

Book Festival Programme 2009

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

A Witty Dictionary

Listen to Mike Barfield talk in an irreverent and wicked manner about *'This Septic Isle,'* a super-cynical dictionary that redefines 21st Century Britain.

Mike will recall his wide-ranging career in radio comedy, children's TV and TV game shows as well as his work as a cartoonist for *Private Eye*.

Venue: Letchworth Library, Broadway, SG6 3PF
Time: 2pm
Tickets: £3 available in advance or on the door



MONDAY MARCH 2

What are Libraries For?

Speakers will debate the question of the role of public libraries now and in the future and the challenges they face, with questions and comments from the audience.

Venue: David's Bookshop, Eastcheap, Letchworth
Time: 7.30pm
Admission free. Reserve a seat in advance on 01462 684631 or email staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

Bugz: Contact

David Jackson talks about how he wrote and published his sci-fi novel looking at an adventure story set in 2042 as scientists try to recreate the Big Bang and mankind makes contact with the amazing bugz.

He will also introduce his new project, *The Fat Police*.
Fact meets fiction!

Venue: The Sun Hotel, Sun Street, Hitchin
Time: 7.45pm **Tickets:** £3 on the door



WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

Knitting Workshop

Learn how to knit from scratch, bring along your current project and meet others who share your interest in the great art of knitting, which is becoming popular again. The latest knitting books will be available to borrow and wool will be on sale, courtesy of Tim's Arts Supplies. *Beginners and experienced knitters are welcome.*

Venue: Hitchin Library, Paynes Park, SG5 1EW
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm.
Tickets: £3, available in advance or on the door, including refreshments

Lizzie and Katey: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Unconventional Women

Lucinda Hawksley, author of *Katey: The Lives and Loves of Dicken's Artist Daughter*, and *Lizzie Siddall: The Tragedy of a Pre-Raphaelite Supermodel*, will give a talk on these extraordinary women.

Venue: David's Bookshop, Eastcheap, Letchworth
Time: 7.30pm
Admission free. Reserve a seat in advance on 01462 684631 or email staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk

THURSDAY MARCH 5

World Book Day

Events at David's Bookshop, Letchworth and Waterstones, Hitchin

A Model Life

Daphne Selfe, the internationally-acclaimed face of Grannie Chic, talks about her career and what it's like to be a top model in her 70s.

Venue: Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park
Time: 11am **Tickets:** £3, available on the door.

The Drama Of Words

Nick Warburton will talk about his award-winning career writing for radio, TV and stage. Highlights include *Witness*, Nick's dramatisation of St Luke (which will be out on CD at the beginning of April) scriptwriting for Holby City and commissions to write plays from Alan Ayckbourn.

Venue: Royston Library, Market Hill. SG8 9JN
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £3, available in advance or on the door.



FRIDAY MARCH 6

How Letchworth Helped Crack The Enigma Code

The country's top brains worked at *Bletchley Park* and helped us to win the last war. John Harper talks about how he and his fellow enthusiasts rebuilt the vital Bombe machine which found the settings that enabled Bletchley to decode Germany's top secret Enigma messages. John will also explain the Letchworth link to the Bombe. To go with this talk, Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group has arranged a trip to Bletchley Park on Saturday, March 21. To book pick up LALG programme from David's Bookshop.

Venue: Letchworth Museum, Broadway
Time: 11am
Admission: £3 on the door

Where the Working Boats Went

Premiere performance of a new show telling the history of the inland waterways of Britain through the eyes of canal folk. Performed by Life and Times (Barry Goodman and Graeme Meek) using drama and song.

Venue: Hitchin British Schools Museum, Queen Street
Time: 8pm
Tickets: £8 adults, £5 concs (with drinks and nibbles) in advance from the museum office on 01462 420144.

SATURDAY MARCH 7

Angela, Angel and the Magic Chair

Children's author Angela Patchett will do a story telling and signing. Suitable for children up to 10.

Venue: David's Bookshop, Letchworth
Time: 11am - 1pm

Meet a Writer

Sue Hampton, author of acclaimed fiction for nine to 16-year-olds, will be signing copies of her books. They include *Spirit and Fire* and *Shutdown*.

