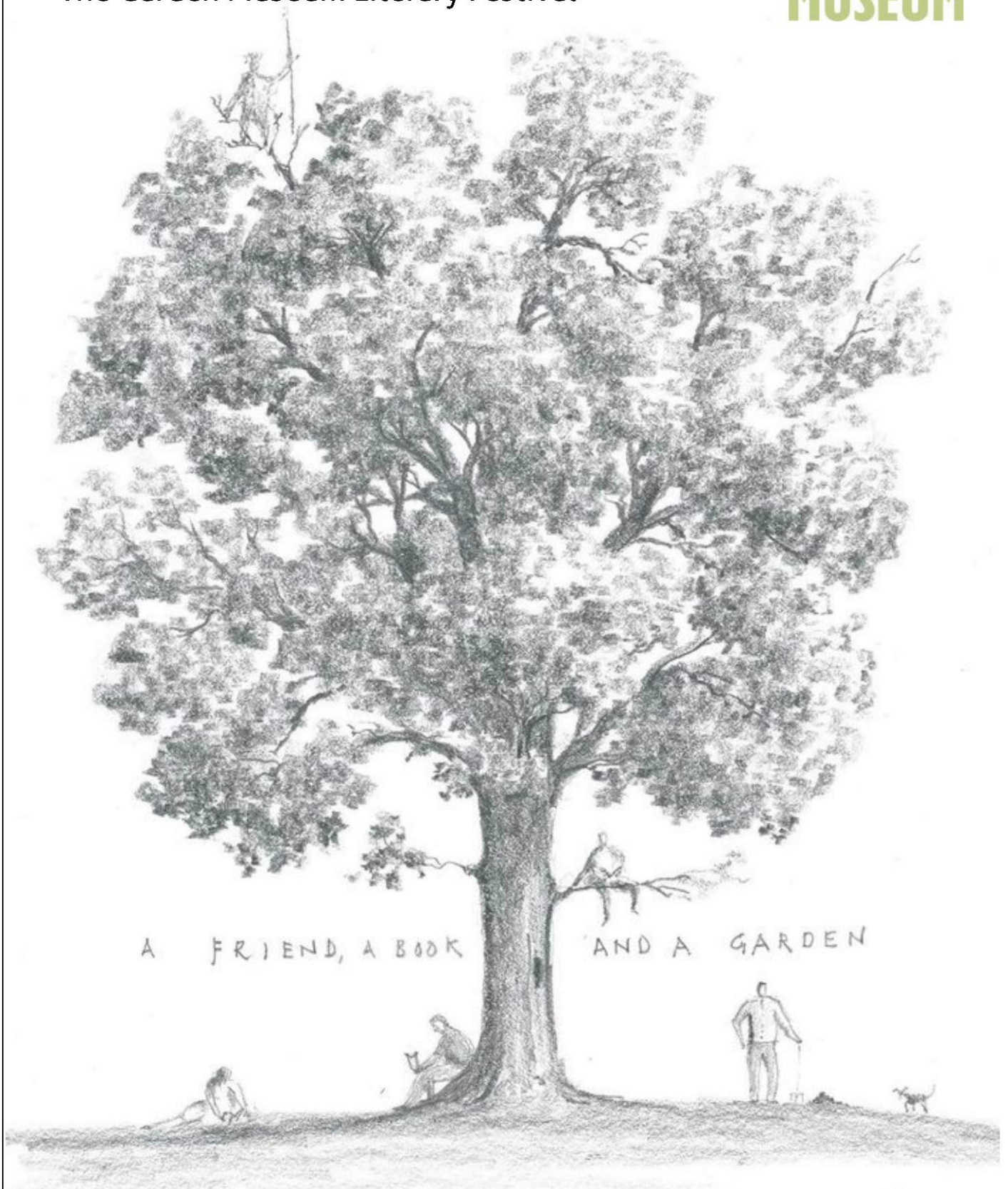


A friend, a book and a garden

The Garden Museum Literary Festival

**GARDEN
MUSEUM**



Hatfield House, 3-4 October, 2015



Welcome to the
Dairy!

11:30-12:30 - TODD LONGSTAFFE-
GOWAN

13:00-14:00 - DIANA ATHILL

14:30-15:30 - CLEVE WEST

16:00-17:00 - KATHERINE SWIFT

Welcome

"A friende, a booke and a garden shall for the future circumscribe my utmost designs."

