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# DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

FEATURING

FIONA HILL  
PAT BARKER  
ELIZA CLARK  
JEREMY VINE  
JOHN HARRIS  
ANN CLEEVES

ANDREW MCMILLAN  
STEPH MCGOVERN  
NATASHA BROWN  
MALIKA BOOKER  
JONATHAN COE  
MARY PORTAS

AND MANY MORE

10-12 OCTOBER  
GALA DURHAM

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## A very warm welcome

**We're delighted to be back with another celebration of books, ideas and talent at this year's Durham Book Festival.**

We have appearances from internationally best-selling North East writers, including **Dame Pat Barker**, **Ann Cleeves** and **Eliza Clark**. **Fiona Hill** will be launching her new podcast series, **Forged in the North**, exploring how the North East has shaped the lives of successful people from Sting to Sara Davies. Festival favourite **Andrew McMillan** will host brilliant fellow poets **Malika Booker**, **Jo Clement** and **Paul Farley**, who we have commissioned to write new poems 40 years on from the Miner's Strike and Tony Harrison's seminal poem *v.*

We've got fabulous fiction from novelists including **Natasha Brown**, **Jonathan Coe** and **Grainne O'Hare**, and non-fiction from journalists including **John Harris** and **Lanre Bakare**. Broadcasters **Mary Portas** and Durham University alumnus **Jeremy Vine** will be with us too.

Look out for this year's Little Read: ***Help! We Need a Story*** by **James Harris** – 500 copies of this gorgeous picture book are available free of charge in County Durham Libraries. If you're interested in exploring your own talent, we have workshops from best-selling illustrators **Dapo Adeola** and **Sara Ogilvie** and are hosting a scratch night for any emerging Durham writers to come along and share their work.

Thank you to festival commissioners Durham County Council and partners Arts Council England and Durham University for supporting Durham Book Festival.

Finally, this year's festival will not be the same without our dear friend and colleague Professor Simon James. He was a great champion of the festival and we will miss his enthusiastic and supportive presence very much.

**Rebecca Wilkie,**  
**Durham Book Festival Director,**  
**New Writing North**



## Mary Portas: *I Shop, Therefore I Am*

Friday 10 October, 6–7pm

Gala Theatre Main House

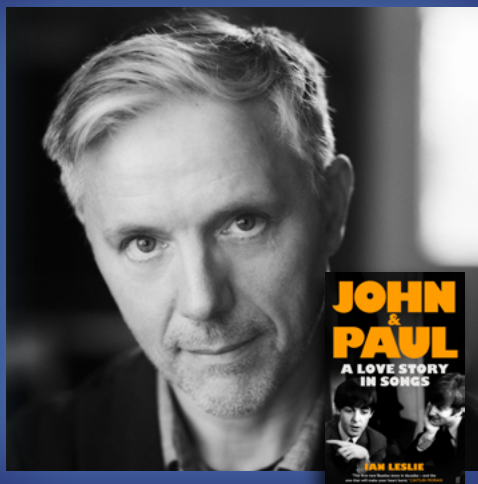
Tickets: £17/£15

Livestream: £5

Mary Portas' new memoir, *I Shop, Therefore I Am*, charts how she revolutionised department store Harvey Nichols in the 1990s, using her razor-sharp business instinct and creative flair.

Mary is joined by another of fashion's most influential figures, **Jane Shepherdson**, who who similarly turned around the fortunes of Topshop, became Chief Executive of Whistles, and is now Director of London Fashion Fund and a Smart Works trustee.

This event supports **Smart Works Newcastle**, a charity dedicated to empowering all women in the North East who need help getting into work through high-quality interview clothing and 1-1 coaching. We welcome attendees to bring one item of clothing to donate to Smart Works.



