

SUMMER
2025



NEW WRITING
NORTH

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
- For all abilities and levels of experience
- Small groups, led by expert tutors
- Flexible, at a time and pace that suit you

We have bursary places available for residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland thanks to the North East Combined Authority.

Writing Crime Fiction

Online course starting 28 April

£495 / Bursary: £198

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.

Writing for TV for Screenwriters in Cumbria

Tullie House, Carlisle

Saturday 14 June, 1–4pm

£10

Join us for an event which will give you a better understanding of how to write for TV.

Producers, writers and other TV professionals will be sharing their insights in this session.

There will also be an opportunity for you to network and meet other aspiring screenwriters in the region.

Find out more at NewWritingNorth.com



Northern Writers' Awards Ceremony 2025

Tuesday 24 June, 8–9.30pm

Online

Free

Join us online to watch the livestream of the Northern Writers' Awards 2025. With our hosts Northumbria University, we will be celebrating our flagship awards programme and announcing this year's winners.

The awards recognise exceptional work-in-progress by writers in the North of England. We have supported more than 400 writers since 1999 to develop their work towards publication and broadcast, with many going on to critical acclaim.



The evening concludes with the announcement of the 2025 winners, where we will award some of the region's most exciting poets, novelists, children's writers and authors of narrative non-fiction.

Supported by **Northumbria University**, **Hachette Children's Group**, **Channel 4**, **Arts Council England** and a range of partners.

This event will be livestreamed on New Writing North's YouTube channel.



Channel 4 Writing for TV Awards 2025

Open for applications 30 April–9 June

The Channel 4 Writing for Television

Awards offer new and emerging screenwriters bursaries; long-term placements with leading production companies to develop their original scripts; bespoke mentoring from industry professionals to enhance their career development; and additional support as a group, including meetings with producers, writers and agents. Four screenwriters will be selected.

Applicants must be 18 and over and reside in the North of England.

Find out more at NorthernWritersAwards.com



Book of Crow by Anna Barker

Live Theatre, Newcastle

Tuesday 17 June, 7.30–8.30pm

£12

Acclaimed North East writer **Anna Barker's** collection of poems, ***Book of Crow***, is brought to life in this special performance.

Book of Crow follows the story of Rachel whose mother has died and who makes her grief physical in the form of a belligerent crow. The crow becomes her companion through all the emotions of her loss.

Presented as a dialogue between Rachel and the crow, the poems swing between heartache and humour. The poems will be brought to life by actors, with live music by alt folk group **The Shining Levels**. The Durham band makes music inspired by literature and their first album was a musical companion to *The Gallows Pole* by Benjamin Myers.

This production is a **Durham Book Festival** commission, in partnership with **Live Theatre**, with support from **Arts Council England**.

The 2025 PEN Lecture with Kamila Shamsie

Culture Lab, Newcastle University

Thursday 19 June, 6–7.30pm

£10

English PEN is one of the world's oldest human rights organisations. It protects freedom of expression whenever it is under attack and celebrates contemporary international writing.

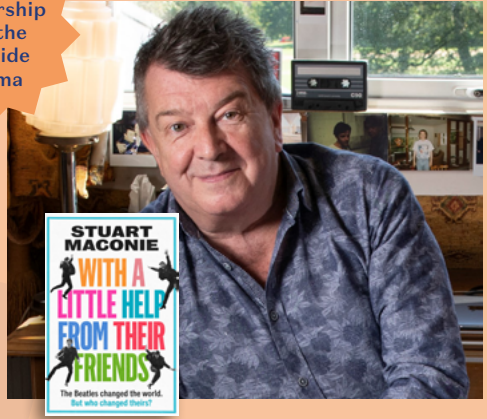
The 2025 PEN Lecture will be delivered by award-winning novelist **Kamila Shamsie**. She will discuss the current state of free expression and how the principles of the PEN Charter hold in our current era of upheaval and conflict.

Kamila Shamsie's novels include ***Best of Friends***, ***Burnt Shadows***, ***Kartography***, and ***Home Fire***. A Vice President of the Royal Society of Literature and former Vice President of English PEN, she grew up in Karachi and now lives in London and in Doha where she is the inaugural Writer in Residence at Georgetown University in Qatar.

The 2025 PEN Lecture is hosted in partnership with **Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts**, with support from **GemArts**.

Find out more at NewWritingNorth.com

In
Partnership
with the
Tyneside
Cinema



The Rise of Femgore with Lucy Rose and Jessie Elland

Coffee Rooms, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle
Wednesday 2 July, 6–7pm (Screening 7.30pm)
£10

Stifled desires, visceral bodies, and sickeningly sinister scenes are just some of the ways **Lucy Rose** and **Jessie Elland** are leading the rise of the 'femgore' genre. Join the authors as they discuss how their new novels ***The Lamb*** and ***The Ladie Upstairs*** are both reinventing and celebrating the legacy of horror fiction with their focus on the female body and distinctive northern settings.

