



Stratford Literary Festival

with THE WEEK

Julia Donaldson

John Torode

Alice Roberts

John McCarthy

Simon Sebag Montefiore

Howard Jacobson

Mary Portas

Paul Gambaccini

Martin Jarvis

Michael Rosen

Janet Ellis

Hunter Davies

Korky Paul

Austentatious

Writers' Workshops

And much more...



24th April to 1st May 2016

| stratlitfest.co.uk

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What a year for Stratford-upon-Avon!

The 400th anniversary of the town's most famous son and we're celebrating with a refreshing look at his work which will take us from the deserts of Africa to the hip hop of Brooklyn. In the words of his contemporary, Ben Jonson, Shakespeare was not of an age but 'for all time', and that's the theme for this year's Festival – it's all about legacies, memories and great classics – from Charlotte Brontë to Agatha Christie, Gruffalos to Peter Rabbit. We're also talking about food, shops and psychology, not to mention political lustings (sic), the secrets behind great careers, and ground-breaking debut writing and poking a bit of fun at the great Jane Austen. Join us for quizzes, tips on solving crosswords or inspiring masterclasses for writers of all abilities and genres.

Our thanks to our media partner The Week, to Baillie Gifford and to Stratford Town Trust for supporting our monthly book group, and to all the sponsors and supporters who enable the Festival to grow and be a credit to such a famous literary town.

To Book

Box Office: 01789 207100

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For the latest news and any programme changes, go to **stratlitfest.co.uk**



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THE WEEK



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© Yves Salmon



Stratford Lit Fest Quiz For tickets call 01789 470185

Falcon Hotel, Chapel Street
7.30pm £15
inc burger, chips and salad
(or veggie option)

Our annual bun fight to test your general knowledge against the questions set by the quiz king, Martin Kinouly. Bring a team (max 6 per table) and see if you can win a selection of fantastic prizes. This year's quiz is in aid of the Festival, which is now a charity, to help us build on our projects to bring together young people and older members of the community, including our link with schools in Nigeria, through a love of books and reading.

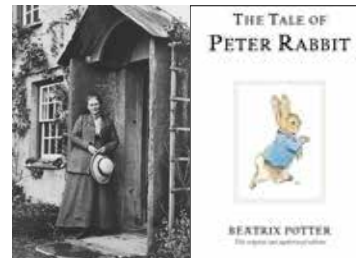


Sonnet Marathon

Henley Street, Stratford
From 10.30am Free

The Sonnet Man, AKA Devon Glover, Brooklyn-born hip hop artist, will attempt the never-before-attempted and perform all of the 154 sonnets by Shakespeare, in a hip hop style, only stopping for comfort breaks. As the town celebrates Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, this will be the event not to miss!

In association with



The Life of Beatrix Potter Martin Jarvis and Rosalind Ayres

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.30pm £12

"Once upon a time, there were four little Rabbits..." Martin Jarvis and his wife Rosalind Ayres join composer Richard Sisson (one half of Kit and The Widow) in a sparkling celebration of the life of one of the world's most loved writers on her 150th anniversary, performing some of her magical stories. Richard composed the music for the stage plays of Alan Bennett's *The Lady in The Van* and *The History Boys*, as well as numerous others.

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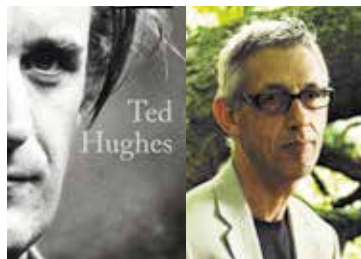
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Ted Hughes Jonathan Bate

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £8

Eminent Shakespeare scholar, broadcaster, and Provost of Worcester College Oxford, Sir Jonathan Bate returns to Stratford to talk about his masterful and controversial biography of Ted Hughes - the finest yet on Hughes' turbulent life and one he says he was 'born to write'. Shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, the book offers an extraordinary insight into the poetic imagination of one of our greatest and most complicated poets.



Incomplete Shakespeare John Crace and John Sutherland

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.30pm £8

Lady Macbeth: 'Give me the daggers and I'll pin the blame/On Duncan's grooms who both are also slain./A little water clears us of this deed/Though a large scotch might also do the trick.' With a new abbreviated text by Guardian parliamentary sketch-writer, John Crace, and footnotes from Professor John Sutherland, join the two Johnnies for a funny and clever knock-about. Ideal for those who know their Shakespeare well and those just desperate to pass their English exams.



Paul Gambaccini A Year under Operation Yewtree

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.15pm £10

One of the most familiar voices on radio, Paul is the only broadcaster to have had his own series on Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as shows on Classic FM and Capital. He's appeared on almost all TV channels and, a former contributing editor of Rolling Stone, he was a founding co-author of The Guinness Book of British Hit Singles. He'll be discussing his career and giving an account of his ordeal under Operation Yewtree, a rallying call to arms to all those who care about the quest for justice.

© Christopher Sherwood



John Torode My Kind of Food

Stratford ArtsHouse
7.45pm £12

John is one of the UK's best-known chefs, food writers and TV presenters. He's the host and judge of BBC1's top-rating MasterChef, Celebrity MasterChef and Junior MasterChef, presenter of A-Z of Cooking on BBC2 and has even presented Have I Got News For You. He'll be talking about his sumptuous new book, My Kind of Food, and all things culinary with award-winning food writer Lucas Hollweg. Cooking doesn't get more enjoyable than this.

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Storytime and Activities for Pre-schoolers

Stratford ArtsHouse
9.30am-11.30am Free

A drop in session for children aged 2+ with storytelling, play and the chance to join in colouring and drawing activities. Let them play while you enjoy a cup of coffee in the Baillie Gifford Festival Café.



Writers' Bootcamp Presenting a manuscript

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-11.30am £15

Come along to this one and a half hour informal session with best-selling writer Meg Sanders, running every day of the Festival, to share any writing hiccups or encouragement you need, and including the opportunity, on Saturday 30th April, to present your ideas to an editor from one the UK's leading publishing houses.



Masterclass - Self Publishing Ben Galley

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-3pm
£80 inc refreshments

Valuable support for those looking to self-publish: Ben, a self-publishing expert, will teach you his Shelf Help method of DIY self-publishing, which maximises royalties, creative control and affordability. He'll show you how to manage editing, cover design, and eBook and print publishing, and demystify the process of book marketing and run you through a range of methods for helping your book sell. Go to www.shelfhelp.info, and find Ben's books at www.bengalley.com.



