

STRATFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

23rd to 30th April 2017



Stratford
Literary
Festival

with THE WEEK



Mary Berry

Andrew Marr

Paddy Ashdown

Tracy Chevalier

Richard Holmes

Terry Waite

Nicholas Crane

Roy Strong

Malorie Blackman

Roy Hattersley

Alys Fowler

Ken Livingstone

Simon Armitage

Rob Biddulph

Sarah McIntyre

Philip Reeve

Horrible Histories

Anthony Holden

Natalie Haynes

David Crystal

Alison Weir

Lucy Parham

Tracy Borman

Planet Earth II

Gary Younge

Workshops

Events for Kids

10th Anniversary Festival

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Happy Birthday to Us!

This year we celebrate our 10th Festival and what a long way we've travelled since that weekend in a draughty tent on Avonbank Gardens. The Festival now spreads itself over eight festival days, a week in schools, an Autumn mini Festival and a book club that runs throughout the year! Everything we do is about sharing stories – whether it be storytelling, memoir, biography, poetry – which is why we've given this year's festival that theme. It runs throughout the programme and this year we've a bigger programme than ever. We hope you find something that delights you and we hope you take the plunge and try something new. Who knows what exciting avenue it might take you down?

Thanks as ever to the legions of supporters – a number that grows every year – and to you, whether you're a familiar face or are discovering us for the first time. Here's to the next ten!

Annie Ashworth | Festival Director



Box Office: 01789 207100

(Open 10am–4pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am–2pm on Saturday)

or online at stratfordartshouse.co.uk

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

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Lit Fest Quiz

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

Our annual brain tease to test your general knowledge with questions set by the quiz whizz, Martin Kinouly. Bring a team (max 10 per table) and see if you can win a selection of great prizes. The ticket price includes a donation to the Festival which is a charity and puts together projects for children, young people and the community, bringing people together through a love of books.

For tickets call
01789 470185

Playbox Theatre presents
The Story of The Jaguar and
The Old Old World

Stratford ArtsHouse
3pm | £8 | All ages from 4+

*Once, when the World seemed bigger,
and the gardens of the Earth were full.
Once, under the arms of the ancient
forests, when there were those who
still believed, there lived a boy.'*

The world is changing, the trees are falling and somewhere from within the heart of the Rainforest, the Jaguar calls upon one brave little boy to face his ultimate challenges and fears, and save us! With music, acrobatics, storytelling and adventure, Playbox Theatre brings to life this beautiful and powerful story of kindness and hope.

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Written by Toby Quash
and directed by
Emily Quash.

Sir Roy Strong

A Life in Diaries

Stratford ArtsHouse
3.30pm | £12

The best selling author and former director of both the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum chats about his fascinating life and passions told through two volumes of diaries.

Sir Roy Strong CH is a historian and gardener, and author of some forty books on a wide variety of subjects. Knighted for services to the arts, he was made a Companion of Honour in recognition of his contribution to the country's cultural life.

John Lewis-Stempel
Where Poppies Grow

Stratford ArtsHouse
5pm | £10

As we mark the centenary of WWI, the winner of the 2015 Wainwright Prize tells the unique story of the British soldiers of the Great War and their relationship with the animals and plants around them, and the impact it had on their will to survive.

John Lewis-Stempel is an award-winning writer predominantly known for his books on nature and history including *Six Weeks*, *The War Behind The Wire* and *Meadowland*.

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Lord Roy Hattersley The Catholics

Stratford ArtsHouse
6pm | £12

The highly-respected politician and historian leads us through the story of the Catholics in Britain and Ireland from the Reformation to the present day in a single volume.

Roy Hattersley, who was elected to Parliament in 1964 and whose 22 books include *The Edwardians: Borrowed Time* and acclaimed biographies of John Wesley and Lloyd George, offers a deep analysis of a religion whose history has been both controversial and at times beleaguered.



Lucy Parham and Henry Goodman

Elégie: Rachmaninoff -
A Heart in Exile

Stratford ArtsHouse
8pm | £14

We welcome back to the Festival another 'Composer Portrait' words and music concert. The acclaimed pianist and the RSC actor chronicle the life of composer and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff that reflects his exile in 1917, his lost identity and his longing for his home land. The narrative, scripted by Lucy from letters and diaries, follows him through his life and includes many of his best-loved works for solo piano.



Alys Fowler, Allan Jenkins and Hollie Newton

Gardening for the Soul
Stratford ArtsHouse
4.30pm | £9

It's been proven that weeding and propagating is good for our physical health, but how can we make it work for our well-being? Alys Fowler who writes the gardening column for Guardian Weekend, Allan Jenkins who is editor of Observer Food Monthly, and Hollie Newton, advertising industry award winner who turned to a window box to escape the pressures of her job, talk about how they came to gardening and how we can make soil nurture the soul.



Festival Book Group Miss Treadway and The Field of Stars - Miranda Emmerson

Stratford ArtsHouse
6pm | £8

Free copy for the first 10 to book

Read the book then meet the author. This year's debut is set in Soho 1965. In a tiny two-bed flat above a caff lives Anna Treadway, a young dresser at the Galaxy Theatre. When an American actress disappears, the newspapers are wild with speculation about her fate. But as the news grows old and the case grows colder, it seems Anna is the only person left determined to find out the truth. A first novel already sold internationally and described as 'scintillating'.



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Lord Richard Dannatt

Boots on the Ground: Britain and Her Army Since 1945

Stratford ArtsHouse
6pm | £10

Bringing 40 years of military service, including as Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Dannatt tells the fascinating story of how the British Army has shaped, and been shaped by, world events from the Cold War to the EU Referendum. From the fallout of Empire to the long-standing conflict in Northern Ireland or Britain's relationship with NATO and experience of fighting with - or for - America, Dannatt examines the complexity of a great British institution.



Terry Waite CBE

Taken on Trust

Stratford ArtsHouse
7.45pm | £14

To mark 25 years since his release from captivity in Beirut, the envoy gives a personal account of his harrowing experiences with a fascinating insight into human life on the edge, the things people are willing to do to each other, and what it feels like to be treated so brutally. All experiences that have informed his life since his release, and his passionate engagement in Middle East issues today.



