Fire up your imagination this autumn

October 2013

Books
Films
Music
Drama
Sport

Events for all ages across County Durham
Festival highlights

We’re welcoming over 70 writers to Durham and County Durham for the book festival this year – here are some highlights that are not to be missed!

Simon Armitage
2 October
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Linwood Barclay
12 October
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Debi Gliori
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Alan Johnson
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My Granny is a Pirate
Touring in October
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Gordon Burn Prize
19 October
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Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Welcome from Durham County Council

Durham Book Festival returns with a wonderful array of events in venues in Durham City and across the county.

I am always impressed by the imaginative range of events and broad appeal of the festival programme. This year, audiences have the opportunity to hear stories from and share ideas with writers and thinkers, poets and novelists, philosophers and scientists. Durham provides a wonderfully fitting context for Nature Day, where writers inspired by the natural world discuss their work and audiences can explore this theme further through guided nature walks around our beautiful city.

It's always great to see newly commissioned projects that respond to local places and people such as Michael Smith’s Another England film project that will be premiered at the festival and Ben Markovits’ residency at Durham County Cricket Club to accompany the Investec Ashes.

Partnership work with Durham Library Service and local venues is extending the reach and benefit of the festival even further with the tour of the festival’s adaptation of Val McDermid’s children’s book My Granny is a Pirate taking place in branch libraries and community venues throughout the county.

The county council recognises the vital role of festivals and events in supporting the growth and profile of Durham as a place to visit, work and invest in. I’m proud that 2013 has been such a magnificent year of culture in the county.

Durham Book Festival has been preceded by a tremendous array of events which have inspired people to visit and have helped to generate a range of benefits including economic impact. These include the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition and BRASS as well as high profile sports events such as the Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Pennines cycle race and the Investec Ashes. Audiences keen for more can look forward to the TakeOff Festival of international theatre for children and young people at the end of October and Durham Lumiere in November, as well as a varied programme offered all year by the county’s cultural venues.

I would like to thank all of the partners and funders for their continued support of Durham Book Festival and hope to see you at an event this October.

Councillor Simon Henig
Leader
Durham County Council

Welcome from New Writing North

It’s a pleasure to introduce the 2013 Durham Book Festival programme.

This year the festival is growing in size and scope to include a second full festival weekend and extended work with venues and partners across County Durham.

As ever the programme is a dynamic mix of leading writers and speakers, home-grown talent and a remarkable programme of new commissions from writers, filmmakers and musicians, where we have invited leading artists to come and make work for the festival. These are events that cannot be seen anywhere else, so be sure not to miss them.

These include the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition and BRASS as well as high profile sports events such as the Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Pennines cycle race and the Investec Ashes. Audiences keen for more can look forward to the TakeOff Festival of international theatre for children and young people at the end of October and Durham Lumiere in November, as well as a varied programme offered all year by the county’s cultural venues.

This year we’re delighted to be creating our first touring show for young people under the age of six and their families with The Sage Gateshead. My Granny is a Pirate, adapted from award-winning writer Val McDermid’s children’s book, will set sail across the county in October, visiting community venues, schools and libraries. Make sure you catch the show on its maiden voyage!

We are also launching our first day of events for schools and are delighted to be presenting events suitable for age groups across the curriculum.

We are extending our programming for young people who are interested in writing and literature by hosting the Cuckoo Young Writers’ Pop-up Shop, an exciting collection of reading and writing activities for teenagers which will run alongside our core programme.

This year we’re delighted to be creating our first touring show for young people under the age of six and their families with The Sage Gateshead. My Granny is a Pirate, adapted from award-winning writer Val McDermid’s children’s book, will set sail across the county in October, visiting community venues, schools and libraries. Make sure you catch the show on its maiden voyage!

And due to popular demand, we are bringing back our gigantic Big Book Swap on the final day of the festival and making all of our festival author events free on that day. Last time round we swapped over a thousand books in two hours and we’re sure that we’ll be just as busy this year.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank our festival supporters – Durham County Council, Durham University and Arts Council England – whose ongoing and committed support allows us to produce such an expansive festival, and to welcome back sponsors Radisson Hotel, Swinburne Maddison, Banks Group, and Sunderland University, and welcome PwC aboard for the first time.

Claire Malcolm
Chief Executive
New Writing North

Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Festival commissions

Durham Book Festival supports artists and writers by commissioning new work to premiere at the festival. This year we’re delighted to present eight new projects.

Benjamin Markovits: The Ashes

In partnership with Durham County Cricket Club we are hosting Benjamin Markovits as writer in residence for the Investec Ashes when this international sporting event comes to Durham this August. Benjamin has been commissioned to create a new essay based on his experience of the event which will be premiered at the festival. Benjamin grew up in Texas and left a promising career as a professional basketball player to study the Romantics. Since then he has published six novels. He was recently selected as one of Granta’s Best of Young British Novelists.

See page 22 for full details.

Stevie Ronnie: Arctic

The festival has a long history of exploring environmental issues and concerns through offering writers commissions to explore these themes. Following in the footsteps of Linda France’s Botanical project last year, which supported the writer to travel the world, we are supporting poet Stevie Ronnie to undertake a trip to the Arctic with Cape Farewell. At the festival, Stevie will premiere new work inspired by what he sees and learns there. Stevie is a poet and artist based in Northumberland.

See page 16 for full details.

Carina Rodney: My Granny is a Pirate

Adapted from Val McDermid’s children’s book, My Granny is a Pirate is a newly commissioned touring performance with music. Written by Carina Rodney and directed by Annie Rigby, the performance will tour County Durham and to Sheffield and Manchester in October. See www.durhambookfestival.com for a list of tour dates.

Produced in partnership with The Sage Gateshead.

See page 13 for full details.

Michael Smith and Neil Bianco: Another England

Poet and writer Michael Smith and filmmaker Neil Bianco will present a new quartet of short poem films commissioned by the festival. The films have all been shot on and around the North East coastline and bring into focus the unexplored and rarely seen characters and events taking place every day in the north of England. The films will also be available to view online on the festival website following the event.

