

## Book Festival Programme 2008

### WIN TICKETS TO SEE JOANNA TROLLOPE

Enter our exclusive North Herts Book Festival competition to win tickets to the hottest venue in town, on February 26.

First prize is two tickets to Joanna's talk in Letchworth and a signed copy of her new book. Second prize is two tickets.

To enter just answer the following question: **What is the title of Joanna Trollope's latest novel?**

Please send the answer on a postcard to **Joanna Trollope Competition, North Herts Book Festival, Communications Dept, NHDC Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth GC, SG6 3JF.**

Please include your name, address, e-mail and a daytime phone number. Closing date is February 18 and usual competition rules apply.

## STORY COMPETITION

Enter the Royston Crow 500-word short story competition with three categories for primary, secondary and over 18s. Include three words from the following five - *crow, cave, templar, king and market.*

The closing date is February 14 and *the Crow* will publish the three winning entries on February 28, March 6 and March 13. For more details see *the Crow* website [www.royston-crow.co.uk](http://www.royston-crow.co.uk) or look in the newspaper from January 17.

### Tuesday February 26

#### AN EVENING WITH JOANNA TROLLOPE

Joanna Trollope, in conversation with locally based novelist Sarah Harrison, will be discussing her new novel, *Friday Nights*. Joanna, who has an OBE, has written a string of bestsellers including *A Village Affair*, *The Rector's Wife* and *Marrying the Mistress*.

Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Spirella Ballroom, Letchworth  
Tickets £3 from organiser David's Bookshop, Letchworth.



### Sunday March 2



#### LETCWORTH FILM CLUB PRESENTS THE INNOCENTS (12A)

Based on Henry James' chilling novella, *The Turn of the Screw*, and starring Deborah Kerr.

Time: 7.45pm  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth  
Tickets at the door

### Monday March 3

#### READING IDEAS

Are you ever stuck for what to read next? Come along to our discussion evening for suggestions of great reads - novels, non-fiction, poetry, classics. Pick up a form in advance from David's Bookshop and suggest up to 10 of your favourite books for discussion.

Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: David's Bookshop  
Tickets: Free - please reserve your seat on 01462 684631  
email [staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk](mailto:staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk).

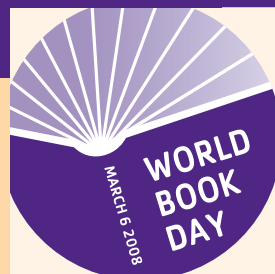
### Wednesday March 5

#### A TASTE OF HONEY WITH GILL FARRINGTON

Find out how honey has inspired writers from all over the world as Gill reads and discusses six novels. There will also be information about how to join or set up a reading group.

Time: 7.45 pm  
Venue: Hitchin Library, Paynes Park  
Admission: By ticket. Available in advance on 01438 737333 or at the door  
Cost: £3 including drink and honey tasting.

### Thursday March 6



#### FAVOURITE CHARACTER FANCY DRESS

Come and join in the fancy dress fun at Waterstone's, Hitchin. Dress up as a character from your favourite book and you could win a prize. See in the store for more details.

For events at David's Bookshop, Letchworth, contact the store.

## THE MAKING OF A MERMAID



Sculptor and artist Anna Downer explains the inspiration and skills behind constructing a glass and metal mermaid to be displayed publicly.

Time: 2.30pm  
Venue: Letchworth Arts Centre, The Arcade  
Tickets: £3 on the door

## KIPLING, THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTH

Rudyard Kipling, who wrote *The Jungle Book* and England's favourite poem *If*, is linked to nearby Wimpole Hall through his daughter, Elsie Bambridge, who lived there for many years. Sharad and Jane Keskar of the Kipling Society will talk about the great author and read from his work.

Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Royston Library, Market Hill  
Tickets £3 on the door



## PINTS AND POETRY

Poetry from writers including published author and award winner Frances Wilson and Baldock's own Chris Davis.

Time: 8pm  
Venue: The Orange Tree, Norton Road, Baldock  
Tickets £3 on the door



### From Friday, March 7



#### THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (RATING TBC)

Based on the bestseller by Philippa Gregory, *The Other Boleyn Girl* tells the story of sisters Anne and Mary Boleyn who compete for the love of King Henry VIII. It stars Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.

Times: TBA  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

Welcome to the second North Herts Book Festival, a celebration of words in all their forms including film, storytelling and talks.

We are thrilled to start off with Joanna Trollope, whose entertaining novels coined the expression "Aga Saga". Joanna is the guest of David's Bookshop in Letchworth, which has kindly sponsored a book festival competition for tickets and a copy of her latest book, *Friday Nights*. For details look at the top of this programme.