Venue: Waterstones, Market Place, Hitchin
Time: 10am - 2pm

This is the third **NORTH HERTS BOOK FESTIVAL**, sponsored by *North Herts District Council* working alongside a variety of partners. They include **David's Bookshop, Letchworth; Waterstones, Hitchin; Hertfordshire Library Service; Hitchin and Letchworth Museums; Hitchin Youth Trust; the Sun Hotel, Hitchin; Letchworth Civic Society; St Mary's Church, Baldock, and Oxfam.**

Highlights include:

Saturday, March 7

What was life really like during World War II? Recall the days when recycling, unity and simple pleasures were a way of life. Join in fun family activities at Hitchin British Schools Museum and Letchworth Museum, and in both towns centres.

Tuesday March 10

Author and journalist **Justine Picardie** talks about her works including an acclaimed biography of Daphne du Maurier, at Hitchin Library.

Saturday March 14

Learn **what the Romans did for us** in Baldock. Fun family activities at Baldock Community Centre. Refreshments and church tower visits at St Mary's Church.

Hay Comes to Hitchin with a **Hay-on-Wye style secondhand book bonanza** throughout the town including Hitchin British Schools Museum, the Market Place and Oxfam.

Free storytelling with renowned artist James Mayhew at Hitchin and Letchworth Museums.

Wednesday March 15

TV personality (Celebrity Fit Club), author and hypnotherapist **Marisa Peer** will be talking about her new book, *Ultimate Confidence*, a follow-up to her best-selling guide *You Can Be Thin*.

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north herts book festival

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

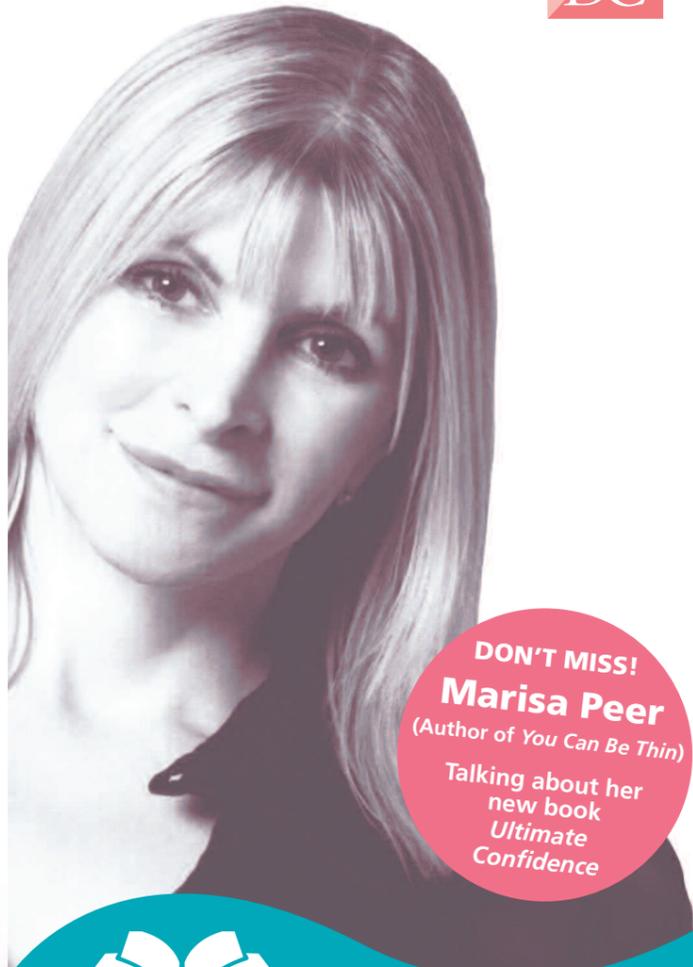


Turn the pages back into the past with free family Roman and WWII days

Meet top authors

Share in the excitement, drama and magic of words

Be a part of North Herts Book festival



DON'T MISS!
Marisa Peer
(Author of *You Can Be Thin*)
Talking about her new book *Ultimate Confidence*



north herts book festival

North Hertfordshire BOOK FESTIVAL

February 28 – March 19, 2009

Look on www.north-herts.gov.uk

Call Sue Fisher on 01462 474544

or e-mail her at

sue.fisher@north-herts.gov.uk



Designed and printed by The Document Centre, NHDC

SATURDAY MARCH 7

Step back in time to the Second World War in Letchworth and Hitchin.

Letchworth

Prepare for an air raid and evacuation. Find out how to put out an incendiary bomb and how many sweets you got with your ration. Try on period clothes and gas masks, hear 1940s music and have a go at the practice rifle range. *Activities courtesy of the History Man, sponsored by Letchworth Civic Trust.*

Culinary historian Maya Pieris will demonstrate WWII cookery. Hear letters from the trenches recited by pupils from *Highfield and Fearnhill Schools.*

Letchworth wartime photos and documents loaned by the First Garden City Heritage Museum.

