

27 Feb

Daily Poem

**BATH LITERATURE
FESTIVAL 2010**

**Sat 27 February
– Sun 7 March**

Afraid, pt.2

I say this though I am tired and unwell
and my dad thinks that poetry is a waste of time.
We have come a long way to sit on these benches
and walk through the Christmas markets buying bits of cheese and chocolate
Many bones were broken, many stories written then thrown into fires.

I just wanted to ask if anyone else feels as lonely and confused as I do,
and if we should do something about it?

What happens to people when they
miss the party,
and the fireworks don't go off,
and christmas is cancelled,
and they sit it all out,
watching the commerce and the blur and the noise
like the last
apple donut
in the window
of the co-op?

Um
you see,
Horror Films and loud noises don't scare me,
water bills and angry housemates don't scare me,
MI5, 9/11, 7/7, 2012,
the bullies in police uniforms,
the barking dogs in Westminster
the black smog that fills up the air around my hometown
the riots and the awful literature and the chavs that kick a football against my window,
they are not a worry to me.

But I am terrified
that many Christmases from now
my grandchildren will ask me:
"what did you do to make things better?"
and I will not have anything to say.

*Jack Dean, Creative Writing Student at Bath Spa University.
Inspired by Ross Sutherland's 'The Significance of 4am'*

27 Feb

What's on

Come along to today's events! You can buy tickets at Bath Festivals Box Office or get them on the door an hour before the event starts.

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY BRITAIN

Morning Talk: Gillian Tett: Fool's Gold

11.15am-12.15pm, Guildhall, £9 (£8) A1

Gillian Tett was one of the few economists to predict the financial crisis. She tells us exactly what went on and what may happen next...

Family: Organised Fun Craft Workshop

12-1pm, Bath Central Library, £5 (no concessions) A4

Inspire the storyteller in your child and bring him or her along to this puppet-making workshop with Josie Curran (*Organised Fun*). (Suitable for age 4+, accompanying parent is essential)

Prospect Magazine Debate: Can you still be proud to be British?

1-2pm, Guildhall, £7 (£6) A5

Over the last 150 years we have moved from the age of Empire to the age of embarrassment... Join our panel of experts as they talk about the issues involved.

Family: Organised Fun

2-3pm, Bath Central Library, £3 (no concessions) A8

If you're looking for ideas to keep the troops entertained at family get-togethers, then this session should provide you with a wealth of inspiration. (Suitable for age 4+, accompanying parent is essential)

History: Women and War

2.45-3.45pm, Guildhall, £8 (£7) A9

Two brilliant historians, Diane Atkinson and Juliet Nicolson, look at the effect of The First World War on the lives of women. Chaired by the biographer Jane Dunn.

Biography: Paula Byrne

4.30-5.30pm, Guildhall, £7 (£6) A12

Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead is a terrifically engaging biography of one of England's greatest novelists. Paula Byrne reveals the facts behind the fiction in conversation with Christopher Cook.

Performance: One Million Tiny Plays about Britain

4.30-5.30pm, Masonic Hall, £8 (£7) A14

In these snippets of overheard conversations, Craig Taylor reveals the triumphs, disasters, prejudices, horrors and joys of twenty-first-century life.

History: Andrew Roberts

8-9pm, Guildhall, £9 (£8) A18

One of our leading British historians asks whether, with a different decision-making process and a different strategy, the Axis powers could have won The Second World War.

Later this week - don't miss our Festival daily picks:

Sunday 28 February

Ben Crystal: Love, Sex and Comedy in Shakespeare

6.15-7.15pm, Guildhall

Monday 1 March

Food: Tamasin Day-Lewis

8-9pm, Central United Reformed Church

Tuesday 2 March

My Life: Albie Sachs

8-9pm, Guildhall

Wednesday 3 March

My Life: Bill Paterson

8-9pm, Guildhall

Thursday 4 March

Lyndall Gordon on Emily Dickinson

6.15-7.15pm, Guildhall

Friday 5 March

Natasha Walter & Kat Banyard: The Female Body

11.15am-12.15pm, Guildhall

Saturday 6 March

Performance: Ben Moor: Coelacanth

2.45-3.45pm, Guildhall

Sunday 7 March

My Life: Raymond Blanc

8-9pm, Guildhall

 Bath festivals

Tickets: 01225 463362
www.bathlitfest.org.uk

Bath Festivals Box Office
2 Church Street, Abbey
Green, Bath BA1 1NL