

portsmouth
book
fest 2017

THE HAYLING ISLAND
BOOKSHOP



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

www.portsmouthbookfest.co.uk

<https://portsmouthbookfest17.eventbrite.co.uk>



Welcome

Welcome to BookFest 2017! This year sees the city's seventh book festival and it will present a varied programme of events.

2017 is the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death and BookFest commemorates this with a talk and workshop about Jane Austen and her connection to Portsmouth as read in her novel *Mansfield Park*.

Following on from last year's successful talk from Matt Wingett on Portsmouth writers of the 19th century, this year Matt focusses with Diana Bretherick on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his interest in the supernatural.

As well as historical names, BookFest also presents events with contemporary authors including Lottie Moggach, whose thrilling novel *Kiss Me First* is being produced into a television series. Former Foreign Secretary Lord David Owen joins us for a fascinating talk on the events of May 1940 and Portsmouth favourite the Gruffalo will be returning to every library for stories and activities.

Crime fiction is this year represented by Portsmouth Coppers; where authors Pauline Rowson and Graham Hurley will discuss with Diana Bretherick their Portsmouth detective



characters. The Deadly Dames will be discussing female detectives at a panel event and Carol Westron will be exploring the golden age of detective fiction.

Once again, BookFest is pleased to work with local writing talent. There are many workshops for budding authors including workshops on how to write picture books for children, writing your life story, book cover design and a workshop for children on creative writing. All of this and much, much more can be found inside!

How to book

**Tickets can be purchased from
9th January:**

- Online at <https://portsmouthbookfest17.eventbrite.co.uk>
- By telephone on **023 9268 8037**
- In person at any **Portsmouth City Council Library**

At most events there will be an opportunity to buy books and have them signed by the author and at Portsmouth Coppers ticket holders will be able to use their tickets to obtain a discount off a book bought at the event.



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Premature Articulation

with Portsmouth Writers' Hub

Venue: Canvas Coffee, Portsmouth & S'sea Station
2pm–3pm • FREE – no ticket required

Romantic discontent brews in the afternoon at the cool casual Canvas Coffee, as Hampshire's finest storytellers share secrets and tell tales. A warm-up event for the Valentine's Day Massacre.

Premature Articulation



Not All Cocktails and Country Houses: The Return of the Golden Age

with Carol Westron

Venue: Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library
7pm • £3

How did a book by Agatha Christie save a child's life? Who wrote a book in 1934 that foreshadowed the basic premise of Lord of the Flies twenty years later? Which Golden Age author, best known for her school stories, wrote detective stories based on middle-class, marital abuse?

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The Golden Age of Detective Fiction is generally considered to be the twenty years between the 1st and 2nd World Wars. It is still remembered for a few select names, such as the 'Queens of Crime:' Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham, Ngaio Marsh and Josephine Tey. But there were many other notable writers producing great books around this time and, thanks to republication by several publishers, notably The British Library, they are back in print for the first time in decades, and also are available as eBooks. Well known authors are writing new books featuring Hercule Poirot and Lord Peter Wimsey. Also many contemporary writers mirror the Golden Age style. It seems the Golden Age has regained popularity, but was it ever what it is commonly perceived to be? Join crime fiction writer and Golden Age expert Carol Westron to explore the questions: 'What was the Golden Age of detective fiction really like?' and 'Why is it back in favour?'

The Valentine's Day Massacre

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feb

with Portsmouth Writers' Hub

Venue: Upstairs at the Wave Maiden, 36
Osborne Road, Southsea

6.30pm • £6

Choose beer. Choose cheese. Choose rage.

Dish up some retribution in your Reuben sandwich with stories and songs from Portsmouth Writers Hub (makers of Day of the Dead). Following last year's sell-out show, come and discover what Valentine you prefer: romance and roses, or acrimony and ale?

Food and drink available at the bar.



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“My Dear Laddie”

with Laura Weston

Venue: Portsmouth History Centre, Portsmouth Central Library

2pm • £2

This talk will explore the relationship between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his two sons Dennis and Adrian. Titled ‘My Dear Laddie’, which is how Doyle addressed his son in one of his letters, it will be a brief look through the archives of the Arthur Conan Doyle collection in Portsmouth, detailing letters between the family, looking at family photographs and photos of classic cars driven by all three men.

