

Southwell Library

POETRY

FESTIVAL

14 - 17 JULY
2016

With: Lemn Sissay MBE, Daljit Nagra, Kate Fox and more ...



Photo of Lemn Sissay
© Aida Muluneh



Photo of Daljit Nagra
© Lucinda Douglas-Menzies



Photo of Kate Fox
© Millican

Readings | Performances | Talks | Q&A | Workshops |
and cake...

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#SouthwellPoetry

WELCOME to Southwell Library Poetry Festival 2016

Southwell Library Poetry festival, one of the key events in Nottinghamshire's cultural calendar, returns for its ninth consecutive year. This year promises to be as eclectic as ever, with a wide range of events.

We're delighted to welcome three nationally-acclaimed poets over the weekend. On Friday evening we have the wonderful Lemn Sissay to thrill you with his mesmerising performance style. Forward Prize-winning poet Daljit Nagra joins us on Saturday night, and Sunday's Afternoon Tea is hosted by the irrepressibly hilarious Kate Fox.

The festival opens on Thursday with a preview of an exciting poetry and art collaboration, 3x3x3, featuring specially selected artwork in the gallery and readings from poets Jacqueline Gabbitas and Anna Robinson.

Saturday kicks off with Roald Dahl-themed fun for children, while workshops and talks run throughout the weekend, including the chance to delve into the work of the world's great poets held in The Poetry Archive, or discover poetry penned by local soldiers from Nottinghamshire Archive's own collections.

For writers, we have a drop-in poetry surgery with Writing School East Midlands, plus a performance workshop with the inspirational Kevin Fegan. An Afternoon with the Small Press is set to provide a fascinating insight into the work of our local small presses for writers and readers alike.

A community performance by Southwell Theatre Club will bring the festival to a close.

This year is particularly exciting, as it's also our first poetry festival as part of Inspire, the new community benefit society delivering culture, learning and library services on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. With so many great events, we do hope you find something to inspire you.

As we look forward to another successful year we are, as always, sincerely grateful to all our festival supporters, staff and the local community.

Councillor John Knight

Chairman of the Culture Committee
Nottinghamshire County Council

Peter Gaw

Chief Executive Officer
Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries

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 and/or drop a note into our Comments Box during the festival.

Join in the poetry conversation

Tweet about the festival using
#SouthwellPoetry



Thursday 14 July **Festival Opening Event**

3x3x3: Three Poets, Three Artists, Three Libraries A preview event

7 – 8.30pm | £4

Enjoy a preview of an exciting exhibition set to tour three of our library galleries in the autumn. Take three poets, match them with three artists, and the results are three very different books: *Small Grass*, a short collection of nature poems written from the viewpoint of grass; *The Night Library*, a love song to libraries; and *Lace*, a celebration of lace and lacemakers. Inspire has teamed up with Stonewood Press to bring three connected exhibitions of poetry and artwork to Worksop, Mansfield Central and Arnold libraries later in the year. Hear poets Jacqueline Gabbitas and Anna Robinson read from their collections and view a selection of the artwork at this preview event.



Friday 15 July

Community Event

90 Glorious Years of Poetry

2 – 3.30pm | £4

Southwell's own **Not Scary Poetry Group** invites you to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with tea and cakes and enjoy an afternoon of poetry and readings reflecting significant moments during her lifetime. From the introduction of the old age pension in 1926 through to this year's Shakespeare anniversary, there are countless memories to share. Feel free to bring along your own choice of poem for our trip down memory lane.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

Performance

Lemn Sissay

7.30 – 9pm | £12 / £10



Lemn Sissay MBE is the author of several books of poetry alongside articles, records, public art and plays. He was an official poet for the London Olympics and his *Landmark Poems* are installed throughout Manchester and London, in venues such as The Royal Festival Hall and The Olympic Park. He is associate artist at Southbank Centre, patron of The Letterbox Club and The Reader Organisation and inaugural trustee of World Book Night. We are delighted to welcome him to the festival for the first time.



Children's Activity

The Big Friendly Read Launch Event

11am - 1pm | FREE

Celebrate the launch of this year's Roald Dahl-themed Summer Reading Challenge: The Big Friendly Read! Come and enjoy Roald Dahl's poetry through fun, themed activities. Suitable for ages 4 -11.



