

NEW WRITING NORTH

New Writing North launches spring season of events and opportunities for writers and readers

New Writing North, the writing and reading development agency for the North of England, has been based in Newcastle since 1996, where it produces nationally significant work to support writers and inspire readers.

Today, New Writing North launches its first Spring Season, revealing a packed programme of work to support a vibrant and growing community of writers and readers in the North East and online.

Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North said: ‘This launch is really special for us as it brings together our work with writers and readers across many different programmes and for all ages and levels of experience. Whatever your interests, we hope you can find something to inspire you and we look forward to seeing you in-person or online this spring.’

DISCOVER NEW AUTHORS

New Writing North has teamed up with publishers Faber & Faber to host a literary evening at The Common Room in Newcastle with two of their most exciting new novelists.

[An Evening with Faber](#) (15 March) features Eliza Clark and Dizz Tate. Newcastle-born Eliza Clark’s debut novel *Boy Parts* was named Blackwell’s Fiction Book of the Year. Her latest, *Penance* is an utterly chilling, compulsive story of a murder among teenagers, while Dizz Tate’s *Brutes* is one of the year’s most highly anticipated debuts – a coming-of-age story that captures the violence, horrors, and manic joys of girlhood.

TRY WRITING

If you are interested in trying creative writing for the first time, a series of 6-week [Start Writing](#) workshops in libraries in Newcastle, Blyth, Prudhoe and Whitley Bay offers the chance to work in small, friendly groups to explore writing across different forms with writers Laura Fish, Matt Wesolowski, David Mark and Carina Rodney.

DEVELOP YOUR WRITING TALENT

Develop your talent and see how far your writing can take you with the [New Writing North Academy](#), whose flexible online platform allows you to learn in small groups at a time and pace to suit you. Created in partnership with the

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Professional Writing Academy, the industry-leading online writing course provider, courses start from March 2023.

The Academy is part of the new [Writing and Publishing Skills Hub](#), which is funded by North of Tyne Combined Authority and substantial bursary places are available for residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

Enrolment is now open for courses including life writing with Richard Benson, crime fiction with Marnie Riches and short stories with Susmita Bhattacharya, as well as CPD-accredited courses in screenwriting with John Yorke and writing for work with Piers Alder.

The [Northern Writers' Awards](#) are England's largest development programme of their kind. Founded in 2000 by New Writing North and supported by Northumbria University, Arts Council England and a range of industry partners, they support work-in-progress and offer awards to writers based in the North of England worth £50,000.

By supporting writers at an earlier stage than most literary awards – usually before an agent or publisher is involved – the Northern Writers' Awards offer crucial support for writers at a pivotal stage of their careers, as well as providing a pipeline of new talent to the publishing and broadcast industries.

Many awards are currently open for entry until 22 February 2023, including the flagship Northern Writers' Awards, the Sid Chaplin Award for working class writers, and The Finchale Award for Short Fiction founded by the writer Benjamin Myers, as well as awards for Northumbria University students and graduates, and for young people aged 11-18.

The Hachette Children's Novel Award is now open for unpublished manuscripts of middle-grade fiction by debut children's authors based in the North until 10 March 2023. The [Hachette Children's Novel Award Roadshow](#) takes place online on 21 February and is suitable for all children's writers, whether or not you are applying for an award this year.

The Word Factory Apprentice Award and the Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards will also open later this spring.

LEARN FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

The [Northern Talent Network](#), in partnership with Channel 4, offers a series of masterclasses with writers and industry experts. The programme is open to emerging writers looking to enhance their professional awareness, expand their networks and find new opportunities for their work.

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This spring, take part in [Writing for Podcasts](#) (online, 28 February) with leading industry voices including the comedian and podcaster James Acaster. With support from North East Screen, look out for masterclasses in [Writing for Comedy](#) (The Word, South Shields, 25 March); and [Writing for Drama](#) (The BIS, Hartlepool, 22 April).

[Sounds Good](#) is a new programme funded by Creative UK and North of Tyne Combined Authority. New and emerging writers for audio and podcasts are invited to come to a professional development masterclass with expert tutors Angharad Hampshire, Dave Pickering and Lucie McNeil (18 March in Newcastle or 25 March online) before the opportunity to apply for bursary-based mentoring and guidance towards production and commissioning. Save the date as [Newcastle Writing Conference](#) is set to return for the first time since 2019. Taking place on 13 May, this is an event for writers at all stages of their careers. It aims to demystify the world of publishing and supports writers to make connections with peers and industry experts. Across one day, Newcastle Writing Conference offers a programme of panel events, breakout sessions and practical writing workshops. Look out for the full line-up in March.

FIND YOUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY

New Writing North's [Young Writers' Groups](#) have been running since 2012 and now take place online and in six towns and cities across the North East, including new groups in Berwick upon Tweed and North Shields. They are led by professional writers and are friendly, inclusive, free to join and open to everyone aged 12-19.

[First Edition](#) is for 18–25-year-olds who are interested in developing their writing or creative careers. The programme includes regular masterclasses with professional writers, opportunities to develop your own skills as a writer or creative practitioner and space to share new work and ideas with peers.

Devised by New Writing North's Creative Associate, Adam Sharp, [Read Them Your Writes](#) is an informal, fun and supportive space for North East writers at all stages to meet each other and share new work. Think scratch-night meets literary salon. Each month there will be a different line-up, as well as some open-mic slots up for grabs on the night. Join them every third Thursday of the month at Tyneside Irish Centre.

Or perhaps you would rather join in from home. The free monthly [Writing Hour](#) takes place over lunchtime on Zoom and invites everyone to join in for an hour's quiet writing time. Work on your own writing project or be guided by simple prompts.

With support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Kavli Foundation, New Writing North has recently launched a number of free groups and

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activities with local communities in Scotswood, Benwell, Elswick and Newbiggin Hall in Newcastle, and Bensham and Beacon Lough in Gateshead.

Groups include [Brown Girls Write](#), a weekly creative writing group for all women of colour aged 16+. Devised by New Writing North Creative Associate Sharmin Islam, it is a place where women can come together to share and write, building bridges between home life and creative practice. Another new group, [World Writes](#), is a multilingual English language creative writing group for adults who speak English as a second, or other language (ESOL).

Find the full programme at <https://newwritingnorth.com/whats-on/events/>

ENDS

For all media enquiries, contact Laura Fraine laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com

About New Writing North:

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England. Based in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996, it is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber & Faber, Hachette UK, Northumbria University and Durham University.

As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

New Writing North's extensive and award-winning Young Writers programme develops the creativity and skills of young people. Work in schools with children and their teachers is complemented by a large and diverse out-of-school programme that is open to all, with a special focus on areas with fewer opportunities.

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As a promoter and producer of festivals and literary events and through its partnerships with schools, libraries, universities and prisons, New Writing North engages audiences with enriching and creative reading experiences.