

COTSWOLD LINK Special Interest Day

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 6PN 10.30 – 15.30

From Pen to Reader: The Journey of a Book

More detailed information on the speakers and their talks.

Bums on Seats: Sue Ablett had a checkered career, starting as a Russian Linguist, then University admin and research, pulling in a PhD for fun, before spending the last 20 years of her working life as Executive Director of a national children's cancer charity. She is the founding chair of Evesham Festival of Words, which was launched in 2016, and still chairs the Festival today. Over the last ten years, under Sue's leadership, the Festival has grown from a single weekend to a year-long event. Sue is the author of several self-published non-fiction books, her latest being *Telling More Tails*, published December 2025, to mark the 70th Anniversary of Leicester Animal Aid. Her talk takes a behind-the-scenes look at Evesham Festival of Words but will be equally applicable to other literary festivals. She will include tips for authors hoping to promote their books at a literary festival.

Researching Roman Britain: Jacqui Rogers grew up in Australia and lingered abroad for many years before returning to Britain. She became a writer after long careers in advertising and university lecturing. She writes two crime/thriller series, both set in 3rd century Roman Britain. Her continuing Quintus Valerius mystery novels include bestselling *The Loyal Centurion*. Her new Otto Cornelius series for Sapere Books launches soon with *The Silver Mirror*. In 2020 and 2021 she was Runner Up in the Lincoln Book Festival story competition. Jacqui lives in the Malvern Hills of England. She travels with her husband by motorbike, and haunts cafés and pubs.

The Joys and Perils of being an Author: Colin Wade is the author of seven standalone crime and murder mystery thrillers. He published his first book in 2019 and has delivered one book a year since. Building on his experience of working a civilian role for Thames Valley Police, he crafts fast paced unputdownable stories that will have you gripped to the last page. His talk charts his author career, explains his influences and some of the things he wasn't expecting when it came to publishing and selling books.

A Publisher's Perspective: Gareth Swain Gareth Swain is Managing Director of The History Press, an independent non-fiction publisher based in Cheltenham. Along with a rich heritage in history publishing, the company seeks to inform, entertain and champion untold stories and hidden voices across a variety of genres. Gareth joined The History Press in 2008 and later led a successful management buy-out in 2017 to become a co-owner of the business.