

DURHAMBOOKFESTIVAL.COM

DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2023

Grace
Dent

Jeanette
Winterson

Sebastian
Payne

Ruth
Ware

Janina
Ramirez

Zaffar
Kunial

GALADURHAM



NEW WRITING
NORTH



At a glance

Friday 13 October

Festival Laureate: Zaffar Kunial

5.30pm–6.15pm

Gala Studio

Page 2

Books and Beats

6pm–10pm

Collected Books

Page 14

Katherine Heiny:

Games and Rituals

6.45pm–7.45pm

Gala Studio

Page 2

Comfort Eating

with Grace Dent

8pm–9pm

Gala Theatre

Page 3

Read Them Your Writes Frights

8.15pm–9.45pm

Gala Studio

Page 3

Saturday 14 October

Cuddy's Corse: Guided Walk

9.30am–2pm

Starting at Church of St Mary
and St Cuthbert, Chester-le-
Street

Page 4

Mushroom Sculpt: Craft Time

10am–11am

Clayport Library

Page 17

Festival Book Swap

10am–5pm

Clayport Library

Page 4

Workshop: Precious Time

with Caro Giles

10.30–12.30

Clayport Library

Page 18

The Power of the Classics with Edith Hall and Jennifer Saint

11am–12pm

Gala Theatre

Page 5

(Re)Writing Shakespeare's

Women 11.30am–12.30pm

Gala Studio

Page 5

Little Read Story Time

12pm–12.30pm

Clayport Library

Page 16

Chris Mullin and Sebastian

Payne in Conversation

1pm–2pm

Gala Theatre

Page 6

Little Read Workshop: Creative

Science with Isabel Thomas

1.30pm–2.30pm

Clayport Library

Page 16

Furies: Stories of the Wicked,

Wild and Untamed

1.30pm–2.30pm

Gala Studio

Page 6

Whose Crime is it Anyway?

3pm–4pm

Gala Theatre

Page 7

Workshop: From Fact to

Fiction with Laura Fish

3pm–5pm

Clayport Library

Page 18

What Does the Future Hold?

4pm–5pm

Gala Studio

Page 7

Femina, Cuthbert and the

Female Saints with Janina

Ramirez

5pm–6pm

Gala Theatre

Page 8

Fantastic Fiction: C Pam

Zhang and Sheena Patel

6pm–7pm

Gala Studio

Page 8

Cecile Pin: *Wandering Souls*

6.30pm–7.30pm

Collected Books

Page 15

Jeanette Winterson:

Night Side of the River

7pm–8pm

Gala Theatre

Page 9

Sunday 15 October

Workshop: The First Ten

Pages with Kit Fan

10am–11.30am

Clayport Library

Page 18

Sensory Story Time with

Seven Stories

10.30am–11.10am

11.20am–12pm

Clayport Library

Page 17

John Murray Proof Party

10.30am–11.30am

Gala Studio

Page 9

Helen Rebanks:

The Farmer's Wife

11am–12pm

Gala Theatre

Page 10

Workshop: Poetry and Story

with David Spittle

12pm–1.30pm

Clayport Library

Page 18

Pip Fallow:

Dragged Up Proppa

12.30pm–1.30pm

Gala Studio

Page 10

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

1pm–2pm

Gala Theatre

Page 11

Isabel Hardman: *The Twelve*

Battles that Made Our NHS

2pm–3pm

Gala Studio

Page 11

Poetry Book Society

Showcase: Jen Campbell,

Mary Jean Chan and Kit Fan

3.30pm–4.30pm

Gala Studio

Page 13

Cuddy

5pm–6pm

Gala Theatre

Page 13

Charlotte Van den Broeck:

Bold Ventures

5.30pm–6.30pm

Collected Books

Page 15



Welcome to the 2023 Durham Book Festival.

We're back in Millennium Place for a long weekend bringing you a host of brilliant writers and speakers. We're celebrating the history of Durham and St Cuthbert, with a specially commissioned dramatic reading from Durham writer Benjamin Myers' novel **Cuddy** and an event with historian Janina Ramirez. We'll be exploring themes ranging from North East politics, the NHS and neurodiversity to the joy of comfort food. Climate change and evolution are the themes of our Little Read picture book, **Moth** by Isabel Thomas, which will be available for young readers and their families to pick up in libraries across County Durham.

All our events at the Gala will be live-streamed and live-captioned, so if you can't make it to Durham we hope you'll join us from home.

