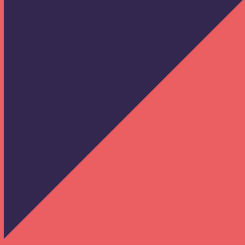
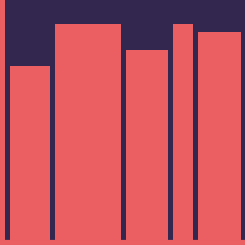
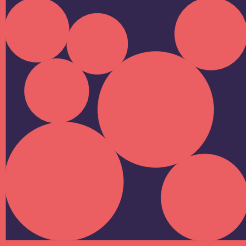
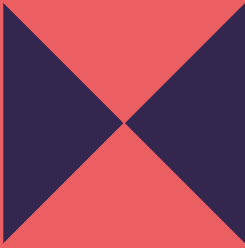


AUTUMN  
2023



NEW WRITING  
NORTH



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Autumn 2023

Join a growing community of readers and writers in-person and online.

This autumn, hear from some of the country's leading thinkers on topics from Ancient Rome to AI; become a founder member in our new The Writers' Space network; boost your writing career with professional courses from podcasting to

crime fiction; and drop in to creative writing groups in your local area. You'll also find some highlights of our annual Durham Book Festival programme, which takes place during a packed weekend in October, and The Northern Writers' Awards and opportunities to support writers across the North.

# Start Writing in Libraries

## Are you curious about writing?

Our popular creative writing workshops in libraries are back. These 90-minute workshops are designed for beginners or those who want to build their craft.

*"Really ignited my love of writing again"*  
Start Writing participant



### Start Writing in Morpeth Library

11 September–16 October  
Mondays, 10.30am–12pm  
£35, plus booking fee  
Morpeth Library, Morpeth

These workshops are for anyone who would like to take the stories in their head and put them down on paper. Author **Stephanie Butland** will help you explore what makes writing work, and take a look at the tools of the trade: plot, structure, character, and getting the words down.



### Start Writing in Wooler Library

12 September–17 October  
Tuesdays, 10.30am–12pm  
£35, plus booking fee  
Wooler Library, Wooler

**Caro Giles** will help you to develop a writing practice using your life as inspiration. Whether memoir, family history or the world around you, these workshops will help you to explore new creative ideas and build your confidence to ensure you can get your words onto the page.



### Start Writing in West End Library

4 August–8 September  
Fridays, 10.15am–11.45am  
Free  
West End Library, Newcastle

As part of our West End Writes programme, this six-week course led by **Tahmina Ali** will explore using creative writing and poetry to express your identity and tell your story. A friendly and safe space to share your story and experiences. West End postcodes will be prioritised for this course.

# The Writers' Space

Sign up by  
5 September  
on our  
website

September 2023–May 2024 / Online

## Are you looking for a space to connect and learn with other writers?

We support writers at all stages to improve their craft, gain access to agents and industry professionals and to have space to network with peers across the North of England. The Writers' Space is our new online programme to develop skills and connection for writers.

For £40\*, members of the Writers' Space will gain access to:

- Monthly digital seminars led by authors and industry experts
- Access to an online drop-in session with New Writing North
- Discounted tickets to selected New Writing North events (including Newcastle Writing Conference 2024)
- Access to the Writers' Space online networking space

£40  
+booking  
fee\*

\*Discounted rate of £35 for residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland thanks to support from the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

# Festival and Events Volunteers

## We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help at our festivals and events

Apply by 31  
August on  
our website



Are you an enthusiastic reader looking for experience working events? Or maybe you're interested in charity volunteering? As a New Writing North volunteer, you'll gain behind-the-scenes access to our literary events and join a supportive network.

Volunteers receive training, a welcome pack, and a volunteer t-shirt. Once you've completed your training, you can be added to a pool of New Writing North volunteers and offered opportunities to help at literary events throughout the year.

