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BOOK
FESTIVAL





ROMAN
VINDOLANDA

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See live archaeology with stunning new discoveries every year, a world-class museum and an engaging events programme in the heart of Hadrian's Wall.

Welcome to Hexham Book Festival 2025

Welcome to our 19th year and a host of events to delight and engage you, with familiar and new faces appearing this May; we have poets and politicians, farmers and fashion designers plus the life and times of a ballet legend, there's something here for everyone.

Our fiction line up includes Jonathan Coe, AL Kennedy, Kevin Barry and LJ Ross, plus we'll introduce you to some fabulous debut and local authors.

Political reflection and analysis features with Anthony Seldon, Sam Freedman and Simon Hart; and we'll mark the 80th anniversary of V.E Day guided by historians Tim Bouverie and Lucy Noakes.

As the climate continues to change, discussions with Tony Juniper, Tom Heap, and Mike Berners-Lee will shed light on the

way forward, while Patrick Grant explores how to make better clothing choices. Our memoir and life-writing events cover topics such as running, nature and motherhood, with speakers including Chloe Dalton, Paul Sinton-Hewitt, James Rebanks and Lucy Mangan.

Comedian Robin Ince will kick off the festival, and Pam Ayres will join us for a special matinée event celebrating her latest poetry collection.

Book your tickets soon for ten days of inspiration, reflection, and celebration.

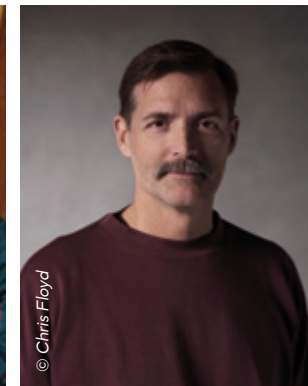
Booking opens to Friends on 7th March and to the public on 10th March.

We can't wait to see you in May.

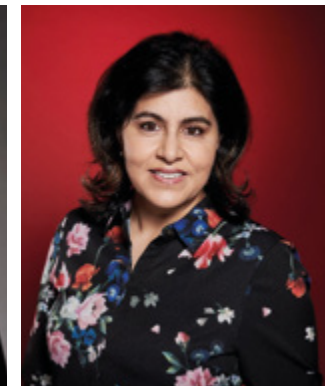
The Hexham Book Festival team



Mary Beard



Patrick Grant



Sayeeda Warsi



Hexham Book Festival is a Community Interest Company working in partnership with Queen's Hall Arts.

Follow us



Double your day out with our great value Saver Ticket which gives you admission to both Roman Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum

www.vindolanda.com

Pre-Festival Events

Sunday 23rd March



Tyne Valley Film Festival – The Return

Read the book, see the film.

- 🕒 7pm
- 📍 Forum Cinema
- 🎫 £9.50/£9

Tyne Valley Film Festival

HBF are delighted to be collaborating with Tyne Valley Film Festival again this year with a thrilling new take on Homer's *The Odyssey*, with standout performances from Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche.

Odysseus (Fiennes) washes up on the shores of Ithaca after twenty years fighting in the Trojan War, scarred and unrecognisable. His wife Penelope (Binoche), a prisoner in her own home, is hounded by many suitors as their son faces death at the hands of those who see him as a threat to their ambitions. Odysseus is forced to face his past in order to save his family and win back that which he has lost.

To book: forumhexham.com or 01434 601144



Wednesday 30th April



Kate Fox – Workshop: Writing for Performance

- 🕒 1pm-3pm
- 📍 Wilfrid Room, Hexham Abbey
- 🎫 £15 - *limited spaces, please book early to secure a place*

Join writer, broadcaster and performer Kate Fox for a two-hour workshop to develop your creative writing and dip your toe into spoken word skills. Kate will guide writers to create a new piece of writing then explore performance skills so the group can confidently try out their own work. Suitable for writers of all genres who want to learn how to share their work in public. All attendees will receive a free ticket to our evening event where, should you wish, you'll be invited to perform your work alongside Kate for an intimate audience.



Festival Fringe: An Evening with Kate Fox

- 🕒 7.30pm-9pm
- 📍 The Garden Coffee House, Hexham
- 🎫 £5

Our first ever festival fringe event will showcase the work of Kate Fox and local writers in an evening dedicated to the spoken word. Kate will share work from her latest book, *On Sycamore Gap*, and introduce writers who have written brand new work at our workshop earlier in the day. Kate Fox is a regular contributor to Radio 4's spoken word cabaret "The Verb", has made two comedy series for Radio 4, been Poet in Residence for the Glastonbury Festival and the Great North Run and completed a PhD in stand-up comedy.

Supported by
The Garden Coffee House

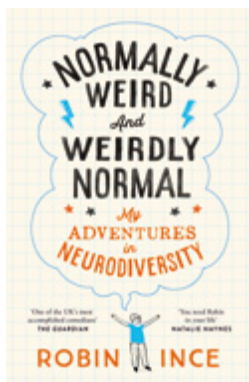


Become a Friend of Hexham Book Festival

Membership runs until 31st January 2026 and benefits include £2 off most ticket prices throughout the Festival.

Apply online at:
www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/become-a-friend
and for only £23 single and £34 double membership (two people at one address), you'll be helping to support the Festival going forward.





**Robin Ince -
Normally Weird and
Weirdly Normal**
Chaired by Harry Pearson
🕒 7.30pm-8.30pm
📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall
🎟 £12/£10

One of the hardest working comedians on the touring circuit, Robin Ince was diagnosed with ADHD at the age of fifty-two: all of a sudden, his concealed struggles with sadness, concentration, self-doubt and anxiety started to make sense. With more and more adults and children being diagnosed as neurodiverse, Robin uses his own experiences to talk about what "normal" is – and whether it really exists. With plenty of anecdotes, stories and laughs along the way, this is a quirky and witty dive into the world of neuroscience and human behaviour, and a reminder to everyone; no matter how weird we feel, it's okay to be a little different.



Oskar Jensen – Workshop: Using Research for Writing
🕒 10.30am-12.30pm | 📍 White Room, Queen's Hall
🎟 £25 - limited spaces, please book early to secure a place

Join author and historian Oskar Jensen for this two-hour workshop on how to conduct effective research that will support your writing – whether fiction or non-fiction, for books or for screen, set in the past, present or future. Drawing on techniques from his novel-writing, scholarship, and consultancy for film and TV, Oskar will discuss techniques, handy shortcuts, resources – and what can make research not just useful, but the most fun and surprising part of the process. The session will include group discussion, examples and activities, and will suit the merely curious as well as the committed writer. No previous writing experience necessary.



Sayeeda Warsi – Muslims Don't Matter
Chaired by Chi Onwurah

🕒 11am-12pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎟 £12/£10

The anti-Muslim riots of the summer of 2024 have pushed Islamophobia right to the top of the political agenda. From those riots – fuelled by racist misinformation which spread quickly on social media after the Southport knife attacks - to the hatred directed at Muslims in public life during the Gaza conflict, anti-Muslim racism is dangerously out of control.

Sayeeda Warsi is one of Britain's best-known Muslims. She was a cabinet minister under David Cameron who resigned over the 2014 Gaza war. In this incisive book, Sayeeda Warsi uses her dual experience at the centre of British power and in the heart of our Muslim communities to urge us to change course, to unite and dismantle this toxic bigotry.



