

At-a-glance programme listing

Saturday 25th April

2pm-3pm
Wendy Moore
Gibside Chapel

Wednesday 29th April

Horrible Science
Schools event

7pm-8pm
Wendy Robertson
Library

Thursday 30th April

Philip Ardagh
Schools event

12.30pm-1.30pm
Paddy Ashdown
Library

7.30pm-9pm
Ross Raisin/Richard Milward
Library

Friday 1st May

Eamonn McCabe
The Gallery

10am-11am
Irma Kurtz
Forum Cinema

11.30am-12.30pm
Libby Purves
Forum Cinema

2pm-4pm
Debbie Taylor
Forum Cinema

7pm-10.30 pm
Jane Austen Evening
Forum Cinema

10pm-3am
Write Through the Night
Kielder Observatory

Saturday 2nd May

10.30-12.00noon
Mills and Boon workshop
White Room

11am-11.30am
Not Another Cartoon
Gallery 2

12.30pm-1.30pm
Susie Boyt
White Room

1pm-2pm
Andrew Cope
Library

2pm-3pm
Fran Sandham
White Room

2.30pm-3.30pm
Mills and Boon panel
Theatre

2.30pm-3.30pm
Seal Children
Library

3.30pm-4.30pm
Sally Nicholls
White Room

4pm-5pm
Patrick Gale/Philip Hensher
Theatre

4pm-4.45pm
Storytelling
Library

5pm-5.45pm
Storytelling
Library

5pm-6pm
Observed Poetry
White Room

7.30pm
Janet Street-Porter
Theatre

Sunday 3rd May

12.15pm- 1.45pm
Bloodaxe Books poetry & film
White Room

2pm-3pm
Three Men on the Metro
White Room

2pm-5pm
Pam Corbin/John Wright
Garden Station, Langley

3.30pm-4.30pm
NWN Awards
White Room

5pm
Benjamin Zephaniah
Theatre

25th April -
3rd May 2009

In partnership with
Queens Hall Arts

hexham
book festival

Contact Us and Have Your Say

Your opinion is valuable to us! Visit our website and complete our feed back form. To subscribe to our email service for more information about the Festival and year round events please go to our website.

Why not join our 'Book of the month' club at Hexham Hospital or our Reading Group at the Forum Cinema!

info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk
www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk

Ticket Information

Tickets for all events can be booked directly through the Queen's Hall Box Office on **T: 01434 652477**, or book online at 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.

Queen's Hall
Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3LS

hexham
book festival

Maurice
Zephaniah
John Wright
Janet Street-Porter



Janet Street-Porter Benjamin Zephaniah Paddy Ashdown Irma Kurtz Libby Purves

The Hexham Book Festival is bucking the recession by expanding! But tickets are still affordable so defy the economic gloom and let words be your currency. From Saturday 25th April to Sunday 3rd May you can get romantic with Mills and Boon writers, talk the politics of peace with Paddy Ashdown, write poetry by starlight at the remote Kielder Observatory and mingle with committed foodies at the Garden Station, Langley. So join us for lively discussion, heated argument, passionate readings and stimulating entertainment all without breaking the bank. Look out for events at our new venues, Forum Cinema and Gibside. Tickets from £2.50.

Hexham Book Festival is supported by;

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Community Foundation, Gillian Dickinson Trust, Northern Film and Media, Northern Rock Foundation, Northumberland National Parks, Queens Hall Arts and Tynedale Council.

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. NB Forum Cinema has no disabled access.

Main Venue Queen's Hall, Hexham NE46 3LS

Gallery Exhibition

Saturday 25th April

**Eamonn McCabe
Writers' Rooms –
as featured in 'The
Saturday Guardian'**

Eamonn McCabe is an award-winning photographer and former 'Guardian' Picture Editor. His beautiful photographs have won him international acclaim. 'Writers' Rooms' illustrates the idiosyncratic working spaces of novelists, biographers and poets as featured in 'The Guardian' each Saturday.

This exhibition, in the Queen's Hall gallery, looks at the rooms that make writers tick. Come and see where Will Self, Beryl Bainbridge, V.S Naipaul, Eric Hobsbawm, and Seamus Heaney wrestle with words before committing them to paper.

