

Southwell Library

# POETRY

## FESTIVAL

3 - 5 JULY 2015

**Featuring** John Hegley, LITTLE MACHiNe, TS Eliot & Dr Seuss

**Readings | Workshops | Performances | Poet in residence |  
Children's events | and much more**



# WELCOME

## Southwell Library Poetry Festival 2015

Now in its eighth year, Southwell Library Poetry Festival remains one of the cornerstones of the county's cultural calendar. This time around, we are delighted to welcome the incomparable John Hegley, the irrepressible LITTLE MACHiNE and the immortal work of Shakespeare and TS Eliot, as well as a clutch of fascinating workshops and readings for all ages and all tastes. We are also excited to present our very own festival Poet in Residence Bert Flitcroft, who will be on hand throughout the weekend to write mini-commissions and offer advice on sparking your own poetic imagination.

This year's workshops include sessions on twentieth century poetry, verse inspired by village life, a guided tour of Nottinghamshire poetry, a chance to get inspired and write your own masterpieces and, of course, fun for children with a celebration of the work of Dr Seuss. We have also invited festival favourite Sheelagh Gallagher to share her essential poems while you enjoy homemade cakes in an event that could only really be titled "Dessert Island Poems." We have cinematic magic in the form of Joss Whedon's 2012 adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing* and our finale event on Sunday will be a lively performance of selected poems from TS Eliot's whimsical classic *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*.

As always, the festival wouldn't be possible without the unflagging support of library staff, volunteers and the local community. We're extremely grateful to everyone who contributes to the ongoing success of this wonderful fixture in the local calendar.

We hope you'll join us in the newly extended Southwell Library for a weekend full of inspiration, entertainment and great literature.

### **Councillor John Knight**

Chairman of the Culture Committee  
Nottinghamshire County Council

### **Peter Gaw**

Group Manager Libraries, Archives,  
Information and Learning  
Nottinghamshire County Council

### **Your feedback and suggestions**

We are interested in hearing what you thought of this year's festival and your suggestions for future events.

**Please complete one of our evaluation postcards during the festival.**

Festival Highlight

Friday 3 July

## An Evening with John Hegley

7 – 9pm | £10 / £8

PERFORMANCE

John Hegley has been at the forefront of British poetry since the 1980s, performing his work everywhere from the Edinburgh Festival to the John Peel Show and winning legions of fans along the way. He remains a completely original voice in the world of literature, blending comedy, pathos, poetry and music in unfailingly original ways at every turn. We are delighted to welcome him to Southwell Library Poetry Festival for what promises to be an electric evening of captivating verse.



“ Scandalously ”  
talented

*Sunday Times*

“ Joyful fun ”

*The Telegraph*

“ Comedy’s Poet ”

Laureate

*The Independent*

## Festival Poet in Residence: Bert Flitcroft

RESIDENCY

Throughout Saturday  
& Sunday | **FREE**

Bert was one of the highlights of last year’s festival, so this year we decided to invite him back as our official Poet in Residence. Throughout the weekend, he will be on hand to write mini-commissions and offer advice on writing and honing your own poems. Bert is the author of *Thought Apples* and *Singing Puccini at the Kitchen Sink* and a veteran of the Edinburgh Fringe, Buxton Literature Festival and many other festivals, venues and stages across the country. Come and talk verse with him!

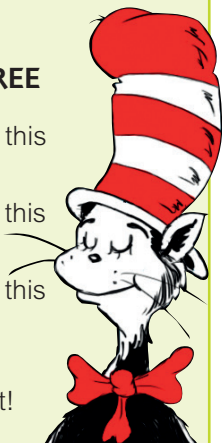


## Seuss on the Loose

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

10am – 12noon | FREE

You should not miss this with a cold,  
you should not miss this by being too old,  
you should not miss this by getting up late –  
for fans of Seuss, it's going to be great!



## Nottinghamshire Poetry with Joy James

WORKSHOP

10 – 11am | £4

Author Joy James, who writes on the social history of Nottinghamshire and is a regular in the pages of the Nottingham Post, is our guide through the treasure trove of the county's poetic history.