John Evelyn, 1651

Inspired by Evelyn's focus on the simple things in life, the Garden Museum Literary Festival was set up in 2013 - to find a garden where for a weekend people could explore the relationship between literature, life and nature; and to consider the role gardens and the natural world play in our lives and work.

We have one simple aim - to encourage our guests to dissolve into an Arcadian state of mind.

Whether you are new to the Festival, or someone who has been with us from the start, we hope you're as excited as we are about this year's event, and can join us for a weekend of relaxation, inspiration and contemplation.

"A tiny, exquisite party...wherever this blissful young festival roams in the future, it's certainly worth downing tools to follow it."

The Daily Telegraph

LitFest 15

On 3rd and 4th October 2015, as the autumn leaves begin to fall, the third Garden Museum Literary Festival will take place at Hatfield House, one of Britain's greatest houses.

By kind invitation of the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, guests will be free to roam the park and gardens, as well as parts of the main house.

Talk and events will take place in:

The Old Palace, where Elizabeth I held her first Council of State.

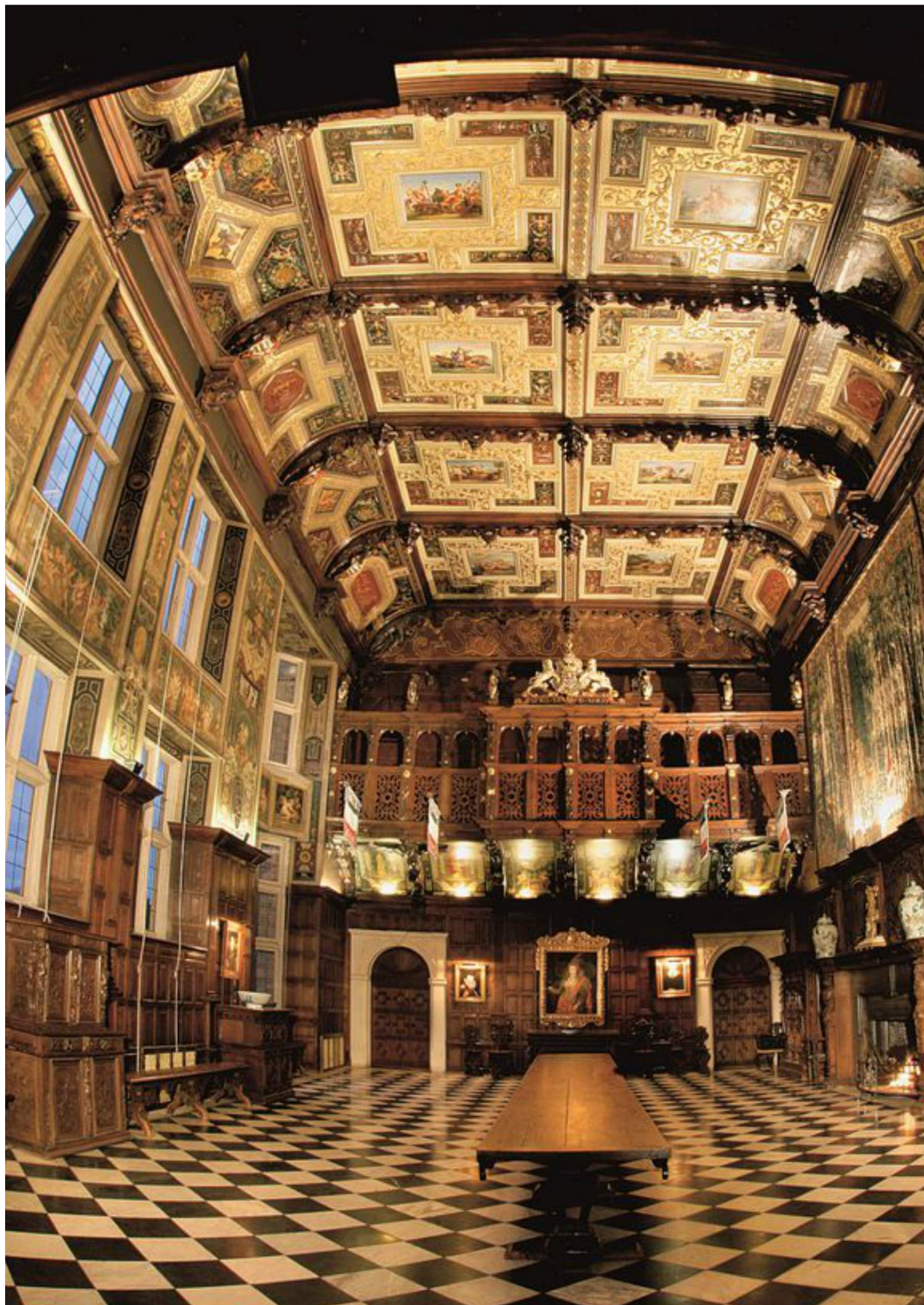
The Marble Hall of Hatfield House (inset) - stunning, dating back to 1611, and with the Rainbow Portrait of Elizabeth I looking on.