How to Crack Cryptic Crosswords

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.45pm £8

The Times Crossword challenges tens of thousands of people over their corn flakes every morning. Tim Moorey - one of the paper's crossword setters who also sets crosswords for Festival Media Partner The Week Magazine - reveals the secrets about getting your grey cells around the clues, and talks about how he goes about setting these infuriating brain-teasers.

THE WEEK

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Queens of Crime Christie v Highsmith

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.45pm £8

Why do women make such good crime writers? To mark 40 years since the death of Agatha Christie, arguably the cleverest of them all, the acclaimed author Jill Dawson joins the award-winning crime writer Sophie Hannah (the only writer the Agatha Christie Estate has permitted to write a new Poirot novel), to discuss Sophie's new book, *The Narrow Bed*, and the subject of Jill's latest novel, *The Crime Writer* based on the life of Patricia Highsmith. Daggers will be drawn as we decide who's the queen of all crime writers.



Alice Roberts The Celts

Stratford ArtsHouse
5pm £10

Clinical anatomist and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham, Alice is the engaging presenter of several landmark series including *Coast*, *The Incredible Human Journey*, and *Ice Age Giants*. She writes a regular science column and her latest book was shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize. She'll be discussing her latest series, *The Celts*, with new and controversial ideas about the tribes who are part of our national DNA, yet remain one of the most mysterious.

© Science Uncovered



Dean Burnett The Idiot Brain

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.15pm £8

(Or what your brain is really up to.) Why do you lose arguments with people who know much less than you? Why can you recognise that woman but can't remember her name? Here's why: the idiot brain. For something supposedly so brilliant and evolutionarily advanced, the human brain is pretty messy, fallible and disorganised. Neuroscientist Dean Burnett tours our mysterious and mischievous grey (and white) matter, explaining the human brain's imperfections in all their glory and how these influence everything we say, do and experience.



Anthony Seldon and Peter Snowdon Cameron at 10

Stratford ArtsHouse
8pm £8

Five years in the making, Cameron at 10 is the gripping inside story of the Cameron premiership, based on over 300 in-depth interviews with senior figures in 10 Downing Street, including the Prime Minister himself. Anthony Seldon, leading headmaster, is the author of multiple volumes on the premiership from Edward Heath to Gordon Brown, and is considered one of Britain's pre-eminent political biographers and contemporary historians. Peter Snowdon is a journalist and historian, and edits BBC Radio 4's flagship *Today Programme*.

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Storytime and Activities for Pre-schoolers

Stratford ArtsHouse
9.30am-11.30am Free

A drop in session for children aged 2+ with storytelling, play and the chance to join in colouring and drawing activities. Let them play while you enjoy a cup of coffee in the Baillie Gifford Festival café.



Writers' Bootcamp Characterisation

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-11.30am £10

Come along to this one and a half hour informal session with best-selling writer Meg Sanders, running every day of the Festival, to share any writing hiccups or encouragement you need, and including the opportunity, on Saturday 30th April, to present your ideas to an editor from one the UK's leading publishing houses.



Masterclass - The Art and Carpentry of Fiction Kathryn Heyman

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-1pm
£50 inc refreshments

The making of fiction requires the mysterious vision of art and the practical carpentry of craft. The acclaimed Orange Prize nominated novelist, Kathryn Heyman, will lead you through the crucial elements for structuring great fiction. You'll leave knowing the right questions to ask of your novel, and with some tools to help you get through the moments of doubt and uncertainty. 'The structure of [my book] owes a great deal to Kathryn's teaching course - as she spoke, the heavens opened, angels sang.' Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*.

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Hunter Davies The Co-op's Got Bananas

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.30pm £8

The veteran columnist and writer talks about his poignant and very personal memoir of growing up in Cumbria during the Second World War and into the 1950s. Hunter Davies OBE has been editor of the Sunday Times magazine, and a prolific and amusing writer for over 50 years, writing about a myriad of topics from his beloved Lake District to football and The Beatles, for both adults and children.

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New Voices Brushstrokes in Time

Stratford ArtsHouse
4pm Free

This memoir of fictional Chinese artist, Little Winter, is written for her American daughter. It takes the story of Communist China beyond the death of Mao and, for the first time in fiction, shows the birth of the radical art movement, The Stars, in 1979. Her haunting love story connects us to this time of hope for freedom of expression in China, and to a man frustrated by 'being kept in small shoes'. Sylvia Vetta is a writer from Oxford and her long-running profile series, Oxford Castaways, has been compiled into two books.



Andrew Hurley The Loney

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.15pm £8

Andrew's debut novel, The Loney, a Gothic horror story set in a wild part of the Lancashire coast, won the 2016 Costa First Novel Award. Published to huge acclaim, it was described by one Costa judge as being as 'close to the perfect first novel as you can get'. A haunting tale it may be, but its route to publication is an inspirational story for anyone looking to get their novel published. Come and hear its story.

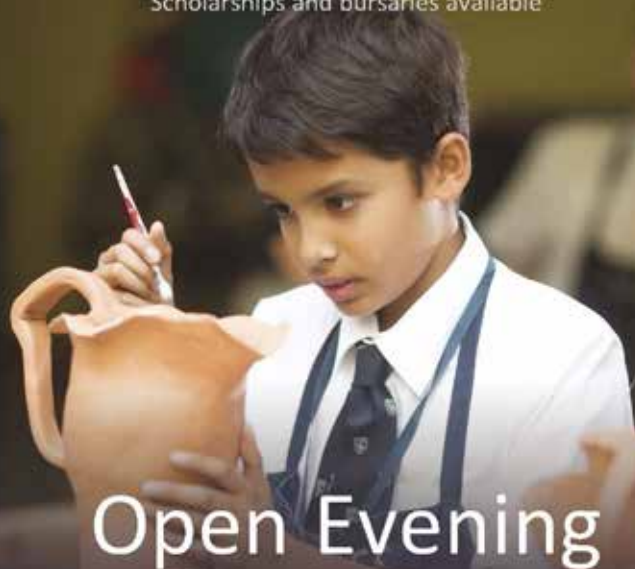


Alzheimer's and The Importance of Storytelling

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.30pm £8

Sylvia Vetta has written the life stories of over 100 inspirational people, after which she sends them to her mythical island of Oxtopia. Oxford Castaways 2 was published on behalf of Vale House Hospice. Its founding chairwoman, Gillian Cox, will join Sylvia and explain the importance of story-telling for people who have lost their identity through Alzheimer's, and how life stories for those with terminal mental illness can be comforting for them and those that love them. They'll offer ways to bring stories into the lives of anyone affected by dementia.