Rebecca Wilkie,
Durham Book Festival Director,
New Writing North

Durham County Council is delighted to be commissioning New Writing North to bring back Durham Book Festival for 2023. This much loved festival is a central part of our events programme. Each year the festival brings incredibly exciting writers to Durham but also nurtures local talent. We are confident that there's something for everyone with the wide variety of events and talks scheduled.

Kylie Lloyd, Festival, Events and Community Arts Manager, Durham County Council

As an institution of learning, it is a pleasure to welcome the wealth of talent and creativity that the festival brings to our city. This talent and creativity enriches both the work of the university and the local community.

Professor Janet Stewart, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, Durham University



**Durham University
Festival Laureate:
Zaffar Kunial**
Friday 13 October
5.30pm–6.15pm
Gala Studio
Tickets: £8/£7
(live-stream ticket £5)

This year's Festival Laureate is the award-winning poet Zaffar Kunial.

He is the author of *Us* (2018), which was shortlisted for both the Costa Poetry Award and the T. S. Eliot Prize. In 2021, he was awarded the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize for Poetry. His new collection of poetry, *England's Green*, was published by Faber in September 2022.

As part of his laureateship Zaffar will read from his work, as well as present a newly commissioned poem inspired by Durham.

The Festival Laureate is presented in partnership with Durham University



**Katherine Heiny:
*Games and Rituals***
Friday 13 October
6.45pm–7.45pm
Gala Studio
Tickets: £8/£7
(live-stream ticket £5)

We're delighted to welcome beloved best-selling American author Katherine Heiny to Durham in her first-ever UK tour. Katherine will talk about her new book, *Games and Rituals*, a hilarious and poignant collection of stories perfect for fans of Nora Ephron and Maria Semple, that explore love in all its forms, from friendships formed at an airport bar, to mothers of ill-advised trysts, and suspiciously sweet teenagers.

Katherine Heiny is the author of *Early Morning Riser*, *Standard Deviation* and *Single, Carefree, Mellow*. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Chaired by Rebecca Wilkie, New Writing North



Comfort Eating with Grace Dent

Friday 13 October

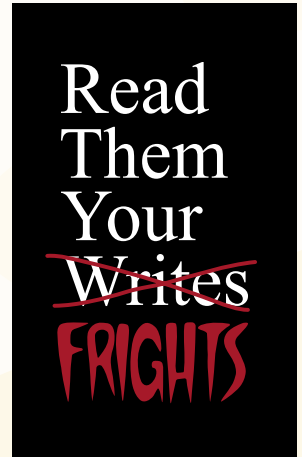
8pm–9pm

Gala Theatre

Tickets: £25 includes a copy of the book /
£35 for two people and one copy of the book
(live-stream ticket £5)

From one of the nation's best-loved food writers, **Comfort Eating** is an intimate collection that 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. Pull up a chair – this is the perfect treat for food-lovers.

Grace Dent is a columnist, broadcaster and author who regularly appears on **MasterChef UK** and presents **Best of Britain by the Sea** with Ainsley Harriott. She hosts the podcast **Comfort Eating**, sitting down with famous friends to discover their secret snacks.



Read Them Your ~~Writes~~ Frights

Friday 13 October

8.15pm–9.45pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £5/£3

(live-stream ticket £3)

An informal, fun and supportive night for North East writers to meet each other and share new work, coming to Durham Book Festival for the first time on Friday 13th. Think 'scratch-night' meets 'literary salon'.

There will be open-mic slots, scheduled performances, and a writing contest to come up with the best curse! Bring a friend, a piece of writing, or just come along and enjoy brand new work.

**Hosted by Adam Sharp,
author of *The Wheel is
Spinning but the
Hamster is Dead***



Cuddy's Corse: Guided Walk

Saturday 14 October

9.30am–2pm

Starting at Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert,
Chester-le-Street

Tickets: £17/£15

St Cuthbert is regarded as the patron saint of Northern England. His story has been told by many, including the Anglo-Saxon scholar and saint the Venerable Bede and, most recently, by renowned Durham-born writer Benjamin Myers in his novel **Cuddy** (see page 13).

This walk tells the story of St Cuthbert through fact and fiction.

Starting at 9.30am at the Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert, Chester-le-Street and finishing at Durham Cathedral, the walk is 7.5 miles and lasts four to five hours. Please dress appropriately for the weather, ensuring sturdy footwear. It is advised to carry water and snacks, noting that the walk passes Finchale Abbey where refreshments can be purchased. Please note: this walk is not step-free.

