

SPRING  
2024



Events and  
activities for  
writers and  
readers

NEW WRITING  
NORTH

# THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GORDON BURN PRIZE 2023/24

Northern Stage, Newcastle

7 March, 7.30–9.30pm

Afterparty co-hosted with White Rabbit Books

9.30–11pm

Tickets: £17 / £15 (including a drink)

The Gordon Burn Prize is one of literature's most exciting events, taking place in Newcastle for the very first time.

The six writers shortlisted for the prize will be in conversation with Nick Ahad (BBC Radio 4 Front Row) and there will be live music from **Me Lost Me** before the winner is announced.

Stay on for an exclusive after-party with **White Rabbit Books**, including give-aways and a DJ set from **David Keenan**.

The Gordon Burn Prize honours the memory of the late Newcastle-born writer Gordon Burn. It celebrates brilliant writing and innovative books that challenge convention, as Gordon's own writing did. This year's judges are writers **Terri White, Sheena Patel, Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff and Andrew Hankinson**.

The winning writer receives a prize of £10,000 and the chance to take a writing retreat at Gordon Burn's cottage in the Scottish Borders.

Past winners have included **Benjamin Myers, Denise Mina, David Keenan and Preti Taneja**.

The prize is run in partnership by **New Writing North, Faber & Faber** and the **Gordon Burn Trust**, sponsored by **Newcastle University**.



## THE LONGLIST 2023/24



Book at [GordonBurnPrize.com](http://GordonBurnPrize.com)



## Writing with Care

25 April, 6.30–8.30pm

Northern Stage, Newcastle

Free

*Please book in advance*

They care for us during some of the biggest moments of our lives, but what are their own stories? Over eight months, Newcastle Hospitals staff have worked with writer Laura Lindow to explore and write about their wide-ranging experiences.

At this special event, we celebrate the publication of their work with live readings performed by NHS staff and actors.

In partnership with Newcastle Hospitals Charity.

## David Nicholls in Conversation

1 May, 7–8pm

The Biscuit Factory, Newcastle

£12 / £10 / £25 with hardback book

**All tickets include a drink**

Join us to celebrate **You Are Here**, David Nicholls' latest novel which – written with his trademark wit and empathy – finds two lost souls thrown together on an epic walk back home.

David Nicholls is the bestselling author of **One Day** (soon to be a major Netflix series) and **Starter for Ten**. He will be in conversation with Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North.

In partnership with The Bound bookshop.

## Newcastle Writing Conference

Saturday 18 May 2024

Practical workshops / Agent one-to-ones / Industry insights / Inspiring advice

**Newcastle's day-long conference for creative writers is back!**

**On Sale  
March**

Book at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)

# Writing for Screen and Audio

## Sounds Good: Audio Fiction Masterclasses

Are you ready to take your writing skills in audio fiction drama to the next level?

Do you want to dig deeper into audio-writing craft and make your mark in the world of podcasting?

Introducing our audio fiction masterclasses especially designed for writers who want to soak their words in soundscapes and get their stories singing in the studio.

Interactive  
Small  
Group  
Workshops

### Eliza: A Case Study

3 February,  
9.30am–12.30pm,  
Northumbria University,  
Newcastle  
£70 (Bursaries available)

Using her work on the award-winning podcast **Eliza: A Robot Story** as a case study, Ella Watts will take you through the entire development process of an audio drama series, from initial concepts all the way through to post-production. This is a practical class, working in our professional studio.

### Kaleidosonic: The Craft of Modern Audio Drama

3 February,  
1.30–4.30pm,  
Northumbria University,  
Newcastle  
£70 (Bursaries available)

Discover the aesthetic tools at your disposal when writing an audio drama. This class will include examples from 1923 to 2023, illustrating how the medium can be used with punch, through every age. This is a practical class, working in our professional studio.



### Working with Global Brands

8 February, 7–9.45pm  
Online  
£70 (Bursaries available)

From her work adapting **Doctor Who** and **Marvel Comics**, Ella Watts will discuss what writers should focus on when working for major global brands and pre-existing properties.

## Northern Talent Network with Channel 4

### Writers' Room Workshop

13 & 17 February, 6.30–8pm, Online, £10 for both sessions

This two-part workshop led by Tiger Aspect's Saima Ferdows (**Bad Education**) will simulate writers' rooms, giving participants a sense of what to expect when working in a collaborative environment. These sessions are especially of interest to screenwriters developing comedy and comedy drama scripts.

By application only, apply by 26 January.





## ADAPT

ADAPT is a new series of webinars exploring how writers can develop their skills in adaptation for the screen. Featuring Oscar and BAFTA-winning screenwriters, these sessions are open to writers interested in

exploring how to adapt their own play, novel or short story as well as screenwriters wishing to explore the process of adapting other people's work.

**£15 for all three webinars**



### The Art of Screen Adaptation with Alistair Owen

5 February, 6–7.15pm, Online

An overview of the adaptation process, drawing on Alistair's experience of writing adapted screenplays and interviewing leading practitioners for his book *The Art of Screen Adaptation*.



