



LITERATURE FESTIVAL

18 to 27 March 2022

www.yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk

 @YorkLitFest



Sarah Hall



Alexander
McCall Smith



Helen Mort



Magid Magid



Amanda Owen



Suhaiymah
Manzoor-Khan



Est. 1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

explore
Libraries and Archives



WELCOME TO THE 2022

We are so pleased to be back. It has been a difficult time for all of us, but the power of literature and the spoken word has prevailed through amazing online performances and innovative publications. However, nothing beats hosting literary events in front of a live audience!

This has been a time of change and York Literature Festival has been no different, welcoming new members onto our team. Our thanks go to those people and organisations that have continued to support us, such as York St John University, St Peter's School, The Mount

Volunteers

If you wish to volunteer as a steward for the York Literature Festival then please get in touch with us at info@yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk. Please be aware that volunteers may be required to carry out light manual tasks (e.g.

Ticket Information

To book tickets and for more information about all the events visit www.yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk. The York Theatre Royal box office and website is selling tickets to some of the events and they can be contacted on 01904 623568 or



LITERATURE FESTIVAL

School, York Theatre Royal and Explore York Libraries and Archives. We are all excited to meet you at our events taking place across our wonderful city.

So, take a look at our programme, book some tickets and we will see you there in March!

Rob O'Connor, Festival Chair.

moving chairs) and must have an enthusiasm for literary events. Volunteers will be asked to steward for 30-60 minutes before the start of each event and will be welcome to join the audience once the event has started.

online at www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk. Some tickets may be available from other venues or sources. Please see each event description for more information.

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT

Alexander McCall Smith

Monday 14 March, 7.30pm

York Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place, York, YO1 7HD
£17, or £32.50 with a copy of the book – York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office.

One of the world's most prolific and most popular authors, Alexander McCall Smith, joins Fiona Lindsay in session to discuss the new instalment in his much-loved *Scotland Street* series, *Love in the Time of Bertie*.

"Life for Bertie seems to be moving at a pace that is rather out of his control. In Drummond Place gardens it seems that Olive has their future together all planned out. Meanwhile, upstairs at 44 Scotland Street, Bertie's father Stuart is powerless to stop over-bearing Irene and her motion for Bertie to travel to Aberdeen on a three-month secondment. And, further up in the New Town, while Bruce Anderson plots with old-school chums, love blossoms in Big Lou's Cafe."

Intertwining their live discussion with footage shot on location in Edinburgh, Alexander invites us into his home to his study where he writes surrounded by paintings and books, he takes us to Valvona & Crolla, Scotland's oldest Delicatessen and Italian Wine Merchant which features in his books and, of course, to Scotland Street itself, the New Town street which is as full of personality as any of the characters he creates. They will delve into Alexander's illustrious career, his warm-hearted, humorous, and wonderfully wise new novel, and what inspires him to keep writing.

There will be a book signing after the show.

A limited number of copies of *Love in the Time of Bertie* will be available to purchase on the evening, but we would recommend purchasing a copy with your ticket.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of the highly successful *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series, which has sold over twenty-five million copies. Since then he has devoted his time to the writing of fiction and has seen his various series of books translated into over forty-six languages and become bestsellers throughout the world.

Fiona Lindsay creates, curates and presents unique entertainment content for theatres, broadcast, digital and film. Recent original work for BBC Radio 4 includes *Pick of the Week* shows, *In the Studio*, *The Half* with Steve Davis and Craigie Els, and *Creative Forces* with Dawn French and Juliet Stevenson. With a specialism in theatre and entertainment Fiona works across a variety of forms and with an eclectic mix of guests.



Sarah Hall in Conversation

Friday 18 March, 7pm

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

£12 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

It is with great pleasure that we launch York Literature Festival 2022 with the acclaimed author, Sarah Hall, who will be in conversation with Professor Abi Curtis, from York St John University, about her work and her latest novel *Burntcoat*.

Sarah Hall is one of Britain's leading contemporary writers. Twice nominated for the Booker Prize, she is the award-winning author of six novels and three short-story collections, including *Sudden Traveller*, which was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction. She is the only author to have been shortlisted four times for the BBC National Short Story Award and to have won it twice, in 2013 and 2020.