Poetry Surgery

Poetry Surgery with Writing School East Midlands

11am - 1pm | FREE

Join Writing School East Midlands tutor and poet Jacqueline Gabbitas and local poet and editor Wayne Burrows, to talk about your poetry writing. Drop in for a 5-10* minute chat and bring some work for our poets to look at. No need to book. *Please bring one poem not longer than 40 lines, typed in 12 point.

Talk

Thomas Hardy: Landscape and Poetry

11am - 12 noon | £4

While Hardy's novels and earlier poems are immersed in his half-imaginary world of Wessex, much of his later poetry was devoted to the theme of war and shows a surprisingly active engagement in public life. Join Southwell Library's Gill Starkey to hear how Hardy's relationship to the landscapes around Dorchester was, perhaps, not as straightforward as he wished it to appear.

Performance

Hygge*

11am - 12.30pm | £4

Hygge are a group of six poets writing in the Midlands who perform their entertaining and often moving work in a relaxed and intimate way. Anecdotes, pictures and sounds find their way into the performances, to conjure up a truly immersive poetry experience.

*[pr. hyu-ga] from the Danish for 'a warm atmosphere'

Talk

Yorkshire Poets

1 - 2pm | £4

It's grim up north...or is it? Southwell Library's Nicola Ellis explores how the North of England has influenced poets over the centuries, through its many dialects, varied landscapes and the rise and fall of its industrial towns. Enjoy a diverse selection of poetry including work by the Brontes, Ted Hughes, Auden, Priestley, Wordsworth and Tony Harrison.

Workshop

Get on your Feet! with Kevin Fegan

1.30 - 3pm | £8

Mansfield-born poet and playwright Kevin Fegan is admired for his energetic and inspiring performance style. In this workshop he invites you to get on your feet and join him as he shares techniques and advice about how to present your work in public.



Even the most talented and confident poets on the page can falter in front of an audience, so bring one of your own short poems along to this practical workshop and Kevin will help you do it justice.

The workshop fee includes the chance to take part in the Kevin Fegan & Co performance later in the day, or free entry to the performance. Places limited. Booking essential.

Panel Event

An Afternoon with the Small Press

3.30 – 4.45pm | £6

Four acclaimed local small presses share their experiences of printing and promoting a vast range of poetry. Ross Bradshaw of Five Leaves Publications hosts a discussion with representatives from Mother's Milk, Stonewood and Candlestick presses. Launching careers, reprinting lost classics and commissioning exciting new work, the quality and breadth of poetry produced by small presses will impress aspiring writers and keen readers alike.

Performance

Kevin Fegan & Co

5 – 6pm | £4

(free to participants in the earlier Get on Your Feet workshop)

Kevin Fegan reads from his own poetry and invites the participants of his performance workshop to share the fruits of their labour with a live audience, putting the techniques they have learned into practice.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT



Performance

Daljit Nagra

7.30 – 9pm | £10 / £8*

Daljit Nagra's first collection won the Forward prize and his most recent book, a retelling of the Ramayana, was chosen as both The Financial Times and New Statesman Poetry Book of the Year. His books have been shortlisted for every major poetry prize in the UK and his poems feature on the GCSE syllabus. He is currently Radio 4's Poet in Residence. Born in England of Sikh Punjabi parents, much of Nagra's work explores the complexities of his dual heritage, making use of vibrant language, surprising juxtapositions and broad humour. This is Daljit Nagra's first appearance at Southwell Library Poetry Festival.

*Show your Inspire membership card and pay the concessionary price of £8. Membership is free, ask library staff or join online at www.inspireculture.org.uk

The Poetry Archive Request Show

11am – 1pm | £6

The Poetry Archive is a national treasury of recordings of poets reading their own work, set up by Andrew Motion and Richard Carrington. The Archive features hundreds of poets' voices and is available for all to enjoy. Join festival regular Sheelagh Gallagher over elevenses and request your favourites as she explores the Archive's virtual corridors, enjoying a range of classic and contemporary verses.

SPECIAL
EVENT

Reading

Poems from the Front

1 – 2.30pm | £4

Nottinghamshire Archives contains some fascinating local history in the form of poems by soldiers from the local area. Ruth Imeson joins us from the Archives to introduce this collection of often poignant, sometimes funny, always heartfelt verses, sent to loved ones by men at the front, interspersed with readings of well-known war poetry from the First World War.

