

# NEW WRITING NORTH

## New Writing North Summer Season on sale

With awards identifying the best unpublished work from the North, scratch nights, book launches, creative writing courses and a summer proof party, the Summer Season at New Writing North is all about championing new voices and celebrating the next big thing... and that could be you!

Whether it's attending a literary event for the first time, taking part in a creative writing group, or discovering a debut author, there are myriad ways to get involved, and much of the programme is free or low cost to attend.

**Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North said:** 'It's hugely exciting to be extending our programme of events and activities in the North East and online, as well as our opportunities which are open to people across the North.'

There's a real community of readers and writers growing here and it's wonderful to see so many new faces alongside the familiar ones. Over 60% of people we surveyed at our events last month had never attended before. So, if you haven't yet been along to a writing group, could be tempted into reading at one of our scratch nights, or just fancy cocktails and books on a summer's evening, now is the time to join us!"

Programme highlights include:

### Northern Writers' Awards

Central to its Summer Season are New Writing North's Northern Writers' Awards. Founded in 2000, they are the biggest writer development programme of their kind in England and have a reputation for identifying and supporting the most exciting new work-in-progress from across the North. Find out who's won in 2023 by tuning into the [livestream from home on Tuesday 20 June](#) (8-9pm). The awards are supported by Northumbria University, Arts Council England, Hachette Children's Group, Channel 4 and a range of partners.

Two weeks ahead of this year's awards ceremony, the [New Northern Writers](#) event on Tuesday 6 June, showcases three previous winners.

**Adam Farrer's** *Cold Fish Soup* is a funny and moving memoir in essays about life in the forgotten Yorkshire seaside town of Withernsea. Eco-poet and musician **Jade Cuttle's** album of poem-songs *Algal Bloom* breaks down boundaries between spoken word, music and sound art, while sparking a discussion around our fraying connection to nature. Newcastle author, **Naomi Kelsey** will be celebrating the publication of her debut historical novel *The Burnings*, inspired by the incredible true story of the North Berwick witch trials.

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## Rose Wilding in conversation with Ann Cleeves

Join New Writing North and The Bound on Thursday 22 June (7.30-8.30pm) to celebrate the launch of one of the biggest crime debuts of 2023, [Speak of the Devil by Rose Wilding](#).

Newcastle, New Year's Eve 1999... Seven women stand in shock in a seedy hotel room; a man's severed head sits in the centre of the floor. Each of the women – the wife, the teenager, the ex, the journalist, the colleague, the friend, and the woman who raised him – has a very good reason to have done it, yet each swears she did not.

Rose Wilding returns to her home city to celebrate the release of this powerful, feminist thriller set in Newcastle at the turn of the millennium. She will be in conversation with bestselling crime author Ann Cleeves.

## Summer Proof Party with Tinder Press

Spend a summer evening on 5 July at Newcastle's Magic Hat zero-waste café for an exclusive preview of two exciting novels publishing in 2024. Over fresh fruit bellinis we'll hear from the authors of [two highly anticipated novels from Tinder Press](#), before heading home with a goodie bag of proofs.

*A Sign of Her Own* is the debut novel from Sarah Marsh, which sheds light on the largely untold history of the role of the deaf community in Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone. *Spoilt Creatures* by Amy Twigg is a literary debut about cults, transgression and female rage. Over the course of a blistering summer, Iris embraces an alternative way of life, seizing on new experiences and hidden desires, until everything is thrown into question.

## Creative Writing Courses

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 Professional Writing Academy, the industry-leading online writing course provider, courses are now booking for start dates between June and October 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 [write a young adult novel with Lee Wetherly](#), [life writing with Richard Benson](#), [writing crime fiction with Marnie Riches](#)

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and [short stories with Susmita Bhattacharya](#), as well as CPD-accredited courses in [screenwriting with John Yorke](#) and [writing better at work with Piers Alder](#).

## Join a Growing 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 11-19.

This summer holidays, young people are invited to join free [summer sessions](#) in their local areas. Activities include making podcasts, writing and recording songs, and designing a dream library!

[First Edition](#) is a regular group 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.

A brand new group for published novelists, [North East Novelists](#), will begin this October, with applications open until 3 July. The group will meet twice a month to offer continuing craft development and a supportive network for writers navigating life as a professional author.

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

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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/>

## ENDS

For all media enquiries, contact Laura Fraine [laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com](mailto: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, Durham Book Festival and Read Regional.

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.

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.