SARAH HALL'S LATEST NOVEL IS *BURNTCOAT*, PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2021:**You were the last one here, before I closed the door of Burntcoat. Before we all closed our doors.**

In the bedroom above her immense studio at Burntcoat, the celebrated sculptor Edith Harkness is making her final preparations. The symptoms are well known: her life will draw to an end in the coming days. Downstairs, the studio is a crucible glowing with memories and desire. It was here, when the first lockdown came, that she brought Halit. The lover she barely knew. A presence from another culture. A doorway into a new and feverish world.

“

Burntcoat by Sarah Hall is a novel that feels more triggered by the pandemic than caused by it: visceral and intuitive, the prose is also non-stop glorious – a hymn to the physical and fragile nature of existence.

Anne Enright, Irish Times

”

**Spider Woman with Lady Hale**

Saturday 19 March, 11am

The Mount School, Dalton Terrace, York YO24 4DD

This event is free, but tickets are required. Please go to the York Literature Festival website or The Mount School's Eventbrite page.

Lady Hale is an inspirational figure admired for her historic achievements and for the causes she has championed. *Spider Woman* is her story. As President of the Supreme Court, Lady Hale won global attention in finding the 2019 prorogation of Parliament to be unlawful. Yet that dramatic moment was merely the pinnacle of a career throughout which she was hailed as a pioneering reformer. Wise, warm and inspiring, *Spider Woman* shows how the law shapes our world. It is the story of how Lady Hale found that she could overcome the odds and change British law for good.

**Dystopian Fiction with Bethany Clift - Last One at the Party**

Saturday 19 March, 11am

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS
£7 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

It is December 2023 and the world as we know it has ended. The human race has been wiped out by a virus called 6DM ('Six Days Maximum' - the longest you've got before your body destroys itself). But somehow, in London, one woman is still alive. A woman who is entirely unprepared to face a future on her own. Now, with only an abandoned golden retriever for company, she must travel through burning cities, avoiding rotting corpses and ravenous rats on a final journey to discover if she really is the last surviving person on earth.

Bethany Clift is a graduate of the Northern Film School, the producer of low-budget British horror film *Heretic*, and the Director of her own production company, Saber Productions. *Last One At The Party* is her debut novel. She will be in conversation about her novel and dystopian fiction with York Literature Festival chair, Dr Rob O'Connor from York St John University.



Walking the Invisible: Following in the Brontës' Footsteps

with Michael Stewart

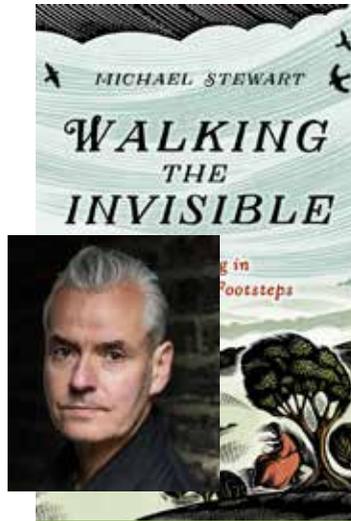
Saturday 19 March, 2pm

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£7 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

In his journey to get closer to the Brontës, award-winning author Michael Stewart began walking the historic paths they trod while writing their most famous works. From Liverpool to Scarborough, across wild, windy and often unforgiving scenery, he discovered echoes of the siblings' novels. And with the help of an unlikely cast of Yorkshire's inhabitants, Michael found himself falling further into their lives and writings than he could ever have imagined.

Michael's latest novel, *Ill Will: The Untold Story of Heathcliff*, is published by HarperCollins and optioned by Kudos Films. He is also the creator of the Brontë Stones project, four monumental stones situated in the landscape between the birthplace and the parsonage, inscribed with poems by Kate Bush, Carol Ann Duffy, Jeannette Winterson and Jackie Kay.



