



Free
Festival
Guide

RUGBY TOWN CENTRE 18 - 20 October 2024

Chapter One: Frightfully Good Fun!

Storytelling – Workshops – Ghost walks
Book Fair – Music – Halloween activities



Rugby town centre will be hosting a new Literary Festival, which celebrates local writers, readers and artists, and will take place from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October. The event, the first of its kind for Rugby, is being organised by Rugby First in partnership with Rugby Borough Council, and local author Lindsay Woodward and will take place at a variety of town centre venues.

Whether you're an established writer, you love getting lost in a good book, or you're a budding talent early on in your literary journey, there will be something for everyone across this weekend of workshops, walks, storytelling events, book fairs and music. For our first year... Chapter One: Frightfully Good Fun, we're having a Halloween theme, so, expect some scary ghost stories, a bit of apple bobbing, and a few chilling surprises! Many of the events are FREE, although you may need to book some of them to guarantee your place!

Linda Lowne, Business Director for Rugby First said: "I am absolutely delighted to be involved in Rugby's first literary festival and so pleased with the amount of interest and support we have had from individuals, organisations and town centre businesses in helping to bring the first festival to life. As with all events they are designed to increase town centre footfall and spend, raise awareness of town centre businesses, and offer residents and those from further afield some exciting, fun and quality entertainment, here in Rugby town centre. Finally, I would just like to say a special thank you to Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council libraries, Lindsay Woodward, and those who have offered to volunteer at the festival, including members and friends of The Rotary Club of Rugby Saturday Breakfast."

All event listings are subject to change please check website for the latest information.

Any more questions?

Rugby First on 01788 569436 or contact the event organiser



Let's Make: Music and Sound

Fancy composing your own music? Ever wanted to try mixing some sounds? Come along to our free Music and Sound drop-in session at Rugby Library between 10 – 11am on Friday 18th October.

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Rugby Library

Time: 10am - 11am

Cost: FREE

Audience: ALL

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-make-music-and-sound-at-rugby-library-tickets-739285251087>



Rugby Literary Walking tour

Join our award-winning volunteer Town Guide on a journey of discovery through Rugby Town Centre. Find out about Rugby's many links to famous writers and visit the locations connected to them. The walking tour is fully accessible.

Type of event: Walking Tour

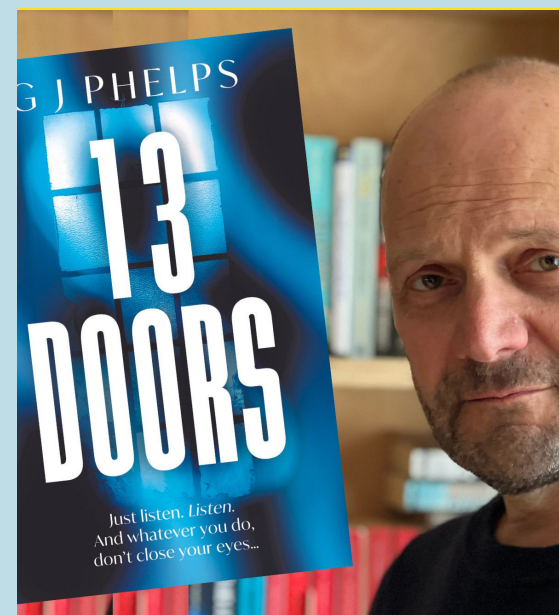
Venue: Meet at Meet at Rugby Visitor Centre

Time: 11.00am - 12.30pm (approx)

Cost: FREE

Audience: Adults

Booking: <https://rugbycouncil.sports-booker.com/customer/>



In conversation with GJ Phelps

Award-winning journalist G J Phelps has always been fascinated by 'real' ghost stories – the kind of strange, unexplainable tales that come into every newsroom once in a while. In fact, he is so obsessed by these odd tales, during his 30-year career in newspapers across the West Midlands, he has collected dozens of them. Now, he has used his macabre collection of local hauntings to create 13 Doors, a chilling supernatural thriller, in which a reporter visits 13 haunted locations across the UK. In this talk, the author will explain the dark logic behind the book, reveal how he used journalistic techniques to make the novel extra creepy – and share some of the 'true' spooky tales that reporters just couldn't explain. And that's not all - he wants to hear your real-life ghost stories too! Could you inspire his next novel?

Type of event: Author talk and book signing

Venue: Rugby Library

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Cost: FREE

Audience: Adults

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-conversation-with-gj-phelps-tickets-1015998487827>



In Conversation with Ellie Tilley

Join us at Rugby Library as we chat with author Ellie Tilley about her book, Blackthorn and Beyond.