**No experience necessary. Thanks to funding from the North of Tyne Combined Authority, residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland are encouraged to apply.**

# Durham Book Festival 2023

Join us for a packed weekend of events in Durham City. The festival is a celebration of the written word, bringing together household names with debut writers, poets and thinkers.



## Durham University Festival Laureate: Zaffar Kunial

Friday 13 October  
5.30pm–6.15pm  
Gala Studio, Gala Durham  
Tickets: £8/£7  
(live-stream ticket £5)

A special event with the award-winning poet Zaffar Kunial, a former Northern Writers' Awards winner and the author of *Us* (2018), which was shortlisted for both the Costa Poetry Award and the T. S. Eliot Prize. His new collection of poetry, *England's Green*, was published by Faber in September 2022.

Zaffar will read from his work, as well as present a newly commissioned poem, inspired by Durham, at the festival.



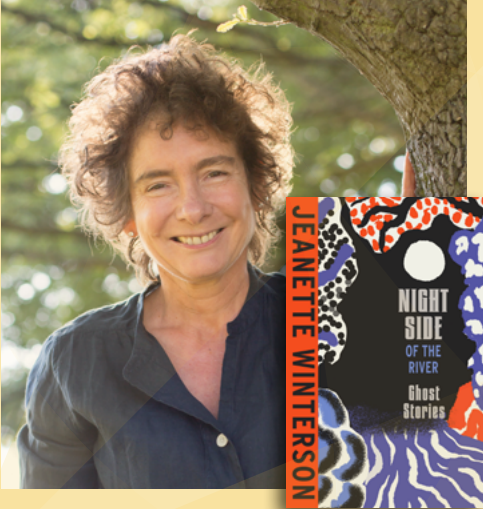
## Comfort Eating with Grace Dent

Friday 13 October  
8pm–9pm  
Gala Theatre, Gala Durham  
Tickets: £25 for one/£35 for two  
(includes a copy of the book)  
(live-stream ticket £5)

From one of the nation's best-loved food writers, *Comfort Eating* celebrates the food we eat when no one's looking – food which can be deeply personal, steeped in nostalgia and topped with a healthy dollop of guilty pleasure. Grace Dent invites readers to her kitchen table to discover what makes the things we really eat so delicious. This event is the perfect treat for food-lovers.

Grace Dent is a columnist, broadcaster and author who regularly appears on *MasterChef UK* and hosts the podcast *Comfort Eating*.

13–15 October



**Jeanette Winterson:  
Night Side of the River**

Saturday 14 October  
7pm–8pm

Gala Theatre, Gala Durham

Tickets: £12/£10  
(live-stream ticket £5)

We're thrilled to welcome internationally bestselling author Jeanette Winterson to introduce her new book, *Night Side of the River*. A masterful collection of modern ghost stories based on the author's real-life encounters with the occult, it explores how our lives have changed but our ghosts have not. How we know everything about our world... but nothing about theirs.

Jeanette Winterson CBE was born in Manchester. Her first novel, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, was published to critical acclaim when she was 25. Winterson has since published 13 novels, two story collections, children's books and more, including bestselling memoir *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?*



**Melanie Sykes:  
Autism and all the  
Things I've Left Unsaid**

Sunday 15 October  
1pm–2pm

Gala Theatre, Gala Durham

Tickets: £12/£10  
(live-stream ticket £5)

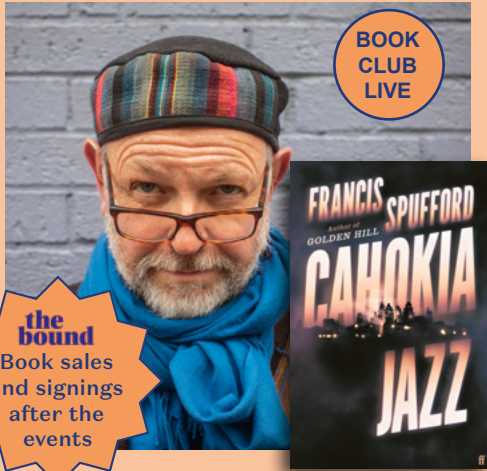
Melanie Sykes has been a well-known broadcaster for nearly 30 years. But between all the interviews and chat shows was a life unseen and a story unsaid. Melanie was diagnosed with autism at 51, and *Illuminated* is her honest account of a being a woman in the media, navigating relationships, and being a neurodivergent person speaking up in a neurotypical world.