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Nemesis with Knitting Needles

Venue: Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library

2pm • £5

Crime and mystery writers The Deadly Dames talk about female detectives past and present.

Join Dames Charlie Cochrane, Joan Moules, Eileen Robertson, Nicola Slade and Carol Westron and their guest chevalier L. C. Tyler (author of the popular Ethelred and Elsie comedy crime series) as they explore some of the serious issues involved in being a lady detective. These range from the problem of how to get through trapdoors while wearing a crinoline, to whether modern day CID officers would raise their success rate if they took up knitting. Come and enjoy an afternoon of wide-ranging information and discussion cunningly disguised as humour, covering the creations of both male and female authors, as we explore whether the female of the detective species is really deadlier than the male.



Dennis Potter in The Present Tense – by Project Adorno

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Venue: The Square Tower, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2JE
7.30pm • £5 on the door only

TV dramatist and playwright Dennis Potter was the ultimate Marmite figure – one minute delighting millions with musical plays such as *The Singing Detective* and *Pennies From Heaven*, the next causing outrage and controversy with productions such as *Blackeyes* and *Brimstone & Treacle*. In this performance piece, electro-acoustic duo Project Adorno, present a contemporary interpretation of Potter, through an ambient seque of original songs, video and spoken word extracts from people who knew or had some connection to him and his work.

Further info: www.tonguesandgrooves.com

Little Characters Workshop

with Andy Steele

Venue: Southsea Library

2pm • FREE – please reserve a ticket at Southsea Library

Aimed at developing characters and inspiring narrative for children aged 5–8.

Andy will be reading his new book, *Morty is going to the moon*, then give an overview of how a children's book is made from notepad to bookshelf, showing original illustrations and the software used to turn the pictures into a book.

The second part of the event is a workshop where Andy will show the children how to create their own characters and will give them a card frame in which to keep it. They will then work on how to create a story from the character they have created.

Andy is a father of two who spends his spare time writing and illustrating picture books for children. He launched *The Last Hoobaloo* in 2015 in support of the British Lung Foundation and

launched his second, *Morty Is Going To The Moon!* via crowdfunding in Autumn 2016. He won his first children's writing competition at the start of 2016 and is now sharing his work at libraries and schools. His third picture book is due out at the end of 2017.



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Writing stories workshop – for young writers between 8 to 12 years old

Venue: Southsea Library – IT Suite

10.30am-12noon • FREE – Please reserve a ticket at Southsea Library

Are you between 8 and 12 years old? Do you enjoy writing stories or poems? If so this workshop is for you.

As part of Portsmouth BookFest celebrations, local author and teacher, Lynne Stretch, is running a free workshop for young writers. This workshop will encourage young writers to create “tantalising titles”, “sensational settings” and “colourful characters” – so if you enjoy creative writing come along to Southsea Library and reserve your space. Places are limited so they will be allocated on a first come basis. Early booking is essential.

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Eleanor Stewart: Voyages around my mother

Venue: Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library
2pm • £3

After last year’s successful talk on her memoir *New Habits*, Eleanor Stewart returns with her latest book.

‘I realized that if I truly wanted [my mother’s] remaining years to be happy, I had to give up all expectation that she would share my life and interests and instead enter hers.’

Eleanor and her mother Mary had always had a ‘rocky relationship’ so when 82 year old Mary arrives to live with her and her husband, suffering



from Parkinsons and increasingly frail, Eleanor doesn't expect life to be simple. What she is unprepared for is Mary's gradual retreat into herself and her absolute lack of interest not only in Eleanor and her life but also in her grandchildren's lives.

One evening, Mary produces a box of cassette tapes, diaries and letters offering a vivid portrait of her as a young woman – a life of which Eleanor knows very little. Watching her mother 'excited and animated' for the first time in years, Eleanor begins a journey with Mary through her past and discovers a 'completely new person' – a vibrant, slightly naïve but determined young woman who, after being forced by her parents to give up the man she loved, moves to the big city in search of independence and is then posted abroad in the Second World War. What starts as a carefree voyage on the SS Britannia turns into an adventure on a whole new level when the ship is shelled...

