



hexham07
book festival

23-25 March
www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk
Queens Hall, Hexham

Hexham Book Festival is proud to present an exciting and eclectic mix of events in this our second year of celebrating books, reading and writing for all. After last year's tremendous and positive feedback, this year we have daringly extended our programme into Sunday! We have expanded on last year's popular themes of food and fiction for young and old, added some more poetry and history and hope that we have provided something for everyone. So come and join us for an enjoyable weekend of the written and spoken word.

**Hexham Farmers' Market, A
Taste of Independent Publishers**

Some of the region's finest independent producers of books join forces with the Farmers' Market to sell their wares on Saturday morning. To draw awareness to small producers Bloodaxe Books, Biscuit Publishing, Comma Press, Independent Northern Publishers, Mslexia, and Red Squirrel Press present their produce alongside Northumberland's farmers.

**Poetry Café at Caffè Nero,
Fore Street, Hexham
Sunday 2.00 – 4.00pm**

Book your slot on arrival for an open-mic session. This event will also include the launch of Bernard Landreth's collection *Give or Take* and Robert Douglas talking about his autobiography and his journey from local writing group to published author.

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Tim Pears



Ann Coburn



Anne Fine

Friday 23rd March

7.00pm – Book Group Forum

If you belong to a book group, read books regularly, or want to meet other readers and book groups, this event is for you! We will discuss *In The Place of Fallen Leaves* with author Tim Pears. This was Tim's first prize winning novel. His second novel *In a Land of Plenty* was televised by the BBC.

Free Event

Saturday 24th March

10.00am – Children's Poetry Awards Ceremony and Reading

Ann Coburn, children's author and playwright presents the culmination of her work with middle school children to produce poems linked to the theme of 'food'.

★ Free Event

11.00am – Zed Said

What turns a story into a book? Zed Said author Helen Limon will show how scribbled notes and drawings can turn into a book. Using some of Zed Said's quirky and original titles Helen will bring the publishing process to life. Suitable for school age children.

★ Tickets £3.50, Family £10

11.15am – Anne Fine

Meet the prize winning author of books for children of all ages. Find out how she gets her ideas and creates her characters such as the wonderful Madame Doubtfire and Killer Cat the hero of her latest book *The Killer Cat Strikes Back*.

★ Tickets £3.50, Family £10

★ This symbol indicates events that will appeal to children. **Free Events** Some events are free, but you will need to apply for tickets.



Rachel Demuth



Andrew Whitley



Sophie Hannah



Catherine Mason



Andrew Wilkinson



Anna Ralph

Saturday 24th March

11.30am – Vegetarian Heaven

Be inspired by these two fabulous cooks and authors; Rachel Demuth will talk about world recipes from her third *Green Seasons Cook Book* and discuss vegetarian food with Catherine Mason, whose recipes are inspired by produce from her garden. Her book *Vegetable Heaven* is exactly that!

Tickets £3.50

12.45pm – Bread Matters from the Ground Up

Andrew Whitley, founder of the Village Bakery in Melmerby and organic baker talks about his book *Bread Matters* and the state of modern British Baking. Andrew is joined by organic farmer Andrew Wilkinson, a specialist in rare breed wheat. Inspiration for beginners and seasoned bakers alike.

Free Event

1.15pm – Independent Northern Publishers present: Readings from Sheila Auld and Katy Massey

Hexham based author Sheila Auld's debut novel *Cut Him Out in Little Stars* is the true story of the disappearance and three year search for her husband. Freelance writer and poet Katy Massey was a runner up in the Decibel Penguin short story prize.

Free Event

2.30pm – Sophie Hannah and Anna Ralph

Sophie Hannah's novel, *Little Face* is described as 'fascinating, original and outstandingly chilling'. Anna Ralph is 'a stunning new voice of emotional dilemma and complexity'. Sophie and Anna will talk about their new novels, *Hurting Distance* and *The Floating Island* respectively, both of which centre upon love, betrayal and obsession.

Tickets £3.50



Claire Crowther



Sophie Grigson



Ray Banks



Siriol Troup



Elisabeth Luard



David Almond



Allan Guthrie

2.30pm – Publish your Poetry, 5 Steps from Pen to Print

Poets Claire Crowther and Siriol Troup offer a practical guide to getting your poems into print. Claire teaches poetry at Kingston University and recently published *Stretch of Closures*. Siriol won second prize in the 2006 Arvon Poetry Competition, her first collection is *Drowning up the Blue End*. An unmissable event for poets and poetry lovers alike.