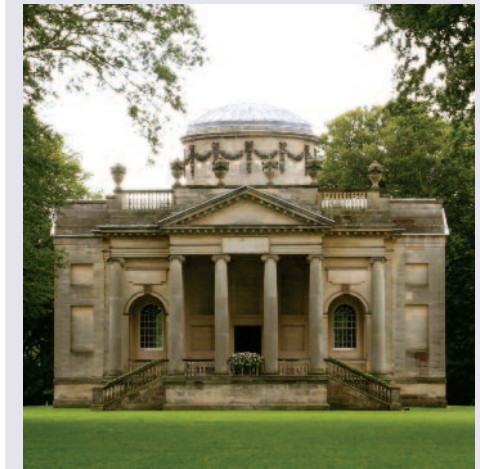
*Exhibition running from
1st – 30th May
Free*



**Gibside Chapel 2pm,
Meet Wendy Moore -
author of 'Wedlock'**

Mary Eleanor Bowes, an eighteenth century heiress whose fortune was built on North East coal, had a tortured private life as the victim of a fortune-hunter who set out to ruin her. In her new book 'Wedlock' Wendy Moore lays bare the world of sexual intrigue and court room drama as she tells the story of Mary and the Irish scoundrel Andrew Robinson Stoney who squandered her money and laid her romantic estate to waste. But despite being reduced to a wretched shadow of her old self Mary triumphed and found help in the most unlikely of places. Come and follow her adventure at Mary's romantic estate of Gibside.

£2.50 NF
*Directions from
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-gibside*



Key

- K** Children
- FH** Food writing and Horticulture
- S** Screen
- W** Workshop
- F** Fiction
- NF** Non-fiction
- G** Graphic novels
- P** Poetry

Wednesday 29th April

Horrible Science

Fran Bates works alongside Nick Arnold, the author of the Horrible Science series, and presents the Live Horrible Science Show.

Theatre QH **KIDS**
Schools Event

7pm The Long and The Short of It, Wendy Robertson



The short story is suddenly in vogue! This month Wendy Robertson's contemporary short story collection 'Knives' is launched at the same time as her historical novel Sandie Shaw and The Millionth Marvell Cooker. Wendy considers the unique charms and challenges of writing short stories in contrast to the marathon of writing novels. An entertaining evening for both readers and writers of short and long fiction.

Library QH **F**
£2.50

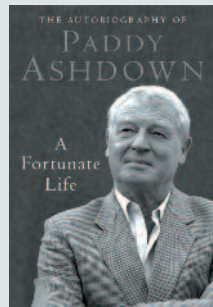
Thursday 30th April

Philip Ardagh

Best-selling and bushily bearded Philip Ardagh will be explaining what inspired him to write and what he loves about writing.

Theatre QH **KIDS**
Schools Event

12.30pm Paddy Ashdown



Paddy Ashdown has had a life full of drama and adventure, from the cut and thrust of British politics to trying to broker peace in war-torn Bosnia during the bloodiest of civil wars. In his biography 'A Fortunate Life' we see him go from a young Royal Marine

Commando, through membership of the special forces, to leading the Liberal Party and beyond.

Paddy will be talking candidly about his life in the public arena to local author Julia Grint - expect some uncompromising views from a man who's been at life's leading edge for fifty years.

Library QH **NF**
£7.50

7.30pm Book Group Forum Read the books – meet the authors!



Book groups are invited to read either one or both of the two most talked about books of 2009 – 'God's Own Country' by Ross Raisin and 'Ten Storey Love Song' by Richard Milward, and then meet the authors. Sassy and pulling no punches, the two books explore what it is to be young and isolated in both a northern city and the North Yorkshire Moors in the 21st century.

Library QH **F**
Free

Friday 1st May

All day at the Forum Cinema, Market Place, Hexham

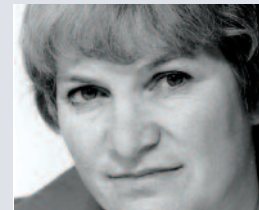
Irma Kurtz and Libby Purves

A morning with two feisty women – novelist and Radio 4 presenter Libby Purves and writer and broadcaster Irma Kurtz tell it like it is! Irma talks to Kitty Fitzgerald about her book 'About Time – Growing Old Disgracefully' a subject that concerns us all. Libby talks about her novel 'Shadow Child'; the harrowing story of the loss of a beloved son. Expect straight talking and surprising revelations.

10am Irma Kurtz **£5.50**



11.30am Libby Purves **£5.50**



Forum Cinema **NF**
£10 for both events, includes coffee

2pm How do you get your novel published? Workshop

Join novelist and founder of 'Mslexia' magazine, Debbie Taylor, in a 'First Impressions' workshop. What's your novel about, what's the best way to get the attention of an agent or editor? Places limited to 20.

