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, Gruffalo’s 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

(Open 10am–4pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am–2pm on Saturday)
or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk

Welcome to the 2016 Festival

We would like to thank the following for their support:
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Residential Writing Course
Three Ways House Hotel, Mickleton
From 5pm
From £371.50 inc all meals and tutoring

Don’t suffer for your art! Our third annual creative writing course is aimed at people of all abilities, regardless of where they are in the writing process - beginner, stuck, or nearly there - and takes place in the lovely surroundings of the Three Ways House Hotel, home of the world famous Pudding Club. Tutored by Orange Prize Shortlisted author, Jill Dawson, it’s a chance to make real progress with your work. Full details at stratlitfest.co.uk.

Stratford Lit Fest Quiz
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 Kinoulty. 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
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!

The Life of Beatrix Potter
Martin Jarvis and Rosalind Ayres
Stratford ArtsHouse
3.30pm £12

“Ince 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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CLASSIC LODGES HOTELS For wherever your travels take you
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 sketchwriter, John Crace, and footnotes from Professor John Sutherland, join the two Johnnies for a funny and clever knockabout. 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.
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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.

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.
The star of Stratford’s hotel scene, The Arden’s sophisticated and contemporary take on a boutique hotel has won her admirers from across the globe.
**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.

**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**

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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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.

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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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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 performing 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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Do You Love To Read?

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.

Aimed especially at people over 55, it’s a chance to share your love of books, and to meet like-minded new friends, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

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Can’t get to a book group in person?
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Thursday 28 April

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 of 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.

Box Office: 01789 207100 or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk | stratlitfest.co.uk
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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Thursday 28 April

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.

Box Office: 01789 207100 or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk | stratlitfest.co.uk
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 Swahiland) 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.

LITTLE 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, LITTLE 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.

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.

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.
**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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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.

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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Alveston Hill, Loxley Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7RL
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.

© keke Keukelaar

Austentatious
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 QI 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.

© Jo Charlesworth

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

(*This discount does not apply to workshops and masterclasses)
Sunday 1 May

Strat Lit Fest for kids

Stratford ArtsHouse - 10am - 5pm

Storytelling with Vanessa Woolf
10am - 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
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
Join Playbox Theatre for a high energy workshop with role play, mime, movement and storytelling.

Julia Donaldson
Gruffalos Ladybirds and Other Beasts
11am £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. 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
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
Join David Hawcock, probably the leading maker of astonishing and beautiful pop-up books, and make one of your own.
Escape - drop in workshop
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!

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!

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.

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.

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
or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk
stratlitfest.co.uk

sponsored by:
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Winnie and Wilbur © Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul, published by Oxford University Press © Winnie the Witch illustration Korky Paul
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
- Tanya Landman
- Marcia Williams
- Tony Bradman
- Petr Horác’ek
- Laura Hughes
- Chris Priestley
- Giles Paley Philips
- Abi Ephinstone

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

Photo Credits: 2015 Photographs courtesy of Rupert Barnes and Rachel Jones

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

The Bookshop

Waterstones Pop-Up Shop with 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.

Box Office: 01789 207100 or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk | stratlitfest.co.uk
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<td>Thurs 28 April</td>
<td>5.15pm</td>
<td>Graham Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 April</td>
<td>6.15pm</td>
<td>Janet Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 April</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Prof Steve Jones No Need for Geniuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 April</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>Gordon Corera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 April</td>
<td>8.30pm</td>
<td>Henry Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>9.30-11.30am</td>
<td>Storytime and Activities with Evgenia Golubeva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>10-11.30am</td>
<td>Writers’ Bootcamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>10am-3pm</td>
<td>Masterclass - Taking a Line for a Walk: discovering the power in poetry-writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>New Voices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>4.15pm</td>
<td>For All Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Julia Donaldson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>6pm-7.10pm</td>
<td>LITTLE MACHIne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>The Intimate Universe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 April</td>
<td>8pm-10pm</td>
<td>Salon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>10am-3pm</td>
<td>Singing Project - Sing a Sonnet in a day Juliet Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Writer’s Bootcamp Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Julia Donaldson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>1.45pm</td>
<td>Bookshop Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Blind Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Charlotte George or Jane?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Mary Portas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>Stressed Unstressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>James Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Howard Jacobson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>AustenTatious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 30 April</td>
<td>8.30pm</td>
<td>Chris Packham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1 May</td>
<td>10am-5pm</td>
<td>Children’s Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Lodders 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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