My Road to Publication

Harriet Cummings,
Ruth Hogan and Emma Slade

Stratford ArtsHouse
4pm | £9

The author Meg Sanders explores how three debut novelists came to write their very different stories. Ruth Hogan (*The Keeper of Lost Things*), Harriet Cummings (*We All Begin As Strangers*) and Emma Slade (*Set Free - From Banking to Buddhism*) share the derivation of their ideas, how they were explored and researched, and the journey to publication. A fascinating insight into the writer's experience, including all its challenges.

Event sponsored
by Philip Salt



Ken Livingstone

Being Red: A Politics for
The Future

Stratford ArtsHouse
4pm | £12

How should the left govern? In the wake of a huge surge of interest in the Labour Party, the former Mayor of London serves up an insider's account of the Party and its future at a pivotal moment in its history, offering a clear-sighted and characteristically blunt study of the Left's possibilities and limitations, with reflections on Jeremy Corbyn's arguably radical leadership, the current state of the Labour Party and a look into its future.

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Giles Milton

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.15pm | £10

In the spring of 1939, a top secret organisation was founded in London to plot the destruction of Hitler's war machine through spectacular acts of sabotage. The guerrilla campaign that followed was every bit as extraordinary as the six gentlemen who directed it and single-handedly changed the course of the war. Giles Milton is an internationally best-selling author whose *Fascinating Footnotes from History* and *Nathaniel's Nutmeg* was serialised by the BBC.



Richard Holmes

This Long Pursuit: Reflections of a Romantic Biographer

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.45pm | £10

The acclaimed biographer will be talking about *Reflections*, a kaleidoscope of stories and meditations celebrating his beloved art of biography, the vital 'handshake across time, cultures, beliefs, disciplines and genders'. Richard Holmes is multi-award-winning, including the James Tait Black Prize for *Dr Johnson & Mr Savage*. 'Holmes writes beautifully. A masterly performance by the greatest literary biographer of his generation.' *The Oldie*

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Lord Paddy Ashdown

Game of Spies

Stratford ArtsHouse
8.15pm | £14

The former intelligence officer and leader of the Lib Dems takes us through his triumphant and gripping account of a lethal spy triangle which had three men at its centre - a brilliant, ruthless British secret agent, the Gestapo counter-espionage officer who was charged with finding him, and French Resistance leader Andre Grandclement, responsible for the most controversial betrayal that took place in wartime France.

Paddy Ashdown was MP for Yeovil until 2001 and was the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Crime Scene

David Mark, Vaseem Khan and Sabine Durrant

Stratford ArtsHouse
4.45pm | £10

Whether it is the canals of Venice, the streets of New York or the leafy lanes of a quaint village, place defines plot in crime fiction but what does it add to the story? Sunday Times best selling writer David Mark (*McAvoy* detective series) talks to psychological thriller writer, Sabine Durrant (*Under Your Skin*) and Vaseem Khan (*The Perplexing Theft of The Jewel in The Crown* and director at UCL of Security and Crime Science) about the putting of place in the plot.



Located in the heart of historic Stratford-upon-Avon, The Arden Hotel is an elegant and sophisticated 45 bedroom boutique hotel in the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The chic Waterside Brasserie, stylish Champagne Bar and comfortable lounges offer a range of options for indulging, whilst the exclusive Club Bar is the perfect place to settle down for an evening of star spotting.



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Independently minded



Simon Armitage

The Unaccompanied

Stratford ArtsHouse

6pm | £12

The multi-award winning poet presents his eleventh volume which documents a world on the brink, a world of unreliable seasons and unstable coordinates, where Odysseus stalks the aisles of cut-price supermarkets in search of direction, where the star of Bethlehem rises over industrial Yorkshire, and where alarm bells for ailing communities go unheeded or unheard.

'The best poet of his generation.'
Craig Raine, The Observer

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Jon Bew

Citizen Clem: The Life of
Clement Attlee

Stratford ArtsHouse

6pm | £11

The Professor of History and Foreign Policy at the War Studies Department of King's College London, described as the 'leading British historian of his generation', discusses his acclaimed biography of one of most underestimated of public figures, piercing the reticence of Attlee and exploring the intellectual foundations and core beliefs of one of the most important figures in twentieth-century British history - a patriotic socialist and game changer.



Navigating Your Way to Publishing Success

Bridget Shine, Nicola Solomon
and Amy Durant

Stratford ArtsHouse

7.15pm | £10

The chair of the influential Society of Authors, the head of the Independent Publishing Guild and the leading digital publisher Endeavour Press give anyone hoping to be published or interested in the massive changes in the book world their expert view on the book industry today and a unique perspective on how best to ensure your work reaches the bookshelves, helping you with the pros and cons of traditional vs digital publishing.



Ben and Anthony Holden

Poems to Make Grown
Women Cry and Bedtime
Stories for Grown Ups

Stratford ArtsHouse

7.15pm | £12

The perfect addition to our Sharing Stories theme for 2017. Following the success of their anthology Poems That Make Grown Men Cry, the historian and film maker father-and-son team, working with Amnesty International, ask the same revealing question of 100 remarkable women, and we'll read the results which range from war and peace, to the beauty and variety of nature. Ben will also explore the science of sleep but why we endlessly tell stories, even to ourselves, as we dream.

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Natalie Haynes

Stands Up For The Classics

Stratford ArtsHouse

8.15pm | £10

We welcome a very unique show from the clever writer, broadcaster and stand-up comedian who brings a funny and refreshing view of the Classics. Her first novel, *The Amber Fury*, was published to great acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, she is a regular contributor to BBC TV and Radio 4 and bangs on about Juvenal whenever she gets the chance. She was a judge for the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Man Booker Prize, and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize.

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Andrew Marr

The History of Modern Britain

Stratford ArtsHouse

8.15pm | £14

The BBC political interviewer and presenter of Radio 4's *Start The Week* confronts head-on the victory of shopping over politics in the UK, and how idealism has been defeated throughout history by a British people that knows its own mind. He'll update us on the latest new chapter in his Sunday Times best seller which covers Blair to Brexit, a period in our history which has brought division, questions about our identity and a large number of online videos of kittens.