### In Conversation with Rebecca Lenkiewicz

19 February, 6–7.15pm, Online

Playwright and screenwriter Rebecca will discuss her screenwriting career, focusing on her work adapting non-fiction work for the screen. In 2018 Rebecca wrote the screenplay for the BAFTA winning film *She Said*.



### In Conversation with Hossein Amini

4 March, 6–7.15pm, Online

Hossein Amini is the screenwriter behind award-winning projects *Drive* (2011) and *McMafia* (2018). He will discuss his impressive career and his extensive experience adapting classic novels for the screen.



### In Conversation with Nathan Bryon

27 February 6.30–8pm, Online, £5

In this webinar, bestselling writer and BAFTA-nominated screenwriter Nathan Bryon will be discussing his career and work as a writer with Northern Talent Network Producer, Hannah Rose. Nathan's writing credits include the acclaimed *Bloods* (Sky) and the 2023 feature film, *Rye Lane*, co-written with Tom Melia.

More events for screenwriters in Manchester, Halifax and Rotherham coming later this spring

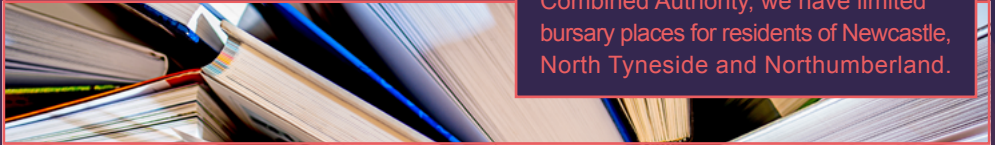
# New Writing North Academy

**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**

*Online courses starting 15 January, 11 March, 10 June and 9 September*

£900 / Bursary: £225

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

## **Write Better at Work**

*Online courses starting 29 January, 22 April, 3 June and 9 September*

£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**

*Online courses starting 29 January, 15 April and 30 September*

£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**

*Online courses starting 5 February, 3 June and 7 October*

£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**

*Online courses starting 12 February and 7 October*

£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**

*Online courses starting 19 February, 13 May and 14 October*

£495 / Bursary: £198

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

Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)

# Sounds Good

## From the Page to the Podcast

Join us for a writing-focused journey into the art of audio storytelling, transforming your writing from text to enthralling soundscapes.

This course is ideal for those with clear ideas for a podcast, which you'll work on ahead of the first session, ensuring you make the most of this experience.

### Course dates

- 13 April, 9.30am–4pm (Professional studio session, Northumbria University)
- 18 April, 7.30–9.30pm (Online)
- 25 April, 7.30–9.30pm (Online)
- 2 May, 7.30–9.30pm (Online)
- 11 May, 9.30am–4pm (Professional studio session, Northumbria University)



Over five weeks you'll work with Lisa Mainwaring to learn the intricacies of writing for podcasts, from structure and format, to rhythm, pace and tone. Lisa is an experienced producer and writer for podcast agencies, broadcasters and brands, including Listen, BBC, ITN, Audible and Amazon Music.

Transforming your writing into audio-writing is filled with endless possibilities – improving your work opportunities, craft, discipline – and fun.

- Shape your podcast idea, identify your audience, and choose the perfect format
- Craft scripts that resonate in any audio medium
- Use sound effects and music to enrich your stories
- Create engaging narratives that keep listeners hooked
- Special sessions include practitioner tips on pitching from a senior podcasting exec and navigating podcasting law with Lisa's expertise

You'll end the course producing an audio trailer from your original concept, something that creates a dazzling first impression. Lisa and our team will be there every step of the way, helping you to write and record for sound, to plot, edit and sound-design your series.

**£600** A limited number of reduced-price bursaries are available



Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)

# Libraries

## Start Writing Courses

Our six-week creative writing courses 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 Jesmond Library

6 April–11 May  
Saturdays, 10–11.30am  
£35, plus booking fee  
Jesmond Library, Newcastle



### Start Writing in Berwick Library

13 April–18 May  
Saturdays, 10.30am–12pm  
£35, plus booking fee  
Berwick Library



### Start Writing in Killingworth Library

17 April–22 May  
Wednesdays, 6–7.30pm  
£35, plus booking fee  
Killingworth Library

Have you always wanted to write? Maybe you're a writer wanting to get back into the habit? Whatever stage you're at, this six-week course with writer **Amanda Quinn** will support you to get writing.

We will work with writer **Jessie Greengrass** to examine different aspects of writing including character, voice, and plot. Develop new skills, explore old ones, and find what works for you as a writer.

With **Harry Man** we will be exploring the potential for invention in poetry. Explore how to work with image, sound and type, and learn new ways to express ourselves on the page.

## Northern Bookshelf Live

Discover brilliant authors from the North at your local library.

This spring and summer, meet northern authors in libraries across the North. We've selected ten of the best new titles from crime fiction, to memoir, to poetry, so there is something for every reader to enjoy.