Workshop

Songs and Poems of Freedom from Around the World

2.30 - 4pm | £4

How do contemporary poets represent the concept of freedom? Deirdre O'Byrne, Lecturer in English at Loughborough University, will explore some poetry of liberation from various countries and cultures in the form of both spoken word and songs.

Reading

Afternoon Tea with Kate Fox

4.30 – 6pm | £10 / £8

Kate Fox has been Poet in Residence on Radio 4's Saturday Live, Glastonbury Festival and the Great North Run and has been commissioned to write and perform poems and plays for TV and radio, as well as appearing at venues and festivals in the UK, Europe and America. Her gleeful, wickedly-observed poetry performance has been described as "Victoria Wood channelling Sylvia Plath".

A teatime treat of wit and warmth, followed by cake!



FESTIVAL
HIGHLIGHT

Community Event

Southwell Theatre Club presents Behind Every Hero by Paul Mein

7 – 9pm | £6

Three heroes of Ancient Greece. The women in their lives. Relationships and consequences. Intrigue, adventure, betrayal, murder. Behind Every Hero is a poetry cycle written by local poet Paul Mein which takes the well-known stories of Jason, Theseus and Odysseus and gives a fresh perspective to the old myths.

Southwell Library Poetry Festival

At a glance

Thursday 14 July

7 – 8.30pm	Preview Event: 3x3x3 Exhibition Launch and Readings	£4
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Friday 15 July

2 – 3.30pm	Community Event: Not Scary Poetry Group	£4
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7.30 – 9pm	Festival Highlight: Lemn Sissay	£12 / £10
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Saturday 16 July

11am – 1pm	Poetry Surgery: Writing School East Midlands	FREE
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11am – 1pm	Children's Activity: Roald Dahl	FREE
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11am – 12noon	Talk: Thomas Hardy	£4
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11am – 12.30pm	Performance: Hygge	£4
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1 – 2pm	Talk: Yorkshire Poets	£4
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1.30 – 3pm	Workshop: Get on your Feet! With Kevin Fegan	£8
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3.30 – 4.45pm	Panel Event: An Afternoon with the Small Press	£6
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5 – 6pm	Performance: Kevin Fegan & Co	£4
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7.30 – 9pm	Festival Highlight: Daljit Nagra	£10 / £8
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Sunday 17 July

11am – 1pm	Special Event: The Poetry Archive Request Show	£6
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1 – 2.30pm	Reading: Poems from the Front	£4
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2.30 – 4pm	Workshop: Poems of Freedom	£4
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4.30 – 6pm	Festival Highlight: Afternoon Tea with Kate Fox	£10 / £8
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7 – 9pm	Community Event: Behind Every Hero	£6
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Bookings for any of the events can be made at Southwell Library in person or by phone on:

01636 812 148

Credit or debit cards accepted.

Online booking is available:
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/
southwellpoetryfestival](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellpoetryfestival)**

Booking fees apply per ticket for online bookings.

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 or debit cards accepted.

Book Online:

Bookings can be made online.

Visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellpoetryfestival

Please note that online bookings incur an additional charge per ticket.

By Post:

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

Send to:

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

Email enquiries:

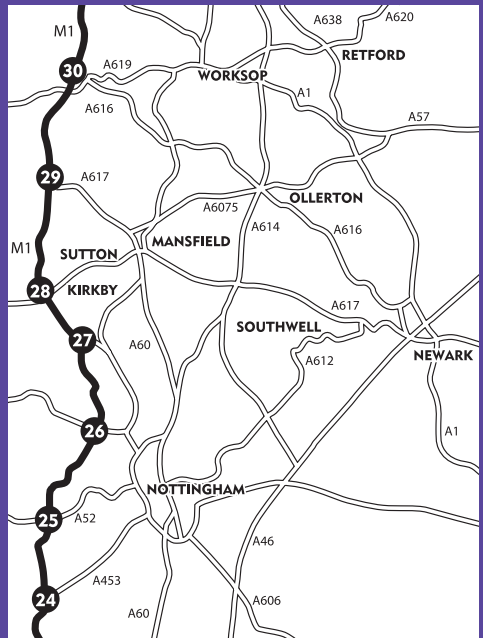
southwell.library@nottsc.gov.uk

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) and Stagecoach Lincolnshire operates a service from Mansfield and Newark.



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Inspire 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.