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David Crystal

Making Sense: The Glamorous Story of English Grammar

Stratford ArtsHouse

4pm | £10

We welcome back the most famous name in English linguistics and a festival favourite. The writer, lecturer and broadcaster will be enlightening us about the complexities of English grammar showing how to navigate its snares and pitfalls, and exploring its history and varieties with a series of insights into the stages by which children acquire it. He'll show you how it can be used to guide its early instruction and how to make sure you say what you actually mean!



Robin Yassin-Kassab and Leila Al-Shami

Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War

Stratford ArtsHouse

5pm | £10

The acclaimed media commentator and the Middle East human rights activist take a vivid look at the modern-day political and humanitarian catastrophe that is Syria, and explore the horrific and complicated reality of life there with unprecedented detail and sophistication, drawing on new first-hand testimonies from opposition fighters, exiles and human rights activists and analysing the brutalisation of the conflict and the rise of Islamists and sectarian warfare.

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Alison Weir

Anne Boleyn:
A King's Obsession

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.30pm | £12

One of the UK's top-selling female historians introduces us to an extraordinary young woman, born into an ambitious family and destined to be the focus of scandal and calumny.

In her latest book in a series of novels about the wives of Henry VIII, the engaging author Alison Weir recounts one of the most sensational episodes in English history, revealing a courageous, determined woman on a headlong course to tragedy. Be prepared for your perceptions to be challenged.



Gary Younge

Another Day in the Death
of America

Stratford ArtsHouse
6.45pm | £10

24 hours. 8 states. 10 young lives lost to gun violence. The award-winning Guardian writer gives a moving, and timely, portrait of childhood and youth in contemporary Obama/Trump America, by journeying through the Carolinas, the Deep South and Midwest, to the foot of the Diablo mountain range in southern California, and chronicles the consequences of America's gun habit. 'Formidably intelligent and tenacious. A tour de force of regulated passion.' Martin Amis



Tracy Chevalier

New Boy

Stratford ArtsHouse
7pm | £12

Part of the ground breaking Hogarth Shakespeare Project, we bring you the launch of the latest in the series. One of our most successful historical novelists transplants Othello to a 1970s playground where a young black boy arrives at an all-white school and finds himself at the centre of a vicious plot of jealousy, betrayal and revenge. Tracy Chevalier's international best seller *Girl with a Pearl Earring* was made into a major film. She is also editor of *Reader I Married Him: Stories Inspired by Jane Eyre*.

In partnership with



Austenatious

Jane Austen
(But Not As We Know Her)

Stratford ArtsHouse
8.30pm | £12

After a brilliantly successful evening at last year's Festival, we welcome back the stars of the Edinburgh Fringe, who will act out an entirely improvised comedy play in the style of the witty Jane Austen, based on nothing more than a title from the audience. A seasoned cast, led by one of Sandi Toksvig's *QI* Elves, present an irreverent take on the works of Britain's best-loved novelist, in her bicentenary year, performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment.

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Accessible Book Club

Stratford ArtsHouse

1-3pm | FREE

We are delighted to host the launch of this Mencap group at which local people with a learning disability can enjoy 'reading' too. The group will discover Books Beyond Words, picture stories which contain no words, so they're perfect for those who find it easier to read with pictures and to tell their own story. Open to everyone there is plenty to talk about and each story explores feelings and relationships, covering everyday opportunities and experiences.



Dave Randall

The Political Power of Music

Stratford ArtsHouse

4pm | £9

From underground grime artists to pop icons, punk to the Arab Spring, many believe in the political power of music. Rulers recognise it too. Music has been used to unsettle the most fundamental political and social conventions and to prop up the status quo. This experienced musician cites remarkable examples of music as a force for social change or social control and explains what makes music so powerful and how we can make music serve the interests of everyone.



Imagining The Past

Sarah Perry and Susan Fletcher

Stratford ArtsHouse

5pm | £9

Meet two of today's most exciting authors. Sarah Perry won the Waterstones Book of the Year 2016 with her atmospheric Victorian novel described by the Sunday Times as 'One of the most memorable historical novels of the past decade'. Susan Fletcher, who won the Costa First Book Award with Eva Green, explores in fiction the artist Van Gogh's time in the asylum at Arles. Both women will discuss plot, setting and the skills that create such memorable stories.



Food of Love (and Hate)

William Sitwell and Bee Wilson

Stratford ArtsHouse

6.15pm | £9

We have a complicated relationship with food. It can mean love or be a tool for control. In the West we eat too much and that has its own complications. We explore our relationship with our plates with William Sitwell, the award-winning writer, Masterchef judge and editor of Waitrose Food Magazine, and Bee Wilson, Sunday Telegraph 'Kitchen Thinker' columnist, looking at the way we learn to eat and why food has gone so disastrously wrong for so many people.

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Bill Emmott

The New World Order

Stratford ArtsHouse

7.30pm | £9

The West has long been a font of stability and prosperity, but global instability and economic uncertainty has tempted states to close borders, hoard wealth, and solidify power. The former editor-in-chief of the Economist and leading consultant on international affairs lays out the changes the West must make, from reinventing welfare systems to redefining the working age, to revive itself now and thrive in a bright future.

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Salon

300 Books You Won't
Need To Read

Stratford ArtsHouse

8-10pm | £15 inc gin cocktail*

Want to understand the biggest, boldest and most important ideas published this year but can't find the time for those books you know you should read? Let Salon London's Helen Bagnall and Juliet Russell give you a serious short cut with their show 'Gigantic'. This fast paced overview of the best ideas of the year is from their time working with the UK's brightest academics, writers and experts.

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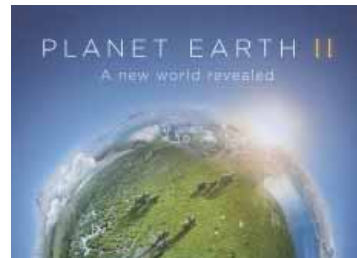
Celebrate Our

10th Anniversary
with Juliet Russell

Stratford ArtsHouse

11am | £12

A Festival favourite - join the hugely talented composer and coach for ITV's The Voice who will coach a scratch choir to learn and perform in just a few hours a special choral piece, The Spark, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Festival, its ideas and the stories that we share. No experience necessary - just enthusiasm! The performance will be at 5.45pm in front of an audience. Please bring a black top to wear.