Led and devised by Ruth Robson, a North East England and Cumbria Blue Badge Tourist Guide

A specially commissioned self-guided literary audio walk along the route of Cuddy's Corse will be available in October



Festival Book Swap

Saturday 14 October

10am–5pm

Clayport Library

Tickets: Free/drop-in

Coming to the festival? Bring a book you love and swap it for another. Pop into Clayport Library and find something new to get stuck into – while adding a stepping-stone to the reading journey of visitors making their own literary pilgrimage to Durham this year.

Organised by our Turn Up For The Books young programmers, with support from County Durham Community Foundation. The book swap is limited to one book per person and books must be in good condition.



The Power of the Classics with Edith Hall and Jennifer Saint

Saturday 14 October

11am–12pm

Gala Theatre

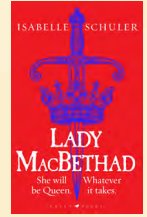
Tickets: £12/£10

(live-stream ticket £5)

Why do the stories of the ancient world still ignite our interest? Join Professor Edith Hall and novelist Jennifer Saint as they explore why the classics are for everyone.

Durham University's Professor Edith Hall is an author and broadcaster who specialises in putting pleasure into the history, literature, and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome and their continuing impact on the modern world. She is leading the Classics and Class in the North East project, which aims to bring communities together while celebrating the history of working class access to the classics.

Jennifer Saint is the Sunday Times best-selling author of classical retellings *Ariadne*, *Elektra* and most recently *Atalanta*. She is a visiting research fellow at King's College, London and previously spent 13 years as an English teacher in her native Yorkshire.



(Re)Writing Shakespeare's Women with Natasha Solomons and Isabelle Schuler

Saturday 14 October

11.30am–12.30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £8/£7

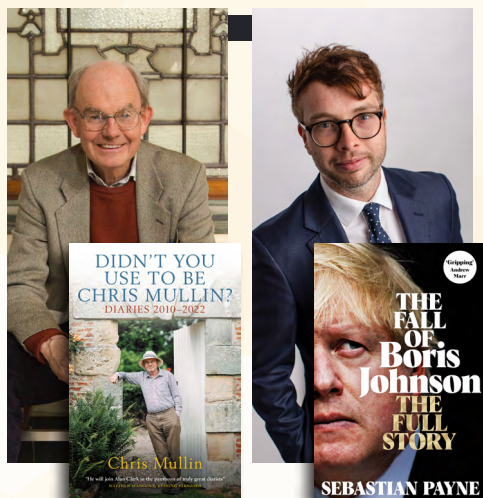
(live-stream ticket £5)

Join Natasha Solomons and Isabelle Schuler as they discuss how they have read, researched and written between the lines, re-examining the women from Shakespeare we thought we knew...

Natasha Solomons is the author of seven internationally best-selling novels. *Fair Rosaline* – a powerful 'untelling' inspired by *Romeo and Juliet* – is her latest work.

Isabelle Schuler is a Swiss Hawaiian-American actress, writer and former bookseller. *Lady MacBethad* tells the origin story of Lady Macbeth, and is Isabelle's debut novel.

**Chaired by Natalie Ibu,
Northern Stage**



Chris Mullin and Sebastian Payne in Conversation

Saturday 14 October

1pm–2pm

Gala Theatre

Tickets: £12/£10

(live-stream ticket £5)

Join two acclaimed political thinkers as they discuss their latest books and what might be next for the North East as we approach devolution.

Sebastian Payne is an award-winning journalist who grew up in Gateshead. He is the director of the think tank Onward, and the author of *Broken Heartlands*. *The Fall of Boris Johnson* tells the behind-the-scenes story of the scandals that felled Johnson.

Chris Mullin was Labour MP for Sunderland South from 1987 until he stood down in 2010. He is the author of three widely acclaimed diaries, a memoir and several novels. In *Didn't You Use to Be Chris Mullin?*, Chris chronicles the turbulent last decade of the second Elizabethan era.

Chaired by Jacqui Hodgson



Furies: Stories of the Wicked, Wild and Untamed

Saturday 14 October

1.30pm–2.30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £5/£4

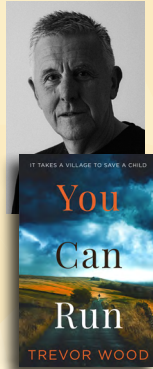
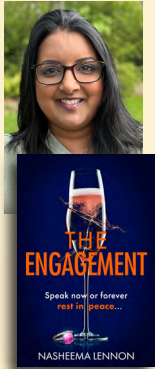
(live-stream ticket £4)

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Virago, the ground-breaking feminist publisher, 15 award-winning, bestselling authors were invited to write an original short story.