Look out for details of author events, Q&As and book signings in your local library or via our website.



Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)



# Writing Groups

Un grupo de escritura creativa multilingüe para hablantes de ESOL de todos los niveles  
একটি বহুভাষিক সৃজনশীল লেখার গোষ্ঠী। সমস্ত স্তরের ESOL স্পিকারদের জন্য  
A multilingual creative writing group for ESOL speakers of all levels  
مجموعة كتابة إبداعية متعددة اللغات للمستويات بالغة الإنجليزية (ESOL) من جميع المستويات  
یک گروه نوشتن خلاق چند زبانه برای سخنرانان ESOL در همه سطوح  
對各個層級的ESOL用戶的多語言創意寫作小組



**Our free groups meet weekly during term-time**

## World Writes

*Mondays, 11am–1pm  
Newcastle Deaf Centre, Summerhill  
Free*

A multilingual creative writing group for ages 16+ that welcomes anyone who speaks English as an additional language at any level. Together we find new ways of expressing ourselves in our mother tongues and explore the creative possibilities of translation. Open to all, no writing experience is necessary.

## West End Writes Creative Drop-In

*Tuesdays, 10am–12pm  
St James Church, Benwell Lane, Newcastle  
Free*

West End Writes creative drop-in is open to anyone based in Benwell or Scotswood. Join us for a cup of tea and a friendly chat with our creative producer Dani, who is on hand to listen to your ideas and help make things happen.



## Brown Girls Write

*Wednesdays, 6–7.30pm  
Newcastle Deaf Centre, Summerhill  
Free*

Brown Girls Write is a writing group for all women of colour who are interested in nurturing their creative writing skills or want to give it a go. Join us as we try different types of writing and develop our own stories. Come and meet other Brown Girl writers!



Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)

# Writing Groups

Our free groups meet weekly during term-time

## First Edition

Wednesdays, 6–8pm  
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 creatively and professionally.

## Newbiggin Hall Creates

Newbiggin Hall Creates is a creative programme for residents of the Newbiggin Hall Estate. Join us to work with professional artists and writers and try something new. No experience is required and new members are always welcome.



## Newbiggin Hall Young Performers

Wednesdays, 4–5.30pm,  
The Galafeld Centre,  
Newbiggin Hall Estate  
Free

Love performing? Join a free drama, music and songwriting group led by professional artists. Open to anyone aged 11–19.

## Newbiggin Hall Creates

Thursdays, 10am–12pm,  
St Wilfrid's Church,  
Newbiggin Hall Estate  
Free

On Thursday mornings, we have a cuppa, a chat and try out creative activities including crafts, drama, writing, and more. For ages 50+.

## Newbiggin Hall Creative Writing Group

Thursdays, 12–2pm,  
St Wilfrid's Church,  
Newbiggin Hall Estate  
Free

On Thursday afternoons, we get into writing, trying out a range of writing forms, such as poetry, memoir and short stories. For ages 16+.

Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)



## Young Writers' Groups

*Saturdays, 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 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

## Safe Space

*Every other Friday, 2.30–4pm*  
*Community Hub, Oxford Terrace and*  
*Rawling Road Medical Centre, Gateshead*  
*Free*

### **Being a young person can be hard!**

Safe Space is a friendly group for 16-25-year-olds run by New Writing North and Youth Focus North East. It's a space where you can be yourself, get support with any issues you may be facing, and try creative workshops with a professional artist. Drop-in to any session and see if it's for you.

## Faber Publishing Open Day (18-25)

*22nd March*  
*Free, with a bursary to cover your travel*

### **Aged 18-25, live in the North, and interested in working in publishing?**

On a day trip to Faber's London offices, you'll find out how a book goes from manuscript to bookshop shelf and learn about pathways into the publishing industry. Faber is one of the world's great independent publishing houses, home to authors including Kazuo Ishiguro, Kae Tempest, Simon Armitage and Sally Rooney.  
**Apply from mid-January 2024.**

**Sign up at [NewWritingNorth.com](https://NewWritingNorth.com)**

# 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.

The flagship **Northern Writers' Awards 2024**, supported by Northumbria University, are open until 12 February 2024, with a wide range of awards available, including for young people.

## Fiction Roadshow

30 January, 6–9pm  
ARC, Stockton  
£5

Join us for an evening of discussion and networking with industry professionals and writers. This event will help novelists and short-story writers develop their knowledge of the industry and forge new connections.

## Awards open 12 February–29 March

Our spring awards are open to writers aged 18+ based in the North of England. You may choose to submit to all three.

**The Sid Chaplin Award** supports writers from working-class backgrounds with a £2000 bursary to develop new works of fiction and memoir.

**The Finchale Award**, founded by the writer Benjamin Myers, awards one short-story writer £1000.

The newly created **Tempest Prize**, established by the poet Andrew McMillan, offers a £1000 bursary and mentoring to an LGBTQ+ writer of fiction or poetry.

## Thank you to our partners and funders