See page 23 for full details.

Iain Sinclair: Hearing the Voice

From William Blake to Hilary Mantel, the phenomenon of hearing a voice that no one else can hear has been frequently associated with creativity. Iain Sinclair, renowned writer, author of American Smoke, and pioneer of British psychogeography, has been commissioned to create a new piece of work for a special issue of StepAway Magazine on this subject.

Commissioned in conjunction with the Hearing the Voice project at Durham University.

See page 25 for full details.

Paul Muldoon: Festival Laureate

Hosted by Durham University, the Festival Laureateship brings a world-class writer to Durham each year to create new work for the festival and to engage with the university. This year we welcome Paul Muldoon from the USA to Durham. While here he will premiere a new poem written specially for the festival.

See page 27 for full details.

Kathryn Williams: Songs from: The Bell Jar

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Sylvia Plath’s novel The Bell Jar, we have commissioned a series of songs from Mercury Award-nominated writer and musician Kathryn Williams. The sequence of songs is inspired by scenes from the novel. It will be performed live at the festival as part of an event celebrating Plath’s life and writing.

See page 19 for full details.

Daniel Hardisty and John Challis: iN

Created by poets Daniel Hardisty and John Challis, iN is a new weekly poetry magazine that exists purely in your email inbox. Over the course of the festival, a special edition of iN will deliver new poetry by the best contemporary poets. Sign up to receive the magazine for free via www.inmagazine.org.

See page 27 for full details.
Durham Book Festival Schools Day
Wednesday 2 October

Durham Book Festival presents a day of exciting events for both primary and secondary school pupils, in association with Durham Johnston Comprehensive School.

Debi Gliori
Wednesday 2 October, 9.45am-10.30am
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School
Tickets: £3
Meet beloved children’s author and illustrator Debi Gliori, as she introduces a brand-new picture book character: The Tobermory Cat.
Debi has sold over 400,000 copies of her books in the UK, including No Matter What, The Trouble with Dragons and What’s the Time, Mr Wolf? Her latest picture book, The Tobermory Cat, is about a smart and sassy feline who has a series of adventures in the lovely Scottish seaside town of Tobermory.
Join Debi for a session of storytelling and live drawing and find out more about her exciting new character.
Suitable for ages 5+, KS1

Nick Sharratt
Wednesday 2 October, 11am-11.45am
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School
Tickets: £3
Let your imagination soar in this interactive session with award-winning illustrator and story-teller Nick Sharratt, who will be treating the audience to live drawing and readings – and there’s even the chance to get creative yourself!
Nick has written and illustrated many books for children, including Shark in the Park and Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose. He has also enjoyed great success illustrating Jacqueline Wilson books.
Suitable for ages 5+, KS1

Dan Smith
Wednesday 2 October, 1.30pm-2.30pm
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School
Tickets: £3
Do you know your Anderson shelter from your Morrison shelter? Or your incendiary bomb from your doodlebug?
Dan Smith reads from his new World War II novel, the North East-based My Friend The Enemy, and uses a collection of images, sounds and props to show how he brings boring old research to life in his stories.
Dan writes for both adults and children – and with an interest in World War II, a great-aunt who was an anti-aircraft gunner, and a grandfather who was an army captain during the war, is it any wonder that his first book for children is set during those uncertain days?
Suitable for ages 10+, KS2 + 3

Simon Armitage
Wednesday 2 October, 6.30pm-7.30pm
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School
Tickets: £3 (under-18s)/£7 (full price)
Simon Armitage is one of Britain's best-loved poets and we’re delighted to welcome him back to Durham to take part in this event which is open to both schools and the public. Simon was born in West Yorkshire and is professor of poetry at the University of Sheffield. A recipient of numerous prizes and awards, he has published ten collections of poetry, including Selected Poems (2001), Seeing Stars (2010), his acclaimed translation of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (2007) and more recently The Death of King Arthur (2012). A broadcaster and presenter, he also writes extensively for television and radio, is the author of two novels, the best-selling memoir All Points North, and Walking Home (2013). In 2010 he received a CBE for services to poetry. This event is open to both schools and the public.
Suitable for ages 12+, with particular interest for KS4

www.durhambookfestival.com twitter.com/durhambookfest #dbf13

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Cuckoo Pop-Up Shop for Young Writers

During the day, The Cuckoo Shop at Empty Shop HQ on Framwellgate will be a place to take a sideways look at the book festival. You can meet inspiring writers, find a quiet corner to do your own writing and blogging, or strike up a conversation with another book lover. And if your writing’s in need of a bit of TLC, there will be regular advice surgeries from professional writers – just drop in and book one.

All events are for 14-25 year-olds unless specified otherwise.

Cuckoo Cabaret Night
Friday 11 October, 7pm-9pm
Tickets: £5/£3 (concessions include members of Cuckoo Young Writers programme)

Come and join us for the opening of the Cuckoo Shop and the first ever Cuckoo Cabaret Night. There will be a live performance from a fabulous band, soon to be announced, poetry by young writers, and an open mic slot for poets, writers, and performers under 25. All ages welcome.

Poetry and Place with John Challis (part 1)
Saturday 12 October, 3pm-5pm
Free but booking recommended

This is the first of two workshops with poet John Challis, who will take participants on an exploration of ‘hidden Durham’ in words and photos. Participants in this session may also be interested in attending Iain Sinclair’s psychogeography event later that day at 6.30pm at St Chad’s Chapel.

Gavin Extence: writing masterclass
Saturday 12 October, opens 11am, class 12pm-1pm
Tickets: £3

Described by The Guardian as Mark Haddon meets Kurt Vonnegut, Gavin Extence is currently enjoying huge acclaim for his funny, offbeat and uplifting first novel The Universe Versus Alex Woods. Gavin will lead a writing workshop and talk about his first novel experience in this exclusive Cuckoo Shop session.

