

18 OCT
TO
2 NOV
2024

Hope & Joy

STORIES
FOR
ADULTS &
CHILDREN

#hsf2024

Hastings Storytelling Festival

Lauren Child
Laura Dockrill
Joseph Coelho
Inua Ellams
Katy Baird
Black Voices
Axel
Scheffler
& more



Adult
Events &
Family
Events



FREE
Events for
Under-10s

hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Welcome to Hastings Storytelling Festival 2024

Storytelling for Adults

THIS YEAR Hastings Storytelling Festival celebrates **Hope & Joy** with original tales told through spoken word, music, poetry, puppetry, song and movement.

Our authors and artists include Hastings Storytelling Festival Patron and multi-talented artist **Inua Ellams** with 'Search Party', poet and theatre-maker **Maria Ferguson**

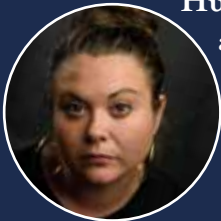
and Reverend **Billy & The Stop Shopping Choir** all the way from New York City.



You can test your knowledge in a surreal night of

Human Rights Bingo and join a celebration in song with **Black Voices, Brighton Gay Men's Chorus** and **Barefoot Opera**.

There are many more events inside.



Storytelling for Children and Families



Get ready for a storytelling adventure filled with **Hope & Joy**, as we dive into magical tales from authors, artists and performers in public events and appearing in local schools, including Hastings Storytelling Festival Patrons

Lauren Child sharing her new Clarice Bean book 'Smile', and new Festival Patron, renowned illustrator **Axel Scheffler** known for his whimsical and colourful illustrations in children's books, including 'The Gruffalo'.



The popular **Children's Day** on 27 October, featuring

Lauren Child with **Laura Dockrill**; the outgoing Children's Laureate **Joseph Coelho**, **Alim Kamara**, **Tuup**, **Richard Storybeard**, **Xanthe**

Gresham-Knight, **Ben Watson**, **Dolly Delicious**, **Swallow's Wings Puppetry**, **Circo Rum Ba Ba** and **The Flying Buttresses**. Don't forget to dress up or bring something along for the 'animals' themed parade with **Mahogany Carnival Arts** of Notting Hill Carnival!



hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

#hsf2024

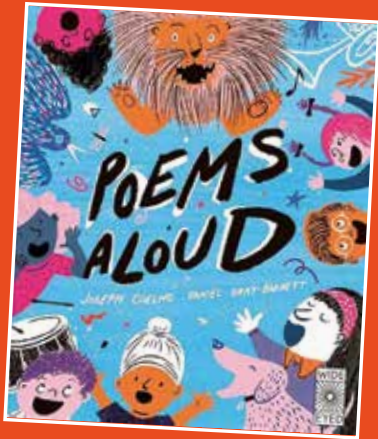
PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

Free professional development workshop for teachers, authors and storytellers with outgoing Children's Laureate

Joseph Coelho

Drawing on a background of seventeen years working with teachers in schools across the country, Joseph Coelho will demonstrate a process for developing creative ways into poetry. His workshops are practical, and participants will see first-hand how game play, drawing and performance can be used to bring poetry to life.