Sarah Maine in Conversation: The Awakenings

Saturday 19th March, 7pm

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£5 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

Yorkshire, 1890: Having tragically lost her father and brothers, Olwen Malkon is forced to leave her childhood home. Strange dreams take her into the life of Ælfwyn, a woman from a distant past facing menace and betrayal. But when they begin to mirror reality, she starts to suspect that it is these visions of the past which hold the answers. Sarah Maine had a long career in archaeology in York. *The Awakenings* is her fifth novel. Sarah's debut novel, *The House Between Tides*, was Waterstone's Scottish Book of the year in 2018. Recent lockdowns, confined to York, provided the opportunity to draw upon her knowledge of the city's vibrant past and write *The Awakenings*, with two timeframes, the 790s and 1890s.



try a little tenderness... Writing Workshop

Sunday 20 March, 2pm - 5pm

with Martin Figura and Helen Ivory

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£30, includes a ticket to the evening reading at Hungate Café. Tickets available from the York Literature Festival website or York Explore website

In these days of heated language and division we will think about poems whose power is not bound up in shouting; poems that work upon their readers in a more nuanced and tender way. In this workshop, you will explore how to write with feeling about those we care about, without slipping into sentimentality. Bring a little soulfulness with you:

All you got to do is try

Try a little tenderness

Yeah

Jimmy Campbell / Reg Connelly / Harry M. Woods



Poetry Reading with Martin Figura and Helen Ivory

Sunday 20 March, 7pm

Hungate Reading Café, Hungate, York, YO1 7PA

£10 - York Literature Festival website and York Explore website

Poet and Writer Martin and Poet and Artist Helen established their award-winning "Live from the Butchery" online spoken word series during lockdown and we are delighted to welcome them both for a live event in York where they will be reading their own work.

Helen Ivory is a poet and artist. Her fifth Bloodaxe collection is *The Anatomical Venus* (2019). She teaches online for the UEA/NCW. She has work translated into Polish, Ukrainian and Spanish for Versopolis. Her *New and Selected* will appear from MadHat (US) in 2022. She is working on her next collection *How to Construct a Witch*.

Martin Figura's collection and show *Whistle* was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award and won the 2013 Saboteur Award for Best Spoken Word Show. *Shed* (Gatehouse Press) and *Dr Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine* (Cinnamon Press) were both published in 2016. In 2021 he was Salisbury NHS Writer in Residence, with a pamphlet *My Name is Mercy* from Fair Acre Press. *As Far as I'm Concerned* is due out with Cinnamon Press in 2023.

Celebrating the Seasons with the Yorkshire Shepherdess

Amanda Owen

Sunday 20 March, 7pm

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

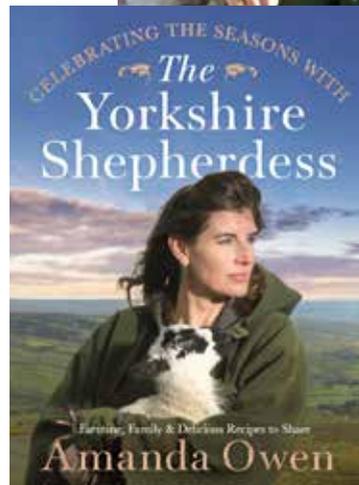
£12 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

Yorkshire Shepherdess Amanda Owen shares heart-warming tales and honest anecdotes from her remarkable farming, family life in North Yorkshire. It's a life that has almost gone in today's modern world, one ruled by animals and the four seasons. Accompanied by some of Amanda's wonderful photography, we'll experience the highs and lows of the farming year. Part photography book, part recipe book and part memoir, *Celebrating the Seasons* includes over 200 stunning photographs taken by Amanda showcasing the bleak and beautiful landscape she calls home, opening up a window into a life lived on one of the country's highest, wildest moors - land so inaccessible that in places it can only be reached on foot. Amanda's love of photography came out of a desire to keep a lasting record of family life on the farm - taking natural, honest and spontaneous pictures of spectacular scenery, and providing a real insight into the unique joys and challenges of daily life.

After being featured in the popular ITV series "The Dales", Amanda began documenting the fascinating story of her farming life, before publishing four bestselling books: *The Yorkshire Shepherdess* in 2014, *A Year in the Life of The Yorkshire Shepherdess* in 2016, *The Adventures of the Yorkshire Shepherdess* in 2019 and *Tales From The Farm* in spring 2021. Amanda and her family also currently

feature in Channel 5's hugely popular documentary series "Our Yorkshire Farm", which achieved ratings of between 3.5 million and 4 million viewers each week when series 4 recently aired.

