

# Authors and Booklovers Celebrate at Alderney's Literary Festival *Report by Alistair Forrest*



**(L-R): Festival Chair Anthony Riches with Authors David Leffman and Vaseem Khan**

**THE** magic of great historical writing was the hallmark of this year's Alderney Literary Festival, the eighth in a series that has gained considerable international recognition and respect.

A sell-out weeks before it opened, the festival featured nine best-selling writers and historians who drew an enthused audience from Guernsey, Jersey and the UK as well as faithful book-lovers in Alderney.

"The 2024 Alderney Literary Trust's festival was yet again both sold out and fully justifying of our customers' confidence in advance of the event that we would deliver," said Festival Chairman Anthony Riches, himself a best-selling author of historical fiction.

"Nine great authors, including the writers of two stunning debut novels, gave us all plenty to think about, entertained us, amused us and ultimately introduced us to new ways of looking at some things we thought we understood.

"As ever I have personally had a lot of fun, re-established my link with the wonderful people who run the festival and make it the success it is, and gained yet more new friends both from the participants and the audience, and I am already looking forward to 2025!"

Alderney Literary Trust's Isabel Picornell said: "This is our eighth Alderney Literary Festival and I am delighted how Alderney has made a name for itself in the genre of historical writing. The festival has become like a family, with our regular festival-goers from Guernsey, Jersey and the UK attending year after year, and our wonderful sponsors who continue to support us."

Headline sponsor was Guernsey-based investment company Polygon Collective, with Alderney Electricity Ltd (AEL), Gower Financial Services, Liberation Pubs & Bars, The Fort Group and HSBC as sponsors of individual talks, and Nigel Roberts as Technical Sponsor.

Sponsor of the Alderney Literary Trust, which hosts the festivals and has further events planned for 2024, is investment group Ravenscroft.



**Author Gail Simmons**

**Photos:  
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**Author S.J. Parris**