We Are Poets film screening
Saturday 12 October, 5.30pm-7pm
Tickets: £3

We’ll be turning the Cuckoo Shop into the Cuckoo Cinema and screening the inspirational documentary We Are Poets, a moving and radical story of youth, art and freedom of expression, as a remarkable team of six British teenagers are chosen to represent the UK at Brave New Voices in Washington DC: the most prestigious Poetry Slam competition in the world. A must-see for all book festival goers!

Matt Haig: masterclass
Sunday 13 October, opens 11am, class 12pm-1pm
Tickets: £3

Matt Haig is the author of five novels and is at the festival to discuss his latest book, The Humans, about a Cambridge University professor who solves the world’s greatest mathematical riddle. Matt is also appearing at the Town Hall today.

The Bell Jar: book group discussion
Sunday 13 October, 3pm-4pm
Free but booking recommended

Revisit or discover for the first time Sylvia Plath’s groundbreaking novel about mental illness, The Bell Jar. We will discuss the novel in a very informal atmosphere in the run-up to Kathryn Williams’ Town Hall event at 5pm.

The Writing Squad at the Cuckoo Shop
Friday 18 October, opens 7pm
Free but booking recommended

We’re excited to welcome the best young writers from all over the North to the Cuckoo Shop, for a night curated by The Writing Squad. For more information about the event see www.durhambookfestival.com.

Anna Woodford: Poetry of the North reading group
Saturday 19 October, opens 11am, session 12pm-2pm
Free but booking recommended

Poet Anna Woodford leads an informal session discussing poetry of the North, which links up with the festival’s northern theme this Saturday. Sit and listen, or join in the chat.

Benjamin Markovits
Saturday 19 October, 4pm-5pm
Tickets: £3

Selected as one of Granta’s 20 best novelists under 40 and the festival’s writer in residence for The Ashes, Benjamin Markovits will be coming to the Cuckoo Shop to give us some handy writing hints and tips, which will hopefully put a Cuckoo writer on the list in the future!

We haven’t programmed anything this evening as we are sure you’ll want to join us for the announcement of the Gordon Burn Prize at Durham Town Hall (see page 24).

Free drop-in event
Sunday 20 October, 11am-5pm

We’re dedicating the whole of the final Cuckoo Shop day to making and celebrating! From 12pm we’ll be book-making and compiling all of the writing produced in the Shop into a lovely Cuckoo literary zine. And then from 3pm we’ll be having a Cuckoo party, with some readings from our young writers, playing Book Blind Date and eating cake. The fun ends at 5pm.

Please keep an eye on www.durhambookfestival.com as more is added to the Cuckoo Shop programme.

Thank you to the Community Foundation Durham for supporting the writing workshops in this programme.
Exciting events in Durham Libraries

Events for children and adults in County Durham museums

This year we are once again bringing authors to libraries around County Durham, giving reading groups and library users the chance to meet authors first-hand and talk to them about their work. These are free events – please contact participating libraries if you plan to attend and for more information.

Travel Back in Time with Niel Bushnell and Dan Smith
Tuesday 24 September, 1.30pm-2.30pm
Seaham Library
Free event for schools (call 03000 262 510)

Niel Bushnell is the author of Sorrowline, the first book in a time-travel adventure trilogy, which follows 12-year-old Jack Morrow, who discovers he has the ability to travel through Sorrowlines, the channels that connect every gravestone with the date of a person’s death. Dan Smith’s debut children’s novel, My Friend the Enemy, is set in north east England, during World War II. When protagonist Peter finds an inured German airman near his home he is faced with a dilemma: should he help the enemy?

An Afternoon with Milly Johnson
Wednesday 25 September, 2.30pm-3.30pm
Bishop Auckland Library
Free event (call 03000 269 524)

Milly Johnson is the author of seven bestselling novels. Milly’s latest book is It’s Raining Men, the story of two best friends who take a life-changing holiday together in a small Yorkshire seaside town. Milly’s books are about the universal issues of friendship, family, betrayal, babies, rather nice food and a little bit of that magic in life that sometimes visits the unsuspecting! She lives in Barnsley and has written features for Good Housekeeping, My Weekly, and The Daily Express, and has also been a presenter on BBC Radio Leeds.

Crime Time with Helen Cadbury and Rebecca Muddiman
Thursday 26 September, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Clayport Library
Free event (call 03000 265 524)

Join crime writers Helen Cadbury and Rebecca Muddiman for a dose of Northern crime! Rebecca Muddiman’s Stolen follows DI Michael Gardner as he investigates the attack of a young woman, whose baby daughter is stolen from her in the process. Helen Cadbury’s To Catch a Rabbit begins when two young boys playing on the edge of a Doncaster housing estate stumble across the body of a woman.

Railway Stories
Saturday 19 October & Sunday 20 October, all day both days
Locomotion
Free event

Join Bree Wain, Ian Morrell and Chris Vine for interactive storytelling with a railway theme for all the family, throughout the weekend at the Locomotion museum. There will be a reading corner and self-led family learning activities available all weekend too.

Stories from the Front: Storytelling for adults
Saturday 19 October, 11am-12pm
DLI Museum and Durham Art Gallery
Tickets: museum entry fee only

Storyteller Jim Perrie tells tales of heroes and villains of the DLI, using real objects from the collection to bring the stories alive.

That Takes the Kettle: Storytelling for adults
Friday 18 October, 11am-12pm
DLI Museum and Durham Art Gallery
Tickets: museum entry fee only

Why was James Hackman hanged? Which English composer had a World War I trench named after him? Storyteller Jim Perrie takes objects from the DLI museum collection and spins tales of heroism, tragedy and farce around them. Not suitable for young children.

For more information, email dli@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 266 590.

www.durhambookfestival.com twitter.com/durhambookfest #dbf13
Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Special events

Enjoy the festival in a range of County Durham’s finest venues.

Weekends at the Town Hall

Saturday 12 October

Step inside Durham Town Hall for a packed weekend of fantastic festival events – there’s something for everyone!

