

# HAY FESTIVAL 30

*imagine the world*

NEWS RELEASE: MONDAY 5 JUNE 2017

## 30th Hay Festival closes after record year

The 30th Hay Festival closed Sunday after a landmark year, marking a culmination of ambitious anniversary projects and a blockbuster programme of the world's leading writers, scientists, musicians, comedians and global leaders.

Featuring more than 500 speakers in over 800 ticketed events – the most ever – the programme included **Bernie Sanders, Nemat Shafik, Colm Toibín, Dilma Rousseff, Peter Singer, Neil Gaiman, Elif Shafak, Tracey Emin, Stephen Fry, Michael Sheen, Brian May, Graham Norton, Elizabeth Strout, Eddie Izzard, Jeanette Winterson, Howard Jacobson, Yanis Varoufakis, Paul Beatty** and **Carlo Rovelli**.

*Hay Festival Conversations: Thirty conversations for thirty years*, an anniversary collection published by Hay Festival Press, was the week's best-selling book, followed by Neil Gaiman, Horatio Clare, Philippe Sands, and Yanis Varoufakis. Sales of books, tracked by Nielsen BookScan, were up 11% on the previous year.

At the Festival's closing gala, founder and director Peter Florence announced the donation of the festival's 30-year audio-visual and print archive to the British Library – the largest single donation of literary recordings ever, ensuring the unique collection of conversations will be available at the British Library for the study of writers and the public in years to come.

**30 REFORMATIONS** formed the spine of the Festival programme: 500 years after Martin Luther sparked a theological revolution with his 95 Theses, Hay Festival invited a series of world-leading writers and thinkers to imagine a better world in conversations, lectures and essays. Catch up on the reformations at: <https://www.hayfestival.com/discover/thirty-reformations>

**THE HAY 30** selection of young novelists, scientists, philosophers, performers and activists who will help imagine and shape the world in the next 30 years appeared. Catch highlights of their events at: <https://www.hayfestival.com/discover/hay-30>

**#HAYTREES** – a special project in partnership with the Woodland Trust and National Trust launched. **#HAYTREES** aims to create the first Hay Festival Wood as part of an education programme which will see tree plantings in schools across Wales and at Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The activity will culminate with a tree-themed Hay Winter Festival Winter Weekend, 24-26 November 2017.

**#HAY30BOOKS** were announced following an international call to select 30 'essential' books from the past 30 years that deserve more attention, to be celebrated in events and digitally around the world. For the full list, visit: <https://www.hayfestival.com/hay30books/>

**HAY FESTIVAL MEDALS** were awarded to four exceptional writers: storyteller **Daniel Morden** was given the Hay Festival Medal for Drama, **Philippe Sands** the Hay Festival Medal for Prose, **Ahdaf Soueif** was given the Hay Festival Medal for Festivals, and **Cressida Cowell** the Hay Festival Medal for Fiction. Awarded annually since Britain's Olympic year (2012), the medals draw inspiration from the original Olympic medal given for poetry.

**SCHOOLS DAYS** opened the festival, with over 7,000 primary and secondary students enjoying

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a tailored events programme, free to attend, on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 May, featuring **Holly Bourne, Katherine Webber, Daniel Morden, Phil Earle, Jenny Valentine, Steve Mould, Maz Evans, Philip Ardagh, Ali Sparkes, the Science Museum's new Robotics exhibition** and events with the **Hay Festival Aarhus 39**. For the first time, these were also live-streamed to schools across Wales.

The biggest ever **HAYDAYS** programme featured some of the greatest stars of children's and YA literature, including **Anthony Horowitz, Jacqueline Wilson, Julia Donaldson, Chris Riddell** and **Nick Arnold**, giving young readers the opportunity to meet their heroes and enjoy a feast of activities. Plus arts, crafts and workshops, in the **MAKE** and **TAKE TENT**, the **SCRIBBLERS HUT**; and the **MESS TENT** kept young people of all ages entertained.

Meanwhile, great comedy, music, and **THE SOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES**, a new late-night club venue at Clyro Court, ensured celebrations continued into the night.

## Hay Festival 2017 Fast Facts:

- Over 800 events
- Over 7,000 school pupils attending free Schools Days
- Over 22,000 books sold at the Oxfam bookshop, raising £52,000, enough to send 5,200 girls to school in West Africa
- Over 4,000 trees given away on site by the Woodland Trust through the #HAYTREES project
- Over 1,500 metres of bunting used
- Over 320 stewards working at Festival venues, with some coming from Australia, Germany and the US to attend
- Over 100 deck chairs on site and read in under a max temperature of 29 degrees celsius

While the Hay Festival tents are dismantled, the discussion continues online, with highlights available through BBC Arts online and the Hay Festival YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram channels. Meanwhile, students studying for their A-Levels can browse the wealth of resources now available via the Hay Levels YouTube channel.

