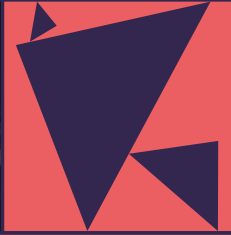
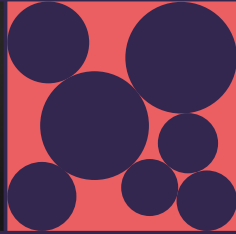
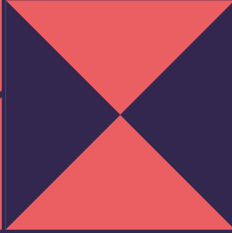


SPRING  
2025

Events and  
activities for  
writers and  
readers



NEW WRITING  
NORTH

# Welcome.

We've got a lot going on this spring. For writers there are workshops, conferences, virtual writers' rooms and awards to be applied for. For the bibliophiles and culturally curious, we will help you emerge from your winter hibernation. Events include an evening with author Adelle Stripe and the Gordon Burn Prize 2025 award ceremony, with readings by the shortlisted authors, discussion and performances.

Finally, we received news earlier this year that our long-held ambition to open a centre for

writing in Newcastle upon Tyne has been awarded £5 million from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Cultural Development Fund.

The centre will have untold benefits, not just for writers but for the whole city and we hope you will join us in making it a reality. This could be attending our events, financially supporting us or championing our ongoing fundraising. However ever you can, we would love your support. Please scan the QR code on the back page to find out more.

## Newcastle Writing Conference returns to The Common Room on Saturday 17 May

The writing conference is a day-long event for writers at all stages of their careers. It aims to demystify the world of publishing and support you to connect with peers and industry experts. Across one day, the conference offers one to ones with literary agents, panels and practical workshops.

On Sale  
March



Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](https://NewWritingNorth.com)



## The Voyage Home Tour

22 January, Blackhall Colliery

23 January, Lanchester

27 January, Consett

31 January, Barnard Castle

Tickets: £5

Celebrate Durham author **Pat Barker's** new book, **The Voyage Home**, with a dramatic live reading from actors **Philippa Wilson** and **Lauren Waine** and new folk music from the **Shining Levels**.

The Voyage Home is set in the aftermath of the Trojan War. Troy lies in smoking ruins and the victorious Greeks fill their ships with the spoils of battle. Pat Barker once again chronicles the experiences of the women, in this follow-up to her bestselling **The Women of Troy** and the **Silence of the Girls**.

**Pat Barker** is an internationally acclaimed writer of 16 novels, including the Booker Prize-winning, **The Ghost Road**, from the **Regeneration Trilogy**. She lives and works in Durham.



## Base Notes: The Scent of a Life with Adelle Stripe

The Bound, Whitley Bay

20 March, 7–8pm

Tickets: £8/£20 including a copy of Base Notes

Author **Adelle Stripe** will read from her new book **Base Notes**, which traces a sensory journey of her youth growing up on the North of England in the late 1990s. Memories of frustrated mothers and reckless daughters, dead-end jobs and brief encounters, are told through the prism of the vintage perfumes in this innovative and witty memoir of working-class womanhood. Adelle's reading will be followed by a discussion with **Claire Malcolm**, CEO of New Writing North.

**Adelle Stripe** is the author of **Black Teeth and a Brilliant Smile** which was shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and the Portico Prize, and the Sunday Times Bestselling biography of the band Fat White Family, **Ten Thousand Apologies**. She lives in Calderdale.

*Please note there are steps to this venue.*

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)

# THE GORDON BURN PRIZE 2025

## The News as a Novel: Gordon Burn and Newcastle

Newcastle University  
12 February, 7.00pm  
Tickets: Free

The Gordon Burn Prize celebrates work that shows an affinity with the unique writing talent of Newcastle-born author **Gordon Burn**.

To mark the announcement of the 2025 Gordon Burn Prize shortlist, award-winning journalist, writer and prize chair, **Terri White** (*Empire*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Guardian*) in conversation with acclaimed Newcastle writers **Preti Taneja**, (winner of the 2022 prize with *Aftermath*) and **Richard T. Kelly** (*Crusaders*, *The Black Eden*) for a celebration of Gordon's life, writing and relationship to Newcastle.

## Celebrating Gordon Burn

Faber & Faber London  
20 February, 7.00pm  
Tickets: £5

Join journalist and Chair of the Gordon Burn Prize **Terri White**, fellow judge and previously shortlisted author **David Whitehouse** and artist **Carol Gorner** in conversation with New Writing North Chief Executive, **Claire Malcolm**, who will discuss Gordon Burn's life, writing and legacy and will celebrate this year's shortlist for the prize that bears his name.