**Debate: Is great science great science fiction?**

Wednesday 9 October, 8.30pm

Durham Castle

Tickets free but please pre-book

From God particles to embryonic stem-cell research, our scientific discoveries are saturated with wonder and the downright weird. But do we create scientific facts or do scientists simply discover what’s already there? Join Professor Tom McLeish (molecular physicist), Professor Patricia Waugh (English studies), Ken MacLeod (science fiction writer) and Dr Andrew Crumey (fiction writer) for this book festival curtain raiser.

Produced in association with the Institute of Advanced Study and the Hearing the Voice project, Durham University.

**Northern Poets**

Friday 11 October, 6.30pm-8.30pm

St Chad’s Chapel, Durham

Tickets: £8/£6 (includes a glass of wine)

Gillian Allnutt is an award-winning poet who lives and works in County Durham. Her collections Nantucket and the Angel and Lintel were both shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. Gillian will read from her most recent collection, indwelling, which explores the manifestations of the Spirit, tracing it back through the familiar world of Christianity to its roots in the shamanic. Gillian will be joined by fellow Bloodaxe poet Peter Bennet, who will read from his latest collection, Border, which brings together his best work of the past 15 years, as well as new work. Peter was shortlisted for the TS Eliot prize in 2008. These poetry readings will be followed by a drinks reception and book sale in St Chad’s Quad.

**Retail (a show about selling) by Amy Mackelden**

Tuesday 15 October, 7.30pm

Empty Shop HQ

Tickets: £8/£6

Amy Mackelden’s first job was in a religious book shop, selling guides on the dangers of Harry Potter and the evils of Bridget Jones. Since then she’s worked in a pizzeria, a sandwich bar, a cinema, a department store and a cream tea café where the chef threatened her with a bread knife. Andy Playford used to work in a call centre, cold calling and selling timeshares. This show is for anyone who’s ever worked in customer service, and for anyone who’s experienced customer service, awful or awesome. Retail asks what we’re willing to sell, for how much, and to whom?

A co-production with The Customs House, Theatre Royal Newcastle and The Maltings Theatre, Berwick.

**My Granny is a Pirate By Val McDermid**

Adapted by Carina Rodney, directed by Annie Rigby

Saturday 12 October, 10.30am-11.15am

(See website for tour dates)

Durham Town Hall

Tickets: £6/£4

Join Granny and her dog Jolly Roger in this swashbuckling musical adventure with skeletons and ghouls, buried treasure and all sorts of pirate fun. Adapted by Carina Rodney from Val McDermid’s charming picture book and featuring well-loved performers from The Sage Gateshead’s ensemble, this rip-roaring show is suitable for under-6s and their families. Directed by Annie Rigby and designed by Neil Murray, the production will tour County Durham before going on to Sheffield and Manchester during October. Val McDermid will sign copies of the book after the event.

Presented by New Writing North in association with The Sage Gateshead, supported by Arts Council England.

**Afternoon Tea with Janette Jenkins**

Thursday 17 October, 2.30pm-4pm

The Bowes Museum

Tickets: £12.50/£10 (includes tea and scones)

Join acclaimed author Janette Jenkins at the beautiful Bowes Museum as she talks about her latest novel, Firefly, the story of the twilight years of Noël Coward’s life, and set at his peaceful retreat on a secluded hillside in Jamaica as he looks back at his life.

Janette is a graduate of the prestigious MA in creative writing at UEA. She is the author of novels including Angel of Brooklyn and Little Bones and lives in Durham.

**Institute of Advanced Study**

**www.durhambookfestival.com**

Twitter.com/durhambookfest #dbf13

Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Stephanie Baxter: The Long War
Saturday 12 October, 12pm-1pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
A special treat for sci-fi fans! One of the UK’s most prolific and imaginative writers, Stephen Baxter talks about The Long Way, his latest novel, co-authored with Discworld author Terry Pratchett. Stephen is a multi-award-winning author. His many books include the classic Xeelee sequence, the A Time Odyssey novels (with Arthur C. Clarke) and The Time Ships, a sequel to HG Wells’ The Time Machine. Chaired by Professor Simon James of Durham University.

Lord Adonis: 5 Days in May: The Coalition and Beyond
Saturday 12 October, 1.30pm-2.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8
Labour Peer Lord Adonis discusses his new book, an insider account of the dramatic negotiations that led to the formation of the coalition government. The book includes for the first time the word-for-word telephone exchanges between Gordon Brown and Nick Clegg, and also offers the author’s views on what the future holds for all three parties. Andrew Adonis was an architect of education reform under Tony Blair. He went on to become Transport Secretary under Gordon Brown.

Supported by

Rachel Joyce and Gavin Extence: Time versus the Universe
Saturday 12 October, 3pm-4pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
Rachel Joyce is the author of the bestselling The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and which earned her the Specsaver National Book Award for New Writer of the year 2013. She will talk about her new novel, Perfect, set in 1972 when two seconds were added to time. This a book about misunderstandings, small acts of kindness, and the ultimately redemptive nature of time. Rachel will be joined by Gavin Extence, whose novel The Universe Versus Alex Woods has been one of the most talked-about debuts of 2013. Gavin will introduce his tale of unexpected friendship, an unlikely hero, and an improbable journey.

Linwood Barclay and Ann Cleeves: Crime in the Afternoon
Saturday 12 October, 4.30pm-5.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
Canadian author Linwood Barclay has been described as the ‘master of pressure-cooker suspense’ and we’re delighted to welcome him to Durham to discuss his latest thriller, A Tap on the Window. Linwood’s best-selling No Time for Goodbye is a former winner of the Richard and Judy Summer Read and was their fastest ever selling title. He will be joined on stage by acclaimed crime writer and creator of ITV’s Vera Ann Cleeves. Ann will introduce Dead Water, the latest instalment in her Shetland series, which is now a major BBC drama. Chaired by Peter Guttridge.