Anna Hedworth - Service

Chaired by Anna Disley
🕒 12.45pm-1.45pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎟 £12/£10

An intimate look into the daily operations of her celebrated restaurants, Cook House and Long Friday in Newcastle, Anna takes readers through a typical work day, the soothing rhythms of prep, mealtimes and post service. Known for her emphasis on sustainability and fresh, seasonal and local ingredients, Anna will talk you through how you can recreate some of her most special dishes in your home. Find out how to make Spiced Pancakes with Poached Rhubarb & Raspberry, BBQ Bavette & Courgettes with Sriracha, Blood Orange Cardamom & Olive Oil Cake - and an array of drinks and seasonal preserves!

Sponsored by Curlew Accounting



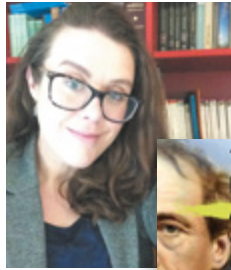
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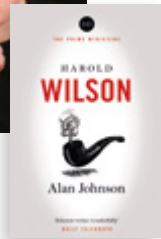
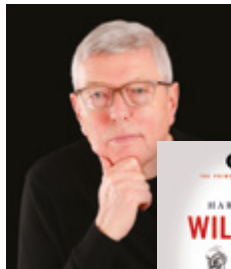


Helena Kelly – *The Life and Lies of Charles Dickens*

Chaired by Sheilagh Matheson

🕒 2pm-3pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall | 💷 £10.50/£8.50

Helena Kelly, author of the acclaimed *Jane Austen, the Secret Radical*, retells Dickens' story from his childhood to his deathbed, uncovering the truths he tried to keep hidden, and offering a fresh - and deeply troubling - perspective on the man who remains one of Britain's best-known novelists. There's the sister whose existence Dickens kept secret and the Jewish relations whose faith he strove to conceal. There's plagiarism, fraud, and suicide. And that's only for starters. You won't be able to look at him - or his work - in the same way again.



Alan Johnson – *Harold Wilson*

In conversation with Chris Mullin

🕒 2.30pm-3.30pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

💷 £12/£10

Harold Wilson, a key 20th-century politician, served as Prime Minister twice and won four elections, including a referendum on the UK's European Community membership. His era saw major reforms, from legalising homosexuality to advancing women's rights, protecting ethnic minorities, and founding the Open University, transforming the lives of ordinary people. In his latest book, Alan Johnson, former Labour minister and bestselling author, presents a portrait of Wilson as a truly twentieth century man, whose 'white heat' speech called for a scientific revolution, symbolising the 1960s alongside the likes of the Beatles and the Profumo scandal.



Kevin Barry – *The Heart in Winter*

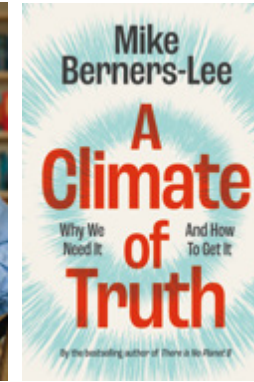
Chaired by Rebecca Wilkie

🕒 3.45pm-4.45pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall

💷 £10.50/£8.50

A savagely funny, achingly beautiful tale set in the Wild West, and picked as *Sunday Times* historical novel of the year, from the Booker-longlisted author of *Night Boat to Tangier*.

October, 1891. Tom Rourke is a poet struggling to make a life amongst the Irish migrant workers in Butte, Montana. Then he meets Polly Gillespie, the new bride of a devout mine captain, and a thunderbolt love affair takes spark. Tom and Polly strike out west on a stolen horse. But a posse of deranged Cornish gunmen are in hot pursuit of the lovers, and closing in fast...



Mike Berners-Lee – *A Climate of Truth*

Chaired by Tom Heap

🕒 4.15pm-5.15pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

💷 £12/£10

Climate Talks Sponsor:
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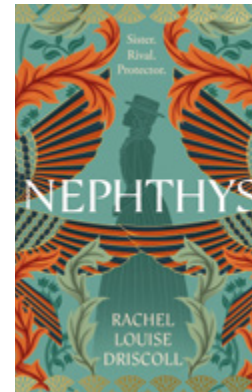
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We have the technology we need for a cleaner and healthier future, so why are we still accelerating into a polycrisis of climate, food security, biodiversity, pollution, inequality and more? The bestselling author of *There is No Planet B* looks at the challenge from new angles. He gets under the skin of our failures so far, to uncover what it will take to do better. The result is original, inspiring and practical. Anyone asking, 'what can each of us do right now to help?' will find inspiration in this practical and important book.

Local Authors Event – Rachel Louise Driscoll, Oskar Jensen, Naomi Kelsey

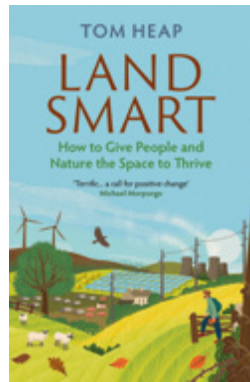
Chaired by Sarah Davy

🕒 5.15pm-6.30pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall | 💷 £7



Join us for our annual celebration of three local authors whose page-turning novels have held us captivated: Rachel Louise Driscoll's debut *Nephythys* is set in the rush to uncover secrets from the Pharaohs during the height of Victorian London's fascination with Egypt; Naomi Kelsey's *The Darkening of the Globe* takes us further into London's history, in the Elizabethan discovery of new lands and colonisation; and Oskar Jensen's *Helle's Hounds* is a witty murder mystery where the key is the potential murder victim's previous work as a spy during the Cold War.

Saturday 3rd May (cont.)



Tom Heap – Land Smart

Chaired by Alison Freeman

🕒 7pm-8pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎟️ £12/£10

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VATTENFALL

We need land for so many of humanity's growing needs, such as food, renewable energy, carbon storage and housing. Traditionally, we've taken it from nature, but the mounting toll of extinction and pollution has meant a rethink is essential.

In *Land Smart*, Tom Heap, presenter of BBC's *Countryfile*, R4's *Rare Earth* and *The Climate Show* on Sky News, tours the British countryside meeting farmers, scientists, conservationists and warehouse managers who are solving the most pressing challenges facing our countryside and the world, showing that if we use land cleverly it can give both humanity and nature the space to thrive on just the one planet.



The Working-Class Library: Classics

🕒 7.30pm-8.30pm

📍 Library, Queen's Hall

🎟️ £5

NEW WRITING
NORTH

Join writer Richard Benson (*The Farm, The Valley*) and Claire Malcolm (New Writing North) from the Working Class Library podcast as they seek to explore and reclaim working-class people's contribution to English literature. Their quest is to establish a new 'canon' of working-class books that tell a different story to the established British literary canon. For this live edition of the podcast they will be joined by a special guest writer to identify a working-class classic that they love. The podcast is a venture of *The Bee*, a new magazine of writing by working class writers which launches this spring.

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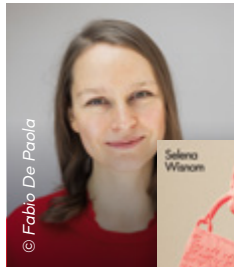
www.thebeaumonthexham.co.uk



Dave Wibberly – Workshop: Writing From Life

🕒 10.30am-12.30pm | 📍 White Room, Queen’s Hall
 🎟 £25 - limited spaces, please book early to secure a place

Every day, our lives are filled with unique experiences and insights that shape our understanding of the world. Whether you’re in a coffee shop, on your way to work, or simply walking down the street, you’re constantly surrounded by a wealth of ideas just waiting to be transformed into captivating stories. Join our dynamic workshop, where you’ll discover how to turn your personal experiences into an endless supply of inspiration for both fiction and non-fiction writing. Through engaging tutor-led presentations, hands-on practical exercises, and lively group discussions, you’ll learn the secrets to capturing your ideas and bringing them to life on the page.



