



PRESS RELEASE

6 April 2022

Over 70 events on sale for Derby Book Festival 2022

Tickets for over 70 events at the seventh Derby Book Festival go on sale at 10am today (Wednesday 6 April). All tickets are available online and from box offices at QUAD, Derby Theatre and Déda for events they are hosting. The Festival, which will be held from 20 – 28 May, is funded by Arts Council England and the University of Derby with sponsorship from a number of local businesses and individuals.

Highlights of this year's Festival will include an event celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with Royal Correspondent Robert Hardman and his definitive biography of HM The Queen, sponsored by Peveril Homes, an event with *The Great British Sewing Bee's* Esme Young and the closing event will have a local Derbyshire flavour, featuring wine tasting with wines from Renishaw Hall led by the English Wine Project's Kieron Atkinson, sponsored by Geldards.

There will also be special events for families at Derby Theatre during the school half term, with three of the most popular children's authors:

- Lauren Child: *Clarice Bean - Scram!* on Monday 30 May, sponsored by local law firm, Smith Partnership
- David Baddiel: *(The Boy Who Got) Accidentally Famous* on Tuesday 31 May
- Jacqueline Wilson: *The Magic Faraway Tree* on 1 June, sponsored by local children's educational play supplier, Cosy.

Liz Fothergill, Chair of the Festival, said: "This year we hope that the Festival will see a return to near normal after the disruption of the past two years. Our venues are fully open and we are keen to encourage our audiences back to safe and welcoming events in the city's wonderful venues.

“The programme includes our usual broad range of events and genres for all ages and interests and we are particularly excited to have three of the country’s biggest names in children’s literature.”

This year’s programme also includes:

- Two of the country’s most celebrated poets: Roger Robinson and Raymond Antrobus
- Award-winners and shortlisted fiction writers: Costa First Novel winner, Caleb Azumah Nelson (*Open Water*), Booker-shortlisted Graeme Macrae Burnet (*Case Study*), Waterstones Book of the Year-shortlisted Amy Jeffs (*Storyland*), Women’s Prize-shortlisted Sarah Moss (*The Fell*), Joanna Cannon (*A Tidy Ending*), Stacey Halls (*Mrs England*)
- Debut authors: Francesca May (*Wicked and Wild*), Susan Stokes Chapman (*Pandora*) and Alex Hyde (*Violets*)
- For children and families: Lauren Child, Jacqueline Wilson, David Baddiel, Fairy Tales Puppet Shows, Roald Dahl Theatre Show
- For lovers of wildlife and the natural world: Fred Pearce on *A Trillion Trees*, Susanne Masters on *Wild Waters: a wildlife and water lover’s companion to the aquatic world*, forager and author of the River Cottage guides, John Wright on *A Spotter’s Guide to the Countryside*, Lulah Ellender on *Grounding: Finding Home in a Garden*, Christopher Somerville on *A View from the Hill: Four Seasons in a Walker’s Britain*, sponsored by East Midlands Business Chamber
- For arts lovers: Franny Moyle on Holbein, Jacqueline Riding on Hogarth, James Hamilton on Constable, Patrick Mackie on Mozart, Victoria Finlay on *Fabric: The Hidden History of the Material World* - and *The Great British Sewing Bee’s* Esme Young
- For health and well-being: Shared reading taster events and a Well-being Walk, Julia Samuel: *Every Family has a Story*, Will Buckingham: *Hello, Stranger: How We Find Connection in a Disconnected World*, Wendy Mitchell: *What I Wish People Knew about Dementia*, sponsored by Pennine Healthcare
- For history lovers: Andrew Roberts on *George III*, Alison Weir on *Elizabeth of York* (both events sponsored by Peveril Homes), David Hendy on the definitive history of the BBC in its centenary year, sponsored by Geldards, Rob Young on *The Magic Box: Viewing Britain through the Rectangular Window*, Caitlin Davies on *Queens of the Underworld: A Journey into the lives of Female Crooks*, Helen Taylor on *Why Women Read Fiction*, sponsored by

Freeths, Arthur der Weduwen & Andrew Pettegree: *The Library; A Fragile History*, Alex Renton on coming to terms with her family's history of slavery

- For political animals: Guardian columnist John Crace on *A Farewell to Calm*, political commentator Paul Mason on *How to Stop Fascism*, ITV News presenter and novelist Tom Bradby on *Yesterday's Spy*, sponsored by Penguin PR.

There will also be an event for Marketing Derby bondholders with inspirational speaker, Estelle Read. Tickets are also available to the public.

Professor Kathryn Mitchell CBE DL, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Derby, said: "As an avid reader, I know the joy that books can bring and it is wonderful that the Festival provides an opportunity for people to come together to share their love of reading and discover new authors and books.

"Broadening knowledge and challenging our ways of thinking are all key parts of university life and reading plays a crucial role in that. It can help to raise aspirations, support people to recognise and fulfil their potential, and discover new possibilities."

Five of this year's events, including the three children's events at Derby Theatre, will be translated by a BSL interpreter, in partnership with Communication Unlimited.

This year's venues include Artcore, Déda, city and community libraries, Derby College, Derby Museums, Derby Theatre, Landau Forte College, QUAD and Waterstones. The Festival programme will be available from all Festival venues, as well all libraries and tourist offices. The Festival is organised in partnership with all the major arts and cultural partners in the city, including Marketing Derby.

Tickets can be booked online at www.derbybookfestival.co.uk or in person or by phone at QUAD, Derby Theatre and Déda for the events they are hosting.

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For further information contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

If you require any images of this year's authors, please email sian@derbybookfestival.co.uk and we will send by We Transfer.

Derby Book Festival is now in its seventh year and will be held from 20 – 28 May 2022.

Each year the Festival features internationally acclaimed authors and celebrates local writing talent with the aim of bringing Derby's residents together in a love of books and inspiring new readers to appreciate the pleasure and power of reading.

The Festival holds two events each year: a nine day Festival in May and a weekend Festival in November.

The programme includes a broad range of events and activities aimed at all ages and interests from children's activities and book-related crafts, to author talks, discussions, live performances, films, writing workshops for budding writers and the annual Book Quiz.

The Festival is organised in partnership with all the major arts, cultural and educational partners in the city: Déda, Derby Cathedral, Derby City Council, Derby College, Derby LIVE, Derby Museum & Art Gallery, Derby Theatre, Marketing Derby, QUAD, University of Derby and Waterstones, who will all be hosting events.

In addition to funders Arts Council England and the University of Derby, this year's sponsors are: Boolers, Cosy, Darwin Escapes, East Midlands Chamber, Freeths, Geldards, Marketing Derby, Pam & John Rivers, Penguin PR, Pennine Healthcare, Peveril Homes and Smith Partnership.