TS Eliot Prize on Tour
Saturday 12 October, 6pm-7pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
As part of a national tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry, three of the world-class poets who have been shortlisted in recent years will be reading their work alongside a well-known local poet. The TS Eliot Prize is one of the world’s top poetry awards and was set up by the Poetry Book Society in 1993 in memory of its founding poet. Please see our website for information on the featured poets.

An evening with Mark Watson
Saturday 12 October, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8
Comedian and acclaimed author Mark Watson introduces his latest book, The Knot, a story about taboos and tradition and love and family. The Knot is set against the backdrop of an England where marriage is an unshakeable institution, family secrets are buried for generations, and emotions go unspoken. Mark is one of Britain’s most popular young comedians, best known for his appearances on Mock the Week, Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Michael McIntyre’s Comedy Roadshow. Chaired by Peter Guttridge.

Durham University
Nature Day
Visit St Chad’s Chapel for a day of inspiring talks and walks linked to the natural world.

Stevie Ronnie: Field Notes from a Hidden City
Saturday 12 October, 11am-1pm
St Chad’s Chapel
Tickets: £8/£6
Using the circumstances of her own life, house, garden and city, in Field Notes from a Hidden City, Esther Woolfson writes of the animals who live among us: the birds – gulls, starlings, pigeons, sparrows and others; the rats and squirrels; the spiders and the insects. Esther Woolfson has won prizes for her nature writing; she is also the author of Corvus: A Life with Birds. Event includes a nature-inspired walk around Durham, led by the author. Chaired by Caroline Beck.

Participants should wear appropriate shoes and clothing for this walk.

Esther Woolfson: Field Notes from a Hidden City
Saturday 12 October, 11am-1pm
St Chad’s Chapel
Tickets: £8/£6
Using the circumstances of her own life, house, garden and city, in Field Notes from a Hidden City, Esther Woolfson writes of the animals who live among us: the birds – gulls, starlings, pigeons, sparrows and others; the rats and squirrels; the spiders and the insects. Esther Woolfson has won prizes for her nature writing; she is also the author of Corvus: A Life with Birds. Event includes a nature-inspired walk around Durham, led by the author. Chaired by Caroline Beck.

Participants should wear appropriate shoes and clothing for this walk.

Patrick Barkham: Badgerlands
Saturday 12 October, 4pm-6pm
St Chad’s Chapel
Tickets: £8/£6
Poet Stevie Ronnie presents a brand new Durham Book Festival commission inspired by his recent trip on the Cape Farewell boat to the Arctic. Meanwhile, poet Linda France reports back on her Botanicals project, a Durham Book Festival 2012 commission that took her to botanical gardens across the globe. Chaired by Caroline Beck.

See also Linda France's Poetica Britannica workshop on page 28

Weekends at the Town Hall
Sunday 13 October

Light: Meet the Fellows
Sunday 13 October, 10.30am-11.30am
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
Light plays a central role in the physics of the universe, in the sustenance of life, in the technology that drives our society and in our physical and emotional well-being. Durham University’s Institute of Advanced Study’s theme of Light during 2013-14 will develop links between the physics of light, the perception of light, the emotive effects of light, and the representation of light in theology, philosophy and literature. Join IAS Fellows Dr Robert Fosbury, Professor Glen Brock, and Professor Tom Mole as they talk about their ideas surrounding this inspiring theme.

Institute of Advanced Study

Chris Mullin: The Thatcher Legacy
Sunday 13 October, 12pm-1pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
Chris Mullin is a regular and popular contributor to the book festival. This year we welcome him back to discuss the legacy of Margaret Thatcher in this engaging talk. Chris is the former MP for Sunderland South and author of three widely acclaimed volumes of political diaries: A View From the Foothills, Decline and Fall and A Walk-on Part. His novel A Very British Coup has been adapted for television twice, most recently for Channel 4, as Secret State, starring Gabriel Byrne.

Carnegie Challenge Debate: Is Reading Good for Us?
Sunday 13 October, 1.30pm-2.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £3
At this special event we will be exploring whether reading is good for us, and if so how? Most book festival attendees will not need persuading that reading is good for the heart but what are our minds doing while we are reading and what are the wider social and economic impacts of reading? Is it really good for us, and if so why? We will be bringing together leading academics and thinkers, including Professor Philip Davis, the general editor of the Literary Agenda series of books by Oxford University Press and author of Reading and the Reader, to explore these ideas.

Sponsored by the Carnegie UK Trust which supports public debates run by not-for-profit organisations in the UK and Ireland to help communities address issues of concern to them

Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Matt Haig and Lottie Moggach: book group event
Sunday 13 October, 3pm-4pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6
We’re bringing together Matt Haig, a former TV Book Club winner, whose novel *The Humans* is a funny and moving story of what happens when Professor Andrew Martin, who solves the world’s greatest mathematical riddle, disappears, and Lottie Moggach. Lottie’s debut mystery, *Kiss Me First*, sees teenager Leila, who lives most of her life via the internet, agreeing to assume the identity of a girl she has never met, and learning a lot about herself in the process.

Both books open up lots of things to talk about within your book group. Read the book in advance either with your book group or on your own and come to the event with your questions – the writers want to hear what you think of their novels. Chaired by Caroline Beck.

Barbara Graziosi: The Great Greek Gods
Sunday 13 October, 3.30pm-4.30pm
Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery)
Tickets: £8/£6
Barbara Graziosi is professor of classics at Durham University and director for the arts and humanities at the Institute of Advanced Study. She will talk about her new book, *The Gods of Olympus: The Unruly Lives of the Great Greek Gods*, which deftly traces the travels and transformations of the Greek gods from the distant past to the present, showing that the gods of Olympus remain potent symbols that help us to feel ourselves part of a broad and fascinating humanity. Chaired by Professor Veronica Strang.