Forum Cinema **W**
£7.50

7pm Jane Austen Evening Claire Harman



Biographer Claire Harman gives a pre-film talk on her book 'Jane's Fame' and the legacy of Jane Austen. This story of personal struggle, family intrigue and a history of changing public tastes explores how Austen's fiction represents a certain type of Englishness and feeds our continuing intrigue for her sharp observations of cultural life.

Followed by 'Sense and Sensibility' (Dir. Ang Lee) with Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson.

Forum Cinema **NF**
£7.00 includes talk and film

10pm-3am Friday/Saturday – Kielder Observatory 'Write Through the Night'



*Photography,
David Grandorge*

Join poet Maurice Riordan, co-editor of 'Dark Matter: Poems of Space', for a moonlit poetry workshop exploring if we can still draw inspiration from the beauty of the night sky. Includes a talk from 'The Kielder Observatory and Astronomical Society'.

(Follow on event, see Saturday 5pm.)
£20.00 limited places, includes transport to and from Hexham and breakfast.

10.30am 'Love Letters in the 21st Century', Mills and Boon workshop with Sharon Kendrick

Romantic fiction flies off the shelves but what's the secret to getting your novel published? Mills & Boon author Sharon Kendrick, who's written over sixty romantic novels, will help you hook your reader straight in and keep them gripped until the final kiss.

White Room QH W
Numbers limited to 20
£10.00

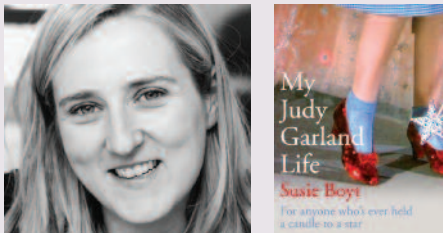
I am 'Not Another Cartoon'

Come and see the animation created by children from Northumberland's Middle schools with the help of graphic novelist Al Davison and filmmaker Christo Wallers.

A partnership project with Queens Hall Arts. Supported by The Gillian Dickinson Trust, Tynedale Council, Community Foundation and Northern Film and Media.

Gallery 2 QH S
Free event

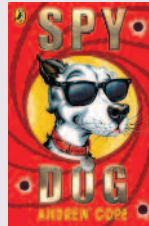
12.30pm Susie Boyt 'My Judy Garland Life'



Author Susie Boyt recalls seeing 'The Wizard of Oz' with her Mum and being blown away. 'My Judy Garland Life' is a self-deprecating, funny read and is a must for all those who've ever belted out 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' and believed it. Chaired by Paul Campbell

White Room QH F
£3.00

1pm Andrew Cope and Lara the Spy-dog!



Lara, the world's first ever Spy Dog, will be visiting the festival and bringing to heel her owner Andrew Cope. There are currently five books in the Spy Dog series and Andrew will be sharing his enthusiasm for children's adventure books and getting us up to

speed with Lara's next top secret mission. Lara will wag politely and maybe put her paw print to a few books afterwards. Includes lashings of Curiosity Cola! Sponsored by Fentimans.

Library QH KIDS
£3.00

2pm Fran Sandham's solo walk across Africa



From the Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean, 'Traversa' is former 'Rough Guide' editor Fran Sandham's record of his epic solo walk across Africa in the footsteps of the Victorian explorers - without sponsors, without a support team, without money and without fuss. An adventure told with humour and a passion that will set your feet itching. Chaired by William Pym

White Room QH F
£5.00

2.30pm The Changing Face of Romance: Mills & Boon in the 21st century



What could be more universal to the human experience than the thrill of falling in love? There are reasons why the romance genre has consistently proven to be commercially successful. But timelessness does not mean unchanging. As Mills & Boon enters its second century of publishing, three authors, Michelle Styles, Sharon Kendrick, and Natasha Oakley discuss the challenges and pleasures of writing romance in the 21st century with editor Sheila Hodgson.

Theatre QH F
£5.00

2.30pm The Seal Children workshop



Talented folk musicians and performers Laura and Michael weave together music and drama into the tale of the 'Seal Children' based on the book by Jackie Morris. Using dance, musical instruments and words to create an unforgettable experience for children aged between 4 and 7.

Library QH KIDS
£3.00

3.30pm Sally Nicholls in conversation with Judy Walker (writing for young people)

How do you write for young people without talking down to them? Award-winning writer Sally Nicholls discusses the tricky art of writing for teenagers with local author Judy Walker.