**Gordon Burn** was a Newcastle born writer whose books included *Alma Cogan*, *Born Yesterday*, *Somebody's Husband and Somebody's Son* and *Happy Like Murderers*. He was also a renowned interviewer and features writer.

The Gordon Burn Prize celebrates Gordon's memory by recognising literature that is as forward-thinking and fearless in ambition and execution as his own writing was. Past winners include, **Hanif Abdurraquib**, **David Keenan**, **Benjamin Myers**, **Kathryn Scanlan** and **Preti Taneja**.

## The Announcement of the Gordon Burn Prize 2025

Northern Stage, Newcastle  
6 March, 7.30–9.45pm  
Tickets: £15 / £12 (Livestream £5)

Join us for the announcement of the winner of the Gordon Burn Prize: an evening of readings from shortlisted writers and live music from **The Early Purple**.

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**, **Carl Anka**, **Angela Hui**, **Sarah Phelps** and **David Whitehouse**.

Celebrating writing across all genres including biography, memoir, novels, and short story collections, the prize recognises exceptional writing with an unconventional perspective, style or subject matter and often defies easy categorisation. It celebrates literary outliers and daring and experimental work that often speaks to broader societal issues.

The winner receives a prize of £10,000 and a writing retreat at Gordon Burn's cottage in the Scottish Borders. Past winners have included **Benjamin Myers**, **Denise Mina**, **David Keenan**, **Preti Taneja** and **Kathryn Scanlan**.

The Gordon Burn Prize was founded in 2012 by **New Writing North**, **Faber & Faber** and the **Gordon Burn Trust**, and is run in partnership with **Newcastle University** and **NCLA**.



Find out more at [GordonBurnPrize.com](https://GordonBurnPrize.com)

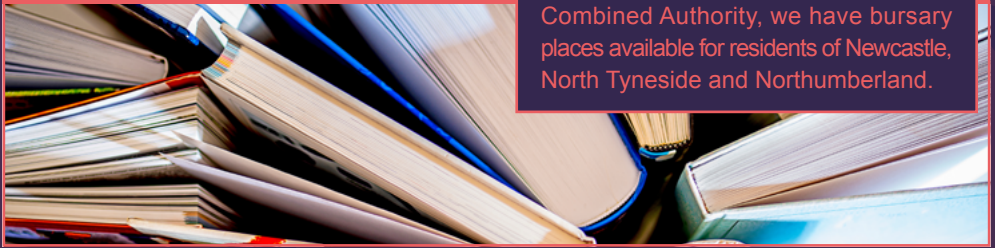
# New Writing North Academy

**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 East Combined Authority, we have bursary places available for residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.



## **Story for Screenwriting: Advanced Structure**

*Online course starting 12 March*

£900 / Bursary: £300

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

## **Writing Crime Fiction**

*Online course starting 28 April*

£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.

## **Stories from Life**

*Online course starting 12 May*

£495 / Bursary: £198

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

## **Write and Submit a Short Story**

*Online course starting 2 June*

£750 / Bursary: £300

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

## **Write a Young Adult Novel**

*Online course starting 26 February*

£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.

## **Fiction Foundations**

*Online course starting 9 June*

£495 / Bursary: £198

You'll learn the basics of point of view and character creation, how to produce settings that add atmosphere to your writing, and all the essentials for structuring and plotting stories.

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



# North East Novelists

**We are looking for North East based prose writers to join a professional development group in Newcastle.** The journey of developing your writing doesn't end when you sign with your agent, get your first book deal, or even when you're publishing your third, fourth or fifth novel. It can be challenging to find other writers at the same stage or teaching that is pitched at the right level. This group will offer continuing craft development and a supportive network for writers navigating life as a professional author.

Beginning in April 2025, the group will have the opportunity to meet on two evenings a month in Newcastle upon Tyne. On the first Wednesday of every month, members can attend a structured craft session led by an experienced practitioner. Members can also opt in to informal monthly sessions, a space to

discuss works-in-progress, share experiences and build ongoing relationships that might lead to the exchange of manuscripts for peer review.

## **Who can apply to be part of this group?**

This group is aimed at published authors or agented writers pursuing traditional publication. There is no upper limit on published work, but at minimum accepted members must be represented by an agent or be under contract for their first book. The group is open to fiction writers across any genre, including writing for children or short stories.

The group will be based in central Newcastle upon Tyne, but writers from across the North East may apply. Writers will be expected to manage their own travel to sessions.

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## **Important dates:**

### **Introductory meeting:**

Wednesday 19 March 5.30–6.30pm

### **Craft sessions:**

Wednesday 9 April 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 7 May, 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 4 June, 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 2 July, 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 6 August, 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 3 September, 6–7.30pm  
Wednesday 1 October, 6–7.30pm

## **How to apply:**

[Please apply via the application form by Friday 28 February 2025 >](#)

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)



# Opportunities

## Northern Talent Network: Writers' Room Workshops

Applications open 27 January–14 February  
£20 per workshop series

Learn what to expect in a drama or comedy writers' room through a two-part series of online workshops. Led by Script Editor **Jon Addison** (Drama) and Producer **Saima Ferdows** (Comedy), you'll get to explore a set brief in a collaborative environment where ideas are collectively shared and developed.