Join author Kirsty Logan (*Now she is Witch* and *The Unfamiliar: A Queer Motherhood Memoir*) and graphic novelist Eleanor Crewes (*The Times I Knew I was Gay*), for a discussion inspired by this collection of feminist writing for our times.

Chaired by Carla Josephson, Virago

Produced by Turn Up for the Books Young Programmers. Supported by the County Durham Community Foundation.



Whose Crime is it Anyway?

Saturday 14 October

3pm–4pm

Gala Theatre

Tickets: £12/£10

(live-stream ticket £5)

Join us for this special event, co-curated by Ruth Ware, who is joined by two incredible crime writers to talk about their books and careers together for the first time.

Ruth Ware is an international number one best-selling writer. Her thrillers include *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, *The Woman in Cabin 10*, *The Lying Game*, and *One by One*. Her latest book is the adrenaline-fueled thriller *Zero Days*.

Nasheema Lennon is a debut crime writer from Nottingham who spent nine years working in the prison service. Her new novel, *The Engagement*, is a twisty, against-the-clock psychological thriller which was shortlisted for the Owned Voices Novel Award in 2022.

Trevor Wood is a Newcastle-based writer whose first novel, *The Man on the Street*, won numerous awards and became a popular trilogy. His latest book is *You Can Run* – a standalone thriller set in a remote Northumberland village.

Chaired by Dr Jacky Collins, Newcastle Noir



Photo © David Pickersgill

What Does The Future Hold?

Saturday 14 October

4pm–5pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £5/£4

(live-stream ticket £4)

Social anthropologists can't predict the future, but they can tell us how ideas about the future are changing among different people, whether they are engineers, athletes, refugees or designers, here in the UK or around the world. Is the future near or far away? Is it full of hope or fear? What can we do about it? And what different futures seem possible to different people?

Following a specially commissioned podcast series with Durham University's Anthropology department, Dr Michael Crawley, Professor Nayanika Mookherjee and Dr Felix Ringel respond to the question we're all increasingly asking: what happens next?

You can listen to the podcasts from 13 October on DurhamBookFestival.com

Chaired by Professor Simone Abram, Durham University



Femina, Cuthbert and the Female Saints with Janina Ramirez

Saturday 14 October

5pm–6pm

Gala Theatre

Tickets: £12/£10

(live-stream ticket £5)

We're joined by Sunday Times best-selling author Janina Ramirez to explore the medieval history of Durham and beyond through the women previously written out of it. **Femina** is a ground-breaking reappraisal which reveals why women were struck from our historical narrative and restores them to their rightful positions as the power-players who shaped the world we live in today.

As part of our celebration of Benjamin Myers' epic novel **Cuddy** (see page 13), Janina Ramirez will also be discussing her special commission in which she explores the female saints who were St Cuthbert's contemporaries.

Dr Janina Ramirez is an Oxford University lecturer, BBC broadcaster, researcher and author. She has presented and written over 30 hours of BBC history documentaries and series on TV and radio, and written five books for children and adults.

**Chaired by Reverend Canon Michael Hampel,
Acting Dean and Precentor of Durham Cathedral**



Fantastic Fiction: C Pam Zhang and Sheena Patel

Saturday 14 October

6pm–7pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £8/£7

(live-stream ticket £5)

Join two of the most exciting novelists writing today, in conversation with Sky Arts Book Club's Simon Savidge.

C Pam Zhang was born in Beijing and brought up in the USA where she still lives. Her debut novel, **How Much of These Hills is Gold**, was chosen as one of Barack Obama's books of the year. Her new novel, **Land of Milk and Honey**, is about food, sex, desire and longing.

Sheena Patel's **I'm a Fan** is the story of a seemingly unequal, unfaithful relationship and offers a devastating critique of social media and patriarchal systems. It won a British Book Award and was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction.

Chaired by Simon Savidge



Jeanette Winterson:
Night Side of the River

Saturday 14 October
7pm–8pm
Gala Theatre
Tickets: £12/£10
(live-stream ticket £5)

We're thrilled to welcome internationally best-selling 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 best-selling memoir ***Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?***



John Murray Proof Party

Sunday 15 October
10.30am–11.30am
Gala Studio
Tickets: £12/£10
(live-stream ticket £5)

Join John Murray Press for an exclusive early preview of three of their most exciting debut novels publishing in 2024 – and take a copy of each book home with you!

Gender Theory is an incisive and breathless literary debut from new Scottish writer Madeline Docherty, exploring illness, friendship, finding your place, and how we care for those around us.

Spanning three timelines, ***Cinema Love*** by Brooklyn-based writer Andy Jiaming Tang is a voice-driven, tender epic about gay men in rural China and the women who marry them.