## Twentieth Century Poets

WORKSHOP

11.30am – 12.30pm | £4

Gill Starkey explores the poetry of the twentieth century, from modernism to war to counterculture and contemporary gems.

## The Poetry of Independence

WORKSHOP

1 – 2pm | £4

As the US celebrates Independence Day, poet and publisher Jacqueline Gabbitas takes you on a journey into American poetry, including Elizabeth Bishop, Frank O'Hara and many more.

## Much Ado About Nothing (12A)

FILM

3.30 – 6.00pm | £6

Described by critics as “the first great contemporary Shakespeare since Baz Luhrmann’s Romeo and Juliet,” Joss Whedon’s modern retelling of Shakespeare’s greatest comedy is stylish, funny and full of surprises. (Under 12s must be accompanied by an adult over 18). The film will be followed by a chance to discuss the original play, the adaptation and all things Shakespearean.



Festival Highlight

Saturday 4 July

## LITTLE MACHiNe **LIVE MUSIC**

7.30 – 9pm | £10 / £8

Poetry band LITTLE MACHiNe bring their unique brand of literary rock and roll to Southwell Library Poetry Festival. Drawing on three thousand years of poetry – Sappho, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Blake, Byron, Eliot, Larkin and many more - they set classic poems to music and perform them with energy, passion, humour and sometimes heart-breaking poignancy.

*“You’re in for such a treat. It’s a long time since I heard something so exciting, a wonderful way of delivering poetry. The most brilliant music and poetry band in the world.”*

*Carol Ann Duffy - Poet Laureate*

## Your Favourite Poems

**WORKSHOP**

10 – 11.30am | £4

Southwell’s own Not Scary Poetry Society host this celebration of favourite poems, from childhood rhymes to classics that have stayed with you. Come along and bring a favourite!

## Village Verse **WORKSHOP**

### with Deirdre O’Byrne

12noon – 1.30pm | £4

Lecturer in Irish and multicultural literature at Loughborough University Deirdre O’Byrne presents an exploration of poetry in and about small communities – what can poetry teach us about village life and what can village life teach us about poetry?



## Worth A Thousand Words

WORKSHOP

2 – 3.30pm | £4

Former Derbyshire Poet Laureate Cathy Grindrod helps you to write your own poems using pictures and photographs as inspiration. No experience required!

Festival Highlight

## Dessert Island Poems

INTERVIEW

4.30 – 6.00pm | £6

What better way to spend Sunday afternoon than with pudding and a poem? Join festival favourite Sheelagh Gallagher as she reveals the poems she couldn't live without and, as if that wasn't enough, a range of homemade cakes and other puddings will be on offer. Pull up a chair!



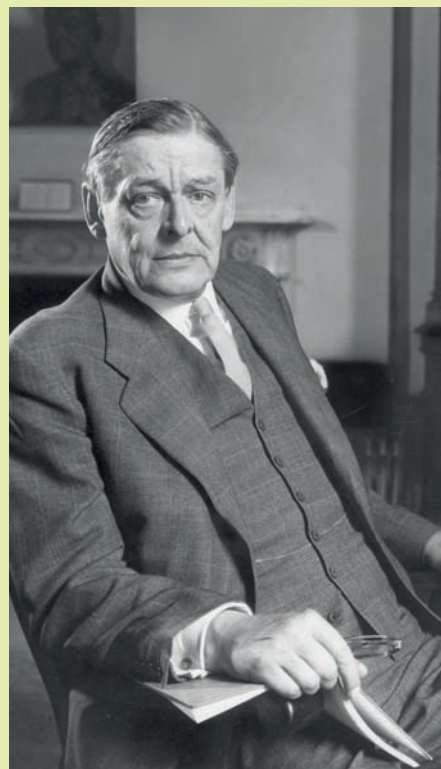
Festival Highlight

## Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats

PERFORMANCE

7.30 – 9.30pm | £6

TS Eliot is regarded as one of the twentieth century's most important writers – father of modernism, pioneering experimentalist, Nobel Prize winner – and, of course, he wrote funny poems about cats. Join us for a light-hearted romp through the tales of Mr. Mistoffelees, Rum Tum Tigger, Skimbleshanks and many more.