© Fabio De Paola



Selena Wisnom – The Library of Ancient Wisdom

Illustrated talk
 🕒 11am-12pm | 📍 Library, Queen’s Hall | 🎟 £10.50/£8.50

The story of the ancient world’s most spectacular library, and the civilization that created it.

When a team of Victorian archaeologists dug into a grassy hill in Iraq, they chanced upon the library of the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, seventh century BCE ruler of Mesopotamia. Buried for millennia the unearthed tablets were written in cuneiform, the first written language in the world.

Assyriologist Selena Wisnom takes us on an immersive tour of this extraordinary library, bringing ancient Mesopotamia - home to advanced mathematics, astronomy and banking, law and literature - and its people to life.



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Chris Summerfield – These Strange New Minds

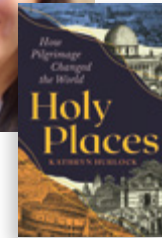
Chaired by Harry Pearson
 🕒 11.30am-12.30pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen’s Hall | 🎟 £12/£10

AI is in the news daily, and yet very few of us understand how it is already impacting our lives, let alone what it may be able to do in the future. From neuroscientist and Research Director at the UK AI Safety Institute, Christopher Summerfield, comes a book which presents AI in language and concepts all of us can understand – and asks all the questions you will want answers to. Join us for a discussion about the very basis on which all our lives will continue to be built over the coming years.



Kathryn Hurlock – Holy Places

Illustrated talk
 🕒 12.45pm-1.45pm | 📍 Library, Queen’s Hall
 🎟 £10.50/£8.50



A luminous exploration of pilgrimage, told through nineteen breathtaking sacred sites across the globe, and shared with us through a stunning illustrated talk by the author. We’ll follow the trail of pilgrimage from the temples of Jerusalem to the banks of the Ganges, by way of Iona, Lourdes, Amritsar and Buenos Aires – revealing the many ways in which this ancient practice has shaped our religions and our world. Filled with fascinating insights, *Holy Places* unveils the complex histories and contemporary endurance of one of our most fundamental human urges.

History Talks Sponsor: Vindolanda



© Stylist Magazine



Lucy Mangan – Bookish

Chaired by Anna Disley
 🕒 1.15pm-2.15pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen’s Hall | 🎟 £12/£10

As a child, Lucy Mangan was reading all the time, using books to navigate the challenges and complexities of this world and many others. As an adult, she uses her new relationship with literature to seize upon the most important question: (how) do books prepare us for life? The highly anticipated sequel to *Bookworm*, *Bookish* is about how books of all kinds delight, guide, comfort and strengthen us throughout our adult lives at each crucial phase – those both expected, and surprising. This event is a must for anyone whose relationship with books helped them navigate their other relationships, as well as life itself.



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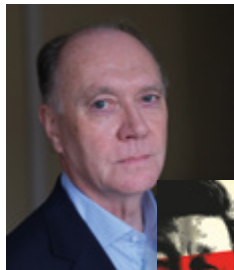


Abir Mukherjee - Hunted

Chaired by Vic Watson
 🕒 2.30pm-3.30pm | 📍 Library, Queen’s Hall
 🎟 £10.50/£8.50

Abir Mukherjee, the bestselling author of the award-winning Wyndham & Banerjee series of crime novels, brings us his new international political thriller, a masterclass in intelligent suspense fiction.

After a bomb goes off in an LA shopping mall the week before a presidential election, two British students who are linked to the suicide bomber are on the run. Hunted by the authorities, their parents – unknown to each other - are thrown together in a race against time to find their kids before the FBI.



Michael Sheridan – The Red Emperor

Chaired by Richard Moss

🕒 3pm-4pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 💷 £12/£10

Michael Sheridan, Far East correspondent for *The Sunday Times*, is an expert on China and the Far East. *The Red Emperor* offers a compelling portrait of Xi Jinping, the man leading 1.4 billion people and the world's second-largest economy. Sheridan traces Xi's rise from a poor, isolated childhood to a ruthless, absolute ruler shaping China's military, economic, and global power. In Xi's China, corruption, purges, and scandals run rampant as he works to dominate world trade, defeat Western democracy, and make China supreme. This biography, rich with exclusive material, reveals Xi's immense influence and dangerous ambitions.

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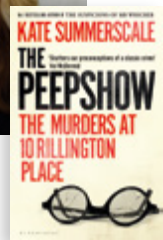
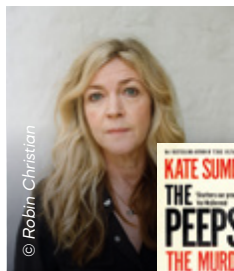
A.L. Kennedy – Alive in the Merciful Country

Chaired by Harry Pearson

🕒 4.15pm-5.15pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall
💷 £10.50/£8.50

A beautiful new novel from Costa Book of the Year winner, Booker nominee and double Granta-selected Best Young British novelist AL Kennedy.

As a primary school teacher and single mother to a teenage boy, Anna McCormick is more vulnerable than many to the impact of a global pandemic. But when an unstamped envelope arrives overnight, her past begins to cast its own long shadow on this already difficult present. *Alive in the Merciful Country* is a portrayal of kindness as resistance to the abuse of power by the state, by the police and by the villains much closer to home.



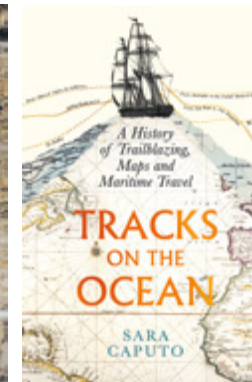
Kate Summerscale – The Peepshow

Chaired by Claire Malcolm

🕒 4.45pm-5.45pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 💷 £12/£10

London, 1953. Police discover the bodies of three young women hidden in a wall at 10 Rillington Place, a dingy terrace house in Notting Hill. On searching the building, they find another body beneath the floorboards, then an array of human bones in the garden. But they have already investigated a double murder at 10 Rillington Place, three years ago, and the killer was hanged. Did they get the wrong man?

In this riveting true story – a history written in her award-winning novelistic style – Kate Summerscale mines the archives to uncover the lives of Christie's victims, the tabloid frenzy that their deaths inspired, and the truth about what happened inside the house.



Sara Caputo – Tracks on the Ocean

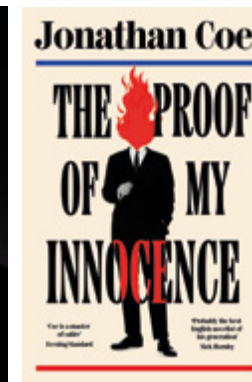
Illustrated talk

🕒 6pm-7pm
📍 Library, Queen's Hall
💷 £10.50/£8.50

History Talks Sponsor: Vindolanda



From their first appearance on Renaissance maps, linear tracks representing maritime voyages have shaped the way we see the world. But why do we depict journeys as lines, and what is their deeper meaning? Historian Sara Caputo charts a hidden history of the modern world through the tracks left on maps and the sea by explorers and sea voyagers through the ages. With an illustrated talk, Sara takes us from ancient Greek itineraries to twenty-first-century digital mapping, via the voyages of Drake and Cook, the decks of Napoleonic warships and the boiler rooms of ocean liners, revealing how marks on maps have changed the course of modernity.