Spaces are limited and open by application. Writers should be able to commit to attending the introductory session on 25 February, and either the two Drama workshops on 4 and 11 March 6–8pm, or the two Comedy workshops on 6 and 13 March 6–8pm.

**Saima Ferdows** is a talented comedy producer known for her work on *Bad Education* and *Sex Unzipped*. With experience in both scripted and unscripted formats, she has contributed to comedy projects including *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm*.

**Jon Addison** is a script editor enthusiastic about connecting with emerging talent. He has worked at companies including **Pathé**, **Tiger Aspect** and **FreeTurn**, and has extensive experience across writers' rooms, development, production and post-production.

## Northern Writers' Awards

Open 12 February–20 March 2025

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

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

**The Tempest Prize**, established by poet **Andrew McMillan**, offers a £1000 bursary and mentoring to an unpublished, LGBTQ+ writer.

**The Arvon Award** offers a writer the chance to experience an Arvon retreat.

**The Northern Promise TLC Awards** offer a Free Read manuscript appraisal to writers from underrepresented backgrounds.

## Durham Writes

Living in County Durham and interested in writing fiction? Stay tuned for our writer development taster sessions and targeted masterclasses in partnership with County Durham libraries from March 2025.

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](https://NewWritingNorth.com)



## Draft Night with Yvonne Battle-Felton

Hyde Park Book Club, Leeds  
2 April, 6.30–8.30pm  
Tickets: £5

Join bestselling author **Yvonne Battle-Felton** for a special draft night and hear from ten emerging writers who will give live readings of their works-in-progress.

**Yvonne Battle-Felton** is an author, academic, host, creative producer, and writer. Her novel **Remembered** (Dialogue Books/Blackstone Publishing) was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction (2019) and shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize (2020). Yvonne has nonfiction children's titles in Penguin Random House's Ladybird series. **Curdle Creek** (Henry Holt/Dialogue Books) published October 2024. Yvonne is the Academic Director of Creative Writing at Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education and a Senior Commissioning Editor at John Murray.

The event will be held in The Snug at **Hyde Park Book Club**, Leeds.

## The Writers Workshop Writers Day – Write & Thrive in 2025

Channing Hall, Sheffield  
8 February, 9am–6pm  
Tickets from £45

Join **The Writers Workshop** for **Writers Day 2025**, supported by New Writing North and Hachette. Suited to emerging and developing writers, the programme will include sessions that explore the writing journey from creation through publication, as well as opportunities to pitch to publishers and meet your new BWFs (best writer friends)! We'll have a jam-packed programme of workshops, panels and presentations delivered in partnership with **Hachette UK** and **New Writing North** to help you get your 2025 writing journey off to a great start. There'll be something for everyone from new writers to those who are seeking representation and publishing outlets.

With sessions on:

- Finding your voice
- Finding your readers and creating your author brand
- The writer's journey with New Writing North and authors, **Sarah Brooks** and **Karen Powell**
- The publishing journey with **Frankie Edwards** (editorial director at **Headline**) and **Lucy Twist** (commissioning editor at **Hachette Children's Group**)
- Pitching opportunities with **Hachette UK**
- Editing and polishing your manuscript
- Publishing routes from mainstream publishers to indie presses and audiobooks

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](https://NewWritingNorth.com)



# Start Writing

Are you curious about writing,  
but have never put pen to paper before?  
Or do you want to further develop your writing?

This spring we are running five creative writing courses in libraries across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. Each course is led by a professional writer, with six weeks of 90-minute sessions.

All courses cost £35 with two free bursary places available through application.



## Start Writing

*Seaton Sluice Library*

*Wednesdays, 5 March–9 April, 1.30–3pm*

Have you always wanted to write? Maybe you want to get back into the habit? Whatever stage you're at, this course with writer **Amanda Quinn** will encourage and support you. Suitable for beginners or anyone wanting to develop in a welcoming and friendly environment. **Amanda Quinn** has taught creative writing since 2015 and has delivered courses and workshops online and in community centres, libraries, museums, day centres, and schools across North East England.



## Start Screenwriting

*Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle*

*Wednesdays, 5 March–9 April, 6–7.30pm*

An introductory course for those interested in trying screenwriting for the first time or transferring their skills from prose or theatre. You'll work with **Chess Tomlinson** to learn about writing for the screen, experimenting with genre and building towards a final written scene. **Chess Tomlinson** has projects in development with established and indie production companies and is recipient of DYCP ACE, Screen Skills, Open Horizons and Comedy 50:50 bursaries.