Stephen Moss

Planet Earth II

Stratford ArtsHouse

11.30am | £12

Let one of Britain's premier wildlife writers and presenters share the book he wrote and compiled to celebrate the ground breaking BBC TV series, looking at the complex life of some of the most amazing places on Earth. Stephen Moss is a wildlife television producer for the BBC Natural History Unit, with credits including Springwatch, and is passionate about communicating the wonders of the natural world. Suitable for all ages.

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Tracy Borman

The Private Lives of The Tudors

Stratford ArtsHouse

1.30pm | £10

We welcome back the very popular historian who will delve deep behind the public face of Britain's greatest dynasty, showing us what their lives were like, from birth to death, beyond the stage of court, and bring to life the Tudors in fine detail surfacing new and fascinating insights into these celebrated figures. An acclaimed writer, Tracy is joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces and Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust.

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Simon Ings

Stalin and The Scientists:
A History of Triumph and
Tragedy 1905-1953

Stratford ArtsHouse

3.15pm | £10

The first epic history, long-listed for the The Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, of how the Soviet Union's scientists became both the glory and the laughing stock of the intellectual world. Simon Ings weaves together what happened when a handful of impoverished graduates, professors, entrepreneurs and charlatans, bound themselves to a failing government to create a world superpower, and shows how Stalin's obsessions derailed a great experiment in 'rational government'.

Sponsored by



Alex Bellos

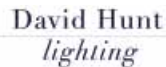
Can You Solve My Problems?:
A Casebook of Puzzles

Stratford ArtsHouse

3.45pm | £10

The best-selling mathematician takes us through the story of the puzzle, one of mankind's oldest and greatest forms of entertainment, told through 125 of the world's best brain teasers from the last two millennia, from ancient China to medieval Europe, Victorian England to modern-day Japan, with stories of espionage, mathematical breakthroughs and puzzling rivalries along the way. Pit your wits against logic puzzles and river-crossing conundrums.

Sponsored by



Edward Thomas

A Centenary Celebration in
Words and Music

Stratford ArtsHouse

4.30pm | £12

The Oxford Bach Soloists and a solo cellist perform an entirely new and haunting work, created by the composer Colin Riley with text by landscape writer Robert McFarlane, which brings together fragments of Thomas' collected poetry including lines found in his uniform pocket when he died 100 years ago in April 1917 on the Western Front - 'Roads Shining Like River Up Hill After Rain'. The event includes readings from the work of this great poet described by Ted Hughes as 'the father of us all'.



Spring Highlights

For full programme details - stratfordartshouse.co.uk



Maria Friedman

featuring the songs of Leonard Bernstein
and Stephen Sondheim

Mon 01 May, 7:30pm



An Audience with Ann Widdecombe

Thurs 13 July, 7:30pm

Box Office 01789 207100 stratfordartshouse.co.uk



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Nicholas Crane

The Making of Britain

Stratford ArtsHouse
5.45pm | £11

Discover the history of the British landscape since the Ice Age with the prize-winning author and co-presenter of Coast. Take a geographical journey through time, change and adaptation, and discover the ancient relationship between people and place and the deep-rooted tensions between town and countryside. As Britain lurches from an exploitative past towards a more sustainable future, this is the story of our age. Guardian/Observer Top Books for 2016.

Sponsored by



Mary Berry

Everyday

Stratford ArtsHouse
7.30pm | £28

inc a signed copy of her book

To tie in with her new TV series, we are delighted to bring you the country's most popular cook. Mary is the nation's favourite baker and author of over 70 books, including the best selling Mary Berry Cooks, and Mary Berry's Baking Bible. The much-loved judge on the BBC's The Great British Bake Off, she has been teaching the nation to cook for over four decades. Learn about the philosophy behind her new book, her decision to stay with the BBC and where she finds all that energy.

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Open Evening

Friday, 7 July 2017 | 7.00 - 9.00pm
Junior and Senior Schools

Independent boys' school (7-18 years)
Scholarships and bursaries available

01926 776400 | enquiries@warwickschool.org
www.warwickschool.org



Workshop

How to Write Historical Fiction

Karen Maitland

Monday 24 April
10am-3pm | £90*inc refreshments*

Explore the challenges and delights of writing historical novels and short stories, with the acclaimed author of *Company of Liars*. You will generate ideas for a new project or develop and improve a novel or story you're already working on. Explore how and when to use historical detail, the pitfalls of historical dialogue, how to help modern readers relate to historical characters. Receive advice on the key questions to ask yourself to ensure you get your details right. Find out too how to blend and balance plot, character and research so that you produce a gripping and enthralling story rather than a history textbook.



Workshop

How to do Paper Cutting

Poppy Chancellor

Tuesday 25 April
10-12pm | £30*inc refreshments and materials*

Learn how to produce personalised cards, invitations and decorations and to master a new skill with the leading illustrator and paper cut artist Poppy Chancellor. Forget complicated instructions and expensive equipment, as she guides you through what it takes to create something very special and unique.

A veteran of workshops at the Royal Academy, the V&A and Latitude Festival, and loved by *Vogue*, she also exhibits her exceptional work.



Workshop

How to Edit Your Writing

Meg Sanders

Tuesday 25 April
10am-3pm | £90*inc refreshments*

Good writing is about re-writing and the most important work you do on your novel will be during the editing stage. This workshop will help you to sharpen your plot, ramp up suspense, refine your scenes, flesh out your characters and examine your use of language. You'll also learn from your fellow writers and develop the critical technique that's crucial to creating a compelling narrative.

Meg Sanders, novelist, non-fiction writer and creative writing tutor, will share the skills you need to create a submission-ready, professional-looking manuscript.