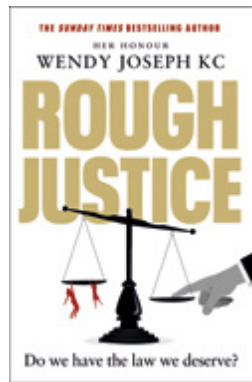


Jonathan Coe – The Proof of my Innocence

Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson

🕒 6.30pm – 7.30pm
📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall
💷 £12/£10

From the award-winning and bestselling author of *Middle England* comes a sharply observed and witty new novel, set in the very short time that Liz Truss was our Prime Minister, with astonishing resonance for the return of Donald Trump as US President. Darting between decades and genres, *The Proof of my Innocence* is a wickedly funny political critique wrapped up in a murder mystery from one of Britain's most beloved novelists, showing how the key to understanding the present can often be found in the murkiest corners of the past.



**Wendy Joseph –
Rough Justice**

Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson
 ⌚ 6.15pm-7.15pm
 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall
 💷 £12/£10

What is justice? Do our legal courts dispense it? Has our judicial process improved, for the victims, the accused and for society? What more must be done to ensure genuine justice is carried out in future?

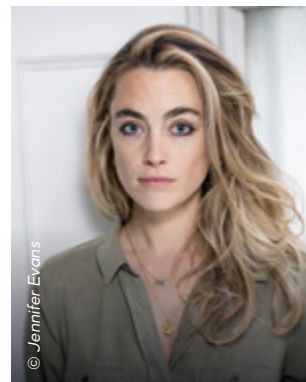
Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC explores these questions in her examination of four gripping trials she presided over and excavates matching historical cases of murder and intrigue. The former Old Bailey judge, and author of the acclaimed bestseller *Unlawful Killings*, lifts the lid on our legal system and asks whether it delivers criminal justice for those involved, especially women and girls who are so often the victims.



**Sam Freedman –
Failed State**

Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson
 ⌚ 8pm-9pm
 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall
 💷 £12/£10

It's harder than ever to get a GP appointment. Burglaries go unpunished. Wages have been stagnant for years, even as the cost of housing rises inexorably. Why is everything going wrong at the same time? In *Failed State*, respected political analyst Sam Freedman offers a devastating analysis of where we've gone wrong. Speaking to politicians of all stripes, civil servants, workers on the frontline and key thinkers across the world, this book bursts with insight into the real problems that are so often hidden from the front pages. The result is a witty, landmark book that paves the way for a fairer and more prosperous Britain.



**The Big Book Group
Event: The Unwilding by
Marina Kemp**

Chaired by Liv Chapman
 ⌚ 6.15pm-7.15pm
 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall
 💷 £8

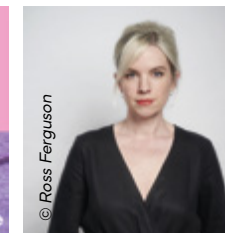
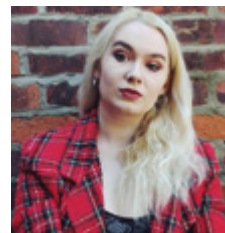
Specially priced copies of this new novel are available, email us to order: info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk

Join us for our popular Big Book Group event, or come on your own: perfect for avid readers.

A beautiful and compelling literary novel set in Sicily, London and Appalachia on the East Coast of the USA, *The Unwilding* follows the career of fledgling writer Zoe, and Nemony, the youngest child in the family Zoe stays with in Sicily when she's first published to great acclaim. However, Zoe's interest in Nemony's family soon becomes unsettling, in ways that Nemony can't quite put her finger on...

Macmillan Proof Party: Grainne O'Hare and Leigh Radford

Chaired by Liv Chapman
 ⌚ 7.45pm-8.45pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 💷 £14 (includes 2 books)



A special opportunity to get your hands on early copies from two of the most exciting young new novelists of 2025: *Thirst Trap* by Grainne O'Hare and *One Yellow Eye* by Leigh Radford.

Thirst Trap is a wildly original and brilliantly assured debut set in modern Belfast: full of the pain, joy and bad decisions arising from young friendship, grief and bad house shares.

One Yellow Eye is full of heartbreak, revulsion and black humour, as a scientist desperately searches for a cure to a zombie virus while also hiding a monumental secret – her undead husband.

Attendees will each receive special proof copies of the novels to take home. Presented in partnership with Macmillan Publishers.



Pam Ayres – Doggedly Onward: A Life in Poems

🕒 2.30pm-3.30pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎫 £12/£10

Pam Ayres has been making the nation laugh for half a century. After Ted Hughes, she is the UK's best-selling poet since records began and has been heard and loved by generations across the country. In a special matinee event, Hexham Book Festival welcomes Pam to talk about her new book, *Doggedly Onward: A Life In Poems*, which brings together some of her most-loved and best-known poems from the 1970s through to the 2020s. Included are the cavalcade of much-loved dogs, her lifelong fascination with wildlife, the mistakes, regrets, the heartbreak of leaving the family home, and the sober business of ageing.



Sponsored by *The Boatside Inn*



Lucy Noakes – The People's Victory

Chaired by Dr Martin Farr

🕒 6.15pm-7.15pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎫 £12/£10

On the 80th anniversary of V.E. Day and the end of World War II, we welcome Lucy Noakes, historian of 20th century Britain and an expert on the social and cultural history of the Second World War.

In *The People's Victory*, Lucy Noakes mines the Mass Observation archive to present a groundbreaking social history of how Britons at home experienced and celebrated the end of World War II. Much mythologised as a period of mass jubilation, Noakes challenges this narrative, tracing the changing attitudes of a country in flux.

History Talks Sponsor: *Vindolanda*



Tim Bouverie – Allies at War

Chaired by Dr Martin Farr

🕒 8pm-9pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎫 £12/£10

In our marking of the 80th anniversary of V.E. Day, journalist and historian Tim Bouverie offers a fresh perspective on the Second World War and the origins of the Cold War.

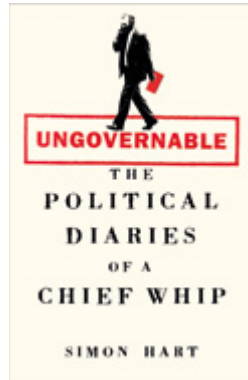
Allies at War is a landmark history of the alliance that won the war and made the peace, despite unstable relationships at its heart. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin were partners in the fight to defeat Hitler, yet were also rivals who disagreed on strategy, imperialism and the future of liberated Europe. This is a new perspective on understanding the course of the war and its aftermath.



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Friday 9th May



Simon Hart – Ungovernable

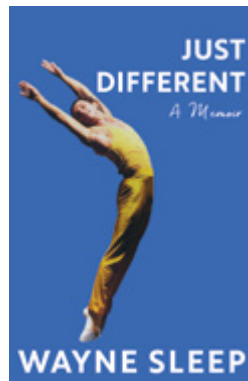
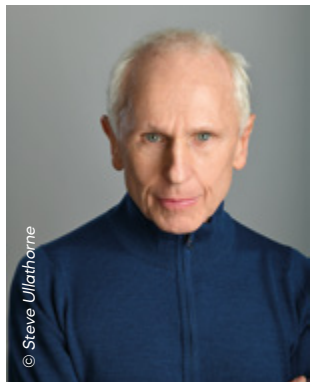
Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson

🕒 6.15pm-7.15pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎫 £12/£10

Former Chief Whip and MP Simon Hart had a front-row seat in the most turbulent times in Britain's recent political history. From negotiations around Brexit and the impact of Liz Truss's extraordinary 49-day premiership to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, he's seen and heard it all. None of this stopped him from becoming one of the few chief whips – of which there have been eleven since 2010 – to survive for an entire premiership. Revisiting diaries kept throughout his career, *Ungovernable* is an insider's story and unflinching look into the heart of British politics from the centre of government.



