



May 4th to 19th

A Feast of the Arts

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The Spoken Word – Festival 2019

This year's "Spoken Word" events include a wide range of performances to attract audiences of all ages and interests. Special guests include Will Greenwood MBE, world cup winning rugby star, TV sports pundit and arctic adventurer, who will discuss his varied life and his work for the Borne charity. **"An Evening with Will Greenwood"** will take place at Pinder Hall on Thursday 9 May.

Noted poet and winner of the 2017 Festival Stanley Spencer Poetry Prize Rosie Jackson returns to Cookham and the Parish Centre on Tuesday 14 May. With fellow poet Graham Burchell, she will read from her new collection of poems about the **Spencer family** – a must for all admirers of Stanley Spencer and lovers of poetry!



Popular actor and playwright Richard James makes two appearances. On Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May, he will entertain children of all ages at the Community Rooms, behind the library on the High road, with comic readings from the best-selling children's books of **David Walliams**. Then a week later, on 13 May at Pinder Hall he will give the first performance of his one-man show **"The Seven Ages of Shakespeare"**. This is definitely a not to be missed event from the innovative originator of the Festival's popular "People's Shakespeare" productions.

If you think you have a book or a play in you, then you really need to be at the Cricket Club on Wednesday 15 May. A team of writers and an illustrator, with crucial advice from a book publisher, will tell you what inspired them to **"Deliver their Dreams"** and why and how they did it. You do not have to have a degree in creative writing, merely the commitment to get your ideas in print or performed on stage. How much that commitment might cost is what the panel will tell you.

Dickens fans will be delighted to learn that the Festival will feature a new production of **"What Larks"**. Taking place in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 5 May, Dickens' amazing life and works will be dramatically portrayed in words and music. If you are not yet a Dicken's fan, come and learn why you will want to be!



Outside the north wall of Holy Trinity Church lies the mediaeval grave of Cookham's 12th Century anchoress. Who were anchoresses? Why would you want to be immured in a sealed cell outside the church wall? Being paid by King Henry II to seek absolution for his sin of ordering the murder of St. Thomas Beckett might help, as might serving as a prophetess and seer to the local villagers. Pop into Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 11 May and learn the uncomfortable but true facts about **The Anchoress's Story**.



No Festival would be complete without the side-splitting adult humour of the **"Festival Comedy Club"**, at Pinder Hall on Thursday 16 May. Come as a group and benefit from buying the 12 for 10 ticket concession and laugh with friends. This is always a show stopper and sells out fast!

For more information and tickets for all of the above Festival events visit www.cookhamfestival.org.uk