Local celebrities taking part include model Daphne Selfe talking about the world of magazines and writer Sarah Harrison on her long and successful career. Children are well catered for with tales from a Roman centurion, a Horrid Henry workshop, and many more. There will be a session on Rudyard Kipling, an afternoon with authors, and animal lovers will enjoy vet Malcolm Welshman's humorous account of animals from rats to rhinos.

The festival includes several storytelling sessions and a chance to swap your surplus books as well as events in schools and venues across the district.

There really is something for everyone. Just come along and enjoy yourself.



north herts book festival

North Herts Book Festival is only possible thanks to partnership of organisations, businesses and individuals. The main sponsor is **North Hertfordshire District Council**. Activities include story telling in Hitchin primary schools, sponsored by **Hitchin Youth Trust**, story telling in Letchworth sponsored by **Letchworth Civic Trust**, and a rap lyric competition organised by **Rap Aid**. If you have any queries, please contact Festival Secretary Sue Fisher on 01462 474544.

If you have any ideas or would like to take part in the 2009 North Herts Book Festival, please contact Secretary Sue Fisher on 01462 474544.

Tickets are available on the door of the venues as shown, or can be ordered in advance from North Herts District Council on 01462 474544.



north herts book festival

# north hertfordshire book festival

February 26 – March 16, 2008



Saturday March 8

BIG  
BALDOCK  
BOOK SWAP  
AND  
STORYTELLING

Donate your unwanted books and take away new ones to treasure in exchange for a donation to charity. Bring the children to hear Station Master Tim Hobman read from *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

Time: 10am to 1pm.  
Storytelling at 11am and 11.30am  
Venue: Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive

HORRID HENRY 'READ  
TOGETHER' WORKSHOP

A free family storytelling and craft event for parents/carers and children aged from five to nine years featuring 'Horrid Henry' – everyone's favourite naughty schoolboy.

Time: 2.30 – 3.45 pm  
Venue: Hitchin Library, Paynes Park  
Admission: Free. For more information and to book your place, please ask at the library or ring 01438 737333

ADRIAN MAGSON –  
INSTORE SIGNING

Hitchin crime writing favourite Adrian Magson will be with us from 10.30 to 4.30 signing copies of his latest book, *No Tears for the Lost*. If you've read Adrian's first two novels, now's your chance to catch up with the author and get a signed copy of the latest instalment.

Venue: Waterston's Hitchin



THE GOLDEN  
COMPASS (PG)

Starring Eva Green, Nicole Kidman, Sir Ian McKellen and Daniel Craig, is the first of three films based on Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*.

Time: TBA  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

BOOK FAIR

Come along and bag a bargain from the Friends of Royston and District Museum.

Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm  
Venue: Royston Museum, Lower King Street

Sunday March 9

THE GOLDEN  
COMPASS (PG)

Starring Eva Green, Nicole Kidman, Sir Ian McKellen and Daniel Craig, is the first of three films based on Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*.

Time: TBA  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

ATONEMENT (15)

A spellbinding adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel starring Keira Knightley and James McEvoy.

Time: TBA  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

Monday March 10

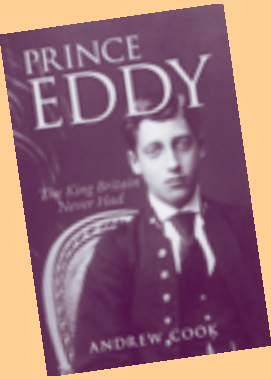
LUST, DUST AND  
COBBLESTONES

Hear about real life in Victorian North Herts from the dramatic to the everyday, based on the *Edwardian Hertfordshire Express* newspapers. The talk is based on a book by local journalist Sue Fisher.

Time: 2.30pm  
Venue: Letchworth Arts Centre, The Arcade  
Tickets: £3 at the door

ANDREW COOK

Historian Andrew Cook discusses his two most recent books - *Prince Eddy: The King Britain Never Had* and *Cash For Honours: the True Story of Maundy Gregory*. Two stories from modern British history which are highly relevant today.



Time: 7.30 pm  
Venue: David's Bookshop  
Admission: Free - please reserve your seat on 01462 684631 email [staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk](mailto:staff@davids-bookshops.co.uk).

Tuesday March 11

MODELS AND  
MAGAZINES

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.

Time: 11am  
Venue: Letchworth Arts Centre, The Arcade  
Tickets £3 on the door

LADY CONSTANCE  
LYTTON

Clare Fleck, archivist at Knebworth House, talks about the courageous suffragette and the book Lady Constance wrote from prison.

