10am   Simon Schama   £15.00

Citizens engulfed by panic and death, desperate for vaccines but fearful of what inoculation may bring. The world has just gone through this with Covid-19, but as Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations shows, it has happened before. Sir Simon makes his long-awaited Henley debut with his gripping history of vulnerable humanity caught between the terror of contagion and the ingenuity of science, taking us to London, Mumbai and Paris in the 18th and 19th centuries.

12 noon   Nathan Gray   £12.50

Hold onto your seats! With 140 combat missions to his name, from flying ops in Helmand province to pursuing Bin Laden, Nathan is one of the most decorated British military aviators today. Now with Hazard Spectrum: Life in the Danger Zone By The Fleet Air Arm’s Top Gun, he drops in to Henley. From making it out of an ‘unsurvivable’ crash as a trainee to being the first to land the world’s most advanced fighter aircraft in front of missions on TV, this will not be dull.

12 noon   Brian McLaughlin & Alan Johnson   £12.50

Brian joined HMV as an assistant in Portsmouth when the company had little more than a dozen outlets dotted around the country. By the 1980s, he had worked his way up to become its director of operations as it became an iconic part of both the music industry and the high street. His Master’s Voice is a fascinating journey of a landmark company, and here he is in conversation with Festival favourite, former Home Secretary, author and music fanatic Alan Johnson.

2pm   Rebecca Wait & Liv Little   £10.00

The authors of two of the most acclaimed novels of the last year come to Henley for the first time to share their stories. Rebecca followed her thriller Our Fathers with the gorgeous comic novel of mothers, daughters and sisters, I’m Sorry You Feel That Way, a Fiction Book of the Year for The Guardian and The Times. Gal-dem founder Liv was featured in the BBC’s 100 Women and Bernadine Evaristo called her debut Rosewater, which follows the fiercely independent Else, “wonderfully fresh, zesty and sexy”.

4pm   Talking to Your Teenage Self: Daisy Buchanan, Isabella Dorta, Jaspreet Kaur   £10.00

Three vibrant voices sharing life lessons, with heart and humour. In The Letters I Will Never Send, TikTok phenomenon Isabella Dorta follows bestseller How Sunflowers Bloom under Moonlight with poems on love, mental health and self-discovery. Jaspreet Kaur’s Brown Girl Like Me: The Essential Guidebook & Manifesto for South Asian Girls and Women is an empowering call-to-arms, and Daisy Buchanan has a knack for writing about young women navigating the world, from How to be A Grown-Up to novels Careering and Limelight.

6pm   Local Lives: David Williams, Emma Armstrong and Christina Hardyment   £10.00

Three writers from in and around Henley talk about what inspires them and what the area means to them. Naturalist Emma Armstrong has a book about the climate emergency aimed at people who never thought they would read one. Restaurant entrepreneur David Williams shares his story of the Palm Suite Restaurant with Hamburgers, Cocktails, Rock & Roll, and the elaborate Ewelme tomb of Chaucer’s granddaughter inspired The Serpent of Division by biographer and anthologist Christina Hardyment.