Venue: Letchworth Museum, Broadway

Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

Free admission, just drop in

Letchworth Town Band

Venue: Leys Square, Leys Avenue

Time: 2pm – 3pm



Evacuee Memories

Display about evacuees in the Garden City, many of whom came from Bexhill-on-Sea.

From 7 March till 4 April 2009.

Letchworth Library, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PF

Hitchin

What was it like to be a school pupil during the war?

Learn about gas mask drills, whether an air raid shelter was cosy or uncomfortable and what you would have eaten during rationing. Travel back in time with a teacher.

At 11:30 hear *"Janet and John Learn to Read"* – Sylvia Clack and Mel Knights tell the story of two nursery schools, Weston Way Nursery in Baldock and York Road Nursery in Hitchin, the way they taught children to read in the 1940s and how different everything is today. Share memories of your early schooldays!

Venue: Hitchin British Schools Museum, Queen Street

Time: 10am – 1pm

Admission to the Museum £2, includes all activities

TUESDAY MARCH 10

Justine Picardie

Author Justine Picardie will be talking about her writing, including the novel 'Daphne' based on the life of Daphne du Maurier. Justine Picardie is also a columnist for the Sunday Telegraph Magazine and writes for Harpers Bazaar.

Venue: Hitchin Library, Paynes Park, Hitchin SG5 1EW

Time: 8pm

Tickets: £3 in advance or on the door

The Political Contradictions in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwean author Ellison Madenyika will give an insight into life in Zimbabwe and an explanation of events leading to the current situation. Question and answer session to follow.

Venue: David's Bookshop, Eastcheap, Letchworth

Time: 7.30pm

Admission free. Reserve a seat in advance on 01462 684631 or email staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

Fancy a little romance?

Melanie Hilton, former Hertfordshire Librarian, also known as *Mills and Boon* author, Louise Allen, talks about her romantic fiction novels.

Venue: Baldock Library

Simpson Drive, SG7 6DH

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: £3 in advance or on the door

Gain Ultimate Confidence

TV personality (*Celebrity Fit Club, Supersize, Superskinny*), author and hypnotherapist Marisa Peer will be talking about her new book, *Ultimate Confidence*, a follow-up to her best-selling guide *You Can Be Thin*. Be inspired by a woman who can help you make the most of yourself by changing the way you think.

Venue: The Sun Hotel, Sun Street, Hitchin

Time: 7.45pm

Tickets: £3 on the door



THURSDAY MARCH 12

Chocolate Tales

Find out how our most popular food has inspired writers from all over the world. Gill Farrington reads and discusses six novels linked to chocolate.

Venue: Royston Library, Market Hill, SG8 9JN

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £3 in advance or on the door, including refreshments



SATURDAY MARCH 14



Hay Comes to Hitchin

Root out a bargain as the town holds a massive **second-hand book sale**, Hay-on-Wye style, at venues including *Hitchin British Schools Museum* (Queen Street), *Hitchin Library*, the *Market Place*, *Oxfam*, *Eric T Moore Books* (Bridge Street) and *The Bookbug* (The Arcade).

Attractions include:

Hitchin Rotary in the Market Place with bric-a-brac and books, from 8.30am until sold out.

Oxfam in the Market Place. More books from 9.30 - 4.30, with storytelling from 10.30 - 1.30

Special attractions at *Hitchin British Schools Museum*, Queen Street, from 10am to 4pm.

Free entry to: Mega-massive book sale.

Star Wars characters come to life courtesy of Garrison UK, 10.30am until noon

Hans Christian Andersen: Janet Filep shows how the great children's story teller overcame poverty and adversity to become loved throughout the world for *The Little Mermaid* and other tales. Noon and 2pm (£2 charge)

James Mayhew Storytelling

Storytelling with illustration thanks to renowned artist James Mayhew.

Drop-in session recommended for children aged six and above.

Venue: Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park

Time: 10.30 – Noon

Free, no booking needed

Offley Morris Men

Celebrate the imminent arrival of spring in a traditional enthusiastic style. Hitchin town centre

Time: Noon to 1pm



Baldock

Roman Day

Learn how the Romans lived and take part in activities thanks to experts including:

The History Man who will lead exciting projects such as digging for treasure and handling Roman costume, arms and armour. Archaeologist Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews and Museums Learning Officer Cas Sanders from North Herts District Council will lead a range of fun activities.