Melanie Sykes is the editor-in-chief of *Frank* magazine, an autism advocate and a campaigner for women's rights. After a career that began in modelling, she moved to TV and radio and became one of the nation's best-loved presenters.

**Chaired by Simon Savidge**



# Author Events in Newcastle and Online



## Francis Spufford in conversation

Monday 23 October  
7pm–8pm

The Biscuit Factory, Newcastle  
£10/£8/£22 with Book

Join New Writing North and The Bound to celebrate a brand-new book from the bestselling author, Francis Spufford.

***Cahokia Jazz*** is a thrilling tale of murder and mystery in a city where history has run a little differently. It's 1922, and Americans are drinking in speakeasies, dancing to jazz and stepping quickly to the tempo of modern times. Beside the Mississippi, the ancient city of Cahokia lives on, until a body found on the roof of a skyscraper sparks off a week that will spill the city's secrets...

Francis Spufford has won multiple awards including the Costa First Novel Award for ***Golden Hill*** ('the best book of the century': Richard Osman). His second novel, ***Light Perpetual***, was Booker Prize longlisted and a BBC Between the Covers book club pick.



## The Announcement of the David Cohen Prize for Literature 2023

Thursday 9 November  
7.30pm

Livestream  
FREE

Join us on the livestream as the winner of this prestigious prize is revealed.

The David Cohen Prize for Literature is one of the country's most distinguished prizes. It is worth £40,000 and recognises a living writer from the UK or Republic of Ireland for a lifetime's achievement in literature. Former winners include V S Naipaul, Harold Pinter, William Trevor, Doris Lessing, Seamus Heaney, Hilary Mantel, Tony Harrison, Julian Barnes, Tom Stoppard, Edna O'Brien, and most recently, in 2021, Colm Tóibín.

The prize is funded by the John S Cohen Foundation and produced by New Writing North. It will be livestreamed, via our YouTube channel, directly from the announcement in London.

**the bound**  
Book sales  
and signings  
after the  
events



## An Evening with Mary Beard

Tuesday 14 November

7pm–8pm

Northern Stage, Newcastle

£15/£12/£30 with Book

Join us for an evening with Mary Beard, to celebrate the publication of her new book *Emperor of Rome*.

What was it really like to rule and be ruled in the Ancient Roman world? In her international bestseller *SPQR*, Mary Beard told the thousand-year story of ancient Rome. Now, she shines her spotlight on the emperors who ruled the Roman empire, from Julius Caesar (assassinated 44 BCE) to Alexander Severus (assassinated 235 CE).

*Emperor of Rome* takes the reader into the palace corridors, and beyond the hype of politics, power and succession. It's a revolutionary approach to an apparently familiar subject and will change forever our idea of ancient history.

Mary Beard is Emerita Professor and Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, and the classics editor of the *TLS*. Her previous books include the bestselling, *Pompeii*, *SPQR*, and *Women & Power*.

Chaired by Professor Edith Hall

## The annual PEN HG Wells Lecture with Monica Ali

Wednesday 29 November

7pm–8.15pm

The Common Room, Newcastle

£12/£10

The annual PEN HG Wells Lecture showcases visionary writing and new thinking in the spirit of former PEN president and founding member, author HG Wells. In this lecture, acclaimed novelist Monica Ali will explore the threat AI may pose to novelists and creatives in the future. Novelists have often provoked, challenged the status quo and caused offence, but large language models are currently programmed not to transgress in these ways. What will be the implications for minorities or marginalised voices?

Monica Ali is the bestselling author of five books including *Brick Lane*, which was shortlisted for the 2003 Booker Prize, and most recently *Love Marriage*.