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Rugby Library

Time: 10am

Cost: FREE

Audience: Adults

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-conversation-with-ellie-tilley-tickets-1030869748167>



Paddington Bear & Peter Rabbit Walkabouts

Keep your eyes peeled for two special guests at the festival. If you spot them go and say hello and have your photograph taken with them!



Traditional storytelling workshop

Learn a new skill to have your audience, whether family and friends, or grander scale, hanging on to every word. Pete Boyce is a skilled, some would say mesmerising traditional story teller. When he spins a tale he will certainly hold your attention. With Mark Steinhardt he will be teaching a workshop showing how to deliver a traditional tale. Given the month you can expect this to include the odd ghost story. An evening event of performances by Pete and Mark, joined by Stephen Hobbs, will follow. Both Pete and Mark are active members of The Feast of Fools Storytelling Club in Northampton <https://www.storyfeast.uk/>

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Art at the Alex, 72-73 James Street Rugby CV21 2SL

Time: 6pm to 9pm

Cost: £7

Audience: ALL

Booking: Email pboyce173@gmail.com to book

An evening with two tale tellers

Including new material, fresh takes on old tales, a ghost story (but not too scary). Stories told in an atmospheric town centre venue, surrounded by art and history. This event can be treated as a standalone or as a follow on to the afternoon's story telling workshop.

Both storytellers are accomplished traditional story tellers and members of The Feast of Fools Storytelling Club in Northampton
<https://www.storyfeast.uk/>

Type of event: Performance, story-telling, licensed cafe also open.

Venue: Art at the Alex

Time: 6.00pm

Cost: FREE with optional collection

Audience: ALL

Booking: Not required



An evening with the Rugby Café Writers

Enjoy an evening of original stories, poems and songs from the talented members of the Rugby Café Writers. They will be launching their new book, Dive Into A Poem, with a mixture of amusing, entertaining and occasionally moving tales. There will be a book stall and bar.

Type of event: Performance

Venue: St Andrew's Church

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: £3 on the door

Audience: Adults

Booking: Not required



Ghost Walks

Hear tales of the Ghosts that can be found in one of Rugby's oldest hotels – start and finish the evening with a drink – you may need it!

Type of event: Walk

Venue: The Rugby Hotel

Time: 7pm, 8pm and 9pm

Cost: FREE

Audience: Teenagers & Adults

Booking: Booking essential – email linda@rugbyfirst.org



Creative Writing Workshop

This workshop will give you the opportunity to try your hand at different genres of writing: memoir, fiction and a tiny bit of poetry. Come along and be inspired!

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: The Rugby Hotel

Time: 10am-12pm

Cost: FREE

Audience: Adults

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-creative-writing-workshop-tickets-1040759568887>



Playwriting for Beginners

Want to try your hand at playwriting? Whether or not you have a play in mind, this short workshop will cover some of the fundamentals for writing drama of any length or genre. Come with a pen and paper (or electronic device) and, most importantly, an open mind. No need to be shy.

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Rugby Theatre Bar

Time: 10am-12pm

Cost: £5

Audience: Adults

Booking: Contact Nick Marsh at nicholas.marsh@rmembers.org



To Blog or Not to Blog

Whether you're a complete novice, or you're looking to improve your blogging skills, join writer and marketer, Lindsay Woodward, for this workshop all about blogging. Find out how to come up with ideas for your blog, how to structure your content, where to post your blog, and how to promote it.

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Nuova

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost: FREE

Audience: Adults

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-to-blog-or-not-to-blog-tickets-1040786569647>



Story Smash

Choose a story and smash it up to create your own! This creative writing workshop is suitable for children aged 6-12 years (All children to be accompanied by an adult)

Type of event: Workshop

Venue: Rugby Library

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Cost: FREE

Audience: All

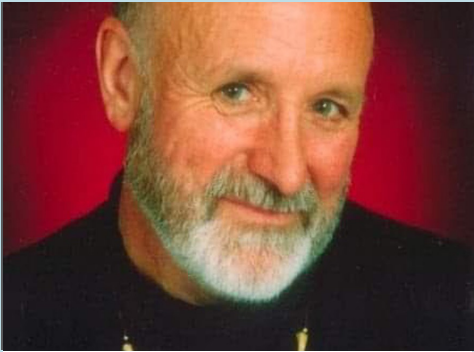
Booking: Essential at www.eventbrite.com/e/story-smash-at-rugby-library-tickets-877373316207



Making Poetry Count

The poet Ezra Pound once said: "Poetry is a sort of inspired mathematics, which gives us equations, not for abstract figures, triangles, squares, and the like, but for the human emotions." The workshop will look at some of these connections, play around with them and use what we find as an inspiration and starting point to write your own poetry.