Celebrating Sylvia Plath:
Kathryn Williams: Songs from The Bell Jar
Andrew Wilson: Mad Girl’s Love Song
Sunday 13 October, 5pm-6.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8
Sylvia Plath’s fascinating and tragic life story is as intriguing to many people as her poetry. Journalist Andrew Wilson, who has written a biography of Plath’s early life, *Mad Girl’s Love Song*, will be joined by acclaimed singer/songwriter Kathryn Williams in this celebration of Plath’s autobiographical novel *The Bell Jar*. Williams will premiere songs specially commissioned by Durham Book Festival to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first publication of *The Bell Jar*. A unique must-see event for anyone interested in Sylvia Plath and her extraordinary body of work. Chaired by Professor Stephen Regan.

Alan Johnson: This Boy
Sunday 13 October, 7.15pm-8.15pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8
The Labour MP talks about his impoverished early life growing up in the pre-gentrified Notting Hill of the 1950s and 60s and tells the story of his remarkable mother and older sister, who brought him up against all the odds. Alan Johnson was born in May 1950. He served as Home Secretary from June 2009 to May 2010. Before that, he filled a wide variety of cabinet positions in both the Blair and Brown governments, including Health Secretary and Education. We’re delighted to welcome Alan Johnson to Durham to be interviewed by former Sunderland South MP and author Chris Mullin, for this very special event.

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An Evening with Walter Mosley
Monday 14 October (Q&A and book signing at 7pm, followed by film screening at 8.30pm)
Gala Cinema
Tickets: £10/£8
The best-selling American crime novelist visits Durham to talk about his latest novel, Little Green, which sees the return of his most beloved character: LA’s finest Private Investigator, Easy Rawlins. Walter Mosley will be in conversation with journalist Peter Guttridge, talking about his illustrious career, including some of his 37 novels such as Blonde Faith, Devil in a Blue Dress and The Long Fall. The event will be followed by a special screening of the 1995 film of Devil in a Blue Dress, starring Denzel Washington and Don Cheadle.

Lucy Worsley: A Very British Murder
Tuesday 15 October, 7pm
Gala Theatre
Tickets: £10/£8
Murder: a dark, shameful deed and a very strange and very British obsession. How did this fixation develop? And what does it tell us about ourselves? In A Very British Murder, the book written to accompany her new BBC series, historian Dr Lucy Worsley explores this phenomenon in forensic detail. Lucy is chief curator of the Historic Royal Palaces, where she looks after the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace, among others. She has presented numerous television series, including Harlots, Housewives and Heroines for BBC4 and If Walls Could Talk for BBC1.

Meet the Queen of Crime: Lynda La Plante
Wednesday 16 October, 7pm
Gala Theatre
Tickets: £10/£8
We are delighted to welcome Lynda La Plante to Durham from her home in New York for this special event. As well as being a best-selling crime novelist, Lynda has created some of the best-known crime dramas on television. Meet the woman behind Trial and Retribution, Above Suspicion and Prime Suspect, whose work has earned her not only the Dennis Potter Award from BAFTA, but also a CBE in 2008 for services to literature, drama and charity. Lynda is a member of the Crime Thriller Awards Hall of Fame and an honorary fellow of the Forensic Science Society. This is an evening guaranteed to be full of revelations and stories about your favourite crime dramas and one not to be missed.

Jeremy Vine: It’s All News to Me
Friday 18 October, 7pm
Gala Theatre
Tickets: £10/£8
One of Britain’s most popular broadcasters looks back on his 25 years at the BBC. Jeremy Vine is a graduate of Durham University and we’re delighted to welcome him back to the city to reflect on his career so far, including his award-winning cross-examination of Gordon Brown in 2010 and the often-amusing vitriol directed towards him while working as a Newsnight presenter. Jeremy Vine has been a political correspondent at Westminster, a reporter on the Today programme, and an Africa correspondent. He currently broadcasts to 6 million listeners every weekday on the popular Radio 2 news and music lunchtime slot.

Chaired by Graeme Thompson from Sunderland University.

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Book your tickets at the Gala Theatre on 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk
Family Fun with Curtis Jobling

Saturday 19 October:
10.30am-11.30am
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £6/£4

Curtis Jobling is the author
and illustrator of numerous
children’s books and designer/
creator of award-winning
television shows such as
Bob the Builder, Raa Raa the
Noisy Lion and Frankenstein’s
Cat. His fun, interactive talk
features animation screening,
live illustration, and an
introduction to his acclaimed
series of fantasy novels,
Wereworld. A thoroughly
interactive affair for audiences
of all ages! Introduced by Kate
Edwards of Seven Stories.

Benjamin Markovits:
Meet the Ashes
writer in residence

Saturday 19 October,
12.30pm-1.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £8/£6

American-born author Benjamin
Markovits reports back on
his experience as writer in
residence at the 2013 Investec
Ashes test match at Durham
County Cricket Club. He
will read from a new essay,
commissioned by Durham
Book Festival, revealing his
impressions of the Ashes and
what it meant to Durham and
of cricket more generally.
Markovits grew up in Texas,
London, Oxford and Berlin and
left a promising career as a
professional basketball player
to study the Romantics. He
has written essays, stories and
reviews for, among others, The
New York Times, Granta and
The Guardian and published six
novels, including Either Side
of Winter, and a trilogy on the life
of Lord Byron. In 2013, Granta
selected him as one of the Best
of Young British Novelists.

Stuart Maconie:
The People’s Songs

Saturday 19 October, 2pm-3pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8

Join much-loved writer,
broadcaster and journalist
Stuart Maconie as he takes
us on a journey through a
soundtrack of our nation in The
People’s Songs: The Story of
Modern Britain in 50 Records.
From Vera Lynn to Dizzee
Rascal, Stuart talks about
the songs that have shaped
post-war Britain. These are
not the greatest songs ever
recorded, but the records
that tell us something about
how we feel and have felt
about work, war, class, leisure,
race, family, sport, drugs, sex,
spirituality, politics, patriotism
and more. Stuart lives between
Birmingham, Manchester and
the Lake District and his work
has appeared everywhere from
NME to the Daily Telegraph.