These Borrowed Hills is a blistering debut from British fiction writer Scott Preston, set on a sheep farm in rural Cumbria where the flocks are ravaged by foot and mouth disease.

Chaired by Grace Keane, New Writing North

Attendees will receive a special goody bag containing exclusive proof copies of all three titles



Helen Rebanks: ***The Farmer's Wife***

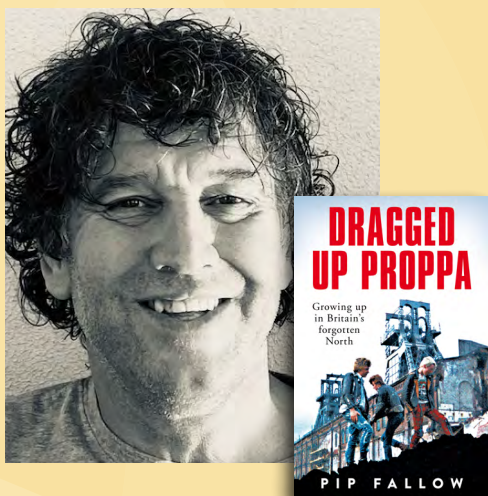
Sunday 15 October
11am–12pm
Gala Theatre
Tickets: £8/£7
(live-stream ticket £5)

Helen Rebanks lives on a farm in the Lake District with her husband James and their four children. There are also six sheepdogs, two ponies, 20 chickens, 50 cattle and 500 sheep to care for. Helen is a farmer's wife and hers is a story that is rarely told, despite being one we think we know.

This debut memoir takes place across one day at the farm and offers the chance for us to think about where our food comes from and who puts it on the table. In its pages, Helen provides recipes, lists and gentle wisdom to help us get through our days.

Helen Rebanks is a farmer, a businesswoman, a teacher, a conservationist, a working mother – and a cook. Her family's farm is globally important with its farming innovations and encouragement of sustainability.

Chaired by Claire Malcolm, New Writing North



Pip Fallow: ***Dragged Up Proppa***

Sunday 15 October
12.30pm–1.30pm
Gala Studio
Tickets: £8/£7
(live-stream ticket £5)

Join Durham author Christopher 'Pip' Fallow and hear his extraordinary story.

Pip was destined for the pit, but the closure of his County Durham village's mine in the 1980s saw him at the back of the dole queue like so many of his contemporaries.

Dragged Up Proppa is the tale of a lost generation, which explores some of the most important issues affecting the North East and Britain today.

Pip Fallow is now a bricklayer and successful author, and was shortlisted for the Sid Chaplin Award for working-class writing.

Chaired by Michael Chaplin



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

Sunday 15 October
 1pm–2pm
 Gala Theatre
 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 untold. 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



Isabel Hardman:
The Twelve Battles that Made Our NHS

Sunday 15 October
 2pm–3pm
 Gala Studio
 Tickets: £8/£7
 (live-stream ticket £5)

Isabel Hardman presents ***Fighting for Life***, a gripping, provocative exploration of the NHS, told through the most critical moments in its 75-year history.

In this book, the best-selling journalist and author of ***Why We Get the Wrong Politicians*** cuts through the sentimentality and sloganeering on all sides of the political spectrum. Packed with gripping stories from the people at the beating heart of the NHS – its nurses, its doctors, its patients and the politicians who decide its fate – this is the essential book for understanding our NHS and who we are as a nation.

Chaired by Caroline Greenwood-Dower

R A B Y

A photograph of Raby Castle, a large stone building with many windows, situated behind a high stone wall. In the foreground, several deer with large antlers are grazing in a grassy field. The title 'The Rising' is written in a large, black, cursive script over the image.

The Rising

is a highly ambitious development from Raby Castle
– the first destination of its kind in the North.

Opening in
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Think acres of unexpected elegance,
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reimagined gardens, stylish shopping
and local food that's as fresh as it gets.

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landscapes and one of the finest
medieval castles in England. A
destination with a difference, where
visitors of every generation can
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Prepare for a place where heritage is
celebrated, where the beauty lies in its
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always genuine.

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Raby Castle, Staindrop, County Durham, DL2 3AH



Poetry Book Society Showcase: Jen Campbell, Mary Jean Chan and Kit Fan

Sunday 15 October

3.30pm–4.30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £8/£7

(live-stream ticket £5)

The Poetry Book Society is proud to present readings from three exceptional poets.

Jen Campbell is a poet and best-selling author from the North East. She has won numerous prestigious awards and her latest collection is *Please Do Not Touch This Exhibit*. Jen's event contribution will be via video.