"This is a vivid account of a relationship between a daughter (Eleanor) and her elderly and frail mother (Mary). Their uncomfortable relationship nonetheless reveals a remarkable story of one woman's experience of life and notably of the Second World War. Particularly vivid is Mary's description, powerfully recounted by her daughter, of alarming experiences in the Atlantic ocean at the height of the battles in which the German U-boats sought to throttle the lifeline between the United States and Britain. It is a fine account of a remarkable phase in a not to be forgotten period". Jonathan Dimbleby



The return of the Gruffalo! Meet the Gruffalo and take part in a Gruffalo activity

£2 per child – includes squash, cake and an activity – tickets available from the library hosting the event

10am: Southsea Library
1pm: Beddow Library
3.30pm: Carnegie Library

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10am: Alderman Lacey Library
1pm: Portsea Library
3.30pm: Central Library

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10am: Paulsgrove Library
1pm: Cosham Library
3.30pm: North End Library

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Metamorphosis by Polly Morland

Venue: Eldon Building 0.20, Portsmouth University (followed by a book signing)

3pm • FREE – please book a place at
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/metamorphosis-with-author-polly-morland-tickets-29220249553

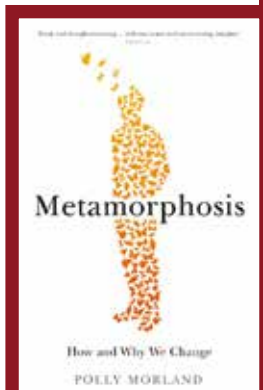
Venue: Blackwell's, Portsmouth PO1 2EF

5.30 for 6pm talk • FREE – please book a place through the BookFest Eventbrite

<https://portsmouthbookfest17.eventbrite.co.uk>

A talk by author Polly Morland where she explores the power of true stories to open up new ways of thinking about how and why we change and how the imagination is key to the transformation process.

Polly Morland spent fifteen years as a documentary-maker for the BBC, Channel 4 and the Discovery Channel. Her first book, *The Society of Timid Souls: or How to be Brave* won a Royal Society of



Literature Jerwood Award, was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and was a Sunday Times Book of the Year. Her second, Risk Wise – Nine Everyday Adventures includes an afterword by Alain de Botton and was written in conjunction with The School of Life, where Polly is a faculty member. Metamorphosis – How and Why We Change is her third book. Combining the journalism of her background in film-making with ideas from psychology, philosophy and literature, her books blend remarkable human stories with reflections on how we live today – and how we can live better. www.pollymorland.com

The Portsmouth Writers' Hub
presents

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Philip Shelley

Venue: Le Cafe Parisien, Lord Montgomery Way,
1–13, Portsmouth PO1 2AH

6.30pm-8pm • FREE – Tickets available from
writershub.eventbrite.com

Script Consultant, Producer and Tutor Philip Shelley will be joining us for a Q&A about all things screenwriting.

Philip Shelley runs Channel 4's screenwriting course, an entry point into TV drama for new writers. Previous participants have achieved great success including writing for shows on Ch4, Sky and the BBC.

This Q&A is your opportunity to ask Philip about writing for established shows vs developing your own ideas for a TV series, improving your own script storytelling, as well as getting advice on breaking in to the British TV and film industry.





Yoga for writers

with Helen Salsbury

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Venue: Room F, Third Floor, Central Library
£5 • 10.15am for 10.30am start

This workshop will address the physical aches and postural issues caused by writing and will aid creativity through yoga, breathing practices and simple meditation. It is suitable for all levels of fitness, and no prior knowledge of yoga is required.

Bring a mat (if you have one), blanket and pillow/cushion. Wear soft clothing.

Helen Salsbury is a writer and yoga teacher (Dip Yoga Campus) who specialises in therapeutic yoga.

Stories of your life

with Dr Alison Habens

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Venue: Room F, Third Floor, Central Library
£3 • 1pm

Always wanted to write your life story, but didn't know where to start? This class will take you step by step in a series of fun and interesting life-writing tasks. From your earliest memories, tales of your school days and siblings, pets and pursuits, through the rites of passage, work and marriage; you will be able to tell about the triumphs and

the tragedies on your personal timeline, and see the whole story laid out on a single page. All the sights, sounds and smells of your childhood will be conjured up; working in prose, poetry or script, whichever you prefer. We'll even explore where you got your name from. The activities are designed to be comfortable and enjoyable, and will produce first drafts of pieces you could go on to polish up as stories, articles, poems or plays, based on the story of your life.