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*His footsteps,
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Rod Norland - The Lovers Women in The Middle East

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.00pm £10

The Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times Kabul Bureau Chief talks about his book *The Lovers*, which tells the true story of a young Afghan, couple from different Muslim sects, who were willing to risk their lives to be together. This powerful and profoundly moving modern day Romeo and Juliet story puts a human face to the on-going debate about women's rights and women's place in Afghanistan where they are still subjected to some of the worst human rights violations in the world.



Oliver James Not in Your Genes

Stratford ArtsHouse
7pm £8

Modern society and modern science both uphold a prevailing myth that who we are is mainly due to our genetic code. The popular psychologist, outspoken commentator, and best-selling author of *Affluenza*, uncovers the truth about genetics and says our genes actually play very little part in shaping who we are. Oliver James' claim that almost all psychological differences between us and illnesses that beset us are the result of our environment and upbringing will change the way you think forever.

© Bella Bathurst



Simon Sebag Montefiore The Romanovs

Stratford ArtsHouse
8.30pm £10

The charismatic historian, presenter and best-selling biographer of Stalin (History Book of the Year and Costa Book Award) returns to Russia and the Romanovs - the glittering, ruthless and doomed dynasty of tsars and emperors who dominated Russia's history and at one time ruled a sixth of the world's surface. He tells the enthralling story of how they created the world's greatest empire and then lost it all.

© Ian Jones



Storytime and Activities for Pre-schoolers

Stratford ArtsHouse
9.30am-11.30am Free

A drop in session for children aged 2+ with storytelling, play and the chance to join in colouring and drawing activities. Let them play while you enjoy a cup of coffee in the Baillie Gifford Festival Café.



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Writers' Bootcamp Narrative and Scene

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-11.30am £15

Come along to this one and a half hour informal session with best-selling writer Meg Sanders, running every day of the Festival, to share any writing hiccups or encouragement you need, and including the opportunity, on Saturday 30th April, to present your ideas to an editor from one of the UK's leading publishing houses.



Masterclass - Calligraphy Eileen Worthington

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-1pm
£35
inc materials and refreshments

The art of calligraphy is much admired and is a useful skill for creating beautiful cards or invitations. In this hands-on workshop, you'll work with Eileen Worthington, a teacher with a lifetime's experience, and practise different lettering styles, using them to create small projects such as a book mark, a 'Thank you' card, a gift label or a short quotation. You'll also design and create an illuminated decorated capital letter.



New Voices Thrillers

Stratford ArtsHouse
3pm Free

Trigger Point

A right-wing billionaire is standing for Parliament but it's clear his ambitions don't end there. Author, Andy Maslen, runs a business writing agency and this is his debut novel and the first in the Gabriel Wolfe series.

The Truth Will Out

Following an argument with her boyfriend, Chinese student Min Li is abducted while walking the dark streets of Stratford. Author, Jane Isaac, studied creative writing with The Writer's Bureau and has published a previous novel.



Michael Rosen What's So Special About Shakespeare

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £10

This isn't a question. The acclaimed poet, Radio 4 Word of Mouth presenter and former Children's Laureate will be delighting audiences with his unique and compelling exploration of the impact of Shakespeare in our lives. He'll be asking what was it like to live in Shakespeare's time? What do we actually know about him? And how does someone become that famous? Ideal for adults and children.



Liza Pullman sings Hollywood

Friday 15 April, 7.30pm

A journey through the world of movies in a cavalcade of all time classic Hollywood songs.

Shazia Mirza

Friday 13 May, 8pm

Following an acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe run, Shazia Mirza takes her new show *The Kardashians Made Me Do It* on tour.

Bowjangles

Saturday 4 June, 7.30pm

If you like music, song, dance and comedy, you will love Bowjangles. This multitalented fourpiece not only play their instruments superbly; they also sing, dance, leap, tumble, juggle and joke.

Show of Hands

Friday 6 May, 7.30pm

After nearly two years of solo touring the lanes and byways, shores and tideways of England 'Show of Hands' now revisit their musical roots.

Sherry Babys

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm

A celebration of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons presented by Europe's number 1 tribute 'The Sherry Babys' who will take you on a musical journey.

Clare Teal and her Trio

Friday 24 June, 7.30pm

As much as she enjoys fronting her Big Band or presenting her weekly show on BBC Radio 2, Jazz singer Clare Teal still revels in more intimate venues.



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Asquith's Women Stefan Buczacki and Anne de Courcy

Stratford ArtsHouse
6pm £8

Professor Stefan Buczacki and the journalist and biographer, Anne de Courcy, unravel the extraordinary world of Edwardian Prime Minister, HH Asquith, and his astonishingly tangled love life – at the centre of which was devotion to his wife, Margot Tennant, and his obsession with the aristocratic socialite Venetia Stanley – an obsession during which he wrote her over 560 letters (sometimes even during Cabinet meetings) and which Churchill viewed as ‘England’s greatest security risk’.



Anthony Seldon Beyond Happiness

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.15pm £8

Sub-titled ‘The trap of happiness and how to find deeper meaning and joy’, the educationalist and Britain’s best-known headmaster is co-founder of Action for Happiness and introduced happiness and well-being lessons to raise awareness of the discovery of happiness, and the reduction of depression which is so prevalent in society. He’ll be distinguishing between pleasure, happiness and joy, and offering an original approach on how to make our lives far more meaningful and rewarding.



Masterclass - Anatomy of A Successful Sales Letter Andy Maslen

Stratford ArtsHouse
7pm - 9pm £39
inc refreshments

Or ‘How I persuaded wealthy, intelligent people to subscribe to The Economist by sending them – “junk mail”’. Direct mail is variously derided as ‘salesy’, ‘pushy’, ‘or just plain ‘dead’. But in the right hands, it is one of the most effective ways to reach people and persuade them to buy. In this entertaining masterclass, business writer Andy returns to Stratford to explore how a mailing can work, with digressions into psychology, design, and rhetoric, to show you how to adopt – and adapt – the timeless techniques of persuasion to your own print and digital campaigns.