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](http://NewWritingNorth.com)



## Start Writing a Novel

*North Shields Library*

*Fridays, 7 March–11 April, 10–11.30am*

Start Writing a Novel is an introductory writing course for anyone who wants to write their first novel in 2025. Over the course of six weeks, author **HF Askwith** will support you to start writing your novel, through a blend of craft and goal setting activities. The course will focus on the key ingredients that make a novel, and will support you to get started and make this your year of writing.



## Start Writing

*Haltwhistle Library*

*Fridays, 7 March–11 April, 10.30am–12pm*

Join writer and experienced workshop facilitator **Susannah Ronnie** to begin or develop your writing practice through six workshops for writers of poetry, prose or scripts. Each 90-minute workshop will be built around a specific theme - such as journeys, clothes, food, music, objects and works of art - and will combine structured exercises with the opportunity for discussion and sharing in a supportive environment.



## Start Making Picture Books

*Newcastle City Library*

*Fridays, 30 May–4 July, 10–11.30am*

Are you interested in writing and illustrating for young children? Do you have a head full of ideas but don't know where to start? This six-week introductory course with acclaimed illustrator **Lucy Farfort** will give you the foundational knowledge you need to get started on your picture book making journey. From format to pitching your idea, this course will give you the tools you need to get started making picture books, as well as insight into the children's book industry.

Find out more at [NewWritingNorth.com](https://NewWritingNorth.com)

A photograph of three young women with long hair, wearing glasses and casual clothing, clapping their hands. They are smiling and appear to be at a performance or event. The background is slightly blurred, showing what might be a stage or a room with other people.

# Young Writers

## 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**, The Common Room
- **North Shields**, North Shields Library
- **South Shields**, The Word, South Shields

## The Lost Teenagers at Northern Stage


*Northern Stage, Newcastle*  
*10 April*

Lost Teenagers is an innovative piece of contemporary theatre created by teenagers for teenagers. Students at Callerton Academy have produced a compelling story that follows the journey of five teens who find themselves drawn into the digital world of 'Happy High Life'. Captivated by its dazzling lights and polished perfection, they soon uncover the darker, more sinister reality lurking beneath the surface of this artificial realm.

## Young Writers at the Classics Festival

*Lit & Phil, Newcastle*  
*15 May, 7pm*

ClassicsFest 2025 will explore the ideas of Ancient Roman philosopher **Cicero** and how his work can speak to us today. Our Young Writers will open the festival with a performance created with poet and performer **Kirsten Luckins** and an interview and discussion with **Vittorio Bufacchi**, senior lecturer in philosophy at University College Cork and author of the book ***Why Cicero Matters***.



Un grupo de escritura creativa multilingüe para  
Habla ntes de inglés no nativos de todos los niveles

নন-নেটিভ ইংরেজি ভাষীদের জন্য একটি  
বহুভাষী সৃজনাত্মক রচনার সংগঠন।

A multilingual creative writing group for  
non-native English speakers of all levels

باللغة الإنجليزية من جميع المستويات  
مجموعة الكتابة الإبداعية لغير الناطقين

یک گروه نوشتن خلاق چندزبانه برای غیر  
انگلیسی زبانان در تمام سطوح

針對各種水平的非英語母語  
者的多語言創意寫作小組

## World Writes

Mondays during term time, 11am–1pm  
The John Marley Centre, Newcastle  
Free

**World Writes is a multilingual creative writing group for people aged 16+ who are non-native English speakers.**

Facilitated by Mymona Bibi, members are encouraged and supported to think and write creatively, whilst developing their existing English language skills and enjoying multilingualism.

We welcome English speakers of all levels to express themselves in their mother tongue and explore the creative possibilities of connecting different native languages and English.

## West End Writes at John Marley Centre

John Marley Centre  
8 May, 4–6pm

Join New Writing North and our West End Writes groups at John Marley Centre for a presentation and celebration of new work by writers and community groups in the West End of Newcastle, including: a launch of World Writes' multilingual artist

publication and our Creative Drop-In's book of collected work by group members, a film screening of 'Zubaan: Stories of her Voices' by the South Asian older women we have been working with in partnership with **Search Newcastle**, an exhibition of archive and photography work by Remembered West – and a chance to meet the writers and find out more about our West End Creative Writing Hub!

Find out more at [bit.ly/WorldWrites](https://bit.ly/WorldWrites)



# New Writing North needs you

New Writing North is powered by readers and writers who believe in our work and support us with donations.

Our brilliant donors are an essential part of our mission to identify and nurture talented writers, to inspire the next generation of readers and to create life-changing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds across the North.

The support of our funders and the generosity of readers and writers like you make our work possible, and help keep so many of our programmes free. If you are able to do so, please make a donation today.

