



P R E S S R E L E A S E

8 June 2017

The third Derby Book Festival opens tomorrow

Over 600 people will attend the Opening Event of the third Derby Book Festival with best selling author Sebastian Faulks tomorrow (Friday 9 June) in Derby Cathedral. The event coincides with the arrival in the city of the Poppies: Weeping Window exhibition and after the event people can follow a Fire Trail to view the exhibit.

The Festival, which runs from 9 – 17 June includes over 70 events for all ages and interests in venues across the city. Ticket sales have already exceeded last year's levels and the organisers anticipate heavy sales during the week.

Highlights of this year's Festival include politician Alan Johnson with Matthew Parris, Dame Jenni Murray, Dan Cruickshank, Reverend Richard Coles, Alison Weir and Jenny Eclair.

The weekend will feature best-selling novelist Sarah Perry (*The Essex Serpent*), thriller writer Louise Doughty (*Apple Tree Yard*) and Guardian columnist and author Tim Dowling in QUAD. There will also be a full day of children and family activities in Derby's Market Place with the *Bringing Books to Life* event featuring storytelling, street theatre, crafts, quizzes and pavement art.

This year's programme also includes performance poet John Hegley, comic Shappi Khorsandi, Stephen Booth and local 'Derbyshire Noir' crime writers and Salley Vickers (*Miss Garnet's Angel*).

The Festival's Closing Event on Saturday 17 June in QUAD features illustrator, comic artist, filmmaker and musician Dave McKean, who is best known for his work as illustrator of Neil Gaiman's books.

Liz Fothergill, Chair of Derby Book Festival and the High Sheriff of Derbyshire said “This year’s Festival has an amazing array of writing talent and covers a wide range of topics, from birding to buttons, fashion to football and comedy to crime. We are delighted that ticket sales are stronger than last year’s, showing that local people have a real appetite for books and reading, and that our arts partners will welcome more visitors to their venues and bolster the local economy.”

For full details of this year’s Festival programme, visit:

<http://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk/whats-on/>

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Notes to Editors

For more information contact Sian Hoyle, Festival Organiser at sian.hoyle@talktalk.net or call her on 0776 1379562

The third Derby Book Festival will be held in venues across the city from 9 – 17 June 2017. It features over 70 exciting events celebrating the joy of books and reading for all ages and interests, with great writers, poets, historians, politicians, illustrators, storytellers and musicians. There’s something for everyone with topics ranging from birding to buttons, fashion to football and comedy to crime.