John McCarthy In Conversation

Stratford ArtsHouse
7.45pm £12

The journalist John McCarthy spent more than 5 years as a hostage in Beirut until his release 25 years ago this year, surviving physical and mental torture whilst retaining his dignity. With a strong sense of survival, he is now an acclaimed speaker, and presenter on TV and radio. He’ll be talking to fellow Middle East journalist and Pulitzer Prize Winner, Rod Norland, about his experience of incarceration, its impact on his life and his personal view of the Middle East’s relationship with the world today.

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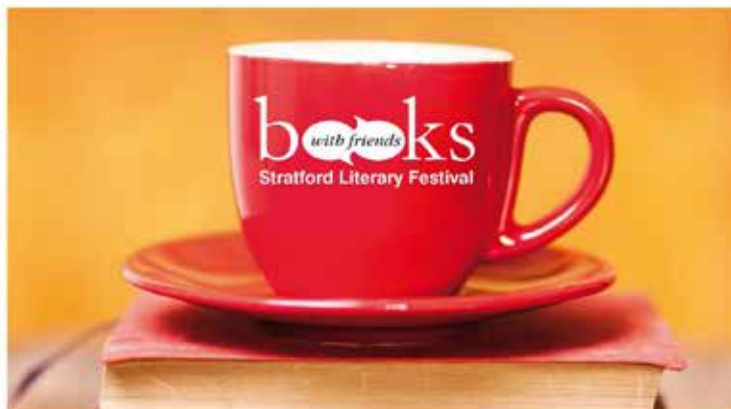
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Books with Friends is a free, friendly, informal book group that meets in Stratford once a month. Come and join us for a chat over a cup of tea about a good read chosen by the group.

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Call us on **01789 470185** if you'd like to join us for details of Books With Friends meetings.

Difficulties with reading?

We can loan audio books and listening devices free of charge if you need them.

Can't get to a book group in person?

We hold a monthly group which you can join from your phone at home. Ask us for details.

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Storytime and Activities for Pre-schoolers with StoryVine

Stratford ArtsHouse
9.30am -11.30am Free

A poorly python, a mischievous pup and an escapade down in the jungle all feature in this magical storytelling session by StoryVine.

With mask-making, colouring and sticker activities too, come along and join in the fun! Suitable for ages 2 to 7.



Writers' Bootcamp Point of View, Voice and Dialogue

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am -11.30am £15

Come along to this one and a half hour informal session with best-selling writer Meg Sanders, running every day of the Festival, to share any writing hiccups or encouragement you need, and including the opportunity, on Saturday 30th April, to present your ideas to an editor from one the UK's leading publishing houses.



Masterclass - The Principles of Prose AL Kennedy

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-3pm
£80 inc refreshments

A workshop from multi-award winning author AL Kennedy for writers beginning to work in prose, looking at structure, voice and character. She will help you get to the core ingredients of story-writing and show you how best to write fully-functional and sophisticated prose, with exercises and advice that will help towards creating characters with depth and complexity.



Masterclass - Writing a Family History Meg Sanders

Stratford ArtsHouse
2pm - 4.15pm
£35 inc refreshments

Documenting a lifetime's adventures or a family history is both absorbing for you, and a precious memoir for a future generation. But where and how do you start? You don't have to be an accomplished writer to create something worth treasuring, and best-selling writer, Meg Sanders, will not only show you how to source and verify information and facts, but also help you to bring it together and present it in a way that will interest and engage your family and friends. Bring a tablet with internet capability if you have one, but not essential.



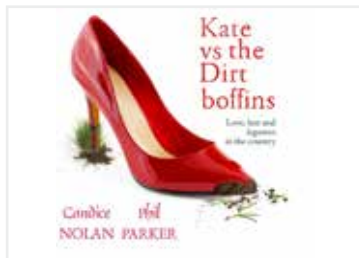
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New Voices Romantic Comedy

Stratford ArtsHouse
3pm Free

Kate vs The Dirtboffins

Kate Smith, a woman with the world at her Jimmy Choo clad feet, wants to buy out her business partner and finally be her own boss, but will her horticultural research empire blossom or wither? Candice Nolan and Phil Parker, husband and wife writing team, debut with a romantic comedy and talk about the challenges of writing together.



AL Kennedy Serious Sweet

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.30pm £10

The Costa Award Winning author, and creative writing lecturer at Warwick University, talks about her latest novel, Serious Sweet. Set in 2014, this is a novel of our times. Poignant, deeply funny, and beautifully written, it is about two decent, damaged people trying to make moral choices in an immoral world. As they navigate the sweet and serious heart of London - passing through 24 hours that will change them both for ever - they tell a very unusual, unbearably moving love story.

© Geraint Lewis 2013



Canals - The Making of A Nation Liz McIvor

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £8

Stratford is at the centre of the country's canal network, and BBC presenter and curator of Social History, Liz McIvor, takes a journey into the heart of industrial Britain, and discovers the people who made them (including the cheap labour and the greedy investors), and how they shaped our nation's future. She'll be joined by the former Canal & River Trust and Poetry Society Canal Poet, Jo Bell, who'll be reading some of her poems inspired by these extraordinary waterways.



Festival Book Group The Trouble with Goats and Sheep

Stratford ArtsHouse
5pm £8
Free copy for first 10 to book, or novel available at 30% discount.

England 1976. Mrs Creasy is missing and The Avenue is alive with whispers. As the summer shimmers endlessly on, ten-year-olds Grace and Tilly decide to take matters into their own hands. And as the cul-de-sac starts giving up its secrets, the amateur detectives will find much more than they imagined. Read the book then meet Joanna Cannon, the author of this debut novel described as 'phenomenal'.

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Graham Harvey Grass Fed Nation

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.15pm £8

A must for Archers fans – Graham is known to millions as the agricultural story editor of the long-running radio soap and has written over 600 episodes. He is an expert on farming and farming practice, and has written on the subject for all the leading papers and journals. He'll be talking about Grass Fed Nation – an urgent manifesto and rescue plan for food and the countryside, and explaining why the experts got it wrong about meat and dairy being bad for us.



Janet Ellis The Butcher's Hook

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.15pm £8

The actress, former Blue Peter presenter (and mother of Sophie Ellis Bexter) talks about her astonishing and hugely-anticipated debut novel. The Butcher's Hook is a dark and twisted tale of a young girl in 18th century London which brims with the colour and atmosphere of Georgian London, as seen through the eyes of a strange and memorable young woman. It's a long way from John Noakes and sticky-back plastic. (Our Books with Friends Book Group read for April.)



