

# bookshops

Hay-on-Wye is the world's first town of books and the result of a vision Richard Booth had after opening a bookshop in 1962. Property was cheap, big libraries were being sold off and before long Booth had filled the town with books and booksellers. In 1977 Hay gained international recognition when Booth declared it to be an Independent Kingdom of Books. Forty-seven years on, Hay and its Festival continue to flourish. We have seen off the threat of Amazon and Kindles and more book towns are being set up - from South Carolina to South Korea. Thank you for visiting Hay as this keeps our magical Kingdom, full of independent businesses, alive."



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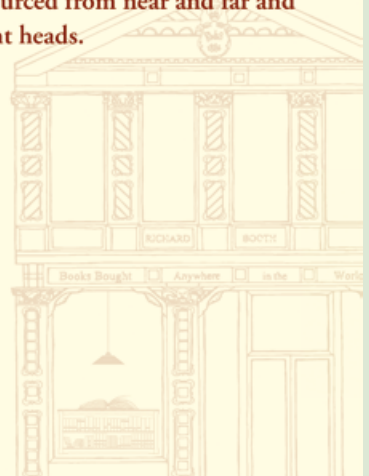
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Richard Booth's idea that a town full of books could become an international attraction, transformed the small market community of Hay-on-Wye into the world's first book town.

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BOOKSHOP



4 Market St, HR3 5AF ~ info@literaturelaboratory.co.uk



Photo: Will Lewis

G  
Gay on Wye



Gay on Wye is not just a bookstore: it's a sanctuary where the LGBTQ+ community and its allies can find literature that resonates with their experiences, challenges, and triumphs.

3 Lion Street, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5AA  
[www.gayonwye.com](http://www.gayonwye.com)

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**Hay Festival 2025:**  
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