Mary Jean Chan is the author of *Flèche* which won the Costa Book Award for Poetry 2019 and was shortlisted for numerous other awards. They are currently a judge for the 2023 Booker Prize.

Kit Fan's third poetry collection is the Forward Prize-shortlisted *The Ink Cloud Reader*. His first collection, *Paper Scissors Stone*, won the Hong Kong University International Poetry Prize and his debut novel is *Diamond Hill*.

Introduced by Alice Mullen, Poetry Book Society



Cuddy

Sunday 15 October

5pm–6pm

Gala Theatre

Tickets: £12/£10

(live-stream ticket £5)

A world-exclusive dramatic live reading from Durham author Benjamin Myers' acclaimed novel, *Cuddy*.

This audacious tour de force from the author of *The Gallows Pole* (now a major BBC drama) and *The Offing* traces the story of St Cuthbert across the centuries, through the voices of ordinary people, to his final resting place in Durham.

A special Durham Book Festival commission directed by Jack McNamara in partnership with Live Theatre, and with music from The Shining Levels.

This event will be followed by a book signing with author Benjamin Myers

Collected

Collected is an independent bookshop now open at 44 The Riverwalk in Durham City, specialising in work written by women.



Events at Collected Books

Books and Beats

Friday 13 October

6pm–10pm

Collected Books

Tickets: Free/drop-in

Our friends at Collected will be staying open late for bookish beats: grab yourself a drink, browse the shelves and enjoy music from their resident bookshop DJ from 6pm onwards.

DURHAM DISTILLERY



DURHAM
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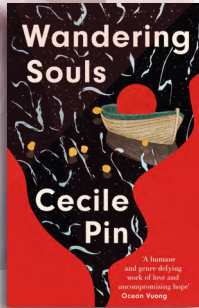
GOOD HONEST SPIRITS



Small batch craft distillery in the heart of Durham City.

Available for cocktail and gin making classes, tastings and private events.

31 High Street, Prince Bishops, Durham, DH1 3UL



Cecile Pin:
Wandering Souls

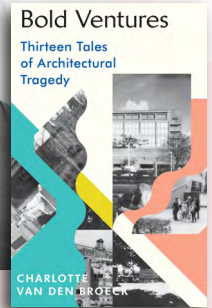
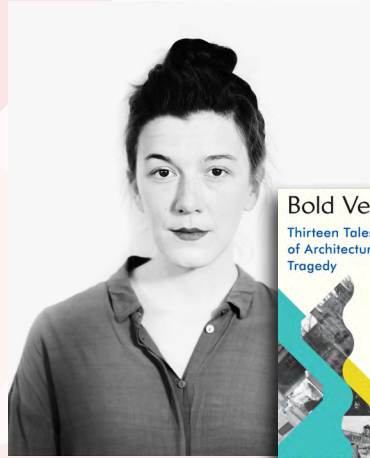
Saturday 14 October
6.30pm–7.30pm
Collected Books
Tickets: £5

One night, not long after the last American troops leave Vietnam, siblings Anh, Thanh and Minh say goodbye to their family and village. Alone in the world, they navigate refugee camps and resettlement centres until, by a twist of fate, they arrive in Thatcher's Britain.

Longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, ***Wandering Souls*** paints a heart-wrenching portrait of a family in unimaginable adversity while exploring the power of stories to heal generational wounds.

Cecile Pin grew up in Paris and New York City before moving to London at 18. She has been longlisted for the Bad Form Young Writer's prize and is a London Writers Awards 2021 winner.

Chaired by Naomi Booth



Charlotte Van
den Broeck: *Bold Ventures*

Sunday 15 October
5.30pm–6.30pm
Collected Books
Tickets: £5

What is that strange life-or-death connection between creation and its creator?

Charlotte Van den Broeck goes in search of buildings that were fatal for their architects – architects who either killed themselves or are rumoured to have done so. From a 17th century church with a twisted spire in France, to a sinking swimming pool in her own hometown, these stories weave art, history, popular culture and personal experience.

Charlotte Van den Broeck is a Belgian author. Her two prize-winning poetry collections were translated by David Colmer and published by Bloodaxe Books in 2020. ***Bold Ventures*** (translated by David McKay) was a Dutch bestseller, winning numerous awards.

Chaired by Preti Taneja, winner of the 2022 Gordon Burn Prize

Part of Flip through Flanders, presented by Flanders Literature in association with Modern Culture

The Little Read

Little Read Storytime with Isabel Thomas

Saturday 14 October
12pm–12.30pm
Clayport Library
Tickets: Free/drop-in



This year's Little Read is *Moth*:

An Evolution Story, written by Isabel Thomas and illustrated by Daniel Egnéus.