Amanda will be in conversation with Elly Fiorentini from BBC Radio York.



Failures of State: The Inside Story of Britain's Battle with Coronavirus

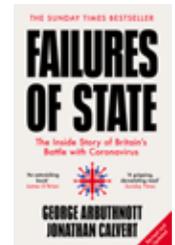
Monday 21 March, 7pm

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - York Literature Festival website or York Theatre Royal website and box office

Jonathan Calvert & George Arbuthnott recount the extraordinary political decisions taken at the heart of government during the global pandemic. With meticulous research they've pieced together the insider's account of how the government sleepwalked into disaster and tried to cover up its role in the tragedy - and it exposes one of the most scandalous failures of political leadership in British history. This evening will give us an insight into crucial stories about government and leadership in the biggest crisis of our lifetimes - the result of one of the most essential pieces of investigative reporting for a generation.

Jonathan Calvert & George Arbuthnott are editor and deputy editor respectively of *The Sunday Times'* renowned Insight investigative team.



Encore Careers! Readings and Conversation with Jane Austin,

Janet Dean Knight and Yvie Holder

Tuesday 22 March, 7pm

Hungate Reading Café, Hungate, York, YO17PA

£5 - York Literature Festival website or York Theatre Royal website and box office

Join three women writers in conversation exploring ordinary lives against a backdrop of momentous global events, through poetry, fiction and memoir. The authors will discuss themes of memory and identity, people on the margins, love, loss and history repeating itself. Whose truth are we writing and does this change over time? Is writing about personal history a means of exposing the causes of war, displacement and oppression? Can memoir challenge racism and class inequality today

as well as throw light on the past? Join us for a stimulating exchange on the joy and urgency of writing as women with a lifetime's experience, pursuing 'encore' careers. For more information about the authors and the event please go to the York Literature Festival website.



Beyond the Walls Student Showcase

Wednesday 23 March, 7pm

York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

This event is free, but tickets are required. Please go to York Literature Festival website or www.yorksja.ac.uk/events.

Join us for exciting readings of creative pieces written by the talented students and staff of York St John University. This event is celebrating the annual *Beyond the Walls* anthology project and is hosted and organised by York St John University creative writing students.



Gig-going: Live Music and Literature Stories

Thursday 24th March, 7.30pm

The Fulford Arms, 121 Fulford Road, York, YO10 4EX

£7 - York Literature Festival website or The Fulford Arms website

This exciting evening is a discussion and celebration of music culture. It explores how we document live music, and the power of stories and publishing to unite music scenes. A must for musicians, reviewers, bloggers, promoters, photographers or anyone who understands the importance of music culture.

Featuring a panel discussion from:

Harkirit Boparai - Venue manager and promoter at The Crescent and part of the Music Venue Trust. Sarah Williams - Editor of Shout Louder, a webzine dedicated to the modern punk scene, and editor of *Papercuts*, an independently-published series of anecdotes about DIY culture. Amy McCarthy - PhD student researching music memoirs, part of the York Music Stories project.

This will be followed by a reading and interview with author Lucy Nichol. *The Twenty Seven Club* is Lucy's debut novel, exploring mental health and the media through the 1990s music scene in Hull. The story opens when Emma hears of the tragic death of Kurt Cobain, prompting her to ask why so many musicians died aged 27. A darkly comic journey of self-discovery, friendship and fandom. Lucy will be in conversation with Amy McCarthy.

Plus, spoken word by Hannah Davies with live music performance by Jack Woods.