Free Event

2.30pm – Sophie Grigson and Elisabeth Luard, Slow Food in a Fast Food Society

These two celebrated cooks and food writers talk to restaurateur and slow food promoter, Joseph De Giorgi about topical food issues, inherited cooking practices, how we teach and feed our children in a fast food society and the importance of local food production. They will also discuss Sophie's most recent book *Vegetables* and Elisabeth's *Food Adventures*.

Tickets £3.50

3.00pm – David Almond, A Workshop for All Ages

How do you start a story and keep it going? Come and write, play and experience the transformative power of the imagination. David is the celebrated author of *Skellig*, *The Fire-Eaters* and *Clay*. Forthcoming projects include an opera of *Skellig* (premiere at The Sage in 2008) and an illustrated novel *My Dad's a Birdman*.

★ Tickets £3.50

4.00pm – The Boys From the Dark Side

Ray Banks and Allan Guthrie are two new exciting Scottish 'noir' crime writers. This may be the only chance this year to catch them talking about their new work; Allan's *Hard Man* described as 'delectably nasty' and Ray's *Donkey Punch*, British noir in all its splendour.

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Kathryn Hughes



Will Self

Saturday 24th March

4.30pm – Kathryn Hughes

We are proud to welcome this well known biographer and specialist in Victorian history and contemporary culture. Kathryn will be talking about her most recent book *The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs Beeton* and the art of writing historical biographies.

Tickets £3.50

7.30pm – An Audience with Will Self

An opportunity to experience Will Self's trademark satire and inventiveness close up. Will Self is the author of five novels, four collections of short stories, three novellas and four non-fiction works. Will talks about his life and works and his new novel, *The Book of Dave* in which he takes on religion. After the interval he will take questions from the audience.

Tickets £12.50

Sunday 25th March

10.45am to 12.30pm – Exchange Cafe Literary Brunch

Join us in the Exchange Café to hear poetry from Blinking Eye Publishing's new anthology *Night Balancing*. Poets will include Pru Kitching, Lesley Mountain, Ellen Phethean, Jadzia Race and Sue Rylance, the poems will be interspersed with readings from *Hexham Writers*.

Free Event

11.00am, 12.00pm and 2.00pm – Hexham Historical Walks

Come and discover some of the secrets of the past with a member of Hexham's Town Guides. Meet in Queens Hall Foyer. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets £1



Paul Torday



Chris Bostock & Ken Patterson



Peter Mortimer

12.30pm – Independent Northern Publishers present: *Borders of the Imagination*

Northumbrian poet Peter Bennet's collection *Goblin Lawn*, has been described as having 'a wild gothic damped down by novocaine.' Pippa Little, who lives in Northumberland, has appeared in many publications. She is currently writing a sequence of poems about 15th century Border Reiver women.

Free Event

2.00pm – Tales For the Turning Year

Story teller Chris Bostock and musician Ken Patterson celebrate the coming of Spring. As the world wakes up again, discover why the grass keeps on growing in Africa and what happened when a king gave each of his children just one seed to hold before he left his palace. Visual surprises for everyone to enjoy, share and take away. For family audiences, 6 years and over.

★ Tickets £3.50, Family £10

2.00pm – Northern Writers' Awards

Each year New Writing North, the regional development agency, gives cash awards to writers totalling over £20,000. Awards are given both to established novelists and poets from the region alongside exciting new writers. Join us for the 2007 awards event and hear the winning writers read from their work.

Free Event

4.30pm – Paul Torday and Peter Mortimer

Meet two authors from the North East whose books draw on their experiences of the Middle East. Paul Torday talks about his book *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, a tale of fly-fishing and political spinning with Peter Mortimer, who's book *Cool for Qat: A Yemeni Journey 1930-2004* centres on a 1930 'Arab Riot' between Yemeni and British seamen in South Shields, and its political repercussions.

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2.30pm - Publish Your Poetry

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3.00pm - David Almond

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4.30pm - Paul Torday and Peter Mortimer

Ticket Information

All tickets are £3.50 unless otherwise stated, family ticket £10.00 (2 adults 2 children). Free events require tickets.

Call the Queens Hall box office on

01434 652 477 or book online
www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk

Exchange Cafe at the Queens Hall is offering 10% discount to all festival ticket holders (excludes beverages and alcohol).

Queens Hall, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3LS

Designed by The Roundhouse

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Queens Hall Arts



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