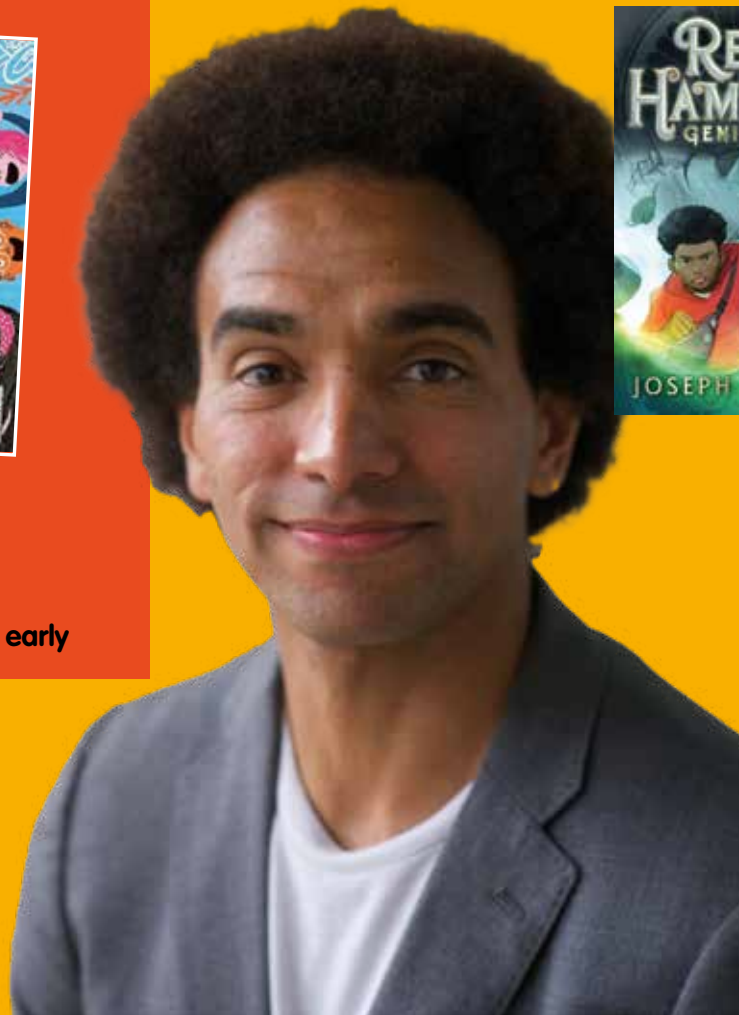


1.30–3.30pm
The Learning Centre
in Hastings Library
13 Claremont TN34 1HE
FREE, limited space – arrive early



SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

Outgoing Children's Laureate **Joseph Coelho:** **Relic Hamilton, Genie Hunter**



Relic Hamilton is just your average 12-year-old, living a quiet life with his grandfather above their old antiques shop in Chinatown in London.

Until one day, while polishing some mysterious brass lamps in the basement, something extraordinary happens. Relic feels spine-chillingly cold. Breathless. Scared. And

suddenly, a real, live genie stands before him! But this is no kind, benevolent genie. This genie is evil... and it feeds on hope.

Join award winning and best-selling author Joseph Coelho as he shares the first book in his latest middle grade series – **Relic Hamilton Genie Hunter**.

Tam
Hastings Library
13 Claremont TN34 1HE
FREE, limited space –
arrive early



SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

KATY BAIRD: GET OFF

Hastings local, self-proclaimed hedonist and queer performance legend Katy Baird has spent the last decade documenting her pursuit of pleasure. She's been trying to understand what she does with her time, and what she's going to do with the time she has left.

Through her trademark humour and an existential haze of home videos, last night's pounding

gabber music, and sessions with her life coach, Stephen, *Get Off* offers a raw, unfiltered glimpse into the human need for distraction; exploring the depths of our desires and what truly gets us off.

7pm
Stables Theatre
Hastings TN34 3BD
Tickets: £12

Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

*Suitable
for 18+*



SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

Co-presented with Home Live Art

REVEREND BILLY & THE STOP SHOPPING CHOIR: THE FABULOUS UNKNOWN

An award-winning, wild, and unapologetically eco-conscious experience like no other. The infamous New York gospel songsters, Reverend Billy & The Stop Shopping Choir, are back in the UK to ignite a revolutionary spirit.

If you're troubled by climate change or the unchecked power of fossil fuel industries, this event is for you.

And if you're not, it's REALLY for you! Join the movement. Earth-A-Lujah!

7pm
Stables Theatre
Hastings TN34 3BD
Tickets: £12
Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk



NOME
LIVE
ART

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

Swallow's Wings Puppetry: Anansi and The Lost Sun

Anansi & the Lost Sun is a puppet show celebrating African & Caribbean culture. It is a funny, inspiring & entertaining West African tale mixing Puppetry, Spoken Word & traditional live West African Music.

