

HAY FESTIVAL

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Programme announced for largest-ever Hay Festival Winter Weekend

Speakers include: writers **Robert Macfarlane, Jeanette Winterson, Matt Haig, Horatio Clare, Marie-Elsa Bragg, Nikesh Shukla, Patrick Barkham**; Hay Festival International Fellow **Jenny Valentine**; barrister **Helena Kennedy**; comedian and actor **Matt Lucas**; actors **Jacob Ifan** and **Catrin Stewart**; broadcaster **Jeremy Vine**; the country's favourite gardener **Monty Don**; illustrator **Jackie Morris**; poets **Gillian Clarke** and **Owen Sheers**; tech CEO **Sarah Wood**; former RFU director **Rob Andrew**; GQ editor **Dylan Jones**; children's stars **Ed Vere, Catherine Barr** and **James Campbell**; chef **Anna Jones**; and performances from **Mid Wales Opera, Smerins Anti-Social Club, Siobhan Wilson Trio, Daniel Martyn Lewis, Joanna Macgregor**, comedienne **Shazia Mirza**, and **Hay Community Choir**

Hay Festival has today announced the full line-up of writers, thinkers and performers appearing at the larger-than-ever Hay Festival Winter Weekend in Hay-on-Wye, 23-26 November 2017.

Prize-winning novelists and poets, global policy makers, industry leaders and guardians of the natural world share the stage with stars of theatre, TV and film, sports leaders, children's heroes, acclaimed musicians and much-loved comedians in over 70 events across four days.

Tickets are on sale to *Friends of Hay Festival* now and go on general release this Thursday 19 October – book online at hayfestival.org or call 01497 822 629.

The festival has also issued a public call to nominate the **Hay Festival Book of the Year 2017** – the one book readers couldn't put down, haven't stopped thinking about, or couldn't wait to recommend to friends. Readers who submit choices online will be entered into a special prize draw. For more information visit hayfestival.org/book-of-the-year/

Hay Festival Winter Weekend is now in its 18th year, blending literary conversation, immersive performances and interactive workshops, with the best of the town's seasonal shopping and a chance to explore the famed natural surroundings in all their autumnal splendour.

A new venue will double the festival's seated capacity, while events begin a day earlier than in previous years, with programmed talks and performances from Thursday 23 November.

Peter Florence, Director of Hay Festival, said: "Come and join us in Hay for fireside storytelling and feasting. The town is decked in Christmas lights and glistening with winter cheer for a celebration of scrumptious food, glorious vintage clothing and high times. Bring a story, bring a new idea, bring a friend. Everyone is welcome."

The project has been part-funded by the Welsh Government's Tourism Product Innovation Fund, which aims to encourage partnership-working and innovative ideas that will have a greater impact and attract more visitors. **Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:** "This is yet another fantastic line-up for the Hay Festival Winter Weekend. I'm delighted that we're able to support the growth of this event, which gives people compelling reasons to come to Wales for an autumn

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break. As the Year of Legends in Wales draws to a close, a festival of legendary storytelling, performances and appearances is a fitting closing chapter to the year.”

Programme highlights

Natural wonders are celebrated as **Robert Macfarlane** and **Jackie Morris** present their collaboration, *The Lost Words*; **Horatio Clare** talks *Icebreaker: A Journey Far North*; **Patrick Barkham** discusses *Islander: A Journey Around Our Archipelago*; **Leif Bersweden** presents *The Orchid Hunter: A young botanist's search for happiness*; writer and broadcaster **Robert Penn** spotlights the wonders of our woodlands with his new book *Woods: A Celebration*; while the country's favourite gardener **Monty Don** talks *Down to Earth: Gardening Wisdom*.

Global issues are tackled as investigative journalist **Oliver Bullough**, Nigerian novelist **Chibundu Onuzo** and anti-corruption barrister **Eva Anderson** discuss global corruption; while this year's Hay Festival 30 Reformations series draws to a close with a trio of talks posing reforms to contemporary orthodoxies: **Helena Kennedy** talks equality; **Owen Sheers** reforms men; and **Marie-Elsa Bragg** takes on Christmas.

Stars of stage, screen and the airwaves offer a glimpse behind the scenes: actors **Jacob Ifan** and **Catrin Stewart** join screenwriter **Roger Williams** to talk to **Guto Harri** about their acclaimed Port Talbot-based crime drama for the BBC, *Bang*; while broadcaster **Jeremy Vine** talks *What I learnt*, part autobiography and part recollection of listeners' wisdom.

Prize-winning novelists present their latest works: **Jeanette Winterson** talks *Ghost Night*; **Matt Haig** discusses his bestseller *How to Stop Time*; **Owen King**, son of Stephen King, talks about the new novel co-written with his father, *Sleeping Beauties*; and **Nikesh Shukla** talks about his new project to showcase the very best new work from writers and artists of colour, *The Good Journal*.

