

Programme 2025-26

| Date | Book | Leader | Poetry | Lead |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|------|
| Mid Century Authors | | | | |
| 17 th September | Barbara Pym Excellent Women (1952) | | <i>Poems of manners:</i> Pauline Prior-Pitt The Visit. John Betjeman Calvinistic Evensong, Bristol and Clifton. D H Lawrence The Piano Elizabeth Bartlett God is Dead - Nietzsche | |
| 15 th October | Elizabeth Bowen Death of the Heart (1938) | | <i>20/21 Century Women poets:</i> Elizabeth Bishop One Art Carol Ann Duffy Translating the English. U A Fanthorpe Not My Best Side Anne Stevenson Skin Deep | |
| 19 th November | Evelyn Waugh Brideshead Revisited (1945) | | <i>Life in Country Houses:</i> Elizabeth Daryush (daughter of Robert Bridges) Still-Life John Betjeman Castle Howard Carol Ann Duffy Warming Her Pearls Louis MacNeice Soap Suds Charles Gray Georgina Duchess of Devonshire..... | |
| 17 th December | Play | George Bernard Shaw | The Apple Cart | |
| Non Fiction on a Nature Theme | | | | |
| 21 st January 2026 | James Rebank The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District (2015) | | <i>Farming and the Lake District:</i> Norman Nicholson Cloud on Black Combe, The Tune the Old Cow Died Of. Charlotte Mew The Farmer's Bride, Old Shepherd's Prayer Seamus Heaney The Follower C Kenneth Burrow Sheep | |

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| 18 th February | Isabella Tree Wilding: The Return of Nature to British Farm.(2023) | | <i>Countryside in danger:</i> John Clare Any of his poems Philip Larkin Going, Going Poem in 'Wilding' about Ragwort on page 138 Wendy Cope John Clare. | |
| 18 th March | Chloe Dalton Raising Hare: A Memoir (2024) | | <i>Humans and animals in the wild:</i> Pauline Stainer The Lady and the Hare. William Cowper Epitaph on A Hare. Anne Wiley Durer's Hare Jean Sprackland Translating Birdsong. Mary Oliver The Snowshoe Hare Rachel Field The Wild Geese | |
| 15 th April | Jonathan Kennedy Pathogenesis: the History of the World in eight Plagues. (2023) | | <i>Plagues and pandemics:</i> Roger McGough Survivor. Christina Rossetti The Plague. Covid: Simon Armitage Something Clicked Lucretius The Plague of Athens | |
| 2nd Book by an Author read before | | | | |
| 20 th May | Hilary Mantel Fludd (1989) | | <i>The joy of Poetry:</i> Gerard Benson After the Book is Closed. Anne Stevenson Of Poetry and Wine. Norman Nicholson St Luke's Summer. Billy Collins Introduction to Poetry Aimless Love Esme Partridge For Miss Atkinson | |
| 17 th June | Robert Harris Precipice (2024) | | <i>Leading up to War:</i> John Wilmot. Earl of Rochester The Mistress May Wedderburn Cannon Lamplight Edward Thomas The Sun Used to Shine Philip Larkin MCMXIV Herbert Asquith The Volunteer | |

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| 15 th July | Pat Barker Women of Troy (2021) | | <i>Poems relating to Greece/Mythology:</i> C P Cavafy Ithaka. Eavan Boland The Pomegranate Alfred Lord Tennyson Ulysses John Keats Ode to a Grecian Urn | |
| 19 th August | George Orwell A Clergymans Daughter (1935) | | <i>Poverty and Protest:</i> George Orwell St Andrew's Day Pablo Neruda Poverty Beat, Beat Drums Walt Whitman | |