Wayne Sleep – Just Different

Chaired by Claire Malcolm

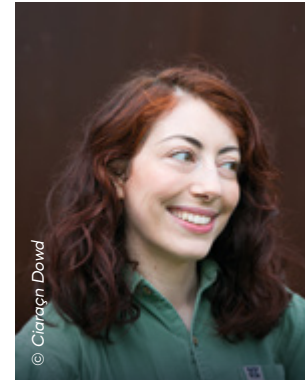
🕒 8pm-9pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎫 £12/£10

Wayne Sleep has danced with ballet legends Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn, partied with Freddie Mercury and performed with Princess Diana, becoming her close friend. Behind the glitz and glamour, Wayne always felt like an outsider: a working-class, gay man coming up against the prejudices of his generation and living through the AIDS epidemic. In this moving - but also laugh-out-loud and gossip filled - memoir, Wayne Sleep shows how he danced his way to success, fulfilment and love, and how he overcame obstacles and prejudice along the way.

Saturday 10th May



Workshop: Writing Short Stories with Marni Appleton

🕒 10.30am-12.30pm

📍 White Room, Queen's Hall

🎫 £25 - limited spaces,
please book early to
secure a place

The ideal workshop for those who want to improve their creative writing skills or write their first short story: join Marni Appleton for a 2-hour hands-on session where you will gain a deeper appreciation of the short story form and generate ideas for your own. Through participation in writing exercises and reading contemporary examples, you will learn valuable tips and techniques to craft your own compelling short stories. No previous writing experience needed.



Chloe Dalton – Raising Hare

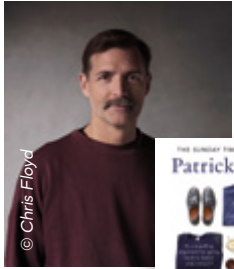
Chaired by Harriet Lamb

🕒 11am-12pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎫 £12/£10

A stunning and original memoir, named Waterstones Book of the Year 2024, from writer, political adviser and foreign policy expert Chloe Dalton. When lockdown led busy professional Chloe to leave the city and return to the countryside of her childhood, she never expected to find herself custodian of a newly born hare. Yet when she finds the creature, endangered, alone and no bigger than her palm, she is compelled to give it a chance at survival. *Raising Hare* chronicles their journey together and the challenges of caring for the leveret and preparing for its return to the wild – whilst, despite her best efforts, the animal stole Chloe's heart.



© Chris Floyd



Patrick Grant – Less

Chaired by Claire Malcolm

🕒 12.45pm-1.45pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen’s Hall | 💷 £12/£10

Today the average person has nearly five times as many clothes as they did just 50 years ago. Our wardrobes are full to bursting with clothes we never wear so why do we keep buying more?

Join Great British Sewing Bee judge and passionate campaigner for better clothing and ethical fashion, Patrick Grant, as he explores his mission to make us all consume fewer clothes – and love and care for those we have. Weaving in his personal journey through fashion, clothing and the other everyday objects in his life, *Less* is a book that celebrates craftsmanship, making things with care, buying things with thought and valuing everything we own.



© Leonie Hampton



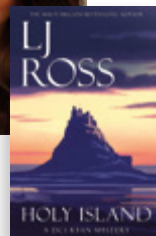
Marianne Brown – The Shetland Way

Chaired by Sheilagh Matheson

🕒 2pm-3pm | 📍 Library, Queen’s Hall | 💷 £10.50/£8.50

When Marianne Brown arrived in Voe, Shetland, to attend the funeral of her father, she had packed enough clothes to last a short trip. But this was February 2020, just weeks before the UK’s first lockdown, and she would be unable to leave for another six months. As an environmental journalist, Marianne is drawn to investigate this story of sustainable energy that is irrevocably tied to her grief. But nothing is ever straightforward, and she soon finds herself on a transformative journey into the heart of a debate that mirrors global concerns about how we save the planet.

Climate Talks Sponsor: Vattenfall



LJ Ross – 10 year anniversary of Holy Island

Chaired by Alison Freeman

🕒 2.30pm-3.30pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen’s Hall | 💷 £12/£10

A Hexham Book Festival exclusive event: Local bestselling author LJ Ross celebrates 10 years since her first book, *Holy Island*, was published and was the catalyst for one of the most extraordinary crime-writing series of modern times. LJ Ross has, to date, sold over 10 million copies worldwide of her books, as well as set up a successful publishing business and funded many philanthropic projects in the North East. Join us for this unique opportunity to discover the inspiration behind her work, her creative process and the impact of her hugely successful writing career.

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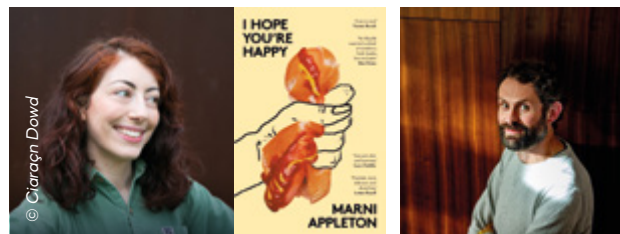
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Saturday 10th May (cont.)

Marni Appleton and Ross Raisin: Short and perfectly-formed stories

Chaired by Sarah Davy

🕒 3.45pm-4.45pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall | 💷 £10.50/£8.50



The power of the short story is undeniable - captivating, elusive – and very, very special. In this event we'll discover new work, hear from an award-winning short story writer and find out why short stories are such a unique and effective form of storytelling.

Debut short story writer Marni Appleton presents her new collection *I Hope You're Happy*, a world of fleeting encounters, empty couplings, break ups, bust ups, threesomes and ghosts. Joining Marni is novelist and short story writer Ross Raisin, author of four novels and winner of the 2024 National Short Story Prize.

New Fiction: Carys Davies & Elizabeth O'Connor

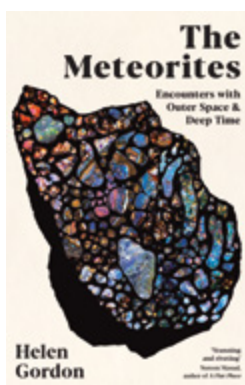
Chaired by Liv Chapman

🕒 5.30pm-6.30pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall | 💷 £10.50/£8.50



Carys Davies' *Clear* is set during the Highland Clearances of the 1840s, when a church minister is sent from the mainland to evict Ivar, the sole occupant of one of the last inhabited islands beyond Shetland. With no shared language and a mutual distrust, will the men manage to find understanding?

Elizabeth O'Connor's *Whale Fall* is set on a fictional island off the Welsh coast. It is 1938, and teenager Manod is trying to imagine her future: she must either stay and look after her father's house or marry and leave. Neither are appealing, and both carry threat.



Helen Gordon – The Meteorites

Illustrated talk

🕒 4.15pm-5.15pm

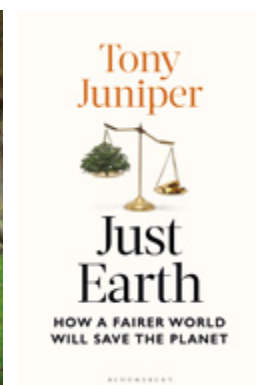
📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

💷 £12/£10

Supported by
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From your window you can see the stars and distant planets: light years away, it's easy to think that our existences and theirs will never intersect. Yet meteorites - mysterious, irregular rocks of sometimes immense value - connect us with the vastness of the universe. Writer and natural historian Helen Gordon presents an illustrated talk about the wonder of meteorites, including those that have fallen to Earth and the lives they have touched - from collectors to kings, scientists to farmers. Blending science, natural history and character sketches, *The Meteorites* is a fascinating exploration of these extraordinary objects.