## CATCH UP WITH THE BBC

BBC Arts Online offers a selection of full talks and short clips from Hay Festival 2017 at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/rpq2fx> and on iPlayer.

Listen again now online to live Festival recordings of BBC Radio 4's Front Row, Broadcasting House, Start the Week, Inside Science and BBC Radio 3's In Tune, Free Thinking, The Verb, The Listening Service.

Coming up in June: BBC World's HardTalk air their one-to-one with Bernie Sanders; BBC World's Click air their Hay Festival special; BBC World's Talking Books air interviews with Ahdaf Soueif, Elizabeth Strout, Tim Winton and Sebastian Barry; BBC World's Arts Hour presents Sabrina Mahfouz, Jaroslav Kalfar, Elif Shafak and Inna Modja; BBC One's Countryfile broadcasts their Hay Festival special; and CBBC Book Club air their Schools Days special. On the radio: BBC Radio 4's Front Row airs their interview with Steven Moffat; Book Club speaks to

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Hari Kunzru; and special editions of *Beyond Belief* and *Four Thought*; and BBC Radio 3 air their Lunchtime Recitals.

## Hay Festival bookshop bestsellers

1. *Hay Festival Conversations* by various
2. *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman
3. *Myths and Legends of the Brecon Beacons* by Horatio Clare
4. *East West Street* by Philippe Sands
5. *Adults in the Room* by Yanis Varoufakis
6. *Wave me Goodbye* by Jacqueline Wilson
7. *Holdings* by Graham Norton
8. *Never Say Die* (Alex Rider) by Anthony Horowitz
9. *The Detective Dog* by Julia Donaldson
10. *House of Names* by Colm Toibín
11. *Politics Between the Extremes* by Nick Clegg
12. *Doughnut Economics* by Kate Raworth
13. *Our Revolution* by Bernie Sanders
14. *The Cyber Effect* by Mary Aiken
15. *Storm in a Teacup* by Helen Czerski
16. *SAS: Rogue Heroes* by Ben MacIntyre
17. *The Star Witness* by Andy Hamilton
18. *Tom Gates: Family, Friends and Furry Creatures* by Liz Pichon
19. *Our Man in the Middle East* by Jeremy Bowen
20. *A Woman's Work* by Harriet Harman

Hay Festival Winter Weekend takes place 24-26 November 2017. The 31st Hay Festival takes place 24 May – 4 June 2018.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival's news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow them on Twitter: [@HayFestival](#); Facebook: [HayFestival](#) and Instagram: [@HayFestival](#).

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

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## About Hay Festival

[www.hayfestival.org](http://www.hayfestival.org)

Hay Festival brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Nobel Prize-winners and novelists, scientists and politicians, historians and musicians talk with audiences in a dynamic exchange of ideas. The Festival's global conversation shares the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live, in print and online. Hay Festival also

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runs wide programmes of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages.

In 1987, the festival was dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay. Thirty years later, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena in Colombia to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark. The organisation now reaches a global audience of hundreds of thousands every year and continues to grow and innovate, building partnerships and initiatives alongside some of the leading bodies in arts and the media, including the BBC, Welsh Government Department of Education, Visit Wales, ACW, the British Council, Oxfam, TATA, Friends of Hay Festival, Baillie Gifford, Good Energy, the Woodland Trust and the National Trust.

Acclaimed author, actor and writer **Stephen Fry** is President of the organisation; **Peter Florence** is Director; and **Caroline Michel**, CEO of leading literary and talent agency Peters Fraser and Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

## Upcoming festival dates:

- [Hay Festival Queretaro](#), Mexico (7– 10 Sep 2017)
- [Hay Festival Segovia](#), Spain (16–24 Sep 2017)
- [European Children's Literature Hay Festival Aarhus](#), Denmark (26–29 Oct 2017)
- [Hay Festival Arequipa](#), Peru (9–12 Nov 2017)
- [Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend](#), UK (24 – 26 Nov 2017)
- [Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias](#), Colombia (25–28 Jan 2018)
- Hay Festival Wales, UK (24 May – 4 June 2018)