

20 February, 2012

Press Release

RNHRD TO HOST EVENTS AS PART OF THE INDEPENDENT BATH LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2012

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Foundation Trust (RNHRD NHS), known locally as the 'Min', will be hosting a series of events as part of the Independent Bath Literature Festival 2012.

This is the first time the historic building has been used as one of the locations for the popular literature festival.

Events will be held in the Lecture Hall, which was previously the hospital chapel and still retains its original architectural features and stunning stained glass windows.

Malcolm Sommerville, Estates and Facilities manager at the RNHRD says: "We are delighted that our beautiful building will be host to an eclectic range of events as part of the Independent Bath Literature Festival."

"We have an enviable position in the centre of the World Heritage City of Bath. As a specialist trust our patients and the local community are well aware of our expertise in the areas of neuro rehabilitation, rheumatology, chronic pain management and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME and our great reputation for treating patients with dignity and respect."

Malcolm continues: "What is less well known is that our hospital has been in Bath for over 250 years. We are an important part of the heritage of the city and the history of hospitals; we were the first truly national hospital to be founded in Great Britain.

"Thousands of people walk past our famous frontage every day; we look forward to welcoming festival goers from across the region to step inside our building to enjoy one of the many fine events the BathLitFest team have arranged here."

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Bath Festivals spokesperson Zoe Steadman-Milne adds: "Bath has a fantastic array of characterful spaces and venues that add to the unique experience of the Festival, and we're delighted that the Mineral Hospital has become part of this."

Ticketed events at the Mineral Hospital include the world premiere of 'Jilted' a piece specially commissioned for the festival that poses the intriguing question "What if Miss Havisham could sing? How would one of the heroines of Great Expectations describe her fate?"

Tickets for events at the Mineral Hospital can be booked by telephone 01225 463362, online at www.bathfestivals.org.uk or in person at Bath Festivals Box Office, 2 Church Street, Abbey Green, Bath BA1 1NL.

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Notes for Editors:

- **Images of the exterior/interior of the RNHRD available**

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
 - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
 - Neurological rehabilitation
 - Chronic pain management
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk
- www.bathlifefest.org.uk

Events at the RNHRD

Event	Speaker	Date and Time
The Reason Why	John Gribbin	Saturday 3 March, 11.15am
Scapegoat	Katherine Quarmby	Saturday 3 March, 1pm
Chavs: The demonization of the working class	Owen Jones and Guy Standing	Saturday 3 March, 2.45pm
Beyond the Corporation	David Erdal	Saturday 3 March, 4.30pm
Pakistan and Blasphemy	Allan Little talks to Anatol Lieven	Saturday 3 March, 6.15pm
Jilted	Singers Melanie Pappenheim and Rebecca Askew	Saturday 3 March, 8pm
Raymond Tallis on the Brain	Raymond Tallis	Sunday, 4 March, 11.15am
John Guy on Thomas Becket	John Guy	Sunday, 4 March, 1pm
Adapt	Tim Harford	Sunday, 4 March, 2.45pm
Wired for Culture	Mark Pagel	Sunday, 4 March, 4.30pm

Michelle Hanson	Michelle Hanson	Sunday, 4 March, 6.15pm
Martin Rowson on Gulliver's Travels	Martin Rowson	Sunday, 4 March, 8pm

- About The Independent Bath Literature Festival
 Bath Literature Festival has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1995, becoming a well-established event in the country's literary calendar. The Festival offers an intensive nine-day programme of events, designed by Artistic Director James Runcie, featuring fascinating literary specialists discussing ideas with fellow experts and enthusiastic audiences. In recent years the Festival has hosted a vast selection of literary figures including Terry Pratchett, Joanna Trollope, Doris Lessing, Tony Benn, Margaret Atwood, Alexander McCall Smith, Tariq Ali, Jacqueline Wilson, Iain Banks, Hilary Mantel, and Sue Townsend.
- About Bath Festivals
 Bath Festivals is a long-established independent arts company with charitable status, producing the Independent Bath Literature Festival, the Bath International Music Festival and from 2010 the Telegraph Bath Festival of Children's Literature. Bath Festivals is one of the city's central arts organisations which also runs a year-round education programme and a year-round Box Office, selling tickets for thousands of events throughout the area, working alongside approximately 80 local and national arts organisations, promoters and venues. Bath Festivals receives core funding from Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and Arts Council England, as well as support from commercial sponsors, trust funds and private donors.