# Southwell Library Poetry Festival

## At a glance

### Friday 3 July

7 – 9pm	<b>FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT:</b> John Hegley	£10/8
---------	--	-------

### Saturday 4 July

All weekend	<b>POET IN RESIDENCE:</b> Bert Flitcroft	<b>FREE</b>
10am – 12noon	<b>CHILDREN:</b> Seuss on the Loose	<b>FREE</b>
10 – 11am	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Nottinghamshire Poetry	£4
11.30am – 12.30pm	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Twentieth Century Poetry	£4
1 – 2pm	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> The Poetry of Independence	£4
3.30 – 6pm	<b>FILM:</b> Much Ado About Nothing	£6
7.30 – 9pm	<b>FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT:</b> LiTTLe MACHiNe	£10/8

### Sunday 5 July

10 – 11.30am	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Your Favourite Poems	£4
12noon – 1.30pm	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Village Verse	£4
2 – 3.30pm	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Worth A Thousand Words	£4
4.30 – 6pm	<b>FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT:</b> Dessert Island Poetry	£6
7.30 – 9.30pm	<b>FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT:</b> Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats	£6

## Bookings

Bookings for any of the events can be made at Southwell Library in person or by phone on: **01636 812 148** – credit and debit cards accepted.

All events take place at the library.

# Booking Information

## Festival Box Office:

Bookings for any of the events can be made at Southwell Library in person or by phone on: **01636 812 148** - credit and debit cards accepted.

## By Post:

Please indicate the event and number of tickets you require and enclose a cheque made payable to **Nottinghamshire County Council**.

Send to:

**Southwell Library  
The Bramley Centre  
King Street  
Southwell  
Nottinghamshire NG25 0EH**

## Email enquiries:

[southwell.library@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:southwell.library@nottscc.gov.uk)



Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to providing equality of access.

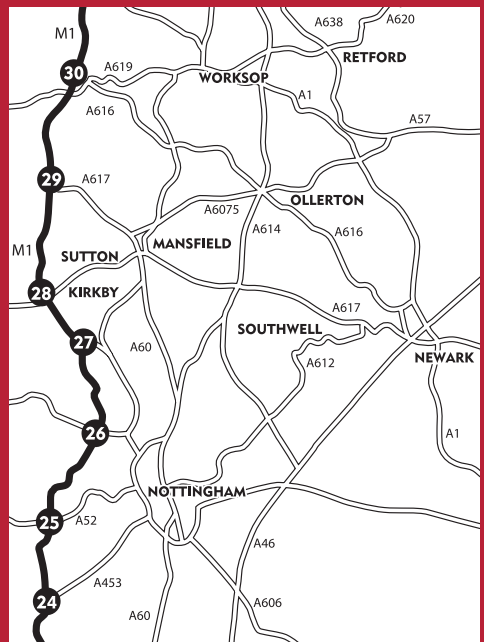
Southwell Library provides access for disabled people and has portable induction loops available. We want everyone to be able to enjoy and participate in these events. If you require the services of a British Sign Language interpreter at an event, please contact Southwell Library.

## Where to find us:

Southwell is 14 miles from Nottingham (see map).

The nearest train station is at Newark which is eight miles away.

There is a Pathfinder bus service from Nottingham (no. 100 from outside Boots at the Victoria Centre). Stagecoach Lincolnshire operates a service from Mansfield and Newark.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2014. Ordnance Survey 100019713.



[facebook.com/nottslibraries](https://www.facebook.com/nottslibraries)



[@nottslibraries](https://twitter.com/nottslibraries)

W [nottinghamshire.gov.uk/  
southwellpoetryfestival](http://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellpoetryfestival)  
E [southwell.library@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:southwell.library@nottscc.gov.uk)  
T 01636 812 148

Children, Families and Cultural Services,  
Libraries and Archives, County Hall,  
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP