

# merline

## *Ticket Information*

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Tickets for all events can be booked directly through the Queen's Hall Box Office on **01434 652477** or book online at **[www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)**

**Opening Hours:** Mon to Sat 10am – 4pm

Free Events will require tickets as places are limited, so please remember to book your place to avoid being disappointed.

### **Everyone Welcome**

Queen's Hall welcomes visitors with disabilities and aims to ensure that your visit is safe and enjoyable. If you require help, please contact Queen's Hall in advance. Companions of wheelchair users may attend events free of charge. Guide dogs are welcome in all areas of the building.

### **Thank you**

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# Hexham

2nd-5th May 2008

Queen's Hall, Hexham  
[www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk](http://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk)

hexham   
book festival

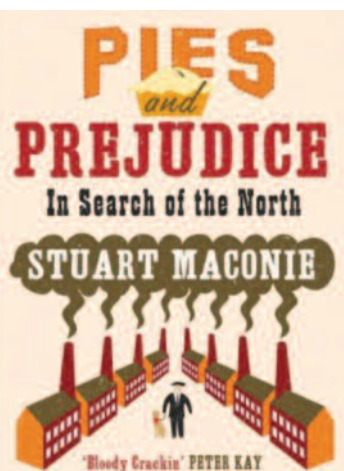
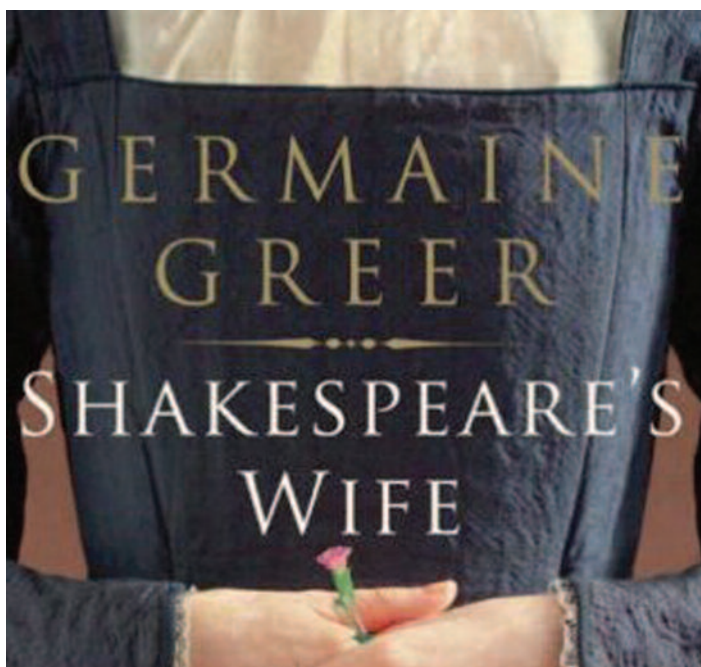
The Hexham Book Festival, now in its third successful year, invites you to a weekend celebration of all that's exciting and new in the world of books. We have award-winning writers of children's books and contemporary fiction, a lively poetry slam and a graphic novel event, a talk by a controversial chef and two nostalgic footballers. So join us for an enjoyable and stimulating mix of discussions, readings, argument and entertainment and with authors like Germaine Greer and TV chef John Burton Race, expect some fireworks for the bank holiday!

*'Hexham itself seems like the perfect town for a book festival'*

Author David Almond

# Festival Focus

The Hexham Book Festival  
2nd-5th May 2008.



## GOBLIN IN THE FRIDGE



JOHN BURTON RACE

## FLAVOUR FIRST



HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM THE BEST INGREDIENTS



## Friday 2nd May

7.45pm – Book Group Forum  
Read the Book –  
meet the Author!



Book Groups come and talk about Matt Haig's darkly comic novel 'The Last Family in England' (with the pet Labrador as the all-knowing narrator!) exploring the fragility of family life. Described as somewhere between 'Watership Down' and 'Animal Farm' this debut novel is guaranteed to provoke discussion as well as laughs. Labradors optional...

**\*Free event** **F**

### Key

**k i d s** Children

**FH** Food writing and Horticulture

**S** Screen

**F** Fiction

**NF** Non-fiction

**G** Graphic novels

**P** Poetry

## Saturday 3rd May

11am – Children's  
Poetry Awards  
Poetry of place

A special celebration of child's eye poetry created by children across the county. In the past few months 5 to 9 year olds in rural Northumberland have worked with writers to create their own take on the natural world. Children from each school will come and read their prize-winning poetry.