Time: 2pm  
Venue: Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park  
Tickets: £3 on the door

MEET A ROMAN  
CENTURION

How did a soldier cope with a posting from Italy to Hadrian's Wall? What did he eat, how did he fight and did he miss his home? Meet the man who knows.

Time: 4pm:  
Venue: Patrick's Café, The Wynd, Letchworth Free

ATONEMENT (15)

A spellbinding adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel starring Keira Knightley and James McEvoy.

Time: TBA  
Venue: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth

Wednesday March 12

ANIMAL MAGIC

Retired vet and author of *Pets in Prospect*, Malcolm Welshman, will give a humorous account of his life with animals from rats to rhinos.

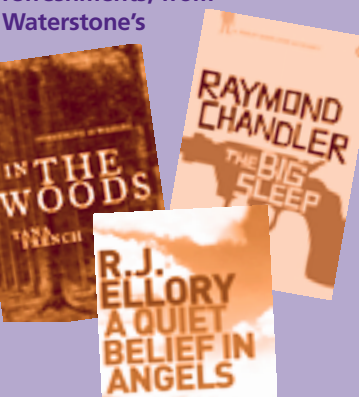
Time: 2.30pm  
Venue: Letchworth Arts Centre, The Arcade  
Tickets: £3 on the door

CRIME READERS DAY  
WITH BESTSELLING  
AUTHORS MARK  
BILLINGHAM, SOPHIE  
HANNAH, JOHN HARVEY,  
JANE HILL.

Waterstone's bookshop have drawn together a quartet of crime writing specialists. They will all be reading three critically acclaimed works of crime fiction and discussing them both in a panel format, and then in smaller breakout groups with us the audience! This is a great opportunity to discuss books with bestselling authors in the flesh so why not read one (or more!) of the books beforehand and make your opinions known?

Books to be discussed:  
*In the Woods* by Tana French  
*A Quiet Belief in Angels* by R J Ellory  
*The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler

Time: 1pm – 5pm  
Venue: The Sun Hotel, Sun Street, Hitchin  
Tickets: £6 including light refreshments, from Waterstone's



Thursday March 13

THE WRITE CAREER

Local author and broadcaster Sarah Harrison talks about her long successful career as a novelist.

Time: 11am  
Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive  
Tickets: £3 on the door

MEET A ROMAN  
CENTURION

How did a soldier cope with a posting from Italy to Hadrian's Wall? What did he eat, how did he fight and did he miss his home? Meet the man who knows.

Time: 4pm  
Venue: Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park  
Free

EXCITING  
ARCHAEOLOGY

Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, NHDC's Archaeology Development Officer, looks back to the origins of historic Hitchin.

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

THE PLEASURE OF  
JOURNALISM  
THE REPORTER AS  
WRITER

Les Baker, Editor of the *Royston Crow*, talks about reporters who have turned journalism into a skill of writing: from Charles Dickens to Hunter S Thompson, and others.

Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Royston Library, Market Hill  
Tickets: £3 on the door

Friday March 14

THE BOMBE MACHINE

The country's top brains worked at Bletchley Park and helped us win the last war. John Harper talks about how he and fellow enthusiasts rebuilt the vital Bombe machine which decoded Germany's top secret Enigma messages.

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

Saturday March 15

BOOK SWAP

Bring your surplus books along and take away others in exchange for a donation to the Garden House Hospice and hear story telling in the area.

Time: 9am to noon  
Venue: Farmers Market, Leys Square, Letchworth

BOOK BONANZA

Read any good books? Why not share them and hear other people's favourites during Oxfam's informal storytelling event and book fair (including collectibles) at Oxfam, Hitchin? Call the shop on 01462 456638 or ask staff for more details. Please bring good-quality books that you have finished with to the shop before or during the event, for the book fair.

Time: 11am - 3pm  
Venue: Oxfam, Churchyard, Hitchin

WAR TORN SKIES OVER  
HERTFORDSHIRE

With Julian Evan-Hart. Hear about Hertfordshire's wartime aviation history including incidents involving enemy and allied aircraft, and Hertfordshire's contribution to the RAF's war effort.

Time: 2.30 pm  
Venue: Lecture Hall, Letchworth Library (note this is on the first floor and there is no lift available)  
Admission: By ticket. Available in advance or at the door.  
Cost: £3  
Tel. 01438 737333

Sunday March 16

FAMILY DAY AT  
KNEBWORTH HOUSE

With children's story telling included in admission price, at noon and 2.30pm in the library. Look on the website [www.knebworthhouse.com](http://www.knebworthhouse.com) or call 01438 812661.

Time: 12 Noon – 4pm  
Venue: Knebworth House