## Ian Leslie: *John & Paul*

Friday 10 October, 6:30–7:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

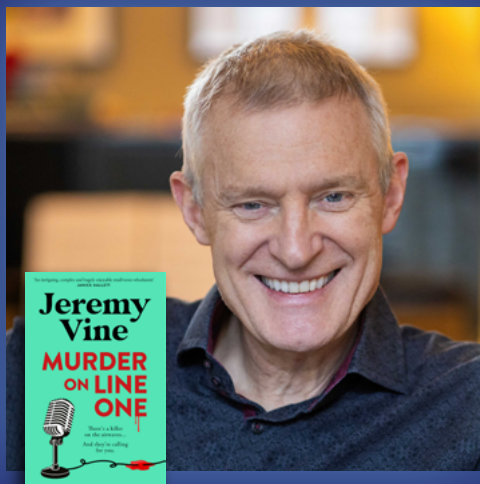
In his new biography, **Ian Leslie** charts the relationship between John Lennon and Paul McCartney from their teenage meeting in 1957, to their continued musical dialogue after the band broke up, until John's death in 1980.

Drawing on recently released footage and recordings, *John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs* is a startlingly fresh take on two of the greatest icons in music history, offering rich insights into the nature of their creativity, collaboration and human connection.

Ian Leslie is a journalist and author of the acclaimed books on human psychology: *Born Liars*, *Curious*, and *How To Disagree*.

**Chaired by Professor Brian Ward,**  
**Northumbria University.**





## Jeremy Vine: Murder on Line One

Friday 10 October, 8–9pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

Inspired by a childhood love of Agatha Christie, and his decades-long career as a journalist, beloved broadcaster **Jeremy Vine** has finally written his own murder mystery, **Murder on Line One**.

When late-night radio host Edward Temmis realises his ageing listeners are dying under mysterious circumstances, he is determined to solve the mystery of who is targeting them.

Jeremy Vine's lunchtime show on BBC Radio 2 is Britain's most listened-to news programme. He also hosts a breakfast show on Channel 5. He is a graduate of Durham University.

**Supported by Swinburne Maddison.**



## Durham Writes: Scratch Night

Friday 10 October, 8:15–9:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £5

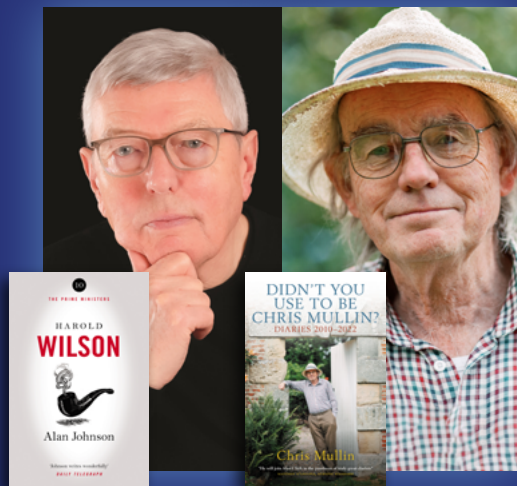
Livestream: £5

North East writers are invited to meet each other and share their work at this informal, fun and supportive event. Think 'scratch night' meets 'literary salon'.

There will be open-mic slots, scheduled performances from Durham writers, and readings from host, master wordsmith **Adam Sharp**, author of **The Wheel is Spinning but the Hamster is Dead**.

This event follows Durham Writes, our programme of creative writing workshops that took place around County Durham in spring and summer this year.

Bring a friend, a piece of writing, or just come along and enjoy new work.



## Alan Johnson and Chris Mullin in Conversation

Saturday 11 October, 10–11am

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

**Alan Johnson** joins us to talk about his biography of one of the most successful politicians of the 20th century: former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, and share stories of his own time as an MP. Alan will be in conversation with his former parliamentary colleague, **Chris Mullin**, discussing his latest diary collection, *Didn't You Use to be Chris Mullin?*.

Award-winning writer and former Labour cabinet minister Alan Johnson was MP for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle until 2017.

Chris Mullin is a celebrated writer and journalist and a former MP for Sunderland South. He led the campaign that resulted in the release of the Birmingham Six in the 1980's.

## Durham Energy Manifesto

Saturday 11 October, 10:30–11:30am

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

Help shape the Durham Energy Manifesto, drawing on our collective heritage to look at our energy future.

