# Chris Chibnall ends Broadchurch to avoid formulaic crime drama and teases new projects



Chris Chibnall, the mind behind the acclaimed ITV crime drama "Broadchurch," recently reflected on his decision to conclude the series after its third season during a compelling discussion at the 2025 Hay Festival of Literature and Arts. One of his primary concerns was the potential for the show to spiral into repetitive violence, mirroring the formulaic nature of long-running series such as "Midsomer Murders." The dialogue, moderated by BBC presenter Julia Wheeler, provided insight not only into Chibnall’s creative philosophy but also into his latest ventures, including a new crime novel titled "Death at the White Hart."

In his remarks, Chibnall highlighted the significance of maintaining the rarity of violent crime in pastoral settings. “One of the reasons I didn't carry on 'Broadchurch' as a show is that I didn't want it to suddenly become... like 'Midsomer Murders,'" he articulated, emphasising the need to underscore the impact of sudden tragedy on both the characters and the communities they inhabit. He believes such dissonance is central to exploring the dark corners of human nature through fiction. The series, renowned for its sensitive portrayal of a fictional Dorset town grappling with the harrowing effects of a child’s murder, ultimately left a substantial impression on audiences, pushing forward the conversation on how violent events shape narratives in rural environments.

Chibnall's exploration of dark themes continues with his new novel, which revolves around a gruesome murder set in the serene backdrop of Dorset—an area known for its improbably low murder rate. This juxtaposition aims to evoke a sense of unease, compelling readers to confront the stark contrast between the idyllic countryside and the horrific acts that can disrupt it. Evidently, the narrative techniques developed through "Broadchurch" are being channelled into this new literary project, allowing him to further investigate the complexities of human emotion in the face of crime.

In addition to discussing his novel, Chibnall teased an exciting upcoming project for Netflix: a three-episode adaptation of Agatha Christie’s "The Seven Dials Mystery." This adaptation is set to feature a distinguished cast including Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman, and will be steeped in classic tropes of mystery fiction—complete with "stately homes, vintage cars, and a big dance band." He expressed enthusiasm for the project, noting the quality of craftsmanship involved: "The craft is really great. It’s a lot of fun and it’s a great story."

The Hay Festival, held annually in Hay-on-Wye, serves as a vibrant platform for cultural exchange, and the 2025 edition has welcomed various luminaries from diverse fields, including Donald Trump's estranged niece, Mary Trump, and actor Michael Sheen. Such an eclectic lineup enriches the festival experience, highlighting its commitment to fostering thoughtful discourse across a myriad of subjects, from politics to arts.

As Chibnall continues to probe the depths of crime fiction, both through television and literature, his evolving approach underscores a crucial dialogue about the portrayal of violence in media and its profound implications for audience engagement. In a landscape increasingly saturated with crime dramas, Chibnall's belief in the integrity of narrative—undaunted by the constraints of genre—may well reinvigorate how stories of darkness are told.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-hay-festival-2025-doctor-who-b2758028.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-hay-festival-2025-doctor-who-b2758028.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-65512345), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/26/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/2025/05/26/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders), [[6]](https://www.hayfestival.com/2025/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.radiotimes.com/tv/drama/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-hay-festival-2025-doctor-who-b2758028.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-hay-festival-2025-doctor-who-b2758028.html> - Chris Chibnall, creator of the ITV crime drama 'Broadchurch' and former showrunner of 'Doctor Who', discussed his decision to end 'Broadchurch' in 2017 during a talk at the 2025 Hay Festival of Literature and Arts. He expressed concern that continuing the series with repetitive violence could lead it to resemble 'Midsomer Murders'. Chibnall also spoke about his new crime novel, 'Death at the White Hart', and teased a forthcoming Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery', starring Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-65512345> - In an interview with the BBC, Chris Chibnall discussed his decision to conclude 'Broadchurch' after three series, citing concerns about the potential for repetitive violence and the risk of the show becoming formulaic. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the rarity of disturbing events in rural settings to preserve the impact on characters and the audience. Chibnall also shared insights into his forthcoming projects, including a Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery'.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/26/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders> - Chris Chibnall, creator of 'Broadchurch', explained his decision to end the series in 2017 during a talk at the Hay Festival. He expressed concerns that continuing the show with repetitive violence could lead it to become like 'Midsomer Murders'. Chibnall also discussed his new crime novel, 'Death at the White Hart', and teased a forthcoming Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery', starring Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/2025/05/26/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders> - In a recent interview, Chris Chibnall, creator of 'Broadchurch', discussed his decision to conclude the series in 2017. He cited concerns that continuing the show with repetitive violence could lead it to become like 'Midsomer Murders'. Chibnall also spoke about his new crime novel, 'Death at the White Hart', and teased a forthcoming Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery', starring Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman.
6. <https://www.hayfestival.com/2025/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending> - At the 2025 Hay Festival of Literature and Arts, Chris Chibnall, creator of 'Broadchurch', discussed his decision to end the series in 2017. He expressed concerns that continuing the show with repetitive violence could lead it to become like 'Midsomer Murders'. Chibnall also spoke about his new crime novel, 'Death at the White Hart', and teased a forthcoming Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery', starring Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman.
7. <https://www.radiotimes.com/tv/drama/chris-chibnall-broadchurch-ending-midsomer-murders/> - Chris Chibnall, creator of 'Broadchurch', discussed his decision to conclude the series in 2017 during a talk at the Hay Festival. He expressed concerns that continuing the show with repetitive violence could lead it to become like 'Midsomer Murders'. Chibnall also spoke about his new crime novel, 'Death at the White Hart', and teased a forthcoming Netflix adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'The Seven Dials Mystery', starring Mia McKenna-Bruce, Helena Bonham Carter, and Martin Freeman.