Workshop

How to Write for Well-being

Deborah Alma

Wednesday 26 April
10am-3pm | £90*inc refreshments*

Writing can be good for you. This day long workshop is a gentle introduction into writing the self for those with little or no experience of doing their own writing. Through a series of enjoyable exercises, conversations, and through looking at your own life experiences, you will be helped to transform some of the material into imaginative writing; focussing on the positive, to help achieve self-acceptance, calm and to be properly in the moment. There will be no pressure to share your writing. Just bring yourself. Deborah Alma is a published poet and highly-experienced in leading workshops with those with physical and mental illness.



Workshop

How to Write Poetry

Simon Armitage

Wednesday 26 April
4-5pm | £30

Simon Armitage is widely regarded as the most important and influential poet writing today. He has published eleven single volumes of his work, and he is a playwright, scriptwriter and regular broadcaster on TV and radio.

We bring you the unique opportunity to learn the skills of writing memorable and inspiring poetry with the Professor of Poetry at Oxford University whose prizes include a BAFTA, the Keats-Shelley Prize, an Ivor Novello Award and the Sunday Times Young Writer's Award. Numbers are limited.



Workshop

How to Navigate Your Way to Publishing Success

Wednesday 26 April
7.15-8.15pm | £10

Nicola Solomon chair of the influential Society of Authors, Bridget Shine head of the Independent Publishing Guild and Amy Durant from the leading digital publisher Endeavour Press give anyone hoping to be published or interested in the massive changes in the book world their expert view on the book industry today and a unique perspective on how best to ensure your work reaches the bookshelves, helping you with the pros and cons of traditional v digital publishing.



Workshop

How to Write a Novel That Sells

Claire McGowan

Thursday 27 April
10am-3pm | £90

inc refreshments

Arm yourself with all the tools you need to write a novel that's marketable to traditional publishers. You'll look at story and concept, characterisation and viewpoint, structure, suspense, and more. You'll also look at ways to get noticed by agents and editors, and paths into publication. Finally, you will look at some of the blocks and obstacles that stop us finishing our books. Claire McGowan is the author of eight novels, including crime and women's fiction, and runs a creative writing MA at City University London.



Workshop

How to Write Calligraphy

Eileen Worthington

Saturday 29 April
10am-1pm | £40

inc refreshments and materials

Back by popular demand! The art of calligraphy is a much admired and useful skill in creating beautiful cards, book plates and jackets and memorable invitations. In this hands on workshop, the expert Eileen Worthington will guide you through different lettering styles and show you how to use them in different small projects so you take away a skill for life.



Playbox Theatre presents
The Story of The Jaguar and the
Old Old World
Sunday 23 April

3pm | £8 | All ages from 4+

Once, when the World seemed bigger, and the gardens of the Earth were full. Once, under the arms of the ancient forests, when there were those who still believed, there lived a boy.

The world is changing, the trees are falling and somewhere from within the heart of the Rainforest, the Jaguar calls upon one brave little boy to face his ultimate challenges and fears, and save us! With music, acrobatics, storytelling and adventure, Playbox Theatre brings to life this beautiful and powerful story of kindness and hope.



Storytime and Activities
for Pre-Schoolers
Book Start Party
Monday 24 April - FREE
Drop in between 9.30-11am

Drop in and hear a story or colour your own pictures, with the chance for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake from our pop up café. Staff from Warwickshire Libraries will lead a lively session with songs and stories.



Storytime and Activities
for Pre-Schoolers
StoryVine
Tuesday 25 April - FREE
Drop in between 9.30-11am

StoryVine is back with some pirate adventures with rhyming pirate tales a-plenty, stories of searching for pirate treasure, and finding a hat for scary, scurvy Blackpatch. Join in ship-shape crafts and activities too.



Storytime and Activities
for Pre-Schoolers
Storytree with Kate Coleman
Wednesday 26 April - FREE
Drop in between 9.30-11am

Be inspired with tales of fun and adventure under Kate's Storytree followed by time to play and create stories using props and art materials.

Sponsored by



Written by Toby Quash
 and directed by
 Emily Quash.





Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers

Storytree with Kate Coleman
Thursday 27 April - **FREE**

Drop in between 9.30-11am

Be inspired with tales of fun and adventure under Kate's Storytree followed by time to play and create stories using props and art materials.



Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers

With Evgenia Golubeva
Friday 28 April - **FREE**

Drop in between 9.30-11am

Join the Stratford writer as she reads from her picture book, Sh...Sh...Shabbat which she illustrated, and enjoy her new animated short film for children. Children can then join in a creative workshop coming up with their own story!



Horrible Histories Barmy Britain

Saturday 29 April

3pm | £14 Adults £12 Children

We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare yourselves for Horrible Histories, hot foot from the West End and live on stage, featuring all your favourite characters from Britain's barmy past! Could you beat battling Boudicca? Will King John be a martyr for the Magna Carta? Will you lose your heart or your head to Henry VIII? Can Parliament survive gunpowder Guy? Stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin? Escape the clutches of Burke and Hare and move to the groove with party Queen Victoria! It's the history of Britain with the nasty bits left in!



Where's Wally?

The happy chappy who kicked off a global phenomenon 30 years ago this year will be popping up in his bobble hat all over Stratford. Prizes for the people who can spot the most.



Children's Day Events

Sunday 30th April

Tickets:

(not including Horrible Histories)

Children: **£5** per individual event

Day Ticket: **£15** for the day

Adults: **£3** per event

Adult Day ticket: **£10** for the day



Elmer

The Patchwork Elephant

10-10.45am

2-7 years

Elmer the patchwork elephant loves to make his friends laugh but he's tired of being different. When he hides his 'true colours' and tries to blend in, he discovers, with help from his friends, that he's happiest just being himself. Join Elmer on a vibrant, musical safari through the jungle to celebrate everything that makes us unique. Presented by Riverside Performing Arts and adapted from the well-loved children's book, Elmer by David McKee published by Andersen Press this show will delight younger audiences.



Jinks & O'Hare Funfair Repair

Sarah McIntyre and Philip Reeve

10-10.45am

7-11 years

Fun is guaranteed as you join Emily loving life on Funfair Moon, until chaos strikes and Emily, Jinks, and O'Hare must work together to keep Funfair Moon running.