Paul Morley and
Michael Smith:
Discovering the North

Saturday 19 October,
3.30pm-5pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8

In his new book The North,
journalist and author Paul
Morley gets to the heart of
what life is like above the M25.
Morley maps the entire history
of northern England through
its people and the places they
call home to show that the
differences go deeper than
just an accent. Paul Morley has
worked as a music journalist,
pop Svengali and a broadcaster,
and will be joined by author
and broadcaster Michael
Smith to talk about why it’s still
interesting to write about the
North. Michael Smith’s latest
book is Unreal City. He is the
writer and presenter of BBC4’s
A Journey Back to Newcastle:
Michael Smith’s Deep North
and is a regular contributor
to BBC2’s The Culture Show.
Their discussion will be
followed by the first screening
of Michael Smith and Neil
Bianco’s newly commissioned
short films about the North
East, Another England.
Voicewalks
Saturday 12 October, 7pm-8.30pm
St Chad’s College Chapel
Tickets: £8/£6 (includes glass of wine and a copy of the magazine)

From William Blake to Hilary Mantel, the phenomenon of hearing a voice that no one else can hear has been frequently associated with creativity. Voicewalks is a special issue of StepAway Magazine that gathers ten works on the idea of voice-hearing and walking in cities. Iain Sinclair, renowned writer, author of American Smoke, and pioneer of British psychogeography, will read his contribution to the collection. Chaired by Dr Angela Woods, co-director of the Hearing the Voice project.

Voices, Memory, Forgetting
These three events form a unique day-long conversation at St Chad’s College Chapel about memory, creativity and mental health led by some of the UK’s leading journalists, writers and psychologists, in collaboration with The Memory Network and the Hearing the Voice project.

Hearing Voices, Returning Memories
Saturday 19 October, 11am-12.30pm
St Chad’s College Chapel
Tickets: £3

This panel event brings together Eleanor Longden, psychologist and leading figure in the global voice-hearing movement, Dr Lisa Blackman, author of Immaterial Bodies: Affect, Embodiment, Meditation, and Professor Richard Bentall, author of Doctoring the Mind. Chaired by Dr Angela Woods.

Will Storr in Conversation with Charles Fernyhough
Saturday 19 October, 3.30pm-4.30pm
St Chad’s College Chapel
Tickets: £3

Will Storr is a journalist who has written for The Times and The Observer. His book, The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science, explores how the stories we tell ourselves about the world shape our beliefs and why today’s heretics don’t believe the facts. Will will be in conversation with Professor Charles Fernyhough, psychologist and author of the award-winning Pieces of Light and neuroscience thriller A Box of Birds.

The Announcement of the Gordon Burn Prize
Saturday 19 October: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Durham Town Hall
Tickets: £10/£8

The late Gordon Burn was a Newcastle-born author for whom no subject or character was beyond fictionalising, from Peter Sutcliffe, Alma Cogan, George Best and Bobby Charlton, to Damien Hirst, Gordon Brown and Margaret Thatcher. This new literary prize, judged by Mark Lawson, Deborah Orr and David Peace, was open to any writer working in the English language, and seeks to recognise authors whose work represents the spirit of Burn’s writing. Join the shortlisted authors for the announcement of the winner of this exciting new prize, with music from Dave Brewis of Mercury Prize-nominated band Field Music.

In association with

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Book Festival for Free Day!
Sunday 20 October
For the festival’s final day of programming, we’re making everything free! Join us for a whole day of swapping and listening.

The Big Book Swap
Sunday 20 October, drop off from 10am-12pm
Durham Town Hall
Free event
Exchange an old book for one you haven’t read before at the Big Book Swap – back by popular demand! Bring your books to the Town Hall between 10am-12pm, then return from 1.30pm-3.30pm to choose some new ones. Everyone donating a book will receive a credit that can be redeemed. Novels, poetry, non-fiction and children’s books are all welcome. Textbooks, manuals and sad and broken books are not.

Local Authors Expo
Sunday 20 October, 10am-2pm
Clayport Library
Free events
Drop into Clayport Library to hear from an exciting line-up of regional authors who will be introducing their books and talking about writing. The Seven Stories Armchair Journey will be in residence too for a morning of family-friendly activity and storytelling.

Sandi Russell: Color
10.30am-11am
Sandi Russell grew up in Harlem, New York, during the Civil Rights era. Sandi was a professional jazz singer in Manhattan before moving to Durham, where she continued to perform, while developing a career as a journalist and writer. Sandi has been publishing short fiction for over a decade, and one of her stories appeared in Daughters of Africa (Jonathan Cape). For this event she will read from her new novel, Color, which offers new insights into the history of the New World and the meaning of the American Dream.

Read Regional poets
12.30pm-1pm
Hear three brilliant northern poets, all of whom have been selected for this year’s Read Regional campaign, read from their latest collections. Cara Brennan will read from Destroyed Dresses, Tara Bergin from This Is Yarrow, and Mark Robinson from How I Learned to Sing. A must-see event for poetry lovers.

Jane Finnis and Rebecca Jenkins: Meet the Mystery Makers
11.30am-12pm
Jane Finnis is the Yorkshire-based author of the Aurelia Marcella mysteries, and will be joined at this event by Teesdale resident Rebecca Jenkins, author of the FR. Jarrett mysteries. Jane and Rebecca will discuss the challenges and attractions of writing murder mysteries set in the north of England in Roman Britain, versus Regency Britain. This event should appeal to mystery lovers and historical fiction readers alike.

Andrew Crumey
1.15pm-1.45pm
A lost masterpiece is at the heart of this gripping intellectual mystery by award-winning writer Andrew Crumey as music, history, politics and philosophy become intertwined in a multi-layered story that spans a century. In 1913 composer Pierre Krauer envisages marriage to his sweetheart and fame for his new work, The Secret Knowledge. Then tragedy strikes. A century later, concert pianist David Conroy hopes the rediscovered score might revive his own flagging career.

Meet the academic authors
Thursday 17 October, 6pm-7pm
Café on the Green, Palace Green
Free event
Writing in the university requires a particular set of skills and is shaped by some very particular pressures. Academic authors need to present original research, to respond to the cut and thrust of peer reviews, to engage in scholarly debate with colleagues, and to be accessible to wider audiences. What is it like to write in this context? Find out more by meeting a range of Durham University authors at this event.