English PEN is one of the world's oldest human rights organisations, championing the freedom to write and read. [EnglishPen.org](http://EnglishPen.org).

Chaired by Irenosen Okojie

# Sounds Good

## From the Page to the Podcast

Unlock the secrets to creating award-winning audio stories with New Writing North's podcasting course. Learn the techniques of audio production and be guided in professional studio sessions as you write and record your own pieces with experienced tech support.

Suitable for beginners and experienced writers alike – **start your podcasting journey today!**

- Online tutoring sessions:  
Tuesday 19 September–Tuesday 17 October  
7.30–9.30pm for 5 weekly sessions
- In-person professional studio sessions:  
Saturday 21 October and 28 October  
9.30am–1.30pm  
(Northumbria University, Newcastle)
- Tutor-guided support

**£550**

A limited number of reduced-price bursaries are available, see our website for more details.

Over 6 weeks, you'll join podcaster and producer **Lisa Mainwaring** online and in the studio, as she takes you on a journey from the page to the podcast.

- Learn the 'why and who for' of podcasting, how to structure writing of all forms and formats for legally compliant, compelling audio
- Create your own short piece of audio that you could use as a podcast trailer, intro or writing 'calling card'
- Craft pitches and understand how the industry works in a session co-led with an independent studio exec who pitches to industry commissioners
- Get hands-on with online software in the studio
- Benefit from a small group, peer support, practical assignments and tutor-guided support between sessions in a weekly online clinic



From learning how to write for the ear, to crafting narrative stories, to learning recording techniques, you'll get a comprehensive overview of the skills needed to develop a non-fiction or fiction podcast.





# New Writing North Academy



## Work with industry experts to master new skills and see how far your talent can take you

On New Writing North Academy online courses, you will explore the techniques used by leading contemporary writers, learn to critique work-in-progress, develop your own voice and hone your writing craft.

- Fully accessible virtual platform
- Courses for all abilities and levels of experience
- Small groups, led by expert tutors
- Flexible learning, at a time and pace that suit you

Thanks to funding from North of Tyne Combined Authority, we have limited bursary places for residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

## Story for Screenwriting: Advanced Structure

11 September–7 January  
£900 / Bursary: £300

Develop an industry-standard treatment for your TV, film, or stage drama in this CPD-accredited course.

## Write Better at Work

18 September–15 October  
£495 / Bursary: £198

Writing is an important part of your job, but how do you do it well? This CPD-accredited training will give you the tools to communicate clearly and persuasively.

## Writing Crime Fiction

25 September–29 October  
£495 / Bursary: £198

Whether you're new to crime writing or ready to kickstart your next whodunnit, this course will equip you with the tools you need to write the perfect crime.

## Write and Submit a Short Story

2 October–20 November  
£750 / Bursary: £300

This practical course guides writers from an initial idea for a short story through to the submissions process for competitions and journals.

## Write a Young Adult Novel

16 October 2023–18 February 2024  
£900 / Bursary: £325

Find a fresher, more relatable teenage voice, and new ways of coming at the big issues in Young Adult writing with hands-on support from a world-leading YA writer.

## Stories from Life

30 October–26 November  
£495 / Bursary: £198

Complete a story from scratch that allows people to experience the events, places, and communities that mean something to you.

# Find Your Writing Community

Join us all year-round for creative writing activities in the North East and online for adults and young people.

## World Writes

Mondays during term-time  
2pm–4pm  
Newcastle Deaf Centre, Summerhill  
Free

World Writes is a creative writing group for adults (16+) who speak English as a second or other language. In this group you will think and write creatively whilst developing your English language skills and celebrating multilingualism.



## Read Them Your Writes

21 September, 16 November,  
14 December  
7.30pm–9pm  
Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle  
£5/£3

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'. Hosted by author Adam Sharp.

Each month there is a different line-up, as well as open-mic slots up for grabs on the night. Bring a friend, a piece of writing, or just come along and enjoy listening to brand new work.