Shadow Puppet Workshop

Judy Reaves

11.30am-12.30pm

2-5 years

Make simple but clever shadow puppets to perform your own show at home and become a master shadow puppeteer! All materials included.

Let's Find Fred

Steven Lenton

11.30am-

12.15pm

4-6 years

Stanley the Zookeeper seems to have misplaced Fred, an awfully large Panda. We're seeking volunteers to come and help Stanley find Fred in this wonderful illustrator's fantastic new picture book.

Big Draw Challenge

with Sarah McIntyre,
Martin Brown, Rob Biddulph
and Jonny Duddle

11.30am-12.30pm

6-11 years

Four of the country's best children's illustrators, Sarah McIntyre, Philip Reeve, Rob Biddulph, and Jonny Duddle, go head to head to draw your suggestions in a fun interactive session with lots of audience participation!

Lunch with free facepainting
and Storytree Storytelling
12-30-1.30pm



Magnificent Creatures

Workshop

Anna Wright

1.30-2.30pm

3-6 years

We live in an amazing world, filled with creatures of all shapes and sizes. Learn about and make some of the magnificent beasts featured in Anna's beautiful new picture book.

The Jolly Roger's Pirate Adventures

Jonny Duddle

1.30-2.30pm

4-7 years

Yo Ho Ho! Meet the author of The Pirate Cruncher and The Pirates Next Door series and hear him read from his hilarious books. Join in with live drawing and help Jonny to draw the perfect pirate and give an exclusive reading from his brand new book, The Pirates of Scurvy Sands, before it's published.



Lesser Spotted Animals

Martin Brown

1.30-2.30pm

7-11 years

The Horrible Histories illustrator invites you to explore the world of lesser spotted animals, ranging from the numbat to the zorilla. Discover these unusual creatures that you never knew you needed.



Sunk!

Rob Biddulph

3-3.45pm

3-6 years

Join the award-winning author of Blown Away and Odd Dog Out in a brand new adventure and learn how to draw his most endearing characters.



We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare yourselves for Horrible Histories hot foot from the West End and live on stage featuring all your favourite characters from Britain's barmy past! Could you beat battling Boudicca? Will King John be a martyr for the Magna Carta? Will you lose your heart or your head to Henry VIII? Can Parliament survive gunpowder Guy? Stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin? Escape the clutches of Burke and Hare and move to the groove with party Queen Victoria! It's the history of Britain with the nasty bits left in!



3pm
5-12 years

£14 Adults
£12 Children
£48 Family Ticket



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

Schools Festival

27th March to 31st March 2017

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

My Author Project 2017

We are taking this year's project into three schools and the children will explore the themes of books by the author/illustrator Sarah McIntyre through workshops in art, drama and creative writing with Escape Arts and Playbox Theatre.

Bedtime Story Project 2017

To mark our theme of Sharing Stories we are working with three schools inviting their reception to year 2 to write a bedtime story with their parents and sharing them at a Bedtime story party with the award-winning author/illustrator Nick Butterworth.

Authors for 2017 include:

Malorie Blackman
Nick Butterworth
Tracey Corderoy
Ely Dolan
Christopher Edge
Abi Elphinstone
Jess French
Caroline Lawrence
Isobel Lundie
Sarah McIntyre
Carolyn Scrase
Peter Worley



Children's Festival Guest Director 2017:

Sarah McIntyre

Supported by





Books with Friends

The Festival runs a monthly book group aimed at anyone aged 55 and over, and we especially welcome people who find themselves lonely and socially isolated.

It works like any other book group – members read a book in advance and then talk about what they thought of it over a cup of coffee and a biscuit or two. We meet on the last Thursday of every month at Scholars Mews, in the centre of Stratford, with three hour-and-a-quarter-long sessions in the day so there's a time that suits you.

The sessions are mediated, and we read a wide range of books so there'll be something to love and something new to discover. We can arrange audiobooks for anyone who finds reading difficult.

If you would like to join the group please email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk



Phone Book Group

Difficulties getting to a reading group session? Let us know and we will add you to our monthly book-group-by-phone.

Books with Friends is kindly supported by:



Linking Hands Across the World

In 2017 we celebrate our third year of linking schools in Stratford with two schools in Nigeria, one in Abuja and one in Kano in Northern Nigeria.

Children in both countries write about their lives, their school, their family and their hobbies and exchange letters. The project, which is free, gives children in both countries the unique opportunity to find out about each other's culture and make new friends.



If you would like your school to be involved in 2018, email us at info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival

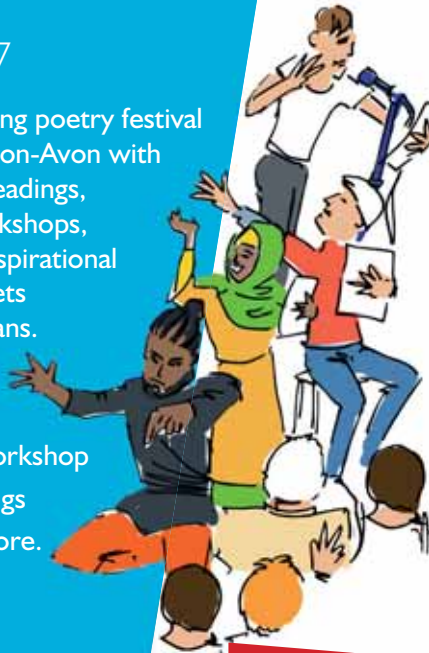
18-25 JUNE 2017

The UK's longest running poetry festival returns to Stratford-upon-Avon with an exciting line-up of readings, performances and workshops, mixing the talents of inspirational and award-winning poets with actors and musicians.

- Local poets night
- Poetry Mass
- Poet-in-residence workshop
- Special poetry readings
- Family events and more.

Full listing and booking:
SHAKESPEARE.ORG.UK

Shakespeare
birthplace trust



Unless otherwise stated all
events take place at:

Stratford Artshouse
14 Rother Sreet
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LU



We endeavour to make your experience as pleasant as possible but please let the Box Office know on booking if you are in a wheelchair or have mobility difficulties, and please let a Steward know on arrival at an event if you have sight or hearing difficulties so we can sit you in an appropriate seat.