Less than a century ago, Durham was a national centre of power. At Redhills, the Pitman's Parliament (known as 'Durham's Other Cathedral'), representatives from each colliery village would debate and shape the laws and systems that we have inherited today.

Join us for a fascinating interactive panel discussion with members of the newly formed Durham Energy Council, made up of 30 County Durham residents. Learn about their journey from laymen to energy experts, and have your own say in where our energy comes from and what we, collectively, wish to pass on to our descendants.



## Hidden Histories: Lanre Bakare and Jake Morris-Campbell

Saturday 11 October, 12:30–1:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

Both **Jake Morris-Campbell's** *Between the Salt and the Ash* and **Lanre Bakare's** *We Were There* paint portraits of a diverse and rich Northern heritage. Exploring the North East's stories in the wake of Christianity and coal, and a long-forgotten Black Britain outside of London.

South-Shields born Jake Morris-Campbell is a poet and writer. His previous book was longlisted for the RSL Ondaatje Prize in 2021.

Lanre Bakare is the Guardian's arts and culture correspondent. He has worked for the Pulitzer Prize-winning Guardian US team. *We Were There* is his first book. He was born in Bradford.

**Chaired by Professor Julie-Marie Strange, Durham University.**



## Jenni Fagan: Ootlin

Saturday 11 October, 1–2pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

'The government told a story about me before I was born.'

Property of the state before birth, author **Jenni Fagan** had lived in fourteen different homes and had her name changed multiple times by the age of seven.

Jenni joins us to discuss her extraordinary memoir, *Ootlin*, detailing a life of displacement and exclusion, the persistent failings of the UK care system, and the power of storytelling.

Jenni Fagan is the award-winning author of four novels, including *The Panopticon*. *Ootlin* won the Gordon Burn Prize and was longlisted for the Women's Prize for non-fiction in 2025.

**Chaired by Terri White.**



## Rewriting v.: Malika Booker, Jo Clement and Paul Farley

Saturday 11 October, 2:30–3:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5



Tony Harrison's seminal 1984 poem **v.** explores class, anger and Northern identity while visiting his parents' vandalised graves during the Miners' Strike. Forty years on, three acclaimed Northern poets respond to the poem in this special event with **Andrew McMillan**.

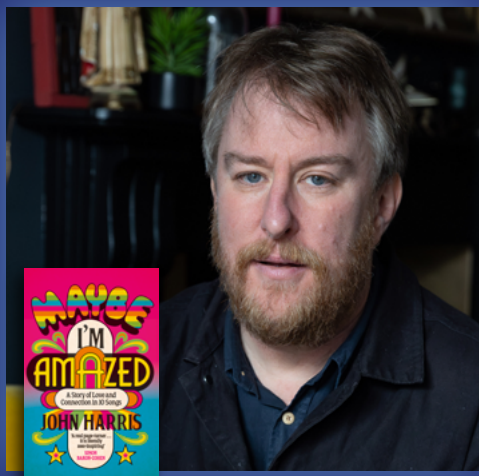
**Malika Booker** is a lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and the founder of Malika's Poetry Kitchen writers' collective. She is the first woman to win the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem twice.

**Jo Clement** is from the North East. A Northern Writers' Award winner, her debut collection, **Outlandish**, is published by Bloodaxe Books.

Liverpool-born **Paul Farley** is a poet and BBC Radio broadcaster. He has received numerous awards, including the E. M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters.

Commissioned by **Durham Book Festival** with support from **Manchester Metropolitan University**.





## John Harris: *Maybe I'm Amazed*

Saturday 11 October, 3–4pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

When **John Harris'** son James was diagnosed with autism, music became their main form of communication. In *Maybe I'm Amazed*, John describes how their shared passion for The Beatles, Kraftwerk and Amy Winehouse helped him raise a neurodivergent child in a prejudiced world. This book casts new light on why music speaks so powerfully to the human mind.

John Harris is an award-winning writer, journalist, podcaster and presenter. He is the author of the acclaimed pop-cultural history of the 1990s, *The Last Party*, and the definitive work on Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of The Moon*. In 2021, he released the authorised book that accompanied Peter Jackson's Beatles documentary series *Get Back*.