The Art of Disruption with Magid Magid

Friday 25 March, 7pm

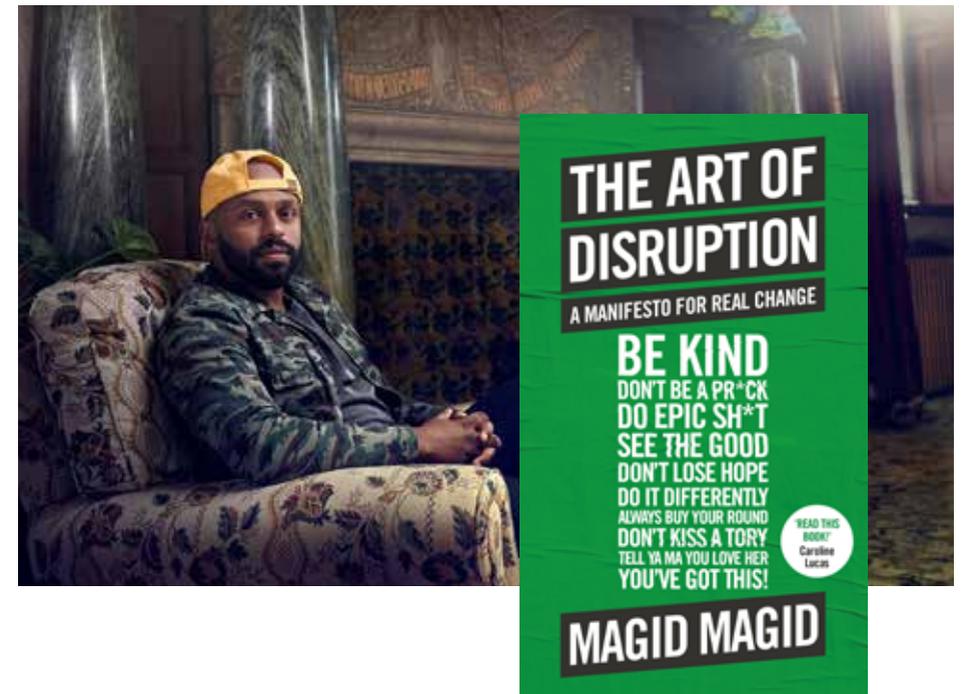
St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

Join Magid Magid for an evening celebrating his book *The Art of Disruption* - a guide to being courageous, doing better and disrupting the age-old power structures in work, life and politics. This is for when those in power don't listen, those above don't look down, those around you remain silent and those who want to can make a change. This for the young, the old and everyone in-between. This is *The Art of Disruption* and how we can all take back control and make a difference like our lives depend on it.

Magid Magid came to Sheffield from Somalia as a refugee aged five. He is the youngest and

first refugee and first Green Party Lord Mayor of Sheffield, and became an MEP for the Green Party in May 2019. Magid has made headlines nationally and internationally for his creative ways of campaigning while not conforming to tradition and being unapologetically himself. He has campaigned on climate change, support for migrants and refugees, set up the first UK suicide prevention charter and even banned Donald Trump from Sheffield. Magid was named one of TIME's 100 rising stars shaping the future of the world, One Young World Politician of the Year 2019 and European Young Leader 2019. Magid is also a custard connoisseur.



Children's Day - Readings and Activities

Saturday 26 March, 10am - 2.30pm

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS
All events free, but tickets are required. Please go to the York Literature Festival website or Explore York website.

YSJU staff Storytime, 10am - 11am

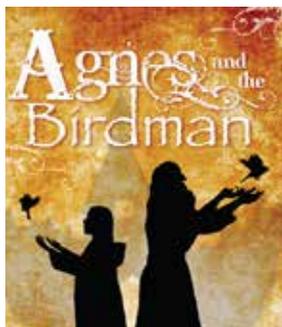
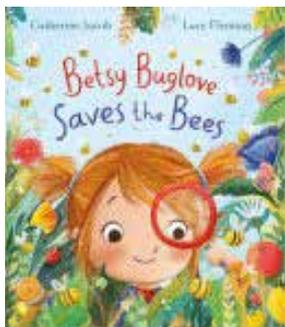
Children's Storytime with York St John University Staff, who will be reading a selection of picture book classics, old and new. Particularly suited to pre-school children.

Catherine Jacob, 11am - 12noon

Storytime and nature activities with children's author Catherine Jacob. Catherine will be delivering a storytime and activity session based around her best-selling rhyming picture book, *Betsy Buglove Saves the Bees*, illustrated by Lucy Fleming and published by Scholastic. Children will learn all about brilliant bees, nature, community, kindness and caring for the environment, showing even the littlest children that they can make a big difference to the world around them. Aimed at 4-7 year olds.

Stephen Münzer, 1.30-2.30pm

Join in the festival fun as York author, Stephen Münzer, takes you on a journey of invention and discovery into the world of Leonardo Da Vinci. In this highly interactive, hands-on workshop, Stephen will be sharing his inspiring tale of *Agnès and the Birdman* and children will get to create their very own flapping paper bird and help to build a miniature Falco flying machine. Aimed at children 8 years and over.