Poetry takes centre stage as former National Poet of Wales and Hay Festival Medal for Poetry winner, **Gillian Clarke**, presents her new collection *Zoology*, while her 80th birthday is marked by a group of emerging Welsh poets, including **Zillah Bowes**, **Rosey Brown**, **Imtiaz Dharker**, **Menna Elfyn**, **Joao Morais**, **Pascale Petit** and **Clare Potter**. Forward Arts Foundation founder **William Sieghart** opens up *The Poetry Pharmacy*; Welsh poet-playwright **Menna Elfyn** reads from her new collection *Bondo*; and **Pascale Petit** presents *Mama Amazoniza*.

History is reimagined as medical historian **Lindsey Fitzharris** presents her study of Joseph Lister and a turning point in medicine, *The Butchery Art*; historian **Peter Lord** discusses the first account of Welsh art for 50 years, *The Tradition: A New History of Welsh Art*; **John Connolly** presents his retelling of the life of Stan Laurel, *He*; and **Simon Jenkins** nominates *Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations*; while Professor of English **John Mullan** discusses the work of Jane Austen.

Industry leaders from around the world converge to share their learnings: CEO of tech firm Unruly, **Sarah Wood**, presents her guide to leadership *Stepping Up*; co-founder of the Eden Project, **Tim Smit**, presents his autobiography *Beyond Eden*; and former RFU director **Rob Andrew** talks *Rugby: The Game of my Life*. Chef **Anna Jones** talks about her new cookbook *The Modern Cook's Year*, while best-selling writer **Isabel Losada** explores sexuality with *Sensation*.

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Hay-on-Wye comes to life with music throughout the weekend: **Mid Wales Opera** presents the hilarious one-act comedy classic *The Bear*; there are performances from **Siobhan Wilson Trio**, **Smerins Anti-Social Club** and **Hay Community Choir**; **Daniel Martyn Lewis** plays Bach; **Joanna Macgregor** interprets Chopin's Mazurkas; while *GQ* editor **Dylan Jones** presents his new biography *David Bowie: A Life* and broadcaster **Clemency Burton Hill** talks *A Year of Wonder*, her daily guide to classical music.

Comedians offer more late-night entertainment: comic classicist **Natalie Haynes** talks about her much loved BBC Radio 4 series *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics*; **Shazia Mirza** brings her award-winning stand-up show *With Love from St Tropez*; and actor, writer and comedian **Matt Lucas** presents his autobiography *Little Me: My Life from A-Z*.

HAYDAYS events offer fun for all the family as leading writers for children present their latest books: **Ed Vere** talks *Banana!* and *Bedtime for Monsters*; **Adam Frost** showcases *The Awesome Book of Animals*; and **Catherine Barr** presents *Discover 10 Reasons to Love a Turtle*; while **James Campbell** delivers his stand-up show for children.

Hay Festival Schools Visits see leading writers for young people drop in for events at local primary and secondary schools, including **James Campbell**, **Nicola Davies**, **Joe Coelho** and **Barney Norris**.

Hay Festival International Fellow, **Jenny Valentine**, presents the latest part of her global exploration of adolescence in an event alongside **Harriet Stewart**, **Jonathan Godfrey** and **The Beacons Project** students.

Free drop-in workshops for young people take inspiration from the festival's **#HAYTREES** project, with tree-to-type printmaking and outdoor cookery for children with **Forest Schools**. The Parish Hall is transformed into a workshop of wonders with interactive sessions from festive crafts to hula hooping with **Elle Edwards** from **No Fit State Circus**; **Charles McCarthy** presents *Drawing Without Lines*; and **Barney Norris** and **Pervasive Media** merge creativity with the latest tech in their creative writing and ambient literature workshop.

Meanwhile, outside of the festival venues, the town's atmospheric market square will be a focus of festivities:

On Friday 24 November, the **Hay Christmas lights** will be turned on, transforming the town into a winter wonderland brimming with festive cheer, accompanied by carol singing, readings and evening entertainment.

On Saturday 25 November, the **Hay Food Festival** celebrates all that's good about winter cooking, with over 50 stalls showcasing the very best of local produce, from savoury to sweet.

On Sunday 26 November, **Hay Does Vintage** transforms the square into a festive outdoor fleamarket with over 50 vintage and retro traders offering a diverse collection of items from clothes, textiles and jewellery, to furniture, collectables and kitchenalia.

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Following on from the 30th Hay Festival in Wales (25 May – 5 June), Querétaro, Mexico (7 – 10 September), Segovia, Spain (16 – 24 September), Aarhus, Denmark (26 – 29 October), and Arequipa Peru (9 - 12 November), Hay Festival Winter Weekend is the final edition of 2017.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival's news by signing up to the newsletter [here](#) or follow them on:

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www.hayfestival.org/winterweekend

#HayWinterWeekend

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Notes to editors

For IMAGES, INTERVIEWS or FURTHER INFORMATION, contact Hay Festival publicity director Christopher Bone at christopher@hayfestival.org or 07506 522540.

About Hay Festival

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 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 + Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

Hay Festival 2018 dates...

- Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (25–28 Jan 2018)
- Hay Festival Wales, UK (24 May – 3 Jun 2018)

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- Hay Festival Querétaro, Mexico (Sep 2018)
- Hay Festival Segovia, Spain (Sep 2018)
- Hay Festival Arequipa, Peru (Nov 2018)
- Hay Festival Wales Winter Weekend, UK (Nov 2018)



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