Tony Juniper – Just Earth

Illustrated talk

🕒 6pm-7pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

💷 £12/£10

Climate Talks Sponsor:
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From wildfires and floods to food poverty, degraded rivers, mass migration and conflict, the environmental crisis is already here – and it's set to get much worse. Britain's leading environmentalist, Tony Juniper, addresses the real problem at the heart of the climate crisis – inequality - and offers a vital, hopeful plan for our future. In this inspiring and illuminating talk, Tony will argue that we can't fight the climate and nature crises without addressing the ever-widening gaps between rich and poor, the powerful and the weak, providing answers to how we can achieve real, lasting change.

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Saturday 10th May (cont.)

Bloodaxe presents... Gillian Allnutt and Katrina Porteous

Chaired by Neil Astley

 7.15pm - 8.15pm |  Library, Queen's Hall |  £10.50/£8.50



Two of the North East's most-loved poets unite on stage with their publisher for a very special event.


Gillian Allnutt's new collection, *Lode*, was written mostly during the Covid-19 pandemic, which found her isolated in the former pit village of Esh Winning in Co. Durham, her home for the past 30 years, unsure when she'd be able to roam further than her immediate vicinity.


Katrina Porteous' most recent collection, *Rhizodont*, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize 2024, and against a backdrop of vast geological time and recent fossil-fuel burning history, explores current issues of social and environmental change.



Anthony Seldon – Truss at 10

Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson

 7.45pm-8.45pm

 Theatre, Queen's Hall

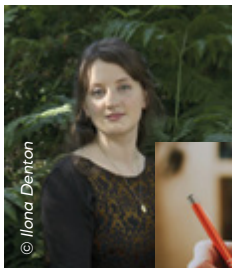
 £12/£10

Sponsored by Cartmell Shepherd in association with Nicholson Portnell

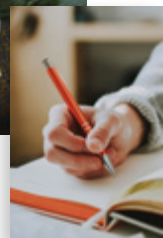


Liz Truss's disastrous premiership was the shortest and most chaotic in British history. In the space of just 49 days, Truss witnessed the death of the longest-reigning monarch, attempted to remould the economy, triggered a collapse in the value of Sterling and was forced to make a series of embarrassing U-turns that ultimately led to her resignation. The aftershocks of her time in office are still felt today. How did she blow her opportunity so spectacularly?

Based on exclusive interviews with key aides, allies and insiders, and focusing on the critical steps that led to her demise, this gripping behind-the-scenes work of contemporary history gives the definitive account of Truss's premiership.



© Ilana Denton



Workshop:
Writing landscape and place with Elizabeth O'Connor

🕒 10.30am-12.30pm | 📍 White Room, Queen's Hall
📞 £25 - limited spaces, please book early to secure a place

Novelist and creative writing tutor Elizabeth O'Connor, whose debut novel *Whale Fall* is set on a fictional Welsh island where the island itself is one of the main (and most compelling) characters, will teach you how to build the landscape and convey a strong and engaging sense of place in your writing. Through discussion and exercises, you'll learn how to describe and give character to locations in your story, as well as how to weave them into your cast of characters and your plot, creating an evocative and rich piece of writing. No previous writing experience needed.



Kat Hill – Bothy

Chaired by Sheilagh Matheson

🕒 11am-12pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall | 📞 £10.50/£8.50

You can find bothies in the mountains or the wilderness, remote huts you can't reserve, usually without electricity or other mod-cons, running water or even a marker on the map. You might have them to yourself or share them with strangers. And it's there that you'll meet Kat Hill – kettle on, feet up and pen out. Leading us on a gorgeous journey around the UK, Kat reveals the history of these wild mountain shelters and the people who visit them. With an historian's insight and a ramblers' imagination, Kat lends fresh consideration to the concepts of nature, wilderness and escape.

Sponsored by Northumberland National Park



Paul Sinton-Hewitt – One Small Step

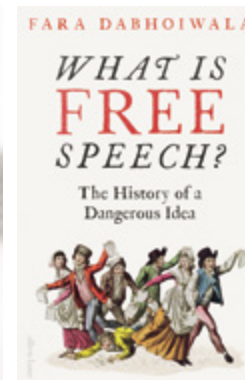
Chaired by Jonathan Morrell

🕒 11.30am-12.30pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 📞 £12/£10

From a local park initiative to a global fitness revolution, *One Small Step* shares the extraordinary journey of Parkrun, proving how one person's vision can mobilize millions worldwide towards health, happiness and community. Paul Sinton-Hewitt was born in Zimbabwe in 1960 and grew up in South Africa. Paul excelled at sports but it was running that captured his imagination – and in 2004, on a whim, he founded the Bushy Park Time Trial in London, which went on to become Parkrun, now a global phenomenon which sees millions of runners take to the streets, parks and beaches of their local area on a weekend morning.



© Matthew Raspanti, Princeton University



Fara Dabhoiwala – What Is Free Speech?

Chaired by Richard Moss

🕒 12pm-1pm
📍 Great Hall, Hexham Abbey
📞 £10.50/£8.50

Free speech is a clarion call all over the world. Across premodern societies regulating speech was essential for maintaining order, however, in the early 1700s, the idea of free speech as a right began to emerge. What it means today is more contested than ever. Historian Fara Dabhoiwala traces its evolution from a global perspective ranging across Europe, North America and South Asia. Dabhoiwala rejects celebratory platitudes about the past and present of free expression, explaining how to think more deeply about free speech as a global as well as a local question, showing that history complicates our contemporary presumptions, and suggesting fresh possibilities for the future.



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Sunday 11th May (cont.)



Andrew Ziminski – Church Going

Illustrated talk

🕒 12.45pm-1.45pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall

🎫 £10.50/£8.50



An insightful and charming history of Britain's churches - by an author who spends his life working in them.

Churches are many things to us - they are places of worship, vibrant community hubs and oases of calm reflection. Andrew Ziminski has spent decades as a stonemason and church conservator, acting as an informal guide to curious visitors. *Church Going* is his handbook to the medieval churches of the British Isles, in which he reveals their fascinating histories, features and furnishings, from flying buttresses to rood screens, lichgates to chancels.

History Talks Sponsor: *Vindolanda*

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Lucy Easthope – Come What May

Chaired by Gerry Foley

🕒 1.15pm-2.15pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎫 £12/£10



Lucy Easthope is the UK's leading authority on recovering from disaster and author of the bestselling *When the Dust Settles*. She has been an advisor for nearly every major disaster of the past two decades, including 9/11, the 2004 tsunami, the Salisbury poisonings, Grenfell, the Covid-19 pandemic and most recently the war in Ukraine. She has been present after countless earthquakes, fires and floods. She has witnessed how people rebuild: the work, the pitfalls and the fragile joy, all of which she shares in her new book, *Come What May*. Lucy offers a roadmap for resilience in the face of adversity.