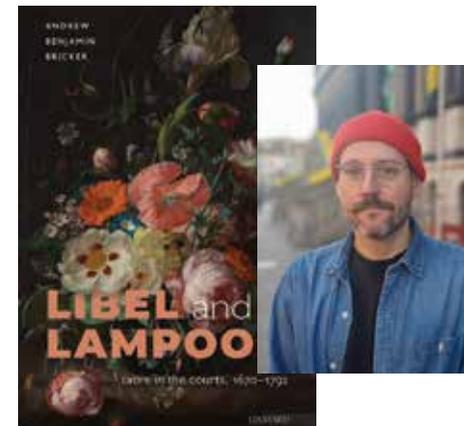
 @YorkLitFest

Satire Day at York St John University

Saturday 26 March, 2pm - 6pm

York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX
Both events are free, but tickets are required. Please go to York Literature Festival website or www.yorks.ac.uk/event.

Satire, Libel and the Law with Andrew Bricker | 2pm - 3.30pm



Andrew Bricker (Ghent University) will discuss the ideas and implications of his new book, *Libel and Lamppoo: Satire in the Courts* (Oxford University Press), in a talk that spotlights some interesting and entertaining clashes between satire and the law in the long eighteenth century before discussing some larger, pressing questions about satire and freedom of expression in our current moment. The talk will be followed by a Q&A chaired by Adam Smith and Jo Waugh, co-directors of the York Research Unit for the Study of Satire.

Contagious Laughter: Satire and the Pandemic with Leigh Stein | 5pm - 6pm



Join Adam Smith and Jo Waugh, co-directors of the York Research Unit for the Study of Satire, for a conversation with American author and satirist Leigh Stein about her satirical novel, *Self-Care*, which was published during the pandemic in 2020, and her even more recent collection of satirical poetry, *What To Miss When* (2021), which takes the pandemic as its subject matter. Leigh will be joining the event via a video link. The event concludes with the official launch of Smith and Waugh's new book, *Contagious Laughter: Talking About Satire in the Age of Covid-19*. Every member of the audience will receive a free copy

of this book. 13

Crow's Haunt with Rachel Wade

Saturday 26 March, 2pm

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£5 - York Literature Festival website or York Theatre Royal website and box office

“ In the heart of Victorian York there is a shop like no other. ”

Join local author Rachel Wade to discover more about her debut novel, *Crow's Haunt*. Set on York's Shambles during the 1800s, this intriguing mystery is filled with compelling characters and vivid historic detail. Come along to hear from the author and ask your own questions.

**Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals with Simon Jenkins**

Saturday 26 March, 7pm

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

In *Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals*, Simon Jenkins has travelled the continent - from Chartres to York, Cologne to Florence, Toledo to Moscow and Stockholm to Seville - to illuminate old favourites and highlight new discoveries. Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs throughout, this joyous exploration of Europe's history tells the stories behind these wonders, showing the cathedral's central role in the European imagination. Readers will be inspired by this talk to make their own pilgrimage to all one hundred of them.



Simon Jenkins is author of the bestselling *A Short History of England*, *A Short History of Europe*, *Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations*, *England's Thousand Best Churches* and *England's Thousand Best Houses*. He is a former Editor of *The Evening Standard* and *The Times*, and columnist for *The Guardian*.

Writing From Photographs: Poetry Workshop and Reading

with Robert Powell and Sarah Wimbush

Saturday 26 March 2022

Workshop – 11am – 2.30pm | Public Reading – 3-4pm | York Castle Museum

Workshop & Reading - £25, including the public reading. Places are limited. Public Reading only - £5. Tickets from York Literature Festival website or York Castle Museum Eventbrite page.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but photographic images can also be packed with silences and ambiguities awaiting voice and interpretation. This workshop will focus on how to turn the potency of photography into effective, powerful poems, mobilising the medium's unique relationship with time and place. Using images drawn from archives, books, family photos, news, historical and contemporary sources, two experienced poets will share their approaches and encourage new writing. The workshop is being facilitated by poets Robert Powell and Sarah Wimbush and will be followed by a public reading. For more information, please go to the York Literature Festival website.

