



Embargoed until Thursday 26th April 2018

Tickets go on sale for Newark's biggest ever celebration of books & literature

Tickets for the much anticipated Newark Book Festival go on sale from Monday 30th April.

The first revamped festival in 2017 drew almost 2,500 people to Newark and this year's event is shaping up to be bigger and more exciting than ever before.

39 authors, poets and illustrators will be taking part in events alongside dozens of musicians, actors, storytellers, stallholders and performers.

Earlier this month, it was revealed that bestselling author Matt Haig will return as the event's headline speaker. The author of *Reasons to Stay Alive*, *A Boy Called Christmas* and *How to Stop Time* grew up in Newark and he'll be discussing his upcoming book, *Notes on a Nervous Planet*.

Now, the full programme has been announced, with three days of events taking place across the town from Friday 13th July to Sunday 15th July.

For the first time, Newark Palace Theatre and Carriages Cafe are hosting festival events as well as Newark Castle, Newark Library, River Cruises, The National Civil War Museum, Newark Town Hall, Gannets Bistrot, Millgate Community Centre and Secret Garden coffee shop. Newark Market Place will be transformed into a Literature Quarter while colourful characters including bookworms and knights will be roaming the streets.

An emergency poet will be on hand to soothe the soul in a converted ambulance and families will be spellbound at an Enchanted Forest where tales of Robin Hood, Peter Pan and Mr Toad will charm audiences.

This year's festival has the theme Landscapes in Literature, with a focus on the importance of locations and environments in fiction and non-fiction writing as well as the area's literary heritage.

Children can get involved in shaping their own Landscapes in Literature with a special competition for ages 7-13 and 6 and under. Children have until June 1st to draw their own secret gardens and winners will be awarded a prize at the festival and have their artwork displayed at Secret Garden coffee shop on Stodman Street. Information on how to enter the competition as well as full terms and conditions can be found on the [festival website](#).

Other writers who are speaking at the festival include: Nottinghamshire bestseller, Tom Cox; Booker Prize nominated author, Clare Morrall; children's authors, Lucy Rowland and Julia Patton; historical fiction writer, Elizabeth Chadwick; romance author, Carole Matthews; journalist and author, Lucy Mangan; thriller writers, C.J Tudor and Luca Veste, and author of the Sinclair's Mysteries, Katherine Woodfine.

Even the Gruffalo is rumoured to be making an appearance.

Festival organiser, Sara Bullimore said: "Newark Book Festival 2018 is going to be incredible. We have so many fantastic writers, poets, illustrators and artists taking part in some wonderful events that will appeal to the whole family. Last year's festival went extremely well and it proved a hit with Newark residents and visitors. We've managed to build on that success to make this year even more special and we're very proud of the programme of events we've got planned: The whole town will be transformed. The countdown to the big day has started and we're really excited to share everything that we have in store for the town."

Prices for all events are £10 or less, with several events being free for all visitors. Tickets can be purchased from Monday 30th April from Newark Palace Theatre on 01636 655755 or www.palacenewarktickets.com. The full programme of events can be found at www.newarkbookfestival.org.uk or in the festival brochure which can be collected from venues across Newark and beyond including the theatre, festival venues, coffee shops, libraries and key attractions.

If you can't wait until Monday to buy tickets, you can register to be a Friend of the Festival to support the festival and secure your tickets immediately. Friends will also be invited to the festival's VIP launch event on Friday 13th July.

The festival's organisers have been supporting the national #bookbuddy campaign, set up by children's author Maz Evans and they've been working with local schools to donate books to their libraries to spread the love of reading.