Prof Steve Jones No Need for Geniuses

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.30pm £8

The highly-respected geneticist and writer will be discussing his new book, No Need for Geniuses, which looks at the wealth of talent that was wiped out by the guillotine in the French Revolution. Steve Jones is a broadcaster and Reith lecturer, prize-winning author and winner of the Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize for his contribution to the understanding of science. He is a regular contributor to the Daily Telegraph.



Gordon Corera Technology and Spies

Stratford ArtsHouse
8pm £10

The BBC's security correspondent, whose last book covered MI6, talks about his career reporting on events such as the 2015 massacre in Paris and his new book: Intercept – the untold, and until now highly classified, story of the melding of technology and espionage. His compelling narrative, rich with historical details and characters, takes us from the Second World War to the internet age, with astonishing revelations about espionage carried out today.

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Henry Normal Jar of Joy

Stratford ArtsHouse
8.30pm £10

The comedian, television producer, poet and writer who has worked with and written for Rob Bryden, The Sketch Show, Gavin & Stacey and many others, presents his own hilarious view of the world through his poems. Normal, the funniest writer you've never heard of, also co-wrote The Royale Family with Caroline Ahern, set up Baby Cow Productions with Steve Coogan and has performed his poetry with the likes of Seamus Heaney, Roger McGough and John Cooper Clarke.



Storytime and Activities for Pre-schoolers with Evgenia Golubeva

Stratford ArtsHouse
9.30am -11.30am Free

Join Stratford writer, Evgenia Golubeva, who'll be reading the picture book, As Quiet As A Mouse, which she illustrated and showing her animated short film for children: I am not a Mouse. She'll then lead a creative workshop where children will draw Mice and Elephants and come up with their own story!



Writers' Bootcamp Plot and Structure

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am -11.30am £15

Come along to this one and a half hour informal session with best-selling writer Meg Sanders, running every day of the Festival, to share any writing hiccups or encouragement you need, and including the opportunity, on Saturday 30th April, to present your ideas to an editor from one the UK's leading publishing houses.



Masterclass - Taking a Line for a Walk: discovering the power in poetry-writing

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-3pm
£80 inc refreshments

A poetry-writing workshop to spark new ideas for beginners and aspiring new poets led by award-winning poet Jane Draycott. In an informal and supportive atmosphere, this will be a day of guided exercises for creating new draft poems, along with tips to take home for further revision. Jane's most recent collection Over was short-listed for the T S Eliot Prize. She is Senior Course Tutor on Oxford University's MSt in Creative Writing.

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New Voices Poetry and Urban Fantasy

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.15pm Free

One Man and His Dogma

Andi James Chamberlain's debut novel is an urban fantasy fiction influenced by Neil Gaiman, Terry Pratchett and Adam Roberts. Andi lives in Stratford, works in music promotion when not writing.

Through The Window

Samantha J Harrison is a published poet whose writing 'comes from the highs and low of my own life and from looking at the world around me'. She'll be reading from her anthology *Through the Window*.



For All Time The Global Reach of Shakespeare

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.15pm £10

In an event chaired by the RSC Rhetoric Coach, Benet Brandreth (twice winner of the World Public Speaking Competition and son of Gyles), the Shakespeare Expert (and author of *Shakespeare in Swahili*) Dr Edward Wilson-Lee and the acclaimed novelist, critic and literary theorist, Gabriel Josipovici, explore the extraordinary reach of Shakespeare's global legacy from the dust bowls of Africa to the frozen plains of Russia, and look at how he is interpreted in wildly differing cultures.



Julia Donaldson Gruffalos Ladybirds and Other Beasts

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £10

In a fun, interactive show Julia Donaldson acts out her stories and sings her songs with a cast of five including guitar-playing husband Malcolm. The show features books illustrated by David Roberts, Lydia Monks and of course Axel Scheffler. Come and watch the plucky mouse outwit the fearsome Gruffalo, and meet your favourite characters from *What the Ladybird Heard*, *Zog*, *A Squash and a Squeeze* and *Jack and the Flumflum Tree*.



LITTLLe MACHINE

Stratford ArtsHouse
6pm-7.10pm £10

It's poetry - but not like you've heard or seen it before. Drawing on 3,000 years of poetry from Sappho through Chaucer, Shakespeare and the Romantics, right up to the modern day masters, LITTLLe MACHINE set classic poems to music and perform them with energy, passion, humour and sometimes heartbreaking poignancy. Featuring singer Walter Wray, multi-instrumentalist Steve Halliwell and guitarist, Chris Hardy, they have appeared with poets Carol Ann Duffy, Roger McGough, Liz Lochhead, and John Hegley at events across the UK. 'The most brilliant poetry band in the world.' (Carol Ann Duffy).



The Intimate Universe A Voyage into Space

Stratford ArtsHouse
7.30pm £10

We're sending you into the galaxy. The Public Astronomer at the Royal Observatory Greenwich, Dr Marek Kukla, talks about the ways the universe affects our lives and the myriad ways we can connect with the stars. He'll be joined by poets, Nadia Kingsley and Emma Purhouse, who'll bring the universe to life with music and poems as the auditorium becomes a canopy of space and stars, including astonishing images from the Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition.

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Salon 20th Century Time Travel

Stratford ArtsHouse
8pm-10pm
£15 inc a free gin cocktail

Drink cocktails at the captain's table on a 1930s ocean liner. Drive through the noir landscape of 1940s LA. Hitch a ride to Nepal on the 1960s hippie bus. We're galloping through ten decades over two hours as the brilliant Salon London returns to Stratford to bring to life the ideas, the scenes, and the pop culture of an entire century. Experience your chosen decades through their scents, sounds and drinks, and enjoy a free gin cocktail* as you travel (*Over 18s only).



Scratch Choir - Sing a Sonnet in a Day Juliet Russell

Stratford ArtsHouse
10am-3pm £10

Following our hugely popular and successful event in 2015, composer and BBC's The Voice coach, Juliet Russell, will once again coach a scratch choir to learn and perform in just a few hours one of Shakespeare's sonnets she's put to music. No experience needed for our performance-in-a-day. Just enthusiasm! The performance will be at 3pm. Please bring a black top to wear.

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Writer's Bootcamp Presentation

Stratford ArtsHouse
10.30am £8
Free with any Writer's
Bootcamp ticket

This is your chance to hear from the expert - Orion Press Editor and Publicist Sam Eades, and best-selling writer Meg Sanders - how best to get your manuscript in front of the right people. Find out the rules of submission, but also what publishers hope to see. Attendees of our Bootcamp throughout the week will also get a chance to read from their work.