Lucy Rose is the author of the *Sunday Times* bestselling novel, ***The Lamb***. She lives in Newcastle. **Jessie Elland** is an actress (*Emmerdale*) and author from the North East. ***The Ladie Upstairs*** is her debut novel.

This event will be followed by a screening of ***The Substance***. Ticket holders for this event can claim 10% off the screening ticket price. Book sales and signing by **Forum Books** after the event.

With a Little Help From Their Friends: Stuart Maconie

The Classic, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle
Tuesday 15 July, 6–7pm (Screening 7.30pm)
£18

Everyone knows a **Beatles** song – their music has shaped and reflected our country over the last 50 years. Join bestselling writer **Stuart Maconie**, as he discusses the supporting cast who helped four boys from Liverpool to change the world. ***With a Little Help From Their Friends*** is the epic tale of the people who made the band and shows The Beatles like you've never seen them before.

Stuart Maconie is a British journalist, author, DJ and television presenter, who has penned books on popular music, social history and British travel, including ***Cider with Roadies*** and ***The Nanny State Made Me***.

This event will be followed by a screening of ***Nowhere Boy***. Entrance to this screening is included in your ticket price for this event. Book sales and signing by **Forum Books** after the event.

Find out more at NewWritingNorth.com



Voice Notes

*John Marley Centre, Newcastle
Monday 14 July, 5.30–7pm
Free*

Voice Notes is an international creative writing and sound art project exploring the role of the telephone in experiences of migration. In 2025 **New Writing North's** multilingual writing group **World Writes** is collaborating with the **Voice Notes** team to contribute to the project and host a live presentation of the audio work at **John Marley Centre** in Newcastle's West End.

Featuring multilingual telephone messages from refugees and migrants from around the world, the project offers new ways to think about displaced voices and different modes of

reading, writing, talking and listening across cultures.

This event is part of the **PRS New Music Biennial**. A collaboration between composer **Hardi Kurda** and poet **Sarah Jackson**.

Supported by **Compass Collective**, **Counter Points Arts** and **Another Sky Festival**.

If you would like to join the World Writes group and be part of this project, please email Tess@NewWritingNorth.com



Young Writers' Summer

*For ages 11–19
Free, booking required*

*Gateshead College Baltic Campus
Monday 11–Thursday 14 August*

*Live Theatre, Newcastle
Monday 18–Wednesday 20 August*

*The Word, South Shields
Wednesday 27–Friday 29 August*

The long hot days of the school holidays are stretched out ahead of us. This year, we want to know what summer means to young people now. Join other young writers and professional artists and creatives to make a film, stage a play, and write your own summer. Let's make 2025 a summer of creativity!

Find out more at NewWritingNorth.com



Careers in Publishing Insight Day (Schools Only Event)

Northumbria University, Newcastle

Friday 4 July, 10am–3.30pm

£20–£40 per student

This insight day gives Key Stage 4&5 students the chance to learn about careers in publishing and is delivered in partnership with publisher **Hachette UK**. Hachette staff will lead panels and practical workshops covering key areas of publishing: editorial; marketing and publicity;

sales; rights; and production. The sessions will offer an understanding of what jobs like this entail and the skills needed.

It will be well suited to English classes, or Key Stage 5 students interested in knowing more about creative careers.

We are offering bursaries to help schools who need it with travel costs. Lunch will be provided. For booking and more information on pricing plans contact Skills@NewWritingNorth.com

T H E B E E

The Bee: A Home for Working Class Writers

Coming in May

The Bee is a website, literary magazine, online community and podcast which celebrates and supports working-class writers. It grew out of **A Writing Chance**, a **New Writing North** programme created in response to the lack of opportunities for working-class writers.

The Bee website launches in May, publishing new fiction, non-fiction, photography and interviews by working-class writers and creatives across the UK.

The Bee Magazine, its sister print magazine, will be published twice a year, starting autumn 2025. **The Working Class Library** is our podcast, where **Richard Benson** (editor, The Bee), **Claire Malcolm** (CEO, New Writing North) and a guest writer discuss a book and decide whether it deserves a place on the shelves of the imaginary Working Class Library.

The Beehive is a community for new and emerging working-class writers that offers opportunities for development and peer support, launching later this year.

There will be a live recording of the Working Class Library podcast at **Hexham Book Festival** on 3 May 2025, 7.30–8.30pm. Special guest **Kevin Barry** will join Claire and Richard to discuss Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*.

Find out more at TheBeeMagazine.com



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.



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