

2017 Costa Book of the Year: Final Judging Panel



Wendy Holden (Chairman): Novelist

Wendy Holden is a number one bestselling writer and the author of ten consecutive *Sunday Times* top ten bestselling novels. She was a journalist on the *Sunday Times*, *The Mail on Sunday*, *Tatler*, *Harper's Bazaar* and the *Sunday Telegraph* before becoming a full-time writer. She is a literary critic, reviewing books for the *Daily Mail*. She read English Literature at Cambridge and was recently made an Hon D Litt by the University of Derby.



Moniza Alvi: Poet (representing the Poetry Award category)

Moniza Alvi was born in Pakistan and grew up in Hertfordshire. Her poetry collections include *The Country at My Shoulder*, *Europa* and *At the Time of Partition*, each of these shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize. She had a long career as a secondary school teacher in London, and now lives in Norfolk where she tutors for the Poetry School.



Laura Bailey: Contributing Editor, British Vogue

Laura Bailey is a model, writer, photographer and Contributing Editor at British *Vogue*. Alongside *Vogue*, Laura has written for international titles including *Vanity Fair*, *L'Officiel*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *The Independent*, *The Sunday Times*, *SUITCASE*, *The Telegraph*, and *Conde Nast Traveller*.

Whilst continuing to be featured in campaigns for luxury and lifestyle brands, she is Cultural Ambassador for the British Fashion Council and a Patron of The Photographer's Gallery in London. Both a muse and a mentor, she is a brand ambassador for CHANEL, co-founder of Loquet London and more recently was made Creative Partner and face of ZANZAN eyewear.

Her dedicated philanthropic work with Save the Children, combined with diverse creative film and fashion collaborations, has created an iconic status within the fashion industry.



Fern Britton: Author and Presenter

Fern Britton is the highly-acclaimed author of six *Sunday Times* bestselling novels. Her books are cherished for their warmth, wit and wisdom, and have won her legions of loyal readers. Fern has supported The Reading Agency this year by writing a short novel to encourage less confident adult readers.

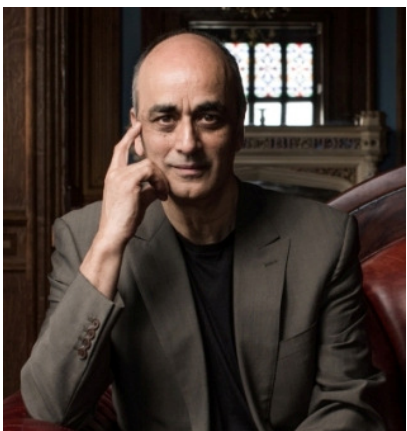
A hugely popular household name through iconic shows such as *This Morning* and *Ready Steady Cook*, Fern is a much sought-after presenter, most recently presenting *The Big Allotment Challenge* (BBC2), *For What It's Worth* (BBC1), *Culinary Genius with Gordon Ramsay* (ITV) and her advent series *Fern Britton Meets* (BBC1).

Fern lives with her husband, Phil Vickery, and her four children in Buckinghamshire and Cornwall.



Simon Garfield: Author (representing the Biography Award category)

Simon Garfield is the author of 18 books of non-fiction, including the bestsellers *Mauve*, *Just My Type* and *On The Map*. He's a Trustee of Mass Observation, and is the editor of several books of journals and letters from the archive, including *Our Hidden Lives* and *A Notable Woman*. His study of AIDS in Britain, *The End of Innocence*, won the Somerset Maugham Prize, while *To The Letter* was one of the inspirations for the theatre shows, *Letters Live*. His most recent book is *Timekeepers: How the World Became Obsessed With Time*.



Art Malik: Actor

Art Malik is an actor and producer. His film work includes *A Passage to India*, *The Living Daylights*, *True Lies* and *Wolfman* whilst his TV experience spans *The Jewel in the Crown*, *The Kumars at No 42*, *Poirot*, *Homeland (series 4)*, *Indian Summers*, *Cold Feet*, *Sherlock* and *Bancroft*. He lives in Devon.



Freya North: Author (representing the Novel Award category)

Freya North is the internationally-bestselling author of 14 novels. She has won the Romantic Novel of the Year Award and been shortlisted for other prizes.

In 1996 she gave up a PhD to write her first novel, which attracted a fierce bidding war between five publishers. Her most recent novel is *The Turning Point* which garnered critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic and is a *Sunday Times* bestseller. Freya founded the Hertford Children's Book Festival, is a judge for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and is an Ambassador for Beating Bowel Cancer, for whom she is cycling coast-to-coast this year.



Sophie Raworth: BBC presenter and journalist (representing the First Novel Award category)

Sophie Raworth is a journalist who presents the BBC News at One, Six and Ten. She's also an avid reader and has her own book website: www.readbyraworth.com



Piers Torday: Author (representing the Children's Book Award category)

A former theatre and television producer, Piers is now an award-winning and bestselling writer for children. His books include *The Last Wild* trilogy (*Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize) and *There May Be a Castle*.

The son of the late Paul Torday (*Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*), he recently completed his father's final unfinished novel, *The Death of an Owl*. His latest project is the stage world premiere of John Masefield's *The Box of Delights*, which he's adapted for Wilton's Music Hall. Piers has reviewed children's books for *The Guardian* and *The Spectator*, and is a former judge of the

Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. He lives in North London with his husband and a very naughty dog.