



iQRA
BOOK FESTIVAL

24th OCTOBER 2020

10:00am - 6:30pm (BST)

Register at :
<https://bit.ly/3mRPEC0>



Programme

Time

10:00 AM (BST)

Welcome

10:15 AM



Shaheena Ayub Bhatti

“Aziz Bhatti Shaheed My Brother, My Hero.”

Dr Shaheena Ayub Bhatti is currently the Director of the Women Research and Resource Center at Fatima Jinnah Women University. She was formerly an Associate Professor of English and Director of Research at the National University of Modern Languages in Islamabad, Pakistan. Her area of interest is contemporary American literature with a special focus on literature of colour. She has taught English to speakers of other

languages and English and American literature to students of all levels.

11:00 AM



Shrabani Basu

“Spy Princess, The Life of Noor Inayat Khan”

Shrabani Basu is a journalist and Sunday Times best-selling author. Her Books include Victoria & Abdul, The True Story of the Queen’s Closest Confidant and For King and Another Country, Indian Soldiers on the Western Front 1914-18. She is a frequent commentator on television and radio documentaries on BBC, ITV and Channel 4. Her book Victoria & Abdul was recently adapted into a major Oscar-nominated feature film

starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal. Spy Princess is being adapted for a play at the National Theatre and a television series. She is the founder and chair of the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust which successfully campaigned for a memorial for Noor in London. It was unveiled in 2012 by Princess Anne. She also applied for a Blue Plaque for Noor which was unveiled in August 2020 outside her London house.

11:45 AM



Dr Ghee Bowman

“The Indian Contingent. The Muslim Soldiers of Dunkirk”

Author of The Indian Contingent: The Forgotten Muslim Soldiers of Dunkirk. On 28 May 1940, Major Akbar Khan marched at the head of 299 soldiers along a beach in northern France. They were the only Indians in the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk. With Stuka sirens wailing, shells falling in the water and Tommies lining up to be evacuated, these soldiers of the British Indian Army, carrying their disabled imam, found their way to the

East Mole and embarked for England in the dead of night. On reaching Dover, they borrowed brass trays and started playing Punjabi folk music, upon which even ‘many British spectators joined in the dance’. What journey had brought these men to Europe? What became of them – and of comrades captured by the Germans? With the engaging style of a true storyteller, Ghee Bowman reveals in full, for the first time, the astonishing story of the Indian Contingent, from their arrival in France on 26 December 1939 to their return to an India on the verge of partition. It is one of the war’s hidden stories that casts fresh light on Britain and its empire

12:30 PM



Diana Darke

“Stealing from the Saracens. How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe”

This book uncovers a long yet often overlooked history of architectural ‘borrowing’, revealing the Arab and Islamic roots of Europe’s architectural heritage. Ideas and styles are traced as they passed from vibrant Middle Eastern centres like Damascus, Baghdad and Cairo, entering Europe via gateways like Muslim Spain, Sicily and Venice through the movement of pilgrims, bishops, merchants and medieval Crusaders. It is a rich tale of cultural exchange, shedding new light on the backstory of some of Europe’s iconic landmarks.

1:15 PM



Medina Tenour Whiteman

“The Invisible Muslim. Journeys Through Whiteness and Islam.”

Author of *The Invisible Muslim: Journeys Through Whiteness and Islam*. Medina Tenour Whiteman stands at the margins of whiteness and Islam. An Anglo-American born to Sufi converts, she feels perennially out of place—not fully at home in Western or Muslim cultures. In this searingly honest memoir, Whiteman contemplates what it means to be an invisible Muslim, examining the pernicious effects of white Muslim privilege and exploring what Muslim identity can mean the world over—in lands of religious diversity and cultural insularity, from Andalusia, Bosnia and Turkey to Zanzibar, India and Iran. Through her travels, she unearths experiences familiar to both Western Muslims and anyone of mixed heritage: a life-long search for belonging and the joys and crises of inhabiting more than one identity.

2:00 PM



Saqib Razzaq

“Spice of Life: Scottish-South Asian Lessons for Living.”

Colorful Heritage brings you *Spice of Life: Scottish-South Asian Lessons for Living* inspired by Dr Karl Pillemer’s *30 Lessons for Living*. Somewhere between a self-help guidebook and a document of cultural history, it takes stock of the lifetime wisdom of over 30 senior members of the Scottish-South Asian community. Covering everything from marriage to raising children, careers to facing racism, each chapter tackles a different theme, highlighting examples of the unique connections between Scottish and South Asian cultures forged by the older generation. This community may be small but it has left an indelible mark on Scotland. *Spice of Life* recounts the lives of its forefathers and mothers: held within them are valuable lessons for us all.

2:15 PM



Shaykh Abdul Aziz

“Sacred Path Of Love”

In 2019, the Sacred Path of Love celebrated its 10th year anniversary of guidance, inspiration and empowerment of individuals from all walks of lives, through being the platform for Islamic Spirituality, Psychology and Traditional Islamic Sciences. It contains anecdotes and pearls of wisdom from esteemed Islamic scholars and educators from past Sacred Path of Love events are archived in this work. The book is

completed with a series of stories and accounts from the organisers and volunteers.

3:00 PM



Aria Campbell Danesh

“A Mindful Year, 365 Ways to Find Connection with the Sacred.”

Dr Aria Campbell-Danesh, DClinPsy, CPsychol, is a doctor in clinical psychology and an expert in the fields of behavior change and long-term health (dr-aria.com). A mindfulness specialist and creator of the FIT Method, he works internationally with clients on their mindset, exercise, and nutrition. He is regularly featured in popular lifestyle publications such as Men’s Health, Women’s Health and Marie Claire. Dr. Aria is an

Associate Fellow with the British Psychological Society and Senior Associate Member of the Royal Society of Medicine.

3:45 PM



Etsko Schuitema

“The Millenium Discourses.”

Etsko Schuitema is a renowned business consultant who has authored numerous books including “Leadership” and “The Millenium Discourses” and “Intent-Exploring the Core of Being Human”.

He is a senior partner in Schuitema, a transformational consultancy operating worldwide.

4:30 PM



Safina Mazhar

“Power Of Four”

Safina Mazhar is the author of the Power of Four series. Her first book, Run To Earth was her debut novel. She has published the first 3 books in the Power of Four Series and is working on the last book of the action packed, young adult, fantasy series. Safina has accumulated a large fanbase with her fanfiction writing, amassing over 13 million hits world wide. Safina lives in Glasgow, Scotland with her husband and daughters.

5:15 PM



Ausma Zehanat Khan

“The Bladebone.”

Ausma Zehanat Khan is the author of The Unquiet Dead and winner of the Barry Award, the Arthur Ellis Award and the Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award for Best First Novel, as well as a 2016 Macavity Award finalist. Ausma is also uthor of the The Khorasan Archives, a four-book epic fantasy series featuring The Bloodprint, The Black Khan, The Blue Eye and culminating in the epic conclusion published in October 2020: The Bladebone.

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The Ark is a community development hub with a vision to build a confident, creative and innovative Muslim community that contributes to a stronger Scottish society.