Predating slavery, the Anansi stories are humorous, lively, empowering and community led stories that travelled with enslaved African people to the Caribbean and beyond, including

here in the UK through the cultural contributions of African and Caribbean communities living across the UK.

4:30pm

Sandown School

The Ridge TN34 2AA

FREE, limited space – arrive early



WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

STORYTELLERS XANTHE GRESHAM-KNIGHT & PAOLA BALBI MEET DEBRA WATSON & KATIE TAYLOR FROM THE WILD POETS: PLANTS THAT KILL & CURE

Inspired by **Xanthe Gresham-Knight's** *Herba Mythica*, let four intoxicating storytellers and poets lead you into their worlds of seeds and sweet waters, sirens and shapeshifters, symbols and spirits. Learn their secrets and you too will be able to laugh in the face of the fathers – then turn them to stone – or tree, or water or wine. You know it's time...

Storyteller **Xanthe Gresham-Knight** 'speaks like a woman spitting jewels' (Arts Council England). **Paola Balbi** is the

founder and co-Artistic Director of *Raccontamiunastoria* – an Italian storytelling company. **Debra Watson** curates *The Poetry Brothel Hastings* and is a performance artist, often working in the medium of verse. **Katie Taylor's** practice includes performance, spoken word, devising and facilitation.

7pm

**Durbar Hall,
Hastings Museum
& Art Gallery TN34 1ET
£8**

**Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk**



THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER HUMAN RIGHTS BINGO

How fair and square is our Human Rights Treaty?

How well do you know your rights? Join the ridiculously serious callers Yael and Silvia in their full-blown Bingo Ball Costumes, for a surreal night of Bingo with visual treats and dancing beats. Test your Knowledge and your Luck!

Created and performed by Yael Karavan and Silvia Mercurial

"Jolly good fun, and educational to boot!"

**Total Theatre –
Dorothy Max Prior**

**7:00pm
Durbar Hall
Hastings Museum & Art Gallery
TN34 1ET
Tickets: £8
Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk**



FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER INUA ELLAMS: SEARCH PARTY

Our friends at the Bright Foundation welcome Hastings Storytelling Festival patron, Inua Ellams, an award-winning poet, playwright and curator, is bringing his show 'Search Party' to The Benbow Arts Space. Audiences are invited to suggest any word, and based on these prompts, Inua will delve into his vast collection of works to perform a spontaneous selection. Every show is a one-of-a-kind experience.

**7:30pm
The Benbow Arts Space
St Leonards TN37 6AE
Tickets: £10
Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk**



THE BRIGHT
FOUNDATION

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

Our friends at Hastings Library present:

Mrs Armitage on Wheels

Farnham Maltings & Scoot Theatre

Adapted from Quentin Blake's classic tale, Mrs Armitage on Wheels, Scoot Theatre present a 40-minute fun, family show suitable for ages 3+ and particularly enjoyable to primary-aged children, featuring live music, puppetry and physical comedy.

Mrs Armitage on Wheels celebrates the power of imagination, the importance of resilience and the joy of embracing the great outdoors. Co-produced by Farnham Maltings.

11am

Hastings Library, 3 Claremont TN34 1HE

FREE
no booking
required



Lauren Child: Clarice Bean SMILE

Hastings Storytelling Festival are proud to present, former Children's Laureate, and Hastings Storytelling Festival Patron, Lauren Child as she focuses on children's anxiety about the environment in her latest novel Clarice Bean SMILE published by Harper Collins.

The story was inspired in part by the author's own feelings of overwhelm and worry about climate change and in response to what children were telling her about their worries and concerns about the planet.

In the novel, Clarice faces her family and the world with her usual brand of cheerful optimism and curiosity even when things appear impossible to fix. But it is seeing what is possible that gets Clarice through as she learns how making a small change, can make things better for everyone.



Celebrating
25 years
of Clarice
Bean

Lauren will offer book signing after her talk with books available from our book stall.