White Room QH F
£3.00

4pm Patrick Gale and Philip Hensher



Photography,
John Foley-Opale



Photography,
Simon James

Two writers discuss the vexed territory of love, loyalty and family and how to survive it. Patrick Gale's new novel 'The Whole Day Through' examines love the second time around through the eyes of Laura and Ben, once lovers but now too grown up for that. Or are they? Philip Hensher's book, 'The Northern Clemency', lays bare the anatomy of the Glover family in the 1970's and 80's through all its wranglings and has been described as 'part soap opera, part nineteenth century novel'. Chaired by the director of New Writing North, Claire Malcolm.

Theatre QH F
£5.00

Saturday 2nd May

An afternoon of storytelling - wild and thrilling tales from the Kingdom of Northumbria

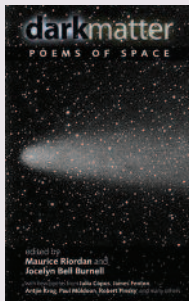
Join storyteller Malcolm Green to hear tales ranging from the gruesome to the magical, inspired by the wild and wicked history of Northumberland.

4pm Parents and children
3yrs upwards.
5pm Children 7yrs and over

Sponsored by Northumberland National Park.

Library QH **KIDS**
Free Event

5pm Observed Poetry – poetry from the night at the Kielder Observatory



Maurice Riordan, one of the editors of 'Dark Matter: Poems of Space' will read some of the newly commissioned poems from this collection.

Participants of 'Write through the Night' workshop will have the opportunity to air their work.

Supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

White Room QH **P**
Free event

7.30pm Janet Street Porter 'Life's too f*****g short'



Expect some plain talking as journalist, broadcaster and writer, Janet Street-Porter lays bare her life as a female media pioneer and outspoken critic. Her latest book is a treat for anyone who's followed her path through the media jungle! Janet is a regular contributor to Gordon Ramsay's 'The F Word' for Channel 4 and was seen laying down the law in the jungle in 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!'

Theatre QH **F**
£12.50

Sunday 3rd May

12.15pm Bloodaxe Poetry and Film

In Person: 30 Poets. Filmed by film-maker Pamela Robertson-Pearce and edited by Bloodaxe's founder, Neil Astley, this unique anthology features poets' voices from across the globe and examines how people live, love and survive through poetry. Neil and Pamela will introduce the film and take questions afterwards.

White Room QH **P**
£4

2pm 'Three Men on the Metro'

'Three Men on the Metro' is a journey in verse from the Newcastle Metro to the Moscow Metro. Poets Andy Croft, Bill Herbert and Paul Summers are out of their depth and lost underground. Come and follow their subterranean homesick blues.

White Room QH **P**
Free event

2 – 5pm Garden Station River Cottage Handbooks; Preserves, Mushrooms, Edible Seashore



Pam Corbin and John Wright, from the 'River Cottage' television series, encourage us to explore beyond the tins in the pantry. Pam guides us through a world of jams, pickles, chutneys and sauces made from local produce. John will be pointing us in the right direction for morels and leading us to the seashore in search of edibles with his latest book.

www.thegardenstation.co.uk for directions.

Garden Station, Langley **FH**
£10 inc tea and cake

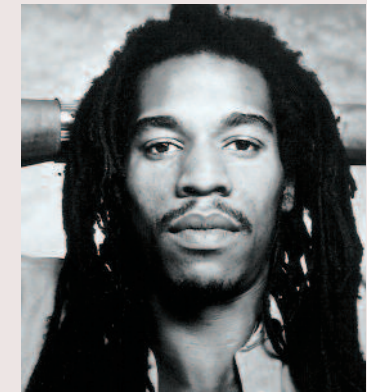
3.30pm NWN Awards

Join New Writing North and hear work from some of the region's up and coming writers at the 2009 Northern Writers' Awards Celebration.

Sponsored by The Leighton Group the awards support North East writers in their endeavours to produce new work for publication. Recent winners have gone on to publish successful and acclaimed works – see them here first.

White Room QH
Free

5pm Benjamin Zephaniah



Benjamin Zephaniah is best known for his performance poetry with a political edge for adults and groundbreaking performance poetry for children. He has also published novels for young adults and has his own rap/reggae band. He is in constant demand internationally to perform his work and Nelson Mandela, having read his work in prison, is one of his biggest fans. Come and hear his unique blend of poetry, politics and personal reflection.

Theatre QH **P**
Tickets: £12.50 / £10.00 (student) /
£35.00 (family - two adults and two children)

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