**\*Free event** **k i d s**

*Event sponsored by Tarmac and Northumberland National Park.*

1.30pm-3pm – David Almond  
Pen to Paper



Let's create the largest writing workshop in Britain! Come and be inspired. Discover the stories inside yourself that are waiting to be told. There are no tricks, no secrets, no rules. All you need is a pen, some paper and an ordinary human brain. David Almond (Whitbread and Carnegie-winning author of Skellig, The Fire-eaters, Clay) runs hugely successful workshops for writers of all ages across the world.

**£3.50 under 8's free** **k i d s**

*Event sponsored by the Ballinger Charitable Trust.*

2pm – Helen Dunmore  
**Lust and Intrigue in  
Ancient Rome**



Poet and novelist Helen Dunmore's latest book 'Counting the Stars', set against a Rome of violence, power and politics, draws upon the Roman poet Catullus and his sexual obsession for his older, married mistress Clodia. Helen Dunmore was the first winner of the Orange prize for fiction with 'Talking to the Dead', other award-winning fiction includes 'Zennor in Darkness'.

£4.50 **F**

2pm-5pm – Anna Parkinson  
and Sue Clifford  
**Writers who dig the past  
At the Garden Station, Langley**

The Garden Station at Langley provides the backdrop to an afternoon of history and horticulture. Anna Parkinson's book 'Nature's Alchemist' traces the career of her ancestor John Parkinson, one of the most influential writers on English gardens. Sue Clifford has written a celebration of that much-loved but under-rated fruit, the humble apple. The talk is followed by a tour of the garden.

£7.50 **Tea and cake included** **FB**

See [www.thegardenstation.co.uk](http://www.thegardenstation.co.uk) for directions.

2pm – Titania Woods  
**The Glitterwings Academy  
Workshop (ages 6 to 9)**

Get out your fairy wand and sparkle! This new series of books set at a boarding school is guaranteed to have your gossamer wings fluttering. Come dressed in your best fairy costume and enjoy this creative writing and reading workshop with the author.

£2.50 **k i d s**

3.30pm – Paul Torday  
**Wine lovers**

Northumberland writer Paul Torday's new novel 'The Irresistible Inheritance of Wilberforce' is a full-bodied novel with an excellent finish. When Wilberforce comes across a charming couple with a seductive wine cellar he finds himself dangerously addicted to both them and their bottles of vintage Margaux. Paul's last novel 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' was serialised on BBC Radio 4, and chosen by Richard and Judy.

**\*Free** **F**

3.30pm – Mark Waldon  
**(ages 9 to 11)**

James Bond meets Artemis Fowl with a dastardly twist. Meet the goodies and baddies from the Higher Institute of Villainous Education with their creator Mark Waldon and his series of imaginative and witty books for children.

£2.50 **k i d s**

## Saturday 3rd May

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### 4pm – Val McDermid 'Beneath the Bleeding'

Val McDermid returns to Hexham to talk about her latest novel 'Beneath the Bleeding' a Top Ten bestseller in hardback with universally admiring reviews. This year Val has added The Stonewall Writer of the Year Award to her many literary prizes, 2008 will also see the 6th series of the popular ITV series *Wire in the Blood* based on her books and starring Robson Green.

£4.50 **F**

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### 5pm – Women and Crime Two female crime writers talk about their passion for murder

Ann Cleeves ('Raven Black') and Lin Anderson ('Dark Flight') discuss the dark roots of their fiction and why they are drawn to writing about areas of the human psyche that most of us are too terrified to explore.

£3.50 **F**

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### 5pm – Graphic Novels Bryan Talbot and Simone Lia

Comics for grown-ups? If this is what you think about graphic novels then think again. Bryan Talbot talks about his popular book 'Alice in Sunderland' and Simone Lia lets us into her bizarre world of 'Fluffy' where a particle of dust is the narrator! A PowerPoint presentation brings this event to life.

£4 **G**

*Simone Lia will also be signing her books at The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Newcastle, at 1pm on 3rd May.*

### 6pm – Stuart Maconie 'Pies and Prejudice'



The music journalist and popular BBC Radio 2 broadcaster Stuart Maconie is in exile in the South and fears losing his Northern Soul. In order to reclaim it he undertakes an odyssey from Blackpool Tower to Newcastle's Bigg Market. He searches out truth, cliché and pies in his recent novel 'Pies and Prejudice'.

£5 **NF**

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### 8pm – Germaine Greer Shakespeare's Wife



Hardly anything is known about the farmer's daughter who married our greatest playwright and yet Shakespeare's plays are intimately concerned with the pleasures and pitfalls of marriage. In her latest book, controversial writer Germaine Greer goes in search of the elusive wife of William Shakespeare in a book guaranteed to alarm literary academics! The audience is invited to take part in a Q & A session which can cover the multiple issues Germaine Greer is associated with.