2pm: doors open at 1:30pm

**White Rock Studio
White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX**

Tickets:

ADULT aged 17+: £10

(comes with one free child ticket for children aged 0-10, on request)

**CHILDREN aged 11-16: £5
and/or additional children
aged 0-10**

**Book online:
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk**



SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 12-4PM

Children's Day & Carnival

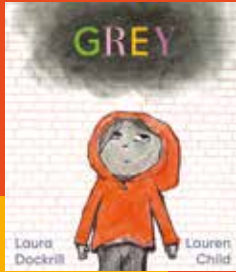
The Stade, Rock-a-Nore Road TN34 3DW

Join us for Children's Day 2024 and enjoy an array of performances, workshops, storytelling and a lively animal themed parade.



Lauren Child and Laura Dockrill

will talk about their new book 'Grey'.



The Flying Butresses Zelva the Tortoise



Poet and rapper Alim Kamara will perform



Circo Rum Ba Ba with bats & bugs



Guest House Storyteller: Xanthe Gresham-Knight



Dolly Delicious



Local drummers!



Ben Watson

Carnival Workshops with Mahogany Carnival Arts fresh from Notting Hill Carnival to help make our Parade sparkle!



Richard Storybeard Enchanting stories told in a cosy yurt

Look out for Tuup and Alim telling stories.



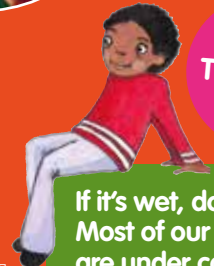
At 12pm, there will be a performance by Swallow's Wings Puppetry.



Join the Carnival Parade at 3pm!



12-4pm The Stade FREE

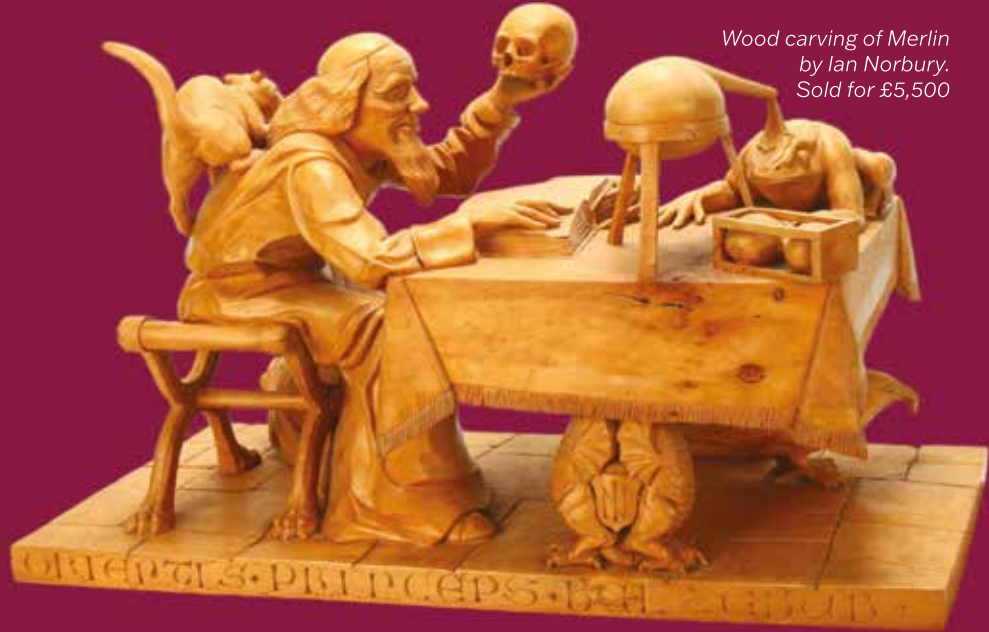


If it's wet, don't fret! Most of our stories are under cover.

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Burstow & Hewett

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



Wood carving of Merlin
by Ian Norbury.
Sold for £5,500

Selling items from the past with stories that last!