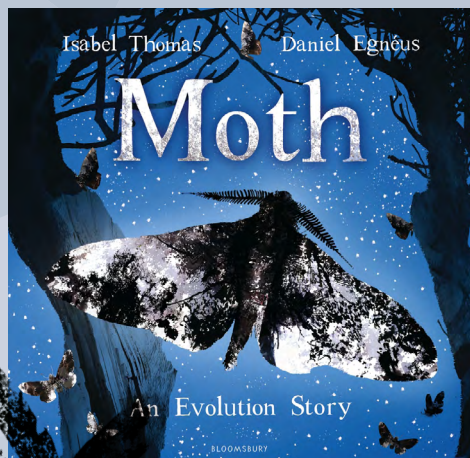
This beautiful and poetic picture book is about the extraordinary way in which animals have evolved and is a perfect introduction to natural selection and evolution for children.

Against a lush backdrop of lichen-covered trees, the peppered moth lies hidden. Until the world begins to change...

Along come people with their magnificent machines which stain the land with soot. In a beautiful landscape changed by humans, how will one little moth survive?

Join us for a storytime with author Isabel Thomas.

Ideal for families and children under 8



Little Read Workshop: Creative Science with Isabel Thomas

Saturday 14 October
1.30pm–2.30pm
Clayport Library
Tickets: £5 (free for parents/carers)

Join award-winning author Isabel Thomas for a workshop based on her award-winning science picture books *Moth* and *Fox*. Explore the incredible world of moths, learn Isabel's top tips for generating ideas, and craft a scientific haiku, or 'sciku'.

Ideal for ages 6+



We'll be distributing 500 copies of *Moth* across County Durham libraries. Pick up a free copy from your local branch and visit durhambookfestival.com to find out more.

Family Events at Clayport Library



Mushroom Sculpt: Craft Time

Saturday 14 October

10am–11am

Clayport Library

Tickets: Free/drop-in

Our planet has three kingdoms. Animals, plants... and fungus! In fact, without fungus, there wouldn't be any other life on land.

Join us for a session of craft and stories, exploring how we are all connected in nature. Grow your own sculpture using 'mushroom polystyrene' eco material and listen to a beautiful story about what we can learn from fungus.

This session is run by North East climate hope organisation Threads in the Ground

Ideal for children ages 4-11



Sensory Storytime with Seven Stories

Sunday 15 October

10.30am–11.10am and

11.20am–12pm

Clayport Library

Tickets: £3 (free for parents/carers)

Seven Stories is thrilled to be at Durham Book Festival this year, delivering a fun and fully interactive children's storytime. Inclusivity and equality are key to our storytime sessions, where everyone is welcome. Expect to travel to the bottom of the sea, dance amongst the stars and make friends with a tiger...

The library will be closed to the public during these Sunday sessions, which are designed to offer a calmer, quieter alternative to our Saturday activities. Each session is 40 minutes long, and you can choose which you would like to join.

Hosted by Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books

Ideal for families and children under 7

Writing Workshops at Clayport Library



Precious Time with Caro Giles

Saturday 14 October

10.30am–12.30pm

Clayport Library

Tickets: £17/£15

Caro Giles – Northumberland author of *Twelve Moons*, full-time carer and single parent of four – shares her guidance for finding time and inspiration to write. From immersion in nature to everyday magic, and the simple ways that writing can support wellbeing. Expect to leave brimming with creative confidence and new ideas!

From Fact to Fiction with Laura Fish

Saturday 14 October

3pm–5pm

Clayport Library

Tickets: £17/£15

Creative writing professor and author of *Strange Music* Dr Laura Fish offers approaches for turning history into fiction. Learn how to develop research skills and draw from different sources – as well as ways to write back and explore the past in order to retrieve, revise, revisit, and rewrite histories.

The First Ten Pages with Kit Fan

Sunday 15 October

10am–11.30am

Clayport Library

Tickets: £15/£12

What makes the first few pages of a novel so important? Kit Fan, author of *Diamond Hill*, explores the myths and mechanics of a novel's beginnings. You'll look at how to start, restart, and re-restart – and most importantly, learn how the art of keeping starting will lead you to the ending.

Poetry and Story with David Spittle

Sunday 15 October

12pm–1.30pm

Clayport Library

Tickets: £15/£12

Storytelling is central to how we understand our lives. This workshop, with poet David Spittle, will explore the connections between storytelling and poetry. Through reading and writing, you will discuss and create new ways to express stories about who we are and what kind of world we live in.