£12.50 **NF**

## Sunday 4th May

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### 11.30am – Salley Vickers Talks about her new book 'The Other Side of You'



Salley Vickers, the author of the bestselling 'Miss Garnet's Angel', brings her training as an analytical psychologist to the fore in her new novel. When failed suicide Elizabeth Cruikshank is admitted to the care of Dr. MacBride art and love interweave to create a psychologically gripping novel.

£4 **F**

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### 12 noon – Tonto Books Writers & mentors For all writers a must see event

Independent publisher Tonto Books showcases three of its up and coming new writers; Pete Tanton, Stephen Shieber and Rosalind Wyllie. Both Stephen and Rosalind have developed their work with the help of mentors Laura Hird and Caroline Smailes, come and discuss this process and find out how mentoring could help you on the road to being published.

\*Free **F**

### 1.30pm – Michael Chaplin Fighting Foyle's War: The Writing of Crime Drama on Television

Michael Chaplin, creator of hit series 'Monarch of the Glen', talks about how he takes an idea and turns it into television. He'll explain how his adaptations of the work of P.D. James, his extensive experience of 'Dalziel and Pascoe', and in particular, a recent ITV film for the series, 'Foyle's War' makes him one of the UK's most sought-after television writers.

£4 **S**

*Michael will be taking part in a series of Screenwriting workshops led by Fiona Birkbeck at the Forum Cinema, Hexham for 13 -16 year olds. Come and find out how scripts are written for film and television, and learn some of the tricks of the trade. 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April 4.30-6.30pm. Places are limited, for more details contact [info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk) to enrol contact Forum Cinema, Hexham on 01434 603022.*

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### 2pm – Debi Gliori (ages 4 to 7)



Which child (and parent) hasn't fallen in love with kindly, cuddly Mr. Bear and his wayward family and neighbours? Join the award-winning author and illustrator Debi Gliori as she reads from her books and draws you into her world.

£2.50 **k i d s**



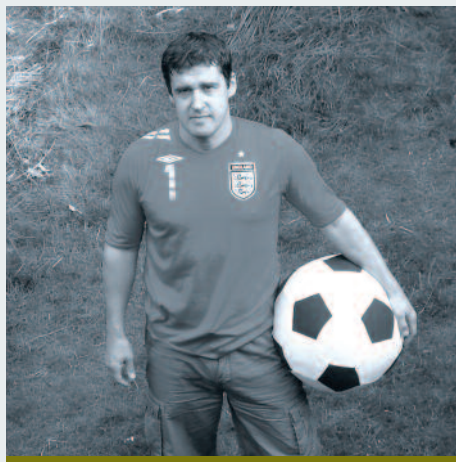
## Sunday 4th May

### 3pm – Northern Writers' Awards The Northern Writers' Awards 2008

Join winning writers from this year's NWA to celebrate new poetry and fiction emerging from the region's writers as New Writing North announces this year's winners. Between them the winning writers will receive £25,000.

**\*Free**

### 3.30pm – Tom Palmer Football Detective Family Fun Day



Join football writer, Tom Palmer, for football quizzes and a penalty shoot out *in the library*. Hear about his new book *Football Detective: Foul Play*, a Puffin novel aimed at nine-year-olds and over. Colouring football book covers in for the younger children. A family event for anyone who loves football.

**£2.50, family ticket £6**  
**(inc 1 adult & 2 children)** **k i d s**

### 5pm – Stella Duffy and Shelley Silas 'Northern Rocks' - Hear it here for the first time, two specially commissioned new stories for Hexham Book Festival, written and read by Stella Duffy and Shelley Silas



Stella, writer, comedian and actor and Shelley, who writes extensively for both theatre and radio, present these specially written pieces. Both women show why the short story is getting the revival it deserves.

**£5** **F**

5.30pm – Tom Palmer  
and Harry Pearson  
**Inside the world of kids football**

A Dads and lads special. Have a kick-about with children's writer Tom Palmer and sports columnist and novelist Harry Pearson. They talk about using jumpers for goalposts as kids and just why footie is so much more important than life and death.

**£3.50, family ticket £6**  
(inc adult and two children) **k i d s**

8pm – Simon Hoggart  
**Parliamentary sketches  
and Looney Letters**



If anyone should know about the absurdity of the world it's Simon Hoggart, the award-winning parliamentary sketch writer for 'The Guardian' and contributor to numerous BBC Radio 4 comedy programmes. Listen to the man who's seen it all then captured it perfectly in wry, funny prose.

**£7.50 NF**

Event sponsored by Dickinson Dees.

## Monday 5th May

10am-1pm – Armchair  
Journeys with Seven Stories -  
the Centre for Children's Books

Seven Stories' magical armchair will be making an appearance to enchant and delight visitors with the pleasures of storytelling. Join us for storytelling fun and creative activities.