**+ Friday the 13th spooky special at Durham Book Festival!**



## Brown Girls Write

Wednesdays during term-time  
6pm–7.30pm  
Newcastle Deaf Centre, Summerhill  
Free

Brown Girls Write is a free creative writing group for all women of colour aged 16+. It is a place where women come together to share and write, building bridges between home life and creative practice.

## Creative Catch Ups for over 55s

Thursdays during term-time  
10am–12pm  
St Wilfrid's Church, Newbiggin Hall  
Free

Spend some time chatting, taking part in creative activities and trying something new. Activities include crafts, writing, drama games, sharing stories, and gentle movement exercises. Come and meet new people and get creative together.



## The Writing Hour

26 September, 24 October,  
28 November, 19 December  
1pm–2pm, Online  
Free

Dedicating and protecting an hour of time is a simple but powerful way of conquering the empty page. Join our free online space and come and write for an hour. Work on your own project or follow our prompts.

## Young Writers' Groups

Saturdays during term-time  
11am–1pm  
Free

Our Young Writers' Groups are for young people aged 11-19. No writing experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. Our groups are perfect for anyone wanting to develop their writing talent, or simply try something new. Come along and get creative with us!

## Find your group:

**Cramlington** *The Hub at Cramlington*

**Gateshead** *Gateshead Central Library*

**Newcastle** *ReCoCo, Newcastle*

**North Shields** *North Shields Library*

**South Shields** *The Word, South Shields*

**Digital Online** *(11am-12pm)*

## First Edition

Wednesdays during term-time  
6pm–8pm  
ReCoCo, Newcastle  
Free

First Edition is New Writing North's programme for writers and artists aged 18-25 looking to develop their writing skills or careers in the arts. Join a supportive and friendly group where you can share ideas and develop your own writing skills.



## Young Songwriters

Wednesdays during term-time  
Free

Open to everyone aged 11–19, join one of our Young Songwriters Groups to try lyric writing, melody making, share your ideas for songs and meet other young writers and musicians. No experience necessary, but feel free to bring along a musical instrument if you have one.

## Find your group:

**Newcastle City Centre** *Loft Studios, 4.30pm–6pm*

**Newbiggin Hall** *Galafields Centre, 4pm–5pm*

# Northern Writers' Awards

**The Northern Writers' Awards** are England's biggest writer development programme. They are free to enter and offer support, mentoring, placements, publication and cash awards to new, emerging and established writers in the North. There are various submission periods throughout the year, including awards for poetry, fiction, children's and YA fiction, narrative non-fiction, short stories and writing for television.

## Northern Writers' Awards 2024 Launch Roadshow Thursday 23 November, 7–8pm, Online, Free

Join us online for the Northern Writers' Awards launch roadshow, where a panel of writers and writing professionals will share insight and advice with emerging writers who may be considering applying for the awards.

**The NorthBound Book Award**, supported by the University of York and in partnership with Saraband, is open to writers of fiction or narrative non-fiction who have completed a full manuscript. Open 2 August–12 September 2023.

**The Prototype Development Programme** is open to emerging writers and artists, and offers six months of development with Prototype Publishing. Open 13 September–23 October 2023.

**The Hachette Children's Novel Awards 2024** are open 26 October 2023–8 January 2024. These awards are open to debut writers of middle-grade children's and early teen fiction.

The flagship **Northern Writers' Awards 2024** are open 23 November 2023–12 February 2024, with a wide range of awards available including for young people.

Follow us on social media or sign up to our mailing list for the latest opportunities on our programmes.

# Coming Soon

## A Writing Chance

A Writing Chance is an innovative writer development programme, which is open to new writers across the UK. Working with publishing and media partners, we identify and support talented writers from under-represented backgrounds.

## Northern Talent Network with Channel 4

The Northern Talent Network is a programme of online masterclasses, workshops and in-person events for screenwriters in the North.

## Thank you to our partners and funders