A beautiful tent in the East Garden, just next to the maze.

"Glorious. A Dream event."

Country Living







Programme

We are delighted to announce some preliminary information about our programme for 2015. More details will be added over the coming months, including dates, timings and details of talks. Our speakers include:

Alan Titchmarsh

The legendary gardener, writer and broadcaster

David Starkey

The UK's foremost constitutional historian

Hermione Lee

The award-winning biographer of Virginia Woolf and Edith Wharton

John Lewis-Stempel

Farmer and writer of Meadowland

Alys Fowler

Gardener, author, columnist and beekeeper

Alexandra Harris

Award-winning writer, TV personality and lecturer

Matthew Dennison

Acclaimed biographer of Vita Sackville-West

Tim Richardson

Prolific writer, Daily Telegraph columnist, and commentator

"Pre-eminent in the field of garden literature."

The Guardian

Programme continued

Richard Mabey

The great British nature writer

Alison Weir

Britain's best-selling female historian

Tom Stuart-Smith

Pre-eminent landscape architect, writer and garden designer

Philip Mansel

The leading historian of courts and cities

Helena Atlee

*Italian garden expert and writer of the Radio 4 Book of the Week: *The Land Where Lemons Grow**

George Plumptre

Author, journalist and international expert on gardening

Kathryn Aalto

Writer and landscape historian - with a new book on the natural world of Winnie the Pooh

Rosamund Bartlett

Writer, scholar, and lecturer on Russian literature

"The Festival was pure heaven!"

LitFest 14 guest







Speaker focus

Alison Weir

ALISON WEIR is the top-selling female historian (and the fifth best-selling historian overall) in the United Kingdom, and has sold over 2.7 million books worldwide. She has published sixteen history books, including *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, *The Princes in the Tower*, *Elizabeth the Queen*, *Eleanor of Aquitaine*, *Henry V111: King and Court*, *Katherine Swynford* and *The Lady in the Tower*.

Alison has also published four historical novels, including *Innocent Traitor* and *The Lady Elizabeth*. Her latest biography is *Elizabeth of York* (2013) and her fifth novel, *The Marriage Game*, was published in June 2014.

She is soon to publish a biography of Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox.

Alison is a Fellow of the Royal Societies of Arts and Sciences and an Honorary Life Patron of Historic Palaces, and is married with two adult children.

For further information, please visit Alison's websites at:

alisonweir.org.uk

alisonweirtours.com

**"One of our
greatest popular
historians."**

The Daily Mail



JOHN LEWIS-STEMPEL is a writer and farmer. His many previous books include *The Wild Life: A Year of Living on Wild Food*, which Robert Macfarlane called 'a great book: tough and funny, metaphysical and earthy, passionate and honest'; *England: The Autobiography*; the bestselling *Six Weeks: The Short and Gallant Life of the British Officer in the First World War* and most recently, *The War Behind the Wire: The Life, Death and Glory of British Prisoners of War, 1914-18*.

He lives on the borders of Wales with his wife and two children.

Follow John Lewis-Stempel on Twitter - [@jlewis-stempel](https://twitter.com/jlewis-stempel)
#meadowland

Speaker focus

John Lewis-Stempel

"If I were Secretary of State for Education I would make Meadowland by John Lewis-Stempel required reading...it is fantastic because it is a man sharing his vision of what is important, a deeply personal paean to the interconnection of everything, a magnificent love letter to the natural world. This isn't a good book, it is a great book."

Sir Tim Smit, co-founder of The Eden Project



Speaker focus

Richard Mabey

"It's not about how humans have used plants, but how at critical moments in all kinds of societies' and individuals' histories including my own, plants have transformed the way we see ourselves."

