



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Agatha Christie Festival Presents 'A Spring Gathering' - A Star-Studded Celebration of Crime Fiction and New Statue Unveiled on the English Riviera**

*Broadcaster and lifelong Christie devotee, Jeremy Vine, will launch his debut crime novel at the Festival*

Torquay is set to welcome a thrilling one-day literary celebration as the Agatha Christie Festival hosts '[A Spring Gathering](#)' on Saturday, 12th April 2025, marking the unveiling of a brand-new Agatha Christie statue in her hometown, with guest appearances from Jeremy Vine, Robert Thorogood, Victoria Dowd, Mark Aldridge and Gray Robert Brown.

Commissioned by Torbay Council, the statue - created by acclaimed Brixham-based sculptor, Elisabeth Hadley- depicts the Queen of Crime alongside her beloved dog, Peter.

**Jeremy Vine, host of The Jeremy Vine Show and BBC Radio 2, said:** "Agatha Christie inspired me from the age of eleven - I cannot wait to launch my debut crime novel at this festival."

This is the perfect chance to escape your everyday and step into a world of storytelling; a one-of-a-kind festival promising an unforgettable day of bestselling authors, literary discussions, and a grand Celebration Ball at the Imperial Hotel.

Taking place at [Torquay Museum](#), the festival literary programme features an array of crime fiction enthusiasts. Robert Thorogood, bestselling author and creator of BBC One series '*Death in Paradise*', delivers a compelling talk: *How to Kill People for Profit*. Jeremy Vine, broadcaster and lifelong Christie devotee, launches his debut crime novel *Murder on Line One*, a gripping Devon-set mystery.

**Speaking about this event, Robert Thorogood said:** "I have loved Agatha Christie's books my whole life. It's an honour to be part of this celebration and share a day with fellow Christie fans."

To complete this star-studded line up is Victoria Dowd, award-winning author of *The Smart Woman's Guide to Murder*, who will explore *Agatha and Dartmoor*. Dr Mark Aldridge & Gray Robert Brown, hosts of the hit podcast *The Swinging Christies: Agatha Christie in the 1960s*, are also due to appear, sharing fascinating insights from their show.

**Mark Aldridge shared his thoughts on the upcoming event:** "Torquay is the birthplace of the Queen of Crime, and I'm delighted to be returning for this long-awaited tribute."

Attendees will also have the opportunity for exclusive book signings and to purchase the latest crime fiction titles courtesy of [The East Gate Bookshop](#).

Following the literary sessions, guests will gather for the highly anticipated unveiling of the Agatha Christie statue on the Strand - an enduring tribute to the world's most beloved crime writer.

The day concludes in spectacular style with a Celebration Ball at [The Imperial Hotel](#). Guests will enjoy a complimentary welcome drink, a three-course meal with vegetarian and vegan options, an after-dinner speech and live music from *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

**Carolyn Custerson, CEO of English Riviera BID, said:** "Agatha Christie is one of Torquay's most treasured cultural icons, and we are thrilled to celebrate her enduring legacy with this very special Spring Gathering.

"The unveiling of her statue is a fitting tribute to the Queen of Crime, honouring her deep connection to the English Riviera. This event brings together crime fiction enthusiasts, bestselling authors, and Christie devotees from near and far for a truly unforgettable day in her hometown."

Each Spring Gathering ticket also includes a commemorative newspaper, pin badge, and lanyard.

Why not make a weekend of it? The Hampton by Hilton in Torquay and The Imperial Hotel are offering exclusive weekend discounts for all Spring Gathering Festival goers. Plan your trip and visit [www.englishriviera.co.uk/accommodation](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/accommodation) to explore the English Riviera's incredible accommodation offering.

To find out more about this extraordinary celebration of Agatha Christie's legacy and to secure your tickets today, visit [www.agathachristiefestival.com](http://www.agathachristiefestival.com)

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

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**About English Riviera**

The English Riviera Business Improvement District (ERBID) Company is a collaborative effort between over 1000 local businesses, authorities, and stakeholders dedicated to enhancing the tourism experience and promoting sustainable economic growth for Torbay.

Looking to Escape Your Everyday? With 22 miles of stunning coastline, the English Riviera covers Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Torquay is the birthplace of Agatha Christie, the world's greatest crime writer, and the resort offers a vast array of culture, history, water activities, spas, festivals, entertainment and food and drink experiences. The resort is also an international cruise port.

As a designated UNESCO Global Geopark, the English Riviera has gained international recognition for its 400 million years of geological heritage and is promoted as One of Earth's Extraordinary Places.

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