Baillie Gifford Festival Café



Open from 9.30am-5pm everyday throughout the Festival at the ArtsHouse serving coffee, tea and soft drinks, cakes, sandwiches and light refreshments.

Café delivered by Havilands

ArtsHouse Bar

Open from 6pm every evening throughout the Festival

Waterstones Bookshop



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



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 Loddors Auditorium. Please enquire on booking.
- » Children under 14 years must be accompanied by a responsible 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, and are not the responsibility of the Festival. For adults attending the Children's Book Day on 30th April there will be refreshments available all day.
- » We reserve the right to alter the programme or substitute performers if circumstances dictate. Go to www.stratlitfest or www.stratfordartshouse.co.uk for the most up-to-date information, or follow us on Twitter @Stratlitfest.
- » Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged. All tickets include VAT.
- » All events are an hour long unless otherwise stated. Books are available to buy from Waterstones Pop Up Shop and authors will sign copies of their books after each event. We request that you do not bring copies of books not purchased on site for signature.
- » All details and prices are correct at time of going to press.
- » Please check our website at www.stratlitfest.co.uk before you travel.
- » Unless an event is sold out, tickets will be available on the door. We can only accept cash for these tickets however.
- » There will be a collection for other charities we support at some of our events.

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; Michelle McLeod at Baillie Gifford; all at Loddors, Inspired Living, Dar Lighting and Sheldon Bosley; Roz Adams at Cooper Adams; Rupert Barnes Photography; all who Steward at the Festival; Trustees of Stratford Town Trust; The Book Charity and The Matthew Hodder Trust; The Ernest Cook Trust; Jenna Harvey and the staff at Stratford Arthouse; Tim Davis; the Stratford Herald; James Richards at Vin Neuf and Alex Graham at Prontaprint; Helping Hands; NFU Mutual; Specsavers; all the schools involved in the Festival; Emily Quash and Playbox Theatre; Judy Reaves and David Hamblett; Karen Williams at Escape Community Art; Meg Sanders, John Jefferies and Tim Hubbard our chairpersons; Sarah McIntyre, this year's Children's Guest Director and of course our audiences, sponsors and advertisers who make the Festival possible.

Photo Credits: 2016 Photographs courtesy of Rupert Barnes and Rachel Jones

Festival Team: Annie Ashworth (Programme Director), Daisy Edwards (Festival Assistant), Jo James (Author Care), Jane Churchill (Schools and Children's Day Programmer), Nancy Cooper (Stewards Coordinator), Gail Francis (Books With Friends Coordinator), Jennie Dobson (Books with Friends), Tamsin Williams (Wigwam PR), Julia Bryant (Sponsor Host)

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Charity Trustees: Archie Kane, Martin Kinoulty, David Fletcher and Annie Ashworth

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And receive **50% off** Your Tickets!

We're a charity and rely on your support to deliver our projects for young people, including a link with schools in Nigeria, and for older members of the community. By becoming a Patron you'll be helping us and you'll benefit from **50% off** tickets* plus news and offers from the Festival.

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

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Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Wednesday 5 April	7pm	Lit Fest Quiz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 23 April	3pm	Playbox Theatre presents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 23 April	3.30pm	Sir Roy Strong	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 23 April	5pm	John Lewis Stempel Where Poppies Grow	
Sunday 23 April	6pm	Lord Roy Hattersley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 23 April	8pm	Lucy Parham and Henry Goodman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 24 April	4.30pm	Alys Fowler, Allan Jenkins and Hollie Newton	
Monday 24 April	6pm	Festival Book Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 24 April	6pm	Richard Dannatt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 24 April	7.45pm	Terry Waite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	4pm	My Road to Publication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	4pm	Ken Livingstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	5.15pm	Giles Milton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	6.45pm	Richard Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	8pm	Paddy Ashdown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	4.45pm	Crime Scene	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	6pm	Simon Armitage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	6pm	Jon Bew	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	7.15pm	Navigating Your Way to Publishing Success	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	7.15pm	Ben and Anthony Holden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	8.15pm	Natalie Haynes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	8.15pm	Andrew Marr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	4pm	David Crystal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	5pm	Robin Yassin-Kassab and Leila Al- Shami	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	6.30pm	Alison Weir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	6.45pm	Gary Younge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	7pm	Tracy Chevalier	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	8.30pm	Austenatious	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	1-3pm	Accessible Book Club	
Friday 28 April	4pm	Dave Randall and	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	5pm	Sarah Perry and Susan Fletcher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	6.15pm	Food of Love	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	7.30pm	Bill Emmott and	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	8-10pm	Salon	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date	Time	Event/Workshop	Booked
Saturday 29 April	11am	Scratch Choir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	11.30am	Stephen Moss	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	1.30pm	Tracy Borman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	3.15pm	Simon Ings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	3.45pm	Alex Bellos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	4.30pm	Edward Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	5.45pm	Nicholas Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	7.30pm	Mary Berry	<input type="checkbox"/>