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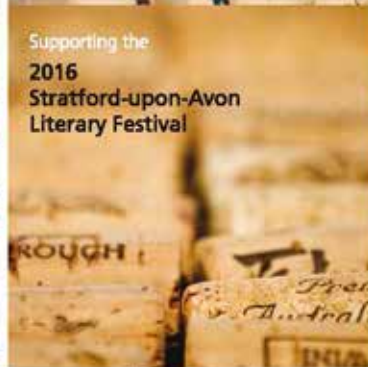
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Shakespeare's Gardens Jackie Bennett

Anne Hathaway's Cottage,
Shottery
10.30am
£8 inc free entrance ticket to
the Cottage (same day only)

Gardening writer, Jackie Bennett, takes you on a tour of the beautiful gardens of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, and on a journey back in time to discover what this garden and other Birthplace gardens meant to Shakespeare, and how he came to know so much about plants – a fact clearly demonstrated in his writings.

© Andrew Lawson



Julia Donaldson Gruffalos Ladybirds and Other Beasts

Stratford ArtsHouse
12pm £10

In a fun, interactive show Julia Donaldson acts out her stories and sings her songs with a cast of five including guitar-playing husband Malcolm. The show features books illustrated by David Roberts, Lydia Monks and of course Axel Scheffler. Come and watch the plucky mouse outwit the fearsome Gruffalo, and meet your favourite characters from What the Ladybird Heard, Zog, A Squash and a Squeeze and Jack and the Flumflum Tree.



Bookshop Band

Stratford ArtsHouse
1.45pm Free

This clever duo return to Stratford as part of a year-long tour in which they ambitiously attempt to release nine brand new albums inspired by books. Their concerts are closely linked to the books themselves, with the band describing how each inspired a song. They will be performing a selection of their vast repertoire which, given the date and place, will no doubt include something inspired by the Bard himself.



Blind Summit Puppet Workshop

Stratford ArtsHouse
2pm-4pm £15

Suitable for adults and
children from 10 years

Fringe First Winners, Blind Summit Theatre is a puppetry innovator, reinventing the ancient Japanese art form of Bunraku puppetry for contemporary worldwide audiences. In a special workshop, you can learn about these unique puppets and basic techniques to manipulate them and bring them to life. (10+ only) 'If Puppetry were Rock and Roll, Blind Summit would be its frontman.' Time Out.

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Charlotte George or Jane? Great Classic Novelists

Stratford ArtsHouse
2pm £8

As we celebrate Charlotte Brontë's bicentenary, a panel including three leading biographers, Claire Harman (Charlotte Brontë), Paula Byrne (Jane Austen), and Valerie Dodds (George Eliot) will discuss our three greatest female novelists, and the challenges they faced to write in the period they lived. Then the (elegant) gloves will be off as they thrash out which of these three great writers has left the strongest legacy. Come along and cast your vote.

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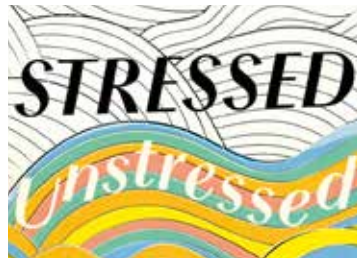


Mary Portas Queen of Shops

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.15pm £12

Saviour of the high street, consumer champion and scourge of sloppy business practice, Mary Queen of Shops brings her energy and common sense talk to Stratford. She'll be commenting on the future of town centres that are fast becoming a story of coffee and charity shops, talking about the secrets behind a successful business and discussing Shop Girl, her memoir of a career on the cutting edge of retail.

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Stressed Unstressed The Impact of Poetry Mental Health

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £8

Again and again over the centuries, great poets have returned to themes of love, death and memory - remembrance of childhood joy, of happy days and beautiful places, of loved ones we have lost, or feelings of peace and being at one with the natural world. Best-selling biographer Paula Byrne and GP Dr Andrew Schuman explore the impact this poetry can have on mental health issues, and discuss their book, endorsed by celebrities like Stephen Fry, which offers an anthology of poems to help in times of difficulty.



James Holland Burma '44

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm £8

The engaging and highly-acclaimed military historian, tells how a rag-tag bunch of British soldiers defeated Japan's finest infantry and turned the tide in Burma, in one of the most astonishing battles of the Second World War. Holland regularly contributes reviews and articles in national newspapers and magazines and appears on national radio. His many books include Fortress Malta, Italy's Sorrow, The Battle of Britain and his fictional WW2 series featuring Sergeant Jack Tanner. 'A remarkable collation of personal experience and sensible historical judgments.' Max Hastings.

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Howard Jacobson Shylock is My Name

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.30pm £10

To mark the Shakespeare400, we welcome the witty Man Booker Prize-Winning author, columnist and critic, who describes himself as a 'Jewish Jane Austen', to talk about the challenges of reworking one of the Bard's most controversial plays, The Merchant of Venice, into a novel, one which forms part of the Hogarth Shakespeare series of reworks of the great plays by leading authors.

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Austen-tious

Stratford ArtsHouse
7pm £16

A smash at the Edinburgh Fringe, this entirely improvised comedy play is acted out in the style of the wondrous and witty Jane Austen, based on nothing more than a title from the audience. Be it 'Mansfield Shark', 'Darcy & Hutch' or 'I Know What You Did Last Season', no two shows are ever the same. A seasoned cast, led by one of Stephen Fry's Q! Elves, present an eloquent, irreverent, 100% improvised take on the works of Britain's best-loved novelist, performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment.

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Chris Packham Fingers in The Sparkle Jar

Stratford ArtsHouse
8.30pm
£23 inc a copy of his book

Wildlife photographer, cameraman, naturalist, self-confessed 'swat and nerd', Chris started his broadcasting career on the BAFTA-winning Really Wild Show, and presents AutumnWatch and SpringWatch. He'll be talking for the first time about his captivating and brutally honest new autobiography and revealing the personal battles of the man behind the familiar face. He'll also explain how a friendship with a young kestrel changed his life forever. Suitable for 10+.

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Single Patron: **£100** per year

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Please email info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk for more information.

(*This discount does not apply to workshops and masterclasses)

Sunday 1 May



Storytelling with Vanessa Woolf

10-10.45am FREE

To celebrate 30 years since the publication of Jill Murphy's timeless classic, Five Minutes Peace, professional storyteller Vanessa Woolf will retell the story of the poor elephant mum who just wants a little time to herself.