**A Line Above the Sky with Helen Mort**

Sunday 27 March, 2pm

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

£8 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website and box office

Helen Mort has always been drawn to the thrill and risk of climbing. But when she becomes a mother for the first time, she finds herself re-examining her relationship with both the natural world and herself, as well as the way the world views women who aren't afraid to take risks. *A Line Above the Sky* is a visceral love letter to losing oneself in physicality, whether climbing a mountain or bringing a child into the world, and an unforgettable celebration of womanhood in all its forms.

A Line Above the Sky melds memoir and nature writing to ask why humans are drawn to danger, and how we can find freedom in pushing our limits.

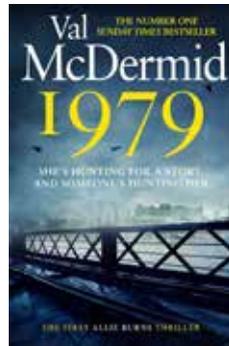


1979 with Val McDermid**Sunday 27 March, 4pm: St Peter's School**

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - York Literature Festival website and York Theatre Royal website or box office

1979: It is the winter of discontent, and reporter Allie Burns is chasing her first big scoop. There are few women in the newsroom and she needs something explosive for the boys' club to take her seriously. Soon Allie and fellow journalist Danny Sullivan are exposing the criminal underbelly of respectable Scotland. When she discovers a home-grown terrorist threat, Allie comes up with a plan to infiltrate the group and make her name. But she's a woman in a man's world . . . and putting a foot wrong could be fatal.



Dubbed the Queen of Crime, Val McDermid has sold over 17 million books globally and is translated into more than 40 languages. She is perhaps best-known for her *Wire in the Blood* series, featuring clinical psychologist Dr Tony Hill and DCI Carol Jordan, which was adapted for television starring Robson Green and Hermione Norris. *1979* launches a brand new series with a young hero, Allie Burns, which will move forward with her a decade at a time with each new book.

York Literature Festival Closing Event in collaboration with**Say Owt: Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan****Sunday 27 March, 7.30pm**

The Crescent Community Venue, 8 The Crescent, York, YO24 1AW

£10 (plus booking fee) – York Literature Festival website or The Crescent website.

We close the 2022 York Literature Festival with a special event in collaboration with Say Owt. Join us for an evening of poetry performance from a selection of local spoken-word artists, before we welcome acclaimed poet Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan. Suhaiymah is a writer, poet and activist. She is co-author of *A Fly Girl's Guide to University*, author of *Postcolonial Banter* and *Tangled in Terror: Uprooting Islamophobia*, as well as host of the *Breaking Binaries* podcast. She has written for *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Al-Jazeera*, and *gal-dem* and her poetry has had millions of views online since she was the National Roundhouse Poetry Slam runner-up in 2017. Suhaiymah is currently Writer in Residence at the Leeds Playhouse.

**After the Festival**

York Literature Festival finishes on Sunday 27 March, but there are still some other events from our partners at York St John University and Say Owt that we are excited to share with you.

Rachel Long**Tuesday 29 March, 6pm**

York St John University, De Grey Lecture Theatre

This event is free, but ticketed. Please go to York Literature Festival website or visit

www.yorksjs.ac.uk/events

The York Centre for Writing Poetry Series focuses on writers who are BAME, queer and/or working class, aiming to show what is exciting and innovative in contemporary poetry today.

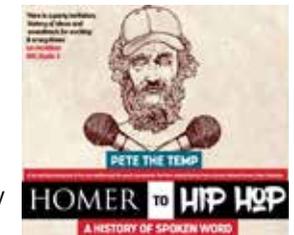
Rachel Long is a poet and founder of the Octavia Poetry Collective for Women of Colour, which is housed at the Southbank Centre, in London. Her debut collection, *My Darling from the Lions*, was published by Picador in the UK in 2020 and by Tin House in the US in 2021. *My Darling from the Lions* was shortlisted for the 2020 Forward Prize for Best First Collection, The Costa Book Award, The Rathbones Folio Prize, and the Jhalak Prize. The US edition of *My Darling from the Lions* was a New York Times Book Review, and named one of the 100 must-read books of 2021 by TIME.