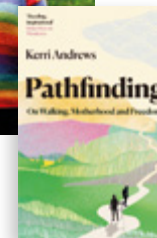


Kerri Andrews – Pathfinding

Chaired by Laura Brewis

🕒 2pm-3pm | 📍 Great Hall, Hexham Abbey

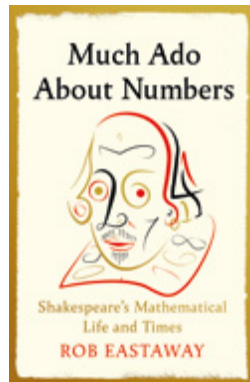
🎫 £10.50/£8.50



The desire to walk is something that defines us as human beings, bringing joy, connection and freedom. But what happens when we become mothers? In the wake of the complete metamorphosis of becoming a mother, Kerri Andrews undertakes a series of journeys on foot to understand what has happened to her and others who bear the mental and physical scars of childbearing and childrearing. From Mary Wollstonecraft and Ellen Weeton to Kate Chopin, here are women whose post-partum stories are urgently pertinent as they show us how to step into new ways of living with motherhood.

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**Rob Eastaway –
Much Ado
About Numbers**

Illustrated talk

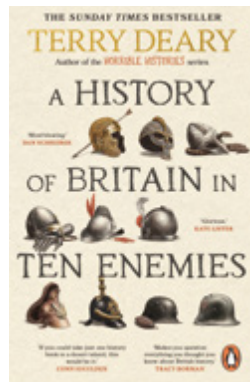
🕒 2.30pm-3.30pm

📍 Library, Queen's Hall

🎟 £10.50/£8.50

What is the connection between Shakespeare and maths? A lot, as it turns out! Shakespeare grew up in a time of remarkable mathematical innovation. From astronomy to probability, music to multiplication, new mathematical ideas were taking off – and much of this was reflected in Shakespeare's work.

In this highly engaging talk by award-winning author and champion of mathematics, you will discover the surprising mathematical connections between Shakespeare and the work he created.



**Terry Deary –
A History of Britain
in Ten Enemies**

Chaired by Gerry Foley

🕒 3pm-4pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎟 £12/£10

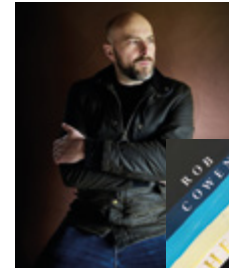
History Talks Sponsor:
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CHARITABLE TRUST

From the bestselling historian and creator of *Horrible Histories* comes a witty, whistlestop tour through the history of Britain (for grown ups).

Britain and the British have a proud history of choosing their enemies, from the Romans to the Germans.

The surprisingly sadistic Boudica would be forgotten if it weren't for the Ninth Legion, Elizabeth I a minor royal without the Spanish Armada, and Churchill an opposition windbag without the Nazis. Britain loves its heroes so much we have been known to pickle them in brandy to keep them fresh. And after all, every nation sometimes needs a bit of unifying Blitz spirit.



Rob Cowen – The North Road

Chaired by Matthew Kelly

🕒 3.15pm-4.15pm | 📍 Great Hall, Hexham Abbey

🎟 £10.50/£8.50

The A1: The Great North Road. A 400-mile multiplicity of ancient trackway, Roman road, pilgrim path, coach route and motorway that has run like a backbone through Britain for the last 2,000 years and which bisects and feeds the North East economy. In this profoundly personal book, Cowen follows this ghost road from beginning to end on a journey through history, place, people and time. Weaving his own histories and memories with the layered landscapes he moves through, this is the story of a road, and all the communities and memories it passes through.

History Talks Sponsor: Vindolanda

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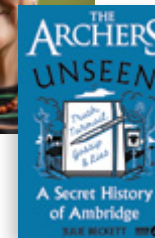
Roger Clough – Oldenland

Chaired by Harry Pearson

🕒 4.15pm-5.15pm | 📍 Library, Queen's Hall

🎟 £10.50/£8.50

A beautifully written and philosophical journey through the natural landscape of old age. Roger Clough, former Professor of Social Care, spends his time learning to walk through his last phase of life in old age. Where he used to study the terrain of ageing like a scientist, now he understands it as a farmer might, walking its contours every day from his retirement village in the Peak District. Now in his 80s, Roger shares his insights into how to have a good "old age" - the first of its kind, and an invaluable glimpse into a period of life rarely spoken about, much less written about.



Julie Beckett – The Archers Unseen

Chaired by Alison Freeman

🕒 4.45pm-5.45pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 🎟 £12/£10

Peek behind the curtains of the UK's most well-known village, with a writer who's been working in Ambridge since 1998. Location by location, via the Bull and the occasional barn, Julie Beckett takes us behind closed doors and picks up on all sorts of whispers around money, births, deaths and marriages, and romance and sex (often in inappropriate places ...). Every relationship, each personal triumph and disaster, and all the hopes and dreams of a community over the years are folded into the personal stories of the characters we know so well today. An event which *Archers* devotees cannot miss!



**Stephen Alford –
All His Spies**

Chaired by Harry Pearson

🕒 6pm-7pm

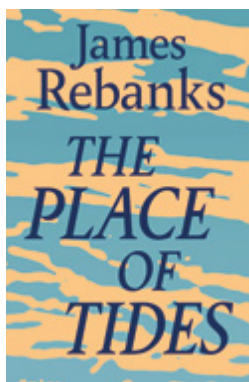
📍 Library, Queen's Hall

🎟️ £10.50/£8.50

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Robert Cecil, statesman and spymaster, lived through an astonishingly threatening period in English history. Queen Elizabeth I had no clear successor and enemies both external and internal threatened to destroy England as a Protestant state, most spectacularly with the Spanish Armada and the Gunpowder Plot. Many readers are familiar with the great events of this tumultuous time, but *All His Spies* shows how easily these dramas could have turned out very differently. Cecil's sureness of purpose, his espionage network and good luck all conspired to keep England uninvaded and to create a new 'British' monarchy which has endured to the present day.



**James Rebanks –
The Place of Tides**

Chaired by Rob Cowen

🕒 6.30pm-7.30pm

📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall

🎟️ £12/£10

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From the bestselling author of *The Shepherd's Life*, an unforgettable story of friendship, redemption and a life-changing voyage of discovery.

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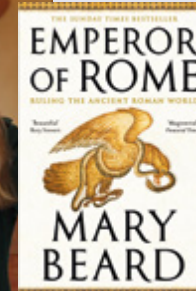
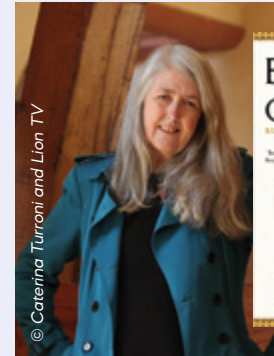


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NORTH EAST

Mary Beard – Emperor of Rome, and Raphael Cormack – Holy Men of the Electromagnetic Age

Chaired by Professor Roy Gibson

🕒 7pm-8pm | 📍 Theatre, Queen's Hall | 💷 £12/£10



© Caterina Turroni and Lion TV



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A family matter? Two historians, Mary Beard and Raphael Cormack, happen to be mother and son. Join them for an extraordinary exploration of their recent books — but also questions of why history is important and how you get into it.

In *Holy Men of the Electromagnetic Age*, Raphael Cormack looks at the golden age of the occult between the world wars. Spiritualists, clairvoyants, and mystics were everywhere claiming that unseen forces shaped human potential. What was their appeal? And is there connection between their influence and the appeal of the unknown in today's uncertain world?

