

NEW WRITING NORTH

New trustees to join board of New Writing North

Four leaders from across the North East's business and cultural sectors will join the board of New Writing North in June 2023.

The move comes as New Writing North – the creative writing and reading agency for the North of England – moves forward with plans to create a Centre for Writing in central Newcastle.

Gary Wright, Chief Operating Officer and Director of the Great Run Company, event organisers of the Great North Run, will take on the role of Treasurer at New Writing North. He will be joined on the board by **Caroline Greenwood Dower**, an independent psychotherapist, trainer and organisational consultant; **Ian Crow**, a partner at Newcastle-headquartered Ryder Architecture; and **Matt Forster**, an associate director and senior leader at brand communications agency Gardiner Richardson.

The four new trustees will join a board whose members are based nationally, representing leadership and expertise in publishing, education, media and the arts.

Founded in Newcastle in 1996, and led by Claire Malcolm MBE, New Writing North was the first regional writing development agency of its kind in the UK and remains at the forefront of the sector, where it innovates with commissions, awards, prizes and talent development programmes that celebrate new writing and create opportunities, especially for those from underrepresented backgrounds.

The organisation is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, turning over £1m+ a year and employing 20 staff alongside many freelancers. New Writing North was named Creative Business of the Year at the North East Business Awards 2019 and shortlisted at The Charity Awards 2021. This year, CEO Claire Malcolm was named as one of *The Bookseller's* 150 people changing publishing nationally.

David Roche, Chair of the Board of Trustees, New Writing North, said: 'I'm delighted to welcome such illustrious new trustees to the New Writing North board. Each of them is a leader in their field and it is testament to how far the organisation has come in the last few years that we can attract such talented individuals. While NWN now has a major national profile, it's also wonderful that we can identify and secure such talent locally from the North East – this will only help our drive and determination to work in partnership to benefit both the North East, where we are based, and the wider North region that we work across. We welcome our new trustees and are confident that they will be able to contribute massively to our future success.'

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Caroline Greenwood Dower said: ‘I am drawn to the work of New Writing North by my own love of reading and writing, and my belief in their role for developing self-understanding and empathy – crucial foundations for our own wellbeing and for building community and addressing social justice. I am excited to support NWN contribute to a thriving creative industrial sector in the North.’

Gary Wright said: ‘This is an incredibly exciting time to be joining New Writing North as a trustee. The current plans for expansion of the organisation are bold, challenging and inspirational. I look forward to supporting the organisation to deliver that vision for the arts and culture sector in the North East.’

Ian Crow said: ‘I’m delighted to be joining New Writing North as a trustee. I am passionate about expanding access to creative practice and professions. I look forward to supporting New Writing North in their mission to make the north a centre of excellence for literature. In particular, I look forward to guiding the board in the development of a new Centre for Writing in Newcastle.’

Matt Forster said: “I love New Writing North’s purpose and want to help raise voices, reduce inequality, rebuild communities and drive change by bringing people together around words and ideas.”

For all media enquiries, contact Laura Fraine at New Writing North
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Notes to Editor

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 the David Cohen Prize for Literature.

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 and Faber, Hachette Children’s Group, Northumbria University and Durham University. In 2023, it launched a Writing and Publishing Skills Hub with support from North of Tyne Combined Authority.

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As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing including podcasts and audio projects, essays, publications, 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.

About the trustees

Caroline Greenwood Dower is an independent psychotherapist, trainer and organisational consultant. Caroline has held posts as a Consultant Psychotherapist in the NHS and as the Head of Counselling and Mental Health Services at Durham University. Her current academic research focuses on the experience of anxiety in young adults. Caroline has a background in management consultancy and has held a number of governance roles in primary and higher education and for the psychotherapy profession.

Gary Wright is a chartered accountant with over 20 years' commercial experience. He is currently Chief Operating Officer and Director of the Great Run Company, event organisers of the Great North Run. Having previously fulfilled the role of Finance Director, his current role has responsibility for the financial and operational delivery of all events.

In the past Gary has held roles with KPMG, specialising in Insolvency and Business Turnaround, and with Pentland Brands, primarily in the North East of England but including a period of time in Tokyo, Japan.

Ian Crow is a partner at Newcastle-headquartered Ryder Architecture, leading a team responsible for designing and delivering health, leisure, residential community and commercial projects across the north east.

Throughout his career, Ian has designed and delivered buildings that meet the changing needs of charities. His work includes the refurbishment of People's Theatre, Newcastle United Foundation's new community hub and the setup of a Community Interest Company for age adaptable housing.

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Ian is a member of Royal Institute of British Architects regional council and engages in cross sector working groups across built environment professions. He also teaches third year design studio on the Architecture undergraduate degree programme at Northumbria University.

Ian was introduced to NWN during their search for a home for the proposed Centre for Writing. He is inspired by the mission to encourage creative process and support people from all backgrounds to access creative opportunities. Coming from a single parent family, Ian sites his interest in reading, writing and literature as a catalyst to his educational journey and the development of a successful career in architecture. Ian now spends most of his spare time reading with his two-year-old son, who is an avid book lover.

Matt Forster is an associate director and senior leader at brand communications agency Gardiner Richardson, where he uses the fundamentals of storytelling to bring life to brands and brands to life.

He has built a career around story, from working a patch as a cub reporter to developing strategy for brands around the world. In between, he has used the power of storytelling to entertain readers of the tabloids, encourage healthier behaviours for the NHS and increase the visibility of the cultural sector. This is his first trusteeship.