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: Rugby Hotel
Time: 11am - 12.30pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Adults
Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-making-poetry-count-tickets-1040805546407>



Tell Your Story... And Tell It Well

You have a story, whether it's a business story or a life story. It's a story that deserves to be told. And it deserves to be told well. Your story deserves to be Prepared and Practiced. Those two Ps. will allow you to deliver the story with the right Pasture. And the three Ps. will allow you to perform. To educate and to entertain. You DO have a story.

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 12pm - 1pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Adults
Booking: Not required



Rugby Artists and Makers 'Show and Tell'

Artists and Makers around Rugby are involved in making books, from illustration and design to writing the content and sometimes performing it.

Come along to the Alex to meet artists involved in creating books. See and hear them in action for a behind the scenes peek at what makes books.

Type of event: story telling, illustration
Venue: Art at the Alex
Time: 10am - 4pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: ALL
Booking: Not required

Easy Peasy Spooky Crochet Workshop

Join me on Saturday 19th October for some easy spooky crochet fun. Using a kit from Wool Couture you will create one of these seasonal decorative items to take home. All materials and tools are provided, additional kits are available to purchase.

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: Lou's Sewing Studio, inside The Annex Studios, 18 Sheep Street, Rugby, CV21 3BU
Time: 11am-1pm
Cost: £31
Audience: ALL
Booking: Book via <https://lous-sewing-studio.co.uk/products/easy-peasy-spooky-crochet>

Get Ready for Easy Spooky Crochet Fun!



Create seasonal decor with simple crochet kits!
Saturday 19th October



The Resurgence Of Romance

Join three international bestselling romance authors, Donna Ashcroft, Bella Osborne and Jules Wake, for a lively and informative discussion about the recent surge in popularity of the romance genre. They will be talking about why reading is good for us and busting some romance myths along the way!

With time for questions and answers and book signing.

Donna Ashcroft: Donna Ashcroft's 14th book has just been published ready for Christmas. Donna writes seasonal romance novels set in warm communities where (almost) everyone gets a happy ending.

Julie Caplin: Julie Caplin, currently working on her 28th book, is a no 1 bestseller in Germany, Iceland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia with her heart-warming, travel-based romances which focus on food, friendship and love.

Bella Osborne: Bella lives in Rugby and her 15th novel has just been published. Bella's stories are about friendship, love and coping with what life throws at you.

Type of event: Panel Discussion
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 1pm - 2pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Adults
Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-the-resurgence-of-romance-tickets-1040847923157>



Fact or Non-Fiction?

Join three local authors sharing their unique insights into the fascinating world of writing non-fiction.

Kate A. Harris is writing her extraordinary book of her life in Barnardo's through intriguing descriptions and detailed research. She's undertaken an adventure of self-exploration and self-discovery of her remarkable time in the Home with the children and her rural childhood on the farm.

Rachel Hobley is the writer behind The Flavour Narratives celebrating the people, places and produce that make up our culinary world. Looking for Good Food, Finding Good People.

Sandra Peachey, author of fictional and non-fictional works started the Peachey Letters blog in 2013, as a writing challenge posting 'love letters to life', quirky, humorous and heart-warming reflections on life's ups and downs. Soon Peachey Letters had a global readership and a year later became a book.

Type of event: Writing workshop
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Teenagers & Adults
Booking: Not required



Celebrating Local Authors

Join local authors as they share their stories, both in terms of the fiction they write and their writing journey. There will also be the opportunity to ask them questions about their books and being published in this session that throws a spotlight on just how great the local talent is.

Type of event: Storytelling
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 2.30pm - 4pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



Diwali Storytelling

Join us between 2 - 3pm on Saturday 19th October at Rugby Library for a fun-filled, monster and ghoulish Diwali storytelling hour!

Type of event: Storytelling
Venue: Rugby Library
Time: 2pm - 3pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: 7-12 Year olds
Booking: rugbylibrary.eventbrite.com



Tight Heads and Loose Heads

Poets from Northamptonshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire have come together to present their writing in all its diverse styles, themes and personalities. A must for poetry lovers - or even the mildly curious!

Type of event: Poetry presentation
Venue: Nuova
Time: 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



Open Mic - Share Your Story

Whether you're a seasoned writer or you want to share something new you created in a Literary Festival workshop, everyone is welcome at our open mic event.