Culinary historian Maya Pieris will demonstrate Roman cookery.

Writer Ruth Downie, creator of Roman army doctor *Gaius Petreius Ruso* who fights crime in Roman Britain. *Displays by local organisations and charities*

Venue: Community Centre, Simpson Drive

Time: 10am – 2.30pm

Free entry, just drop in.



St Mary's Church

Why not come and get a bird's eye view of Baldock? St Mary's Church Tower will be open from 11am – 2pm, weather permitting.

£2 adult, £1 accompanied child 8 to 14 (no children under 8). Refreshments in the church hall coffee bar.

SATURDAY MARCH 14

Studio 39, High Street, Baldock

Drop in to see designs and textile wall hangings inspired by the mosaics and wall paintings at Roman Verulamium, St. Albans worked by renowned textile artist Barbara Weeks. Call 01462 490000 for more details.



Letchworth

James Mayhew Storytelling

Storytelling with illustration thanks to renowned artist James Mayhew. Drop-in session recommended for children aged six and above. Sponsored by Letchworth Civic Trust.

Venue: Letchworth Museum, Broadway

Time: 2pm – 3.30pm

Free, no booking needed

Pink Floyd

Bob Cairns will be signing copies of his new biography on musician Syd Barrett.

Venue: David's Bookshop, Letchworth

Time: 11am - 1pm

Royston

Book Fair

Run by the Friends of Royston & District Museum. Pick up a bargain and get inspired to try something new.

Venue: Royston & District Museum

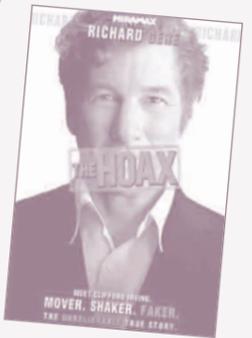
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm

SUNDAY MARCH 15

Letchworth Film Club

The Hoax (15)

Director Lasse Hallstrom, starring Richard Gere and Julie Delpy. Con artist Clifford Irving (Richard Gere) pretends to have access to Howard Hughes and produces his autobiography. Based on a true story.



Venue: The Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

Time: 7.45pm

Guests £5 or (£4 concs), Members free

TUESDAY MARCH 17

Hitchin Film Club – In Bruges (18)

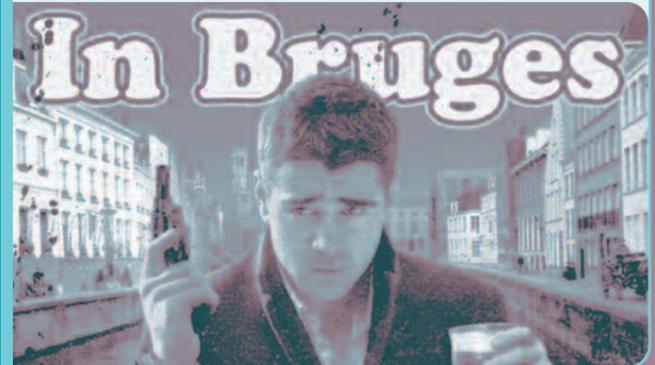
Two hit men flee to Belgium after a job goes badly wrong and wait to hear their fate. Playwright Martin McDonagh defies stereotypes and builds to a dramatic conclusion. Starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and Ralph Fiennes.

Venue: Queen Mother Theatre Studio,

Walsworth Road, Hitchin

Time: 8pm

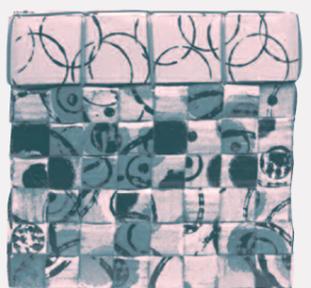
£5 on the door



THURSDAY MARCH 19

Basketry Workshop

Workshop using recycled books and magazines to create small baskets or containers, led by Elaine Kingsford of Hertfordshire Basketry. Maximum 20 participants per session. Please arrive promptly.



Time: 10am -12noon

(children accompanied by an adult)

2pm – 4pm *(adults only)*

Venue: Letchworth Museum, Broadway

Tickets: £2 per child (morning session).

£3 per adult (afternoon session).

Please book in advance at the Museum.