

# HAY FESTIVAL 30

*imagine the world*

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday 16 May 2017

## Hay Festival to broadcast events live to Welsh schools in 30th year

This year, for the very first time, every primary and secondary school in Wales will have free online access to Hay Festival, thanks to a new initiative in partnership with the Welsh Government that will see Schools Programme events broadcast to every school in Wales.

On Thursday 25 May (KS 2) and Friday 26 May (KS 3 and 4), Hay Festival welcomes thousands of pupils on site to enjoy a carefully curated programme of talks and performances, and a chance to meet scientists, explorers, historians and award-winning novelists.

Speakers include: **Holly Bourne, Alwyn Hamilton, Melinda Salisbury, Kim Slater, Katherine Webber, Daniel Morden, Teri Terry, Phil Earle, Pete Kalu, Jenny Valentine, Jim Smith, Steve Mould, Maz Evans, Philip Ardagh, Steve Cole, Nicola Davies, Gary Northfield, Ali Sparkes, Guy Bass, John Dougherty, Shane Hegarty, Emma Carroll**, plus there will be pop-up activity from the Science Museum's new **Robotics** exhibition and a special event with the **Hay Festival Aarhus 39** writers.

Packs of educational resources have been distributed to every state school in Wales with materials to support teaching and learning before, during and after the Festival. To find out more, teachers can visit [www.hayfestival.com/schoolsprogramme](http://www.hayfestival.com/schoolsprogramme)

**Aine Venables, Hay Festival Education Manager, said:** "Giving schools the chance to hear some of the best writers of today is central to our work. This year, following higher than ever demand for our Schools Programme, and thanks to the support of the Welsh Government, we are thrilled to live-stream our events to schools across the country. Reading, and engaging with writers, can be transformative for young people – it is wonderful to share the Hay Festival experience digitally."

**Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, said:** "It's fantastic that more schoolchildren than ever before are able to experience the buzz surrounding Hay Festival. I'm sure Hay has in no small part inspired many a budding author, poet, playwright and wordsmith. Some experiences are hard to shake, in the best way possible. They stick with you, and more importantly, stir the imagination. We do not need to instil it in children but should encourage and assist what is already there."

Founded in 1987 around a kitchen table in Wales, the not-for-profit organisation brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world.

Hay Festival SCHOOLS DAYS, first launched in 2010, are a central pillar of the festival's commitment to young people that also includes HAY COMPASS, HAY ACADEMY, THE BEACONS PROJECT, HAY LEVELS and free tickets for students in higher education.

The SCHOOLS DAYS programming is free for all state schools and funded by Hay Festival and the Welsh Government; last year 6,000 pupils took part.

The full Hay Festival programme is available to view online at [hayfestival.org](http://hayfestival.org). Tickets are bookable online or through the box office on 01497 822 629.

# HAY FESTIVAL 30

*imagine the world*

The Festival presents an inspiring programme of conversations and performances in Hay-on-Wye over the summer half-term. The line-up of speakers also includes **Bernie Sanders, Nemat Shafik, Colm Toibín, 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, Carlo Rovelli, Jacqueline Wilson, Judith Kerr, Nick Sharatt, Cressida Cowell, Sarah Crossan, Patrick Ness** and **Chris Riddell**, who converge for a party of ideas and stories in 800 events.

The biggest ever HAYDAYS programme gives young readers the opportunity to meet their heroes and enjoy a feast of activities, while great comedy, music, and The Sound of the Baskervilles, the new late-night club venue, continue celebrations into the night.

The Festival is free to enter, with ticketed events in 10 tented venues, plus a range of exciting sites to explore, including the Festival Bookshop, the HAYDAYS courtyard, arts and crafts in the MAKE and TAKE TENT and the SCRIBBLERS HUT; there are drop-in workshops in the MESS TENT, and market stalls, cafés, and restaurants.

In an age increasingly characterised by abbreviated content and algorithmic recommendation, the Festivals promote serendipitous discovery through the long-form, immersive experience, offering a platform for informed conversation and the chance for inspiration to take hold.

The full programme is available to view online at [www.hayfestival.com](http://www.hayfestival.com). To order a print programme or book tickets, please visit the website or call the box office on 01497 822 629.

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

Hay Festival contact: Christopher Bone [Christopher@hayfestival.org](mailto:Christopher@hayfestival.org) / 07506 522540

For IMAGES email [Christopher@hayfestival.org](mailto:Christopher@hayfestival.org) for the festival's media showroom login  
For PRESS ACCREDITATION to the 2017 festival please complete our online form [here](#)

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

# HAY FESTIVAL 30

*imagine the world*

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.

## 2017 festival dates:

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

