

NEW WRITING NORTH

Read adventurously! New Writing North launches annual book club with book subscriptions and digital author events

New Writing North has launched a book club subscription service, inviting its members to read adventurously in 2022.

Launched in partnership with The Bound, the independent Whitley Bay bookshop from the owners of Forum Books, the New Writing North Book Club aims to inspire readers with the best new paperback releases in literary fiction. The club promises literary gems, including those by brilliant debut authors and from independent presses that may have passed readers by.

Subscribers will receive six signed paperback books each year, along with an invitation to meet each author at an exclusive online event. They will have access to an online community space and digital meet-ups, and will also receive reading guides, 'bookish treats' and offers from both partners.

While the book titles for 2022 are kept secret until subscribers receive their parcels in the post, the Book Club has revealed that its first title will be *Mayflies* by Andrew O'Hagan. Subscribers will receive their first package in early March, followed by access to an online event with O'Hagan later in the month.

The New Writing North Book Club joins a suite of initiatives led by the organisation that celebrate excellence in literature and encourage readers to explore new work, including the Gordon Burn Prize, which was won in 2021 by Hanif Abdurraqib; the David Cohen Prize for Literature, for a lifetime's achievement in literature, won in 2021 by Colm Tóibín; Read Regional, a pan-northern library project which tours new books from the North; and Durham Book Festival, the North East's largest literary event.

New Writing North and Durham Book Festival also issue a quarterly newsletter, Northern Bookshelf, which highlights new books from the North, while the organisation's Young Writers programme recently launched Balance the Books, a school reading project to celebrate diverse writing and encourage young people to read widely and for pleasure.

Rebecca Wilkie, Senior Programme Manager (Festivals and Events) and Director of Durham Book Festival, said: "We're so looking forward to introducing readers to this hand-picked selection of paperback books that we've loved reading recently. We're hoping to build a community who will read and talk about these great books over the next year, whilst supporting New Writing North and a brilliant indie bookshop at the

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same time. We hope people will sign up for themselves or as a gift for a friend and look forward to seeing you soon at the New Writing North Book Club!"

James Routledge, Manager of The Bound, said: "It's such a pleasure to be involved in the inaugural New Writing North Book Club. We couldn't have asked for a richer and more wide-ranging list of books to lead us into the year.

After having previously worked with NWN on physical author events, it's especially exciting to be involved in building a new digital community of readers and expanding all of our literary horizons. And what an incredible first book to kickstart the club. I can't wait to see what people have to say!"

Annual membership of the New Writing North Book Club costs £95 as a one-off payment or six instalments of £16. Find out more and subscribe now at [BOOKCLUB - New Writing North](#)