
Iconic: Zandra Rhodes and Andrew Logan	5.00 pm	Town Hall

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

Monty Mini Fest (see pages 30-33 for details)	Activity Centre
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Sign up for our newsletter at www.montylitfest.com and follow us on:



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