Emperor of Rome is not your usual chronological account of Roman rulers, the mad Caligula, the monster Nero, the philosopher Marcus Aurelius. Mary Beard asks bigger questions: Was the Roman palace really so bloodstained? What was it like to rule and be ruled in the Ancient Roman world? Does Rome have any lessons for modern politics?

Come and get a glimpse of what two historians discuss round the kitchen table, ably moderated by Roy Gibson, a friend and colleague of both.

History Talks Sponsor: Vindolanda

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Young Writers

We run a Young Writers group in partnership with the Queen's Hall for aspiring authors aged 11-14yrs. Topics range from writing micro fiction to using the senses and how three is an important number! This is an opportunity to flex your creativity in all things written. Group meets every fortnight.

More information at www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk



THANKS

We are grateful to all our Sponsors and Partners and, of course, to all our fabulous volunteers and audiences who help to make the Festival such a success.

Event Partners:



Save The Date!

StoryLand

Sunday 29th June

A day of bookish fun for the whole family!



Supported by: Gillian Dickinson, Arts Council England



Saturday 24th May 2025

at Bywell near Stocksfield - NE43 7AB

www.northcountyshow.co.uk



Tickets on sale now!



Audio Book Group

For those who have a visual impairment, meets in Hexham Library once a month.

To join, email us:

E: info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk



Programme Listing

Sunday 23rd March

7pm

Film: The Return
Forum Cinema

Wednesday 30th April

1pm-3pm

Writing Workshop: Spoken Word
Wilfrid Room, Hexham Abbey

7.30pm-9pm

An Evening with Kate Fox
The Garden Coffee House

Friday 2nd May

7.30pm-8.30pm

Robin Ince
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Saturday 3rd May

10.30am-12.30pm

Writing Workshop: Research
White Room, Queen's Hall

11am-12pm

Sayeeda Warsi
Theatre, Queen's Hall

12.45pm-1.45pm

Anna Hedworth
Theatre, Queen's Hall

2pm-3pm

Helena Kelly
Library, Queen's Hall

2.30pm-3.30pm

Alan Johnson
Theatre, Queen's Hall

3.45pm-4.45pm

Kevin Barry
Library, Queen's Hall

4.15pm-5.15pm

Mike Berners-Lee
Theatre, Queen's Hall

5.15pm-6.30pm

Local Authors event
Library, Queen's Hall

7pm-8pm

Tom Heap
Theatre, Queen's Hall

7.30pm-8.30pm

The Working Class Library
Library, Queen's Hall

Sunday 4th May

10.30am-12.30pm

Writing Workshop: Lifewriting
White Room, Queen's Hall

11am-12pm

Selena Wisnom
Library, Queen's Hall

11.30am-12.30pm

Chris Summerfield
Theatre, Queen's Hall

12.45pm-1.45pm

Kathryn Hurlock
Library, Queen's Hall

1.15pm-2.15pm

Lucy Mangan
Theatre, Queen's Hall

2.30pm-3.30pm

Abir Mukherjee
Library, Queen's Hall

3pm-4pm

Michael Sheridan
Theatre, Queen's Hall

4.15pm-5.15pm

A.L. Kennedy
Library, Queen's Hall

4.45pm-5.45pm

Kate Summerscale
Theatre, Queen's Hall

6pm-7pm

Sara Caputo
Library, Queen's Hall

6.30pm-7.30pm

Jonathan Coe
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Tuesday 6th May

6.15pm-7.15pm

Wendy Joseph
Theatre, Queen's Hall

8pm-9pm

Sam Freedman
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Wednesday 7th May

6.15pm-7.15pm

Marina Kemp
Book Group Event
Theatre, Queen's Hall

7.45pm-8.45pm

Proof Party: Macmillan
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Thursday 8th May

2.30pm-3.30pm

Pam Ayres
Theatre, Queen's Hall

6.15pm-7.15pm

Lucy Noakes
Theatre, Queen's Hall

8pm-9pm

Tim Bouverie
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Friday 9th May

6.15pm-7.15pm

Simon Hart
Theatre, Queen's Hall

8pm-9pm

Wayne Sleep
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Saturday 10th May

10.30am-12.30pm

Writing Workshop : Short Stories
White Room, Queen's Hall

11am-12pm

Chloe Dalton
Theatre, Queen's Hall

12.45pm-1.45pm

Patrick Grant
Theatre, Queen's Hall

2pm-3pm

Marianne Brown
Library, Queen's Hall

2.30pm-3.30pm

LJ Ross
Theatre, Queen's Hall

3.45pm-4.45pm

Marni Appleton & Ross Raisin
Library, Queen's Hall

4.15pm-5.15pm

Helen Gordon
Theatre, Queen's Hall

5.30pm-6.30pm

New Fiction
Library, Queen's Hall

6pm-7pm

Tony Juniper
Theatre, Queen's Hall

7.15pm-8.15pm

Bloodaxe Poetry event
Library, Queen's Hall

7.45pm-8.45pm

Anthony Seldon
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Sunday 11th May

10.30am-12.30pm

Writing Workshop: Place
White Room, Queen's Hall

11am-12pm

Kat Hill
Library, Queen's Hall

11.30am-12.30pm

Paul Sinton-Hewitt
Theatre, Queen's Hall

12pm-1pm

Fara Dabhoiwala
Great Hall, Hexham Abbey

12.45pm-1.45pm

Andrew Ziminski
Library, Queen's Hall

1.15pm-2.15pm

Lucy Easthope
Theatre, Queen's Hall

2pm-3pm

Kerri Andrews
Great Hall, Hexham Abbey

2.30pm-3.30pm

Rob Eastaway
Library, Queen's Hall

3pm-4pm

Terry Deary
Theatre, Queen's Hall

3.15pm-4.15pm

Rob Cowen
Great Hall, Abbey

4.15pm-5.15pm

Roger Clough
Library, Queen's Hall

4.45pm-5.45pm

Julie Beckett
Theatre, Queen's Hall

6pm-7pm

Stephen Alford
Library, Queen's Hall

6.30pm-7.30pm

James Rebanks
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Friday 23rd May

7pm-8pm

Mary Beard & Raphael Cormack
Theatre, Queen's Hall

Venues

Queen's Hall Arts

Beaumont Street, Hexham NE46 3LS
Theatre, Library and White Room
www.queenshall.co.uk

Hexham Abbey

Beaumont St, Hexham NE46 3NB
www.hexhamabbey.org.uk

Forum Cinema

8-9 Market Pl,
Hexham NE46 1XF
www.forumhexham.com

The Garden Coffee House

20 Hallgate, Hexham NE46 1XD

Everyone Welcome

Queen's Hall welcomes visitors with disabilities and aims to ensure that your visit is safe and enjoyable, providing disabled access to all public areas of the building with ramps, automatic doors, disabled toilet facilities and lifts. Hearing loop facilities are available throughout the auditorium and balcony. Please ask at the Box Office for more details – or call 01434 652477. 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.

Volunteer with Us

Join our friendly volunteer team and help ensure the smooth running of the festival!

For more information on what to do next, visit:

hexhambookfestival.co.uk/volunteers

Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to make a suggestion about the festival, please send an email to info@hexhambookfestival.co.uk

To subscribe to our e-newsletter for updates from the Hexham Book Festival and information about one-off events, visit www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk

Ticket Information

Tickets for events can be booked online at www.queenshall.co.uk or through the Queen's Hall Box Office on 01434 652477

Box Office Opening Hours:

Monday – Saturday:
10am – 12pm | 1 – 4pm
(plus one hour before performances)

Queen's Hall
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Concessions

Our concession tickets are available to Friends of the Festival, those on benefits and students.



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