Workshops

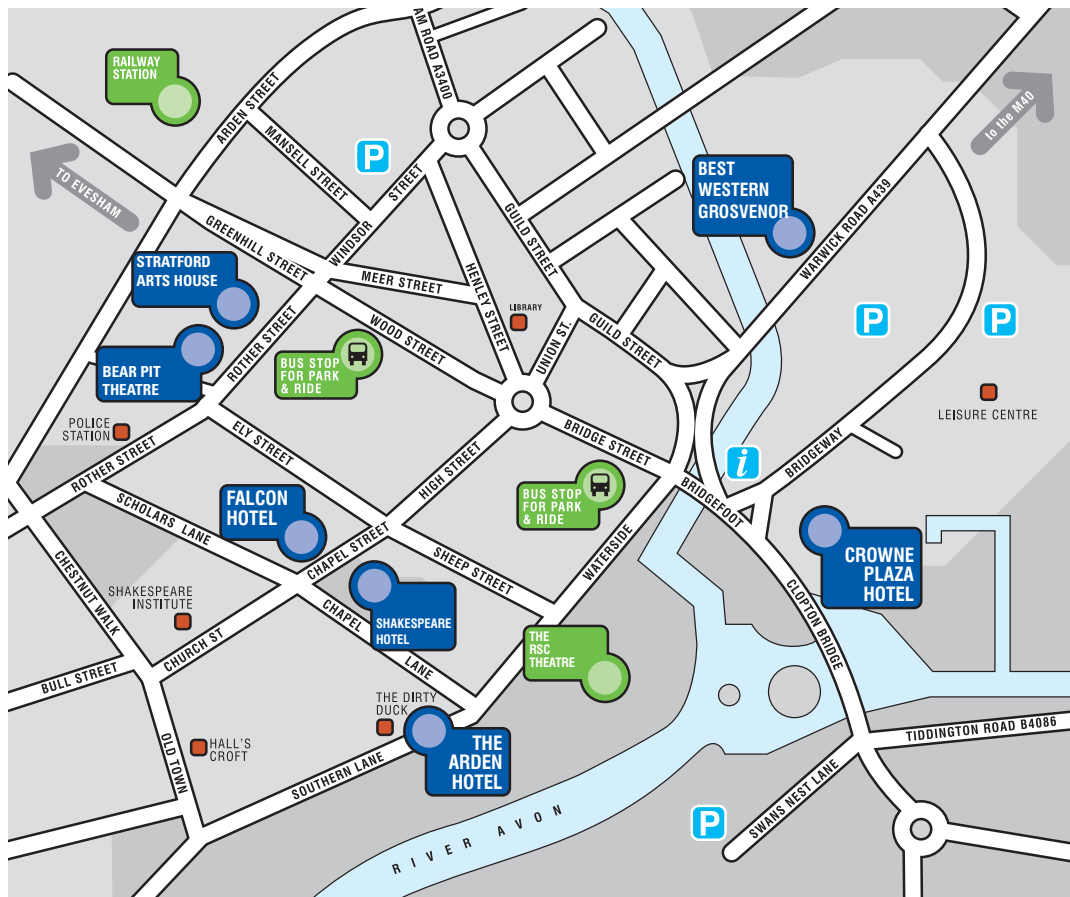
Monday 24 April	10am-3pm	How to Write Historical Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	10-12pm	Paper Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	10am-3pm	How to Self Edit Your Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	10am-3pm	Writing for Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	4-5pm	How to Write Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 April	7.15-8.15pm	Navigating Your Way to Publishing Success	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	10am-3pm	How to Write a Novel That Sells	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	10am-1pm	How to Write Calligraphy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Events for Children

Sunday 23 April	3pm	Playbox Theatre presents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 24 April	Drop in between 9.30-11am	Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 25 April	Drop in between 9.30-11am	Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers	
Wednesday 26 April	Drop in between 9.30-11am	Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 27 April	Drop in between 9.30-11am	Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 April	Drop in between 9.30-11am	Storytime and Activities for Pre-Schoolers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 29 April	3pm	Horrible Histories	<input type="checkbox"/>

Children's Day

Sunday 30 April	10-10.45am	Elmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	10-10.45am	Jinks & O'Hare Funfair Repair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	11.30am-12.30pm	Shadow Puppet Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	11.30am-12.15pm	Let's Find Fred	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	11.30am-12.30pm	Big Draw Challenge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	12-30-1.30pm	Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	1.30-2.30pm	Magnificent Creatures Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	1.30-2.30pm	The Jolly Rogers' Pirate Adventures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	1.30-2.30pm	Lesser Spotted Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	3-3.45pm	Sunk!	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 30 April	3pm	Horrible Histories	<input type="checkbox"/>



GETTING TO US

Stratford Railway Station is 10 minutes' walk from Stratford ArtsHouse.

There are several car parks in the town within walking distance of the ArtsHouse. Go to www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk/stratford-parking for details.

Stratford ArtsHouse is accessible for those with mobility problems and the main auditorium has a hearing loop.



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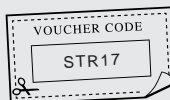
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4 NEWS

The main stories...

What happened

The rage of the diplomats

Britain's ambassador in the EU, Ivan Rogers, unexpectedly resigned last week, citing the fail on growing tensions between Downing Street and the civil service over Brexit. In a leaked video email to staff, Rogers accused Theresa May and her ministers of not knowing what they wanted to achieve in the forthcoming negotiations. He urged his colleagues to continue offering "unvarnished" advice and to stand up to "misguided thinking". Rogers was backed by a string of both serving and former civil servants, who voiced their own criticisms of the Government. Brexit supporters hit back, accusing Rogers and others of trying to frustrate the democratic process.

Downing Street sought to draw a line under the issue by swiftly replacing Rogers with Tim Barrow, a civil diplomat who has served as ambassador in Russia for four years and who has also previously served as a senior diplomat in Brussels, responsible for EU security and foreign policy issues. His appointment was welcomed on all sides. Ben Secretary David Davis and Barrow's knowledge of France would enable him to "be the ground running".

What happened

Chaos in the NHS

The chaos in many hospitals over Christmas has led to a barrage of demands for more to be spent on the NHS. In fact, the NHS has had one of their busiest days ever on 27 December, with 60,115 patients attending between 24 December and 3 January, more than a third of A&E patients were not seen within the four-hour target, and one woman died after waiting 15 hours on a hospital trolley for a bed. In a letter to Theresa May, the Royal College of Physicians warned that lives were being put at risk. The Red Cross said that its volunteers were not working in British hospitals and that the NHS was an "apex of a humanitarian crisis".

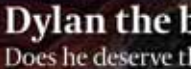
Ministers accused the charity of exaggerating, but Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt accepted the system was under severe strain. He blamed people going to A&E with ailments, and suggested that the target of treating A&E patients in four hours should be limited to urgent cases.

It wasn't all bad

A 100-year-old Fountains set a world record by egg rolling to its home. Richard Hetherington, a retired teacher who lives alone in Paris, completed the feat across the 100-year-old Fountains of France. Hetherington, who is 74, said he was "in good luck" in these right times, he said every morning on his egg rolls, and goes out regularly to the church in the town of Fontainebleau. He said he would have given the town a gift from the French government.

What the editorials said

It doesn't look good for Brexit, and The Independent, The



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