All performers will get 3 minutes to share anything, as long as they have written it themselves. Just turn up on the night to get involved.

Type of event: Open mic
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: 18+ Only
Booking: Not required





Book Fair

A chance to meet some authors, buy some books and immerse yourself in all things books!

Type of event: Fair
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 11am to 4pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



Halloween Fun

Come and enjoy some traditional Halloween activities, including apple bobbing, pumpkin carving and apple on a string fun!

Type of event: Activities
Venue: Sheep Street & High Street
Time: 11am - 3pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



Ghost Walks

Hear tales of the Ghosts that can be found in one of Rugby's oldest hotels – start and finish the evening with a drink – you may need it!

Type of event: Walk
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 7pm, 8pm and 9pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Teenagers & Adults
Booking: Booking essential – email linda@rugbyfirst.org



Paddington Bear & Peter Rabbit Walkabouts

Keep your eyes peeled for two special guests at the festival. If you spot them go and say hello and have your photograph taken with them!



Lego Club

Get creative and make something spooky at Lego Club! (Suitable for children aged 4-11 years. All children to be accompanied by an adult.)

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: Rugby Library
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: rugbylibrary.eventbrite.com



Songwriters Showcase

An intimate evening of performance and discussion about the mysterious process of songwriting, from some of the town's finest songwriters

Type of event: Performance
Venue: St. Andrew's Church
Time: 7.30pm-9.30pm
Cost: £5 optional donation
Audience: All
Booking: <https://www.standrewrugby.org.uk/events>

RUGBY TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER



CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON IN RUGBY TOWN CENTRE



★ MUSIC ★ FUNFAIR ★ STALLS ★
 ★ FOOD ★ FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ★



www.rugbyfirst.org

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Book Fair

A chance to meet some authors, buy some books and immerse yourself in all things books!

Type of event: Fair
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 10am to 12 noon
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



Halloween Fun

Come and enjoy some traditional Halloween activities, including apple bobbing, pumpkin carving and apple on a string fun!

Type of event: Activities
Venue: Sheep Street & High Street
Time: 11am - 3pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: All
Booking: Not required



School of Wrap CIC
Rugby Raps (age 10 to 15)

A introduction workshop into writing rap lyrics, producing beats and recording vocals around our town rugby. The workshop will result in a professional produced hiphop track that will be released on various platforms

Type of event: Workshop, Hiphop production, Rap
Venue: The Annex Studios
Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Cost: FREE donations for the School of Rap CIC are welcome
Audience: Age 10-15
Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-school-of-wrap-cic-rugby-raps-age-10-to-15-tickets-1040857752557?aff=oddtcreator>



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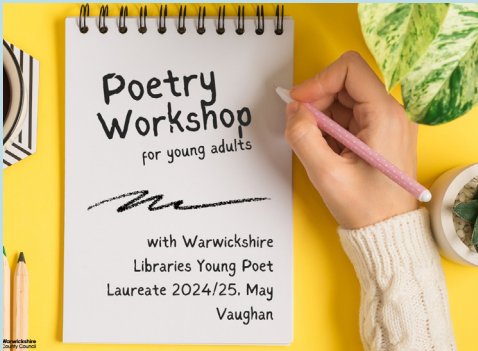
Type of event: Walk
Venue: The Rugby Hotel
Time: 7pm, 8pm and 9pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Teenagers & Adults
Booking: Booking essential – email linda@rugbyfirst.org



Book Magic

Come along to Rugby Library for stories and craft activities every Sunday!
Suitable for children aged 4-11 years.
All children to be accompanied by an adult.
Drop-in session, no need to book!

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: Rugby Library
Time: 11.30am to 12pm
Cost: Families
Audience: 4- 11 years
Booking: No need to book



Poetry Workshop for Young People

Join our Young Poet Laureate 2024/25, May Vaughan, for a poetry workshop for young people.

Type of event: Workshop
Venue: Rugby Library
Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm
Cost: FREE
Audience: Teenagers
Booking: rugbylibrary.eventbrite.com



School of Wrap CIC
Rugby Raps (age 15+)

A introduction workshop into writing rap lyrics, producing beats and recording vocals around our town rugby. The workshop will result in a professional produced hiphop track that will be released on various platforms

Type of event: Workshop, Hiphop production, Rap
Venue: The Annex Studios
Time: 1pm – 4pm
Cost: FREE donations for the School of Rap CIC are welcome
Audience: Age 15+
Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-literary-festival-school-of-wrap-cic-rugby-raps-age-15-tickets-1040860901977?aff=oddtcreator>



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