

**All week**

**Edinburgh Book Festival**

More than 500 authors will be in attendance at this year's festival, which runs in Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh, until August 26. Special themes include clashes between east and west, warfare and religion, and profit versus the environment; there are showcases for American and Canadian authors, and a "Provocations" series highlighting cutting-edge contemporary writing. An expanded workshop strand entitled The Writing Business offers creative-writing sessions. This week's highlights include: Today: an audience with Alan Bennett (11.30am); Paul Muldoon reads his poetry (5pm); Walter Mosley in performance (6.30pm). Sunday: Fay Weldon on her life and work (11.30am); Tolkien discussion featuring Philip Pullman (5pm); a showcase for persecuted writers, part of a daily series (5.30pm); a chance to meet Terry Pratchett (6.30pm). Monday: an audience with Amos

Oz (11.30am); Claire Rayner on humanism (6.30pm); a debate on women and Islam (7.30pm). Tuesday: Germaine Greer in discussion (11.30am); Anthony Holden on Shakespeare (3.30pm); Philip Bobbitt on warfare in the 20th century (7pm); an audience with Garrison Keillor (8pm). Wednesday: James Naughtie discusses contemporary politics (1.30pm); a debate on compensation culture (7.30pm); Gerry Anderson on *Thunderbirds* (8pm); Linton Kwesi Johnson in performance (8.30pm). Thursday: Seamus Heaney on Scottish poetry (3.30pm); Ian Beck on Edward Lear's life and work (6pm); a debate on climate change (7.30pm). Friday: Tim Smit on the Eden Project (11am); Edna O'Brien discusses her literary career (11.30am); Antony Beevor on the downfall of Berlin (1.30pm); teatime entertainment with Ned Sherrin (6.30pm); John McGahern on his latest novel, *That They May Face the Rising Sun* (8pm); William Fiennes on

travel and natural history (8.30pm). Highlights for children this week include chances to meet Lemony Snicket, Eoin Colfer, Michael Rosen and Diana Wynne Jones. On Saturday at 4.30pm, Philip Pullman debates fantasy and morality with the former Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway, while on Tuesday at 4.30pm Francis Spufford, author of *The Child that Books Built*, discusses child development with Peter Hobson. On Friday at 1pm there is a workshop with award-winning illustrator Lauren Child, while at 10am and 11.30am *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is brought to life, with games and party cake. To book tickets call 0131-624 5050 (9.30am-8pm) or visit the box office in the Entrance Tent (9.30am-9.30pm). Entry to the site is free. For more details see [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk).

**Sunday August 11**  
**Stratford Poetry Festival**  
Douglas Dunn and Matthew Sweeney read from their own work. 8pm, Shakespeare Centre,



**Bennett ... granting an audience in Edinburgh**



**Wilson ... from Beatrix to Harry**