Venue information

This year's festival takes place at Gala Durham and Clayport Library in Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA.

Further events will be held at Collected Books, 44 Riverwalk, DH1 4SL.

Keep in touch

Facebook: [DurhamBookFestival](#)

Twitter: [@DurhamBookFest](#) [#DBF23](#)

Instagram: [@DurhamBookFest](#)

Accessibility

We try hard to ensure that Durham Book Festival is accessible to all.

All Gala Durham events will be live-captioned by Stagetext and live-streamed.

If you require a BSL interpreter we will endeavour to provide this. Please inform the Box Office staff when booking your tickets. We will need a minimum of two weeks' advance notice.

Gala Durham access information:

There are lifts to all levels, and accessible toilets located throughout.

Wheelchair spaces are available – if using a wheelchair, please just advise the Box Office when booking to ensure your seats or spaces are allocated accordingly.

For disabled customers who need a little more help, we offer a personal assistant ticket free of charge. Please ask at Box Office.

Assistance dogs are welcome at Gala Durham.

Gala Durham operates the Sennheiser infrared amplification system in the main auditorium – headsets are available at Box Office.

Clayport Library access information:

Clayport Library has public lifts, accessible toilets and a loop system installed.

Concessions

Concessions are available to anyone receiving unemployment or disability benefit, full-time students, senior citizens, and young people up to 21 years old. Proof of status or ID is required when booking or collecting your tickets.

Festival Partners

Durham Book Festival is commissioned by Durham County Council and produced by New Writing North and has been made possible with support from our partners and sponsors.

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Design

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Marketing Officer

Carys Vickers

Contact us

office@newwritingnorth.com

Book in person

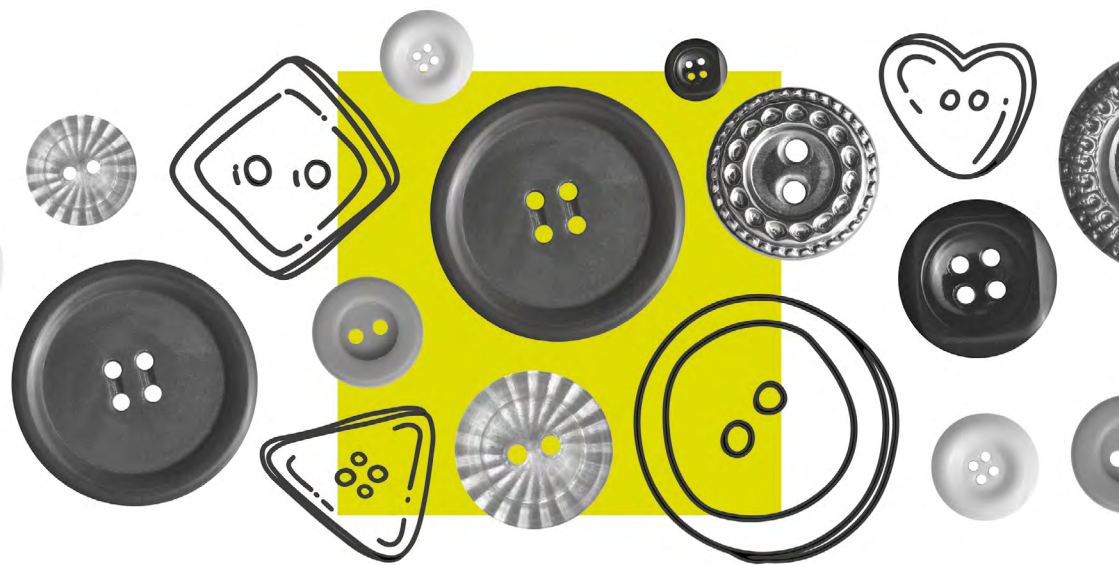
Gala Durham,
Millennium Place,
Durham,
DH1 1WA

Book online

DurhamBookFestival.com

Book by phone

Tel: 03000 266 600



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Booking information

Unless stated otherwise, all tickets can be booked through the Gala Durham Box Office.

Tickets are divided into three price bands: full price, concessions and live-stream.

Many festival events sell out very quickly so please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Any remaining tickets can be purchased on the day at Box Office.

To reduce the environmental impact of the festival, we encourage customers to use our eTickets and to show a copy of their ticket on their smartphone, rather than printing it off.

Book in person

Gala Durham,
Millennium Place,
Durham,
DH1 1WA

Book online

DurhamBookFestival.com

Book by phone

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