Specialist LIVE auctions held weekly at our Battle auction rooms.

www.burstowandhewett.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER
Maria Ferguson: SWELL



We welcome back Maria Ferguson, a poet and theatre-maker originally from Romford in Essex. Winner of the *Saboteur Award* for Best Spoken Word Show in 2017, *Show of the Week VAULT Festival* in 2019, and shortlisted for Soho Theatre's *Tony Craze Award*. Maria's book *Swell* will be published by Penguin in January 2025.



7pm
The Horse & Groom
4 Mercatoria
St Leonards-on-Sea TN38 0EB
Pay What You Can



To make our shows
even more accessible
to attend, please
Pay What You Can.
If you cannot afford to pay,
then this show is
FREE.



Our friends at The Barn

Thursday 31 October
& Friday 1 November

The Witch and the Egg

One performer and a flock of shadow puppets tell a heartwarming story about friends, foolishness and flying away. A bad-tempered old witch lives in a nest and flies around scaring people. One day an egg appears, what should she do?

10.30am & 2pm
Barn Theatre and Museum,
Rodgers Farm,
Stonestile Lane TN35 4PH
£10 adults & £5 children
+ booking fee (or £5 & £3 for those on state benefits)

Tickets:
tinyurl.com/Bright-Witch-Egg

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER

**BLACK VOICES
BRIGHTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS
BAREFOOT OPERA
TRIPLE HARMONIES:
A NIGHT OF VOCAL BRILLIANCE**

BLACK VOICES

From their home, Grosvenor Road Studios – Birmingham's oldest recording studio, Black Voices has touched the world. They have performed in every continent and before royalty and presidents, sharing the stage with some of the 'Greats in Music'

They have wowed audiences globally with their singing and performances in the black oral tradition – an early music form that is based on the ancient folklore and storytelling of Africa and the Diaspora which has impacted all music genres from the early spirituals, blues and jazz.



Hastings Storytelling Festival brings together three diverse groups on one bill for a night of vocal brilliance!



BAREFOOT OPERA

Barefoot Opera will blow your senses away with a dizzying display of operatic virtuosity, passion and lyrical phrasing as four outstanding young opera singers offer favourites from the great composers with the famous Barefoot Band to support them. Those of you lucky enough to hear Beren Fidan sing as Violetta in Barefoot Opera's touring version of *La Traviata*, will be delighted to hear she is part of the team and will reprise 'Sempre Libera' for this evening, and you can also expect excerpts from *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni* and more...

**BRIGHTON
GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

The UK's largest gay men's chorus outside of London is renowned for its high energy performances and regularly stages sell-out shows nationally and internationally. The Chorus has over 100 members ranging in age from 22 to 86. For the Hastings Storytelling Festival, they promise to bring a selection of Camp Classics to the White Rock Theatre.



**7:30pm
White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX
£15**

Book online: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk



18 Hours is driven by a passion for fostering global understanding through education and events

www.18hours.org.uk

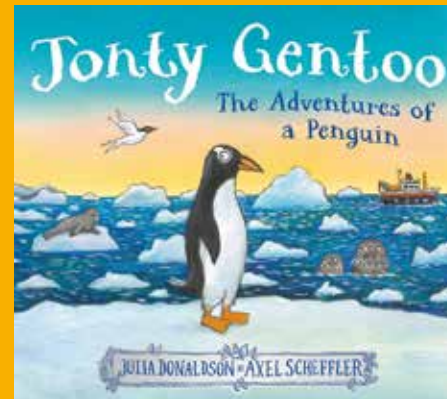
SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Axel Scheffler



We welcome our new Patron Axel Scheffler as he presents his latest book published with Julia Donaldson; *Jonty Gentoo: The*

Adventures of a Penguin. This story tells an unforgettable tale of a brave little penguin on the journey of a lifetime. Axel Scheffler is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed illustrator of some of the most well-loved children's books. Expect stories, live drawings, and opportunity for questions... and probably a Gruffalo.



Axel will offer book signing after his talk with books available from our book stall.