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Conan Doyle, Lombrose and the Science of the Spirits: the story of Arthur Conan Doyle and famous criminologist Lombroso's scientific belief in ghosts

with Matthew Wingett and Diana Bretherick

Venue: Portsmouth History Centre, Portsmouth Central Library

7pm • FREE - Please reserve a place

Join local historian Matt Wingett and crime writer and criminologist Dr Diana Bretherick as they explore the fascinating relationship between the world of crime, science and a belief in spirits. Lombroso was the world's first modern scientific criminologist who also investigated ghosts and spirits. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the inventor of Sherlock Holmes, was also a fervent believer in the paranormal and often mentioned Lombroso as an inspiration. Delve into the Victorian world of science, pseudo-science and spirit and discover two Victorian scientists who believed anything was possible.

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Lottie Moggach – Kiss Me First

Venue: Room F, Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library

3pm • £3

Lottie Moggach's debut novel *Kiss Me First* was the winner of the 2014 Portsmouth First Fiction Award after reading groups were gripped by this chilling tale about the internet. Following the novel's enormous success it is being produced into a television series for E4. Join us for a lively discussion with Lottie about the novel's themes and the process of adaption from novel to screen.



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Pompey versus Mansfield Park

Venue: Room F, Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library

7pm • £3

Experience Jane Austen's famous novel, *Mansfield Park*, from the point of view of Portsmouth. See familiar scenes of Southsea from fascinating angles in the 1814 story of her heroine, Fanny Price. As the classic (but class-ridden) love story unfolds, meet quirky characters who would have peopled the nearby streets. Besides the well-known quotation, 'She thinks of nothing but the Isle of Wight, and she calls it the Island, as if there were not another island in the world', there are some hard-hitting observations about our beloved city. We will consider the rude things she says about Pompey v. Mansfield

Park, analysing and appreciating her literary skill in comments such as this: 'In a review of the two houses, as they appeared to her before the end of a week, Fanny was tempted to apply to them Dr. Johnson's celebrated judgement as to matrimony and celibacy, and say, that though Mansfield Park might have some pains, Portsmouth could have no pleasures.'

We'll also explore her strange link to the city through its oldest building, the mysterious Wymering manor, where it's said her brother, once the church warden, has been a ghostly sighting. This fun seminar will include a chance to write about local settings, inspired by the Austen stories.

Afternoon tea with Rosie Goodwin

1
mar

Venue: Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library
3pm • £5 - includes tea/coffee and cake

Join Rosie Goodwin for an afternoon tea event. Rosie Goodwin is the author of over twenty bestselling novels, selling more than 300k paperbacks. She is the first author in the world to be allowed to follow three of Catherine Cookson's trilogies with her own sequels. Having worked in the social services sector for many years, then fostering a number of children, she is now a full-time novelist. She is one of the top 50 most borrowed authors from UK libraries and regularly appears in the Heatseeker charts. Rosie lives in Nuneaton, the





setting for many of her books, with her husband and their beloved Shih Tzu dogs.

The ticket price includes tea/ coffee and delicious cake from Lily and Lime at Central Library.

2
mar

Writing a picture book workshop

with Charlotte Comley and Andy Steele

Venue: Carnegie Library

7pm • £3

At this event we will be looking at character and getting to grips with the 24 page picture book structure. A fun workshop that covers the key techniques for writing picture books for young children. Whether you want to write for your own children or relatives, or for publication, this beginner-level class will teach you the key techniques and considerations of writing picture books for young children. The class is also suitable for illustrators keen to learn how to tell their stories through words. By the end of the day, you'll have written a simple story, and have the skills to respond to the demands and delights of young children in your writing.

Charlotte Comley is a writer, creative writing tutor and professional storyteller. Her fiction has been published by Ether Books, Bridge House Publishing, Dark Cities, Darwin Evolutions, Flash Flood, Chuffed Books, Dagda Press, 1000 words and Portsmouth News. Her non-fiction work has appeared in magazines such as The Green Parent, Take a Break, Woman's Weekly, The Motion Online and Grow

It. She has written and published ten educational resources books. She has a MA in Creative Writing for Children from Winchester University.