Daddy's Sandwich Pip Jones

10am £5

4+

One little girl wants to make her daddy his favourite sandwich. Prepare to be surprised by what she puts in it!

Playbox Theatre

10am £5

8+

Join Playbox Theatre for a high energy workshop with role play, mime, movement and storytelling.

Julia Donaldson Gruffalos Ladybirds and Other Beasts

11am £10

4+

In a fun, interactive show Julia Donaldson acts out her stories and sings her songs with a cast of five including guitar-playing husband Malcolm. Come and watch the plucky mouse outwit the fearsome Gruffalo, and meet your favourite characters from What the Ladybird Heard, Zog, A Squash and a Squeeze and Jack and the Flumflum Tree.

Squishy McFluff

Pip Jones

11.15am £5

7+

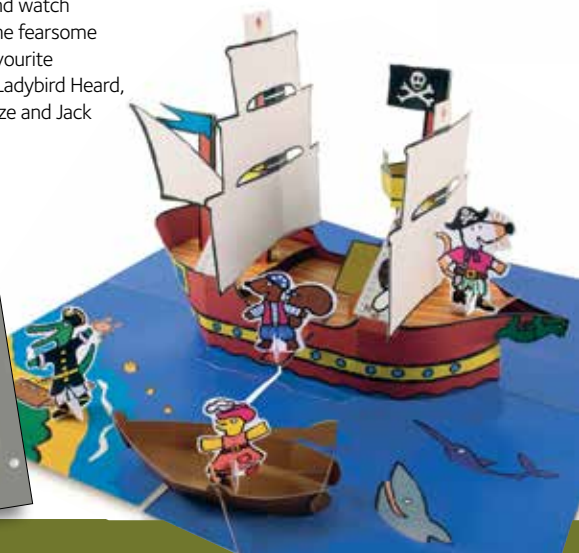
Meet the much-loved Ava and her imaginary kitten Squishy McFluff and join in their exciting adventures!

David Hawcock Pop up bookmaking

11.15am £5

8+

Join David Hawcock, probably the leading maker of astonishing and beautiful pop-up books, and make one of your own.



Escape - drop in workshop Daisy Hirst

11am-2pm FREE

4+

Stratford's Community Art Group will be with us for a drop in session for anyone of any age who's feeling creative!



Korky Paul

12.30pm £5

6+

The energetic illustrator of Winnie the Witch welcomes you to her wonderful world with a fun-filled drawing bonanza, and the chance to have your drawing from your imagination created by Korky.

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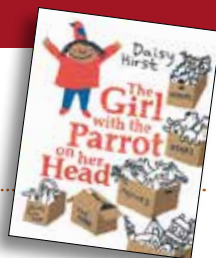
Winnie and Wilbur © Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul, published by Oxford University Press © Winnie the Witch illustration Korky Paul

Daisy Hirst

12.30pm

£5 4+

Isabel has a parrot on her head and a friend called Simon. Find out what happens when he moves away and make your own parrot headress.



Philip Ardagh

2.30pm £5

6+

Larger than life, our Children's Festival Guest Director will have you laughing your head off as he tells you about The Grunts and the inspiration for his madcap stories. Oh, and then there's his beard!

Tony Ross

2.30pm £5

4+

Meet the talented illustrator of the hilarious Horrid Henry and the Little Princess Stories and hear the latest in this enchanting series.



David Hawcock Pop up bookmaking

2.30pm £5

7+

Another chance to join David Hawcock, probably the leading maker of astonishing and beautiful pop-up books, and make one of your own.

Dino the Pooped Show

4pm £5

4+

Created from the bestselling The Dinosaur That Pooped series, host Alastair Watson brings the books to life with help from The Dinosaur himself! An interactive, fun event that includes dinosaur impressions, live drawing, a Dinosaur rhyme and gross games like Guess Poo. The event includes exclusive video clips from The Dinosaur That Pooped creators, McBusted's Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter. Plus all those who purchase books on the day will get the chance to have their book stamped by Dino.



Tickets:

Children: **£5** per event

Day Ticket: **£15** for the day

Adults: **£3** per event

Adult Day ticket: **£10** for the day

Julia Donaldson Event:
£10 children and adults

Box Office: **01789 207100**
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stratlitfest.co.uk

Schools Festival

14th March to 18th March 2016

The **Stratford Literary Festival** provides an extensive selection of events and workshops for schools and young people throughout the region.

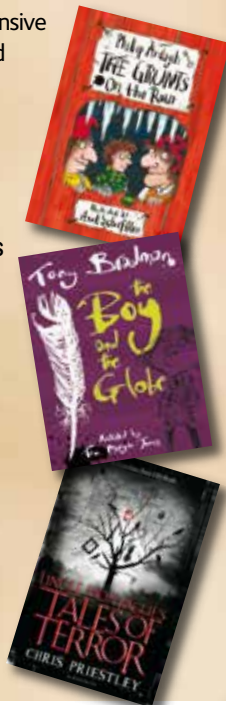
Authors for 2016 include:

- Michael Rosen
- Laura Hughes
- Tanya Landman
- Chris Priestley
- Marcia Williams
- Giles Paley Philips
- Tony Bradman
- Abi Ephinstone
- Petr Horác'ek

My Author Project 2016

This year's project is with Philip Ardagh and Gary Northfield working with Escape Community Art, Playbox Theatre and local author Helen Watts, supported by The Matthew Hodder Trust. Four schools will be exploring in depth the themes and ideas of the author's books through art, drama and creative writing.

Children's Festival Guest Director: Philip Ardagh



We would like to thank the following for their help and support:

All the authors and illustrators who have given their time to the Festival; the Publishers who have worked with us; Mike Flowers and James Smith at Set Square; Mike Nicholas at Shock the Senses, all at The Week; all the Staff at Waterstones Stratford; the general managers of all our partner hotels; all at Lodders and Sheldon Bosley; Roz Adams at Cooper Adams; Rupert Barnes Photography; Susanna Wadeson at Transworld; all who Steward at the Festival; Trustees of Stratford Town Trust; The Book Charity and The Matthew Hodder Trust; Diana Owen and all at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Jenna Harvey and the staff at Stratford Artshouse; Tim Davis; the Stratford Herald; James Richards at Vin Neuf and Alex Graham at Prontaprint; Helping Hands; NFU Mutual; all the schools involved in the Festival; Emily Quash and Playbox Theatre; Judy Reaves and David Hamblett; Karen Williams at Escape Community Art; Lorna Miller at Baillie Gifford; Deirdre Shields, John Jefferies and Viv Groskop our chairpeople, and of course our audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

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Festival Team: Annie Ashworth (Programme Director), Cordelia Keston (Festival Assistant), Helen Watts (Schools Coordinator), Gail Francis (Steward and Books With Friends Coordinator), Jennie Dobson (Books with Friends), Rachel Key (Sponsors), Wigwam PR and Jo James (Author Care).