**Chaired by Paul Smith.**



## Meet the Illustrator: **Sara Ogilvie**

Saturday 11 October, 4:30–5:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

Children's book illustrator **Sara Ogilvie** will be sharing practical advice for aspiring illustrators and reflecting on her career working with authors, including Julia Donaldson, Anna Kemp and Katherine Rundell.

Sara Ogilvie is an award-winning illustrator and printmaker from Edinburgh, based in Newcastle. She lectures in Illustration and Graphic Design at Northumbria University.

This event is programmed in partnership with **Children's Books North Network**. It marks the launch of their inaugural prize for aspiring picture book illustrators based in the North of England, in partnership with **New Writing North** and funded by **Arts Council England** and **Manchester Metropolitan University**.





## Pat Barker and Anna Barker: Dipped in Ink

Saturday 11 October, 5–6pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

**Anna Barker** has spent a decade uncovering the life story of one of Britain's most revered living novelists – her mother, **Dame Pat Barker**.

Join Durham writers, Pat and Anna Barker for an exclusive work-in-progress event for **Dipped in Ink**, their forthcoming memoir spanning 40 years exploring family silences, literary legacy, and maternal relationships.

Pat Barker is the internationally acclaimed writer of 16 novels, including the Booker Prize-winning **The Ghost Road** and the best-selling **Women of Troy** series.

Anna Barker is an award-winning author of **The Floating Island** and **Before I Knew Him**. **Book of Crow** is her debut poetry collection.

## Book of Crow

Saturday 11 October, 7–8pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

Acclaimed North East writer **Anna Barker's** stunning poetry collection **Book of Crow** is brought to life in this new special event with recorded music from Durham band **The Shining Levels**. Presented as a dialogue between a woman and a belligerent crow, the piece swings between heartache and humour as it explores loss and the emotions that orbit it.

This event is the final performance in a tour around County Durham.

**18 September** Bishop Auckland Town Hall

**25 September** Lanchester Library

**26 September** TCR Hub

Commissioned by **Durham Book Festival**, in partnership with **Live Theatre**, with support from **Arts Council England**.



## The WOW Show

Saturday 11 October, 7:30–9:00pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

Fresh from its Edinburgh Fringe run, join **Jude Kelly** and a special guest for powerful stories and bold conversations as The WOW Show comes to Durham.

For 15 years, Women of the World has brought millions of people together across the world to celebrate women, girls, and non-binary people, and to inspire action. Grab your friends and family – it's an evening for everyone.

Presented by **S&DR200** and **WOW—Women of the World**, with support from **Arts Council England** and the **North East Combined Authority**. The S&DR200 Festival is presented by **Darlington Borough Council**, **Durham County Council** and **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**. With thanks to **Amazon UK**, **Hitachi** and **LNER**.

## Humanising Medicine: Gabriel Weston and Grace Spence Green

Sunday 12 October, 10:30–11:30am

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

**Gabriel Weston** and **Grace Spence Green** will discuss their boundary-blurring books, *Alive* and *To Exist as I Am*, and their shared perspectives of being both an NHS doctor and patient.

Gabriel Weston is a part-time surgeon, award-winning author of *Direct Red* and *Dirty Work*, and presenter of Trust Me I'm a Doctor and Incredible Medicine: Dr Weston's Casebook.

Junior doctor Grace Spence Green challenges identity and disability narratives in medicine, in national print and broadcast media. In 2018, aged 22, she sustained a spinal cord injury and is now a full-time wheelchair user.

**Chaired by Professor Jane Macnaughton, Durham University.**



## Rachel Cooke: **The Virago Book of Friendship**

Sunday 12 October, 11am–12pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

In **The Virago Book of Friendship**, journalist and author Rachel Cooke delves into writing ranging from Charlotte Brontë to Zadie Smith to explore why female friendships are being written about more than ever, and what we can learn about them. Join us for a fascinating conversation and dramatised readings from the book.

**Rachel Cooke** is an award-winning journalist and author. She writes for the Observer and the New Statesman. She is the author of **Her Brilliant Career: Ten Extraordinary