Homer to Hip-Hop**Thursday 31 March, 7.30pm**

The Crescent Community Venue, 8 The Crescent, York, YO24 1AW

£10 (plus booking fee) – York Literature Festival website or The Crescent website.

Say Owt and York Literature Festival jointly present a performance lecture from author and poet, Pete Bearder. As we enter the post-COVID comeback, meet the artistic revivals that have remade the world from the bottom up. Find out why wordsmiths have always been vilified, feared and revered, from the ballad singers and Beat poets, to the icons of dub, punk and hip hop. The spoken word has always been the most immediate tool of cultural revival. This show brings a proud history to life, and asks what we can do with it next. Former National Poetry Slam Champion, Pete “the Temp” Bearder, brings to life the poetic movements that have shaped history. Pete is an award-winning spoken word poet, author and comic. His work has been featured on *BBC Radio 4*, *The World Service*, and *Newsnight*. This show follows the release of his ground-breaking new book *Stage Invasion: Poetry & the Spoken Word Renaissance*.



Festival Team

Festival Chair and Programming:	Rob O'Connor
Treasurer:	Jeff Todd
Secretary:	Angela Ranson
Volunteer Co-ordinator and Social Media:	Sally O'Connor
Marketing and Publicity support:	Susanna Cooper
Programming support:	Henry Raby
Explore York programme:	Wendy Kent
St Peter's School programme:	Ben Fuller
The Mount School programme and Creative Writing Competition:	Vanessa Charters
York St John University programme:	Professor Abi Curtis, Dr Adam Smith, Dr Jo Waugh, Dr Rebecca Tamas, Leanne Roberts
Brochure Design:	Craig Walton (www.grafik.co.uk)
Website support:	Richard McDougall.

THANKS

Our thanks go to the following organisations and individuals for their help and support:

- Fox Lane Books: Kirstie Lount
- Little Apple Bookshop: Philippa Morris and Tim Curtis
- St Peter's School: Jeremy Walker, Ben Fuller, Sara Burns, Ali Fuller, Beth Harrison, Darren Adamson, Craig Robinson & Stuart Wall
- York St John University: Dr Adam Smith, Dr Jo Waugh, Dr Rebecca Tamas, Leanne Roberts
- York Mix: Chris Titley and David Nicholson
- York Theatre Royal: Thom Freeth, Vicky Biles, Michael Slavin, Richard Bayton.

Our final thanks go to all the agents, publishers, contributors and artists who have supported this year's festival. A special thanks go to our wonderful team of volunteers for who share their time in order to make this happen. Thanks also to everyone attending an event.

You are why we do this!



YOUTH CREATIVE COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Rules of Entry

Entries must be composed in English. Incidental use of foreign languages or vernacular are allowed, but English must be the main language of your composition

Not more than three entries are allowed per person, inclusive of all entry categories

All work must be original and unaided, and must have never been published, self-published, published on any website or online forum, broadcast nor won any other competition before March 2022.

There are three categories for entries which are:
Short Story (written);
Poetry (written) and
Performance (performed and submitted via Tiktok).

Eligibility

The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 years or under as of 31 August 2022.

There are three age categories for entries:

- 11 years and under at 31 August 2022
- 12-15 years of age at 31 August 2022
- 16-18 years of age at 31 August 2022.

Poems should be not longer than 30 lines. Short Stories should be not longer than 1,500 words. Performances must include the author/poet (others may help) and must not exceed 3 minutes' duration.

**Short Story*
**Poetry*
**PERFORMANCE*

How to enter

Written entries must be legible and include the entrant's full name, date of birth, contact email address, current school and a contact telephone number.

Performance entries must be submitted via Tiktok, tagged for @mountschoolyork and include the hashtag #YorkLiteratureFestival. For privacy, entries may also be messaged to The Mount's Tiktok account.

All entries must be received at The Mount School York **before 12 noon, Sunday 27 March, 2022.**

Entries may be emailed to festival@mountschoolyork.co.uk or sent via post to: **York Literature Festival Competition, The Mount School York, Dalton Terrace, York YO24 4DD.**

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of the year

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Shortlisted
Prep school
of the year

St Peter's School, York

Winner
Pre-prep school
of the year

St Peter's School, York