Stratford Literary Festival is a registered charity. Charity Trustees: Archie Kane, Martin Kinoulty, David Fletcher and Annie Ashworth

Baillie Gifford Festival Café



Open throughout the day in the ArtsHouse from 9.30 to 5pm and serving delicious coffees, teas, and soft drinks, cakes, scones and light refreshments.

Café delivered by HR Café with coffee from Monsoon Estates Coffee Co

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The Bookshop



Waterstones Pop-Up Shop will be open throughout the Festival at the ArtsHouse, selling copies and signed copies of books by all the writers and illustrators appearing on the Festival Programme.



Fri 11th-Sun 13th March	From 5pm	Residential Writing Course	Thurs 28 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities with StoryVine
Thur 14 April	7.30pm	Stratford Lit Fest Quiz	Thurs 28 April	10-11.30am	Writers' Bootcamp
Sun 24 April	From 10.30am	Sonnet Marathon	Thurs 28 April	2-4.15pm	Masterclass - Writing a Family History
Sun 24 April	3.30pm	A Celebration of the Life of Beatrix Potter	Thurs 28 April	10am-3pm	Masterclass - The Principles of Prose
Sun 24 April	4.30pm	Ted Hughes	Thurs 28 April	10am-3pm	AL Kennedy
Sun 24 April	5.30pm	Incomplete Shakespeare	Thurs 28 April	3pm	New Voices
Sun 24 April	6.15pm	Paul Gambaccini	Thurs 28 April	4.30pm	Canals - The making of a Nation
Sun 24 April	7.45pm	John Torode	Thurs 28 April	5pm	Festival Book Group
Mon 25 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities	Thurs 28 April	5.15pm	Graham Harvey
Mon 25 April	10-11.30am	Writers' Bootcamp	Thurs 28 April	6.15pm	Janet Ellis
Mon 25 April	10am-3pm	Masterclass - Self Publishing	Thurs 28 April	6.30pm	Prof Steve Jones No Need for Geniuses
Mon 25 April	3.45pm	How to Crack Cryptic Crosswords	Thurs 28 April	8pm	Gordon Corera
Mon 25 April	3.45pm	Queens of Crime	Thurs 28 April	8.30pm	Henry Normal
Mon 25 April	5pm	Alice Roberts	Fri 29 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities with Evgenia Golubeva
Mon 25 April	5.15pm	Dean Burnett	Fri 29 April	10-11.30am	Writers' Bootcamp
Mon 25 April	8pm	Anthony Seldon and Peter Snowdon	Fri 29 April	10am-3pm	Masterclass - Taking a Line for a Walk: discovering the power in poetry-writing
Tues 26 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities	Fri 29 April	3.15pm	New Voices
Tues 26 April	10-11.30am	Writers' Bootcamp	Fri 29 April	4.15pm	For All Time
Tues 26 April	10am-1pm	Masterclass - The Art and Carpentry of Fiction	Fri 29 April	4.30pm	Julia Donaldson
Tues 26 April	3.30pm	Hunter Davies	Fri 29 April	6pm-7.10pm	LITTLE MACHINE
Tues 26 April	4pm	New Voices	Fri 29 April	7.30pm	The Intimate Universe
Tues 26 April	5.15pm	Andrew Hurley	Fri 29 April	8pm-10pm	Salon
Tues 26 April	5.30pm	Castaways	Sat 30 April	10am-3pm	Singing Project - Sing a Sonnet in a day Juliet Russell
Tues 26 April	6.00pm	Rod Norland	Sat 30 April	10.30am	Writer's Bootcamp Presentation
Tues 26 April	7pm	Oliver James	Sat 30 April	10.30am	Shakespeare's Gardens
Tues 26 April	8.30pm	Simon Sebag Montefiore	Sat 30 April	12pm	Julia Donaldson
Wed 27 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities	Sat 30 April	1.45pm	Bookshop Band
Wed 27 April	10-11.30am	Writers' Bootcamp	Sat 30 April	2-4pm	Blind Summit
Wed 27 April	10am-1pm	Masterclass - Calligraphy	Sat 30 April	2pm	Charlotte George or Jane?
Wed 27 April	3pm	New Voices	Sat 30 April	3.15pm	Mary Portas
Wed 27 April	4.30pm	Michael Rosen	Sat 30 April	4.30pm	Stressed Unstressed
Wed 27 April	6pm	Asquith's Women	Sat 30 April	4.30pm	James Holland
Wed 27 April	6.15pm	Anthony Seldon	Sat 30 April	5.30pm	Howard Jacobson
Wed 27 April	7-9pm	Masterclass - Anatomy of A Successful Sales Letter	Sat 30 April	7pm	Austentatious
Wed 27 April	7.45pm	John McCarthy	Sat 30 April	8.30pm	Chris Packham
Thurs 28 April	9.30-11.30am	Storytime and Activities with StoryVine	Sun 1 May	10am-5pm	Children's Day



All events, except where stated, take place at:

Stratford ArtsHouse
11 Rother Street,
Stratford upon Avon CV37 6LU

- » Disabled access: please check with the Box Office for each event.
- » Most seats are unreserved. We will be offering reserved seating for some events in the Ladders Auditorium. Please enquire on booking.
- » Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult (over 18 years of age). We cannot accept responsibility for unaccompanied children. Children over 14 may attend alone but must be delivered and collected by a responsible adult. For adults attending the Children's Book Day on 1st May there will be refreshments available all day.
- » We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers if circumstances dictate. Go to www.stratfordartshouse.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.
- » Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged.
- » All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated.
- » All details and prices are correct at time of going to press. Please check our website at www.stratlitfest.co.uk before you travel.
- » There will be a collection for charities we support at some of our events.

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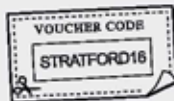
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