**\*Free k i d s**

11am – Kate Colquhoun  
**Have you got 'Taste'?**

Did the Romans use pepper? How did the Black Death lead to the beginning of rural baking? Why was the sale of fruit banned in 1569? What linked roasted meats and morality in the 1790s? When did we move from serving everything at once to the succession of courses we know today? Kate Colquhoun's new book 'Taste' answers all these questions and more.

**£3.50 FR**

11am – Matt Black  
**Goblin In The Fridge**  
Funny, imaginative and  
thoughtful poems for children  
(for 7-11 year olds, and  
discerning adults)

Matt, who has set a World Record (unofficial) performing in 50 venues in 5 hours on a tandem, presents *Goblin In The Fridge*, a lively reading and performance with poems of all kinds, Grumpy unicorns, rapping grannies, Saturday Dads, sun-filled pizzas.

**£2.50, family ticket £6**  
(inc 1 adult & 2 children) **k i d s**

# Monday 5th May

## 1pm – John Burton Race Mad About Food



John Burton Race is a flamboyant chef who's run Michelin starred restaurants as well as shipping his reluctant family off to live in France for a year in the full glare of the television cameras (French Leave - Channel 4). In his new book 'Flavour First', published this weekend, he presents us with over 100 enticing recipes which show why it's important to use local produce at its seasonal best. Expect some heat in the kitchen!

£5 **P**

## 2pm – Giles Milton 'Paradise Lost – Smyrna 1922 The Destruction of Islam's City of Tolerance.'

Writer, journalist and historian, Giles Milton talks about his new book in which he has painstakingly amassed a powerful story of the destruction of an Islamic City so famed for its tolerance it was known as 'Paradise'. Giles' book 'Nathaniel's Nutmeg' was a Times bestseller.

£3.50 **N**

## 3pm – Simon Armitage

Studied by students the world over, poet Simon Armitage comes with an enviable pedigree and has been winning literary prizes almost since he put pen to paper. His poems, always brilliantly formed, tackle head-on both the personal and the political. A must-see event for all those who love reading or hearing poetry. Simon will read from his extensive collection of work, including Tyrannosaurus Rex Versus the Corduroy Kid.

£5 **P**

## 6pm – Poetry Slam!



Do you have some words to wow the world with? A slam is a fun, high energy competition where you read or perform your own words and the audience decides who goes through in knockout rounds. Bring three pieces of no more than two minutes each, and sign up for the 'Slam!' in advance (by contacting the festival) or on the night. All styles of poetry or spoken word welcome.

Compered by Radio 4's Saturday Live Poet in Residence Kate Fox. Guest Spots from one of the country's top slam winning performance poets Scott Tyrrell and Radio Newcastle presenter, singer and performance poet Simma.

\*Free **P**

# At a Glance Programme Listing

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## Friday 2nd

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7.45pm-9pm  
Matt Haig  
White Room

## Saturday 3rd

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11am-12noon  
Children's  
Poetry Awards  
White Room

1.30pm-3pm  
David Almond  
Theatre

2pm-3pm  
Helen Dunmore  
White Room

2pm-5pm  
Anna Parkinson  
& Sue Clifford  
Garden Station,  
Langley

2pm-3pm  
Titania Woods  
Library

3.30pm-4.30pm  
Paul Torday  
White Room

3.30pm-4.30pm  
Mark Walden  
Library

4pm-5pm  
Val McDermid  
Theatre

5pm-6pm  
Women and Crime  
Library

5pm-6pm  
Graphic Novels  
White Room

6pm-7pm  
Stuart Maconie  
Theatre

8pm  
Germaine Greer  
Theatre

## Sunday 4th

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11.30am-12.30pm  
Salley Vickers  
White Room

12noon-1pm  
Tonto Books  
Library

1.30pm-2.30pm  
Michael Chaplin  
White Room

2pm-3pm  
Debi Gliori  
Library

3pm-4pm  
Northern  
Writers' Awards  
Theatre

3.30pm-5pm  
Tom Palmer  
Library

5pm-6.30pm  
Stella Duffy &  
Shelley Silas  
Theatre

5.30pm-6.30pm  
Tom Palmer &  
Harry Pearson  
White Room

8pm  
Simon Hoggart  
Theatre

## Monday 5th

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10am-1pm  
Armchair Stories  
The Gallery

11am-12noon  
Kate Colquhoun  
White Room

11am-12noon  
Matt Black  
Library

1pm-2pm  
John Burton Race  
Theatre

2pm-3pm  
Giles Milton  
White Room

3pm-4pm  
Simon Armitage  
Theatre

6pm-8pm  
Kate Fox  
Poetry Slam  
Theatre

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## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like to make a suggestion about the Hexham Book Festival, we would be happy to hear from you, just send an email to [info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk)

Queen's Hall Box Office:  
01434 652477 [www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)

**\*All free events require tickets**