2pm – doors open at 1:30pm
White Rock Studio
White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX

Tickets:

ADULT aged 17+ (comes with one free child ticket for children aged 0-10, on request) **£10**

CHILDREN aged 11-16 and/or additional children aged 0-10 **£5**

Book online: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk



ABOUT HASTINGS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The Hastings Storytelling Festival, established in 2011, has since become a registered charity and maintains a year-round presence at various events. The majority of festival events are free, and all are free for children under the age of 10 to attend.

MEET THE PATRONS

Founding Patron, author and illustrator **Sir Quentin Blake**, has supported the festival since it began.



Hastings Storytelling Festival also has three authors who are very active Patrons:



Multi-award-winning poet, playwright, performer and graphic artist **Inua Ellams** was born in Nigeria and lives in London.

Displacement and Destiny are reoccurring themes in his work.

Award-winning writer and illustrator **Lauren Child**'s books have sold millions of copies worldwide and feature much-loved characters Charlie & Lola, Clarice Bean, Ruby Redfort and Hubert Horatio. Lauren has worked with the festival for three years and has kindly designed the festival booklet front covers since 2022.



PHOTO: POLLY BORLAND

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

Benjamin has been a supporter of the Hastings Storytelling Festival and one of the best storytellers of all time. To remember him this year we have chosen to focus our schools' work on his book *Nature Trail*.

Right: Benjamin at the White Rock Theatre



PHOTO: KIM HALL

FESTIVAL



Local author **Thomas Taylor**'s imaginary town, Eerie-on-Sea bears an uncanny resemblance to Hastings. This mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories wash up, features in his books *Gargantis*, *Shadowghast*, *Malamander*, *Festergrimm* and *Mermedusa*.

We welcome **Axel Scheffler**, an award-winning, internationally acclaimed illustrator of some of the most well-loved children's books as our new Festival Patron. His work has been exhibited all around the world. Axel has already illustrated over two hundred books including the children's classic picture book, *The Gruffalo*, written by Julia Donaldson.



VOLUNTEER!

Would you like to volunteer at one of our events? Contact us at office@hastingsstoryfest.org.uk



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Fri 18 Oct

Workshop 1.30–3.30pm
with **Joseph Coelho**

The Learning Centre
in Hastings Library
13 Claremont TN34 1HE

FREE – arrive early
limited space

Sat 19 Oct

Joseph Coelho 11am
reads from *Relic
Hamilton, Genie Hunter*

Hastings Library
13 Claremont TN34 1HE

FREE – arrive early
limited space

Sat 19 Oct

Katy Baird: Get Off 7pm

The Stables
Hastings TN34 3BD

18+ • £12

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Sun 20 Oct

**Reverend Billy &
The Stop Shopping Choir** 7pm

Stables Theatre
Hastings TN34 3BD £12

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Tue 22 Oct

Swallow's Wings 4.30pm
**Puppetry: Anansi and
The Lost Sun**

Sandown School
The Ridge TN34 2AA

FREE – arrive early
limited space

Wed 23 Oct

**Xanthe Gresham-
Knight, Paola Balbi,
The Wild Poets** 7pm

Hastings Museum &
Art Gallery TN34 1ET £8

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Thu 24 Oct

Human Rights Bingo 7pm

Hastings Museum &
Art Gallery TN34 1ET £8

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Fri 25 Oct

Inua Ellams: 7.30pm

Search Party
The Benbow Arts Space
St Leonards TN37 6AE £10

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Sat 26 Oct

Lauren Child: Doors 1.30pm
Clarice Bean 'SMILE'

White Rock Theatre (Studio),
Hastings TN34 1JX

Ticket prices: see online
hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Sun 27 Oct

Children's Day 12–4pm

The Stade, Rock-A-Nore Rd
TN34 3DW FREE

Wed 30 Oct

Maria Ferguson: Swell 7pm

The Horse & Groom TN38 0EB
Pay What You Can

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Fri 1 Nov

Triple Harmonies: 7.30pm

White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX £15

Book: hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Sat 2 Nov

Axel Scheffler Doors: 1.30

White Rock Theatre TN34 1JX
Ticket prices: see online

hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

 Children's event

 Adult event



Goodwill Fund Hastings