Richard Mabey

RICHARD MABEY'S prizewinning books include *Flora Britannica*, *Nature Cure*, and *The Ash and the Beech: the Drama of Woodland Change*.

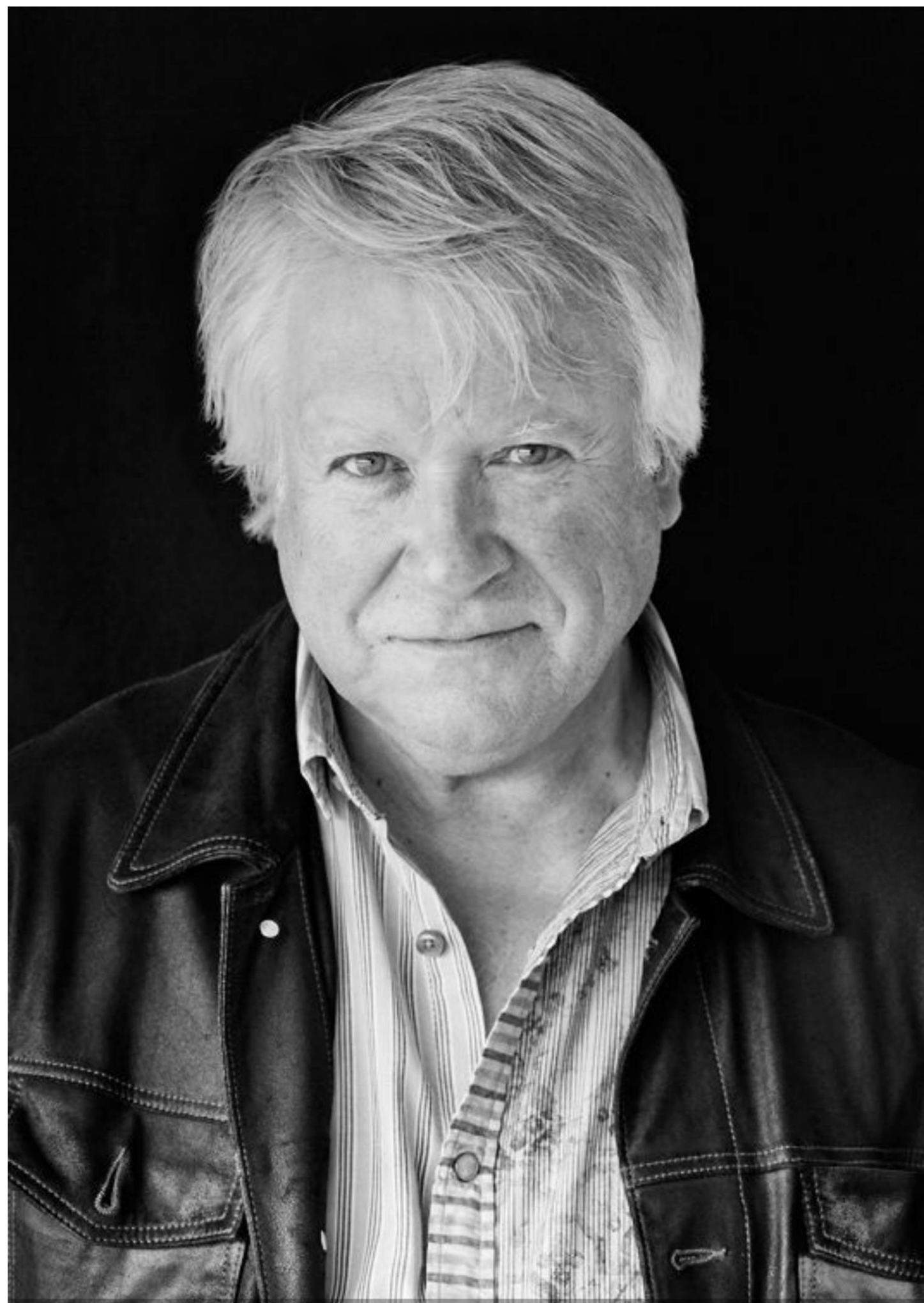
Richard is a frequent broadcaster, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and Visiting Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

He lives in Norfolk.

www.richardmabey.co.uk

"The great British nature writer."