Andy Steele is a father of two who spends his spare time writing and illustrating picture books for children. He launched *The Last Hoobaloo* in 2015 in support of the British Lung Foundation and launched his second, *Morty Is Going To The Moon!* via crowdfunding in Autumn 2016. He won his first children's writing competition at the start of 2016 and is now sharing his work at libraries and schools. His third picture book is due out at the end of 2017.

Local writers' fair

3
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Venue: Southsea Library
11am-3pm • FREE- just drop in

Meet some of the many talented local authors from the area at our special Local Authors Fair at Southsea Library. Our visiting authors will be happy to talk to visitors about their work and will also be selling copies of their books.

Authors appearing are: Charlotte Comley, David Jupp, Victoria Leslie, Helen Salsbury, Richard Salsbury, Andy Steele and Matthew Wingett.



3
mar

David Owen: Cabinet's Finest Hour: The Hidden Agenda of May 1940

Venue: Menuhin Theatre, Third Floor,
Portsmouth Central Library

7pm • £5

Former Foreign Secretary David Owen has written a new history of the pivotal British War Cabinet meetings of May 1940. The minutes of these meetings reveal just how close Britain came to seeking a negotiated peace with Nazi Germany. *Cabinet's Finest Hour* is both the story of Churchill's determination to fight on and a paean to the Cabinet system of government.

David Owen (Lord Owen) trained as a medical doctor and practised as a neurologist before being elected a Labour MP in his home city of Plymouth.

He served as Foreign Secretary under James Callaghan from 1977 until 1979, and later co-founded and went on to lead the Social Democratic Party (SDP). Between 1992–95 Lord Owen served as EU peace negotiator in the former Yugoslavia, and he now sits as an Independent Social Democrat in the House of Lords.



He is the author of many books, including *The Hidden Perspective*.



Portsmouth Coppers

4
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with Pauline Rowson and
Graham Hurley, interviewed by
Diana Bretherick

Venue: Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library
10.30am-12.30pm • £8

Join best-selling crime authors Graham Hurley and Pauline Rowson as they are cross-examined by former criminal barrister and crime author, Diana Bretherick about why they set their crime novels in Portsmouth, how they research and plot them, and what it is about the waterfront city that holds such a fascination for them and their fictional detectives.





Book cover design and creating your author brand

4
mar

with author and graphic designer Christine Hammacott from The Art of Communication

Venue: Room F, Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library

2pm • £3

If you are an author or writer considering self-publishing, this workshop will give you essential information on what you need to look at when positioning your book in the marketplace and designing a great cover, as well as lots of useful tips on how to create your author brand with both marketing material and online.



In partnership events:

Portsmouth Creative Writing

Spring Session

Venue: Rosie's Wine Bar, 87 Elm Grove, Portsmouth, Southsea PO5 1JF

Nine places available. You must book in advance, but the workshop is free.

You should be able to commit to the workshop for most of the 10 weeks and have a piece of fiction no longer than 5000 words ready or near-ready to be workshopped (excerpts are acceptable).

Find us on Facebook under Portsmouth Creative Writing.

Contact Conor Patrick at: www.facebook.com/groups/PortsmouthCreativeWriting/

1
mar
until
3
may

Portsmouth Writers' Hub

Venue: Le Cafe Parisien, Portsmouth, PO1 2AH

6.30–8pm • £0–£10

Portsmouth Writers' Hub presents a talk and Q&A with Simon Nelson, Development Producer at BBC Writersroom. The writersroom works with writers to shape the BBC's content. Find out about Writer's Lab, the Script Room and much more. Tickets and more info at:

bbcportsmouth.eventbrite.com

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Venue guide and map

Cosham Library

Spur Road, Cosham
PO1 5EZ

Eldon Building

Winston Churchill Avenue,
Portsmouth, PO1 2DJ

Menuhin Theatre, Portsmouth Central Library

Guildhall Square, Portsmouth,
PO1 2DX

North End Library

Gladys Avenue, Portsmouth,
PO2 9AX

Portsmouth Central Library

Guildhall Square, Portsmouth,
PO1 2DX

Le Café Parisien

1–13 Lord Montgomery Way,
Portsmouth, PO1 2AH

Southsea Library

19–21 Palmerston Road,
Southsea, PO5 3QQ

Square Tower

Broad Street, Portsmouth,
PO1 2JE