Nuncle Music: An evening of Poetry, Music and Painting with Gareth Reeves, Edward Cheesman and Barrie Ormsby
Friday 18 October, 5.30pm-7pm
Prior’s Hall, Durham Cathedral
Tickets: £6/£4
Nuncle Music consists of monologues from beyond the grave by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Hindsight, guilt, and tricks of memory play their part in his vivid psycho-drama. The sequence reflects ‘the Shostakovich wars’ that have raged ever since the composer’s death in 1975. Was he a dissident or a dissembler? Were his politics of conformity, resistance, or survival – or a tense, ultimately inscrutable, tangle of all these? Gareth Reeves will read his Nuncle Music poems in the beautiful setting of Durham Cathedral, where he will be joined by pianist Edward Cheesman and painter Barrie Ormsby.

Events with Durham University
We’re pleased to welcome internationally acclaimed poet Paul Muldoon as our 2013 Durham Book Festival Laureate.

Each year we work with the English Department at Durham University to invite a leading writer to visit the city and to commission a new piece of work from them. Paul Muldoon will also undertake special events with students from the university as part of this role.

Paul Muldoon: An Evening with the Festival Laureate
Tuesday 29 October, 7pm-8pm
Durham Cathedral Chapter House
Tickets: £10/£8
In this special event to close the festival, Paul Muldoon will read from his work and present a new poem, specially commissioned by the book festival and Durham University. Paul Muldoon was born in County Armagh in 1951. He read English at Queen’s University, Belfast, and published his first collection of poems, New Weather, in 1973. He is the author of ten books of poetry, including Moy Sand and Gravel (2002), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and Horse Latitudes (2006). He is currently the Howard G8 Clark professor in the humanities at Princeton University in the United States. From 1999 to 2004 he was professor of poetry at Oxford University. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the TS Eliot Prize and the Irish Times Poetry Prize. Introduced by Professor Stephen Regan.
Developing Your Online Presence with The Literary Platform
Saturday 12 October, 2pm-5pm
The Deane Room, Palace Green Library
Tickets: £49
Developing an online presence is essential for any writer wishing to connect with readers and raise their profile as a writer, irrespective of what stage they are at in their writing career or whether they are traditionally published, self-published or aspiring to be published. This half-day workshop blends teaching and practical activities and also provides writers with a chance to share and learn from each other's experiences.

Creative Northumbria: Creative writing workshops presented by Northumbria University

Linda France: Poetica Botanica poetry workshop
Sunday 13 October, 2pm-3.30pm
Durham University’s Botanic Garden
Tickets: £10/£5
Trees and flowers have always offered poets a key to write about what it is to be human. Come and explore matters botanical in the inspiring setting of the Botanic Garden with poet Linda France, who is currently investigating plant ecology for her next collection.

Tony Williams: The Walking Writer
Saturday 19 October, 11am-1pm
The Deane Room, Palace Green Library
Tickets: £15/£10
How does a writer’s environment influence their work? Who are we in the rest of our lives, and how does this shape our writing? Poet and fiction writer Tony Williams explores writing, walking and landscape, helping you to think about where – and who – you are.

Michael Cawood Green: Ghosting Through
Saturday 19 October, 2pm-4pm
The Deane Room, Palace Green Library
Tickets: £15/£10
Do you know – or can you imagine – a story that would unsettle the most mundane aspects of where and how you live? Ghost stories have always challenged our assumptions about the ordinary and the everyday, and this workshop will explore creative ways in which your local ghost can speak to you, your community, and a wider reading public. Michael Cawood Green is professor of creative writing at Northumbria University.

Steve Chambers: Adapting Success: The Secret of Adaptation
Sunday 20 October, 11am-1pm
The Deane Room, Palace Green Library
Tickets: £15/£10
Seventy percent of all feature films are adaptations. Most are based on novels but some come from short stories, biographies and real events. Why? What is adaptation? How does it work? Is there a secret? Steve Chambers, who writes for stage, radio and screen, leads this workshop on the crossover from fiction to drama.

Fiona Shaw: Birth, Death and the Big Bits in-Between: Prose Writing and Rites of Passage
Sunday 20 October, 2pm-4pm
The Deane Room, Palace Green Library
Tickets: £15/£10
This workshop explores how you can begin to write about those life-changing events, whether in fiction or in life-writing. This workshop is led by Fiona Shaw, novelist and author of the classic memoir Out of Me, as well as fiction, including A Stone’s Throw and Tell it to the Bees.

Please note that all tickets for workshops must be booked in advance. Tickets will not be available on the day.
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Virginia Woolf
I walk making up phrases, sitting, contriving scenes; am, in short, in the thick of the greatest rapture known to me

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Tickets are divided into two price bands: Full price and Concessions, Festival Friends & under-16s.

Many festival events sell out very quickly so please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

During the festival any remaining tickets can be purchased on the door at events. On Saturday 12, Sunday 13 and Saturday 19 October we will be operating a box office on site at Durham Town Hall. Any tickets that you have booked for events in that venue can be picked up there on the day.

Book in person
Gala Theatre
1 Millennium Place,
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Book online
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Concessions information
Concessionary tickets are available to senior citizens, the registered unemployed, registered disabled and students. Proof of status must be shown when booking or picking up your tickets.

Refunds and exchanges
The Durham Book Festival does not offer refunds. We can exchange tickets for another performance up to 24 hours before a show. There is a charge of £1 per ticket for this service, and original tickets must be returned to the box office at the Gala Theatre.

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Join our Festival Friends scheme and you can help support the festival to develop while getting a great deal on ticket prices across the festival. Individual subscriptions cost £30 per year and couples membership is £50. If you are under 25 you can become a Young Festival Friend for £20 per year. Membership begins on 1 October each year and runs until the end of August the following year. Please go to www.durhambookfestival.com to explore the benefits and to sign up.