The Guardian



Booking information

The Festival is part of the diverse series of events programmed by the Garden Museum every year - from talks and workshops to garden visits and performances.

The Festival is self-supporting; any profit will be directed towards the Museum's charitable purposes.

Tickets are extremely limited. **Priority booking for Friends** opens on Thursday 5th March at 12 noon.

General booking opens on Thursday 12th March at 12 noon.

TO BOOK CLICK [HERE](#)

Or you can visit our website [HERE](#)

Or please phone on 020 7401 8865

Or if you'd like to book in person, please visit us at the Garden Museum. We're at 5 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7LB.

Prices

Unique to literary festivals, we do not sell tickets for specific talks - instead we offer our guests access to all events.

Day tickets

Friend - £95
Standard - £120
Under-25 - £25

Weekend tickets

Friend - £180
Standard - £230
Under-25 - £40

Visitor information

Getting to Hatfield House

Hatfield is easy to reach by road or rail and is just moments from the station.

Rail: The fast train from London Kings Cross to Hatfield takes 20 minutes. There are London Underground links with this mainline at Finsbury Park (Piccadilly and Victoria lines). Local bus services run regularly to Hatfield railway station.

Road: Hatfield House is 21 miles from Central London, 7 miles north of the M25 motorway (junction 23) and 2 miles east of the A1(M) (junction 4). Exit the A1(M) at junction 4 (after the Hatfield Tunnel if travelling from the South) and follow the brown leisure signs for Hatfield House via the A414 and A1000. For Sat Nav please use the postcode, AL9 5HX.

Parking

There is ample parking at Hatfield House. More information will be released nearer the time.

Food and drink

The Coach House Restaurant will be serving morning coffee, hot lunches, deli sandwiches, soup, and salads for guests throughout the festival - and has a wonderful homemade bakery counter. You are of course welcome to bring your own picnic if you prefer.

Access

There is wheelchair access to all our indoor venues, and a good route for wheelchairs around the West Garden. Access to the shops, restaurant and lavatories is good. There is a separate adapted lavatory next to the Old Palace archway.

Frequently (and less frequently) asked questions

When will the full programme be announced?

We will keep updating this document over the coming months. The final programme will be confirmed in August 2015.

What is included in the price of a ticket?

A ticket will give you access to all talks and events, depending on venue capacity. It will also give you access to the gardens and Park*, as well as some areas of the house.

*There is a 10km run in aid of the Willow Foundation in the Park on the morning of Sunday 4th.

Is lunch included?

Lunch and refreshments are not included in the price of a ticket.

I've booked a ticket but can't come. Can I get a refund?

We don't offer refunds, but we might be able to offer an exchange for an alternative Garden Museum event. Please call the Museum on 020 7401 8865.

Can I see all the talks?

Unique among literary festivals, our guests have a ticket which gives them access to all events. You will not however, be able to see every talk, as there will often be more than one happening at the same time - we will programme carefully to ensure everyone has the best chance to see the talks they wish to.

What if it's raining?

In the true British spirit, we carry on. As the event is in October, most of the talks will be inside the House, and so will be protected from the elements.

Is there anything for children?

Children are very welcome, but please note there are no events specifically for younger children.

How does the seating work?

All seating is unallocated and works on a first-come first-served basis.

How long do events last?

It varies, but most individual talks will last for about an hour.

Are books on sale?

A selection of books by all our speakers will be on sale.

Can I bring a picnic?

Yes! And we would commend your courage. All we would ask is that extra care is taken not to leave any litter behind.

Can I bring my dog?

Sadly, dogs - or indeed more exotic pets - are not allowed on the festival site.

Can I work at the Festival?

Most working will be from the Museum's staff; but if you would like to volunteer at the Literary Festival, please contact dudley@gardenmuseum.org.uk.



The Garden Museum

The Museum was set up in 1977 in order to rescue from demolition the abandoned ancient church of St Mary's in Lambeth which is the burial place of John Tradescant (c.1570–1638), the first great gardener and plant-hunter in British history. Home to a knot garden designed by Lady Salisbury, a series of exhibitions and events exploring our relationship with gardens and a much-loved café, the Museum is about to undergo great change to enable its collection display to grow and our capacity to serve the local community to increase. For more details on this major project, please visit our website.

Thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who is contributing to this event.

In particular, thank you to our speakers and to the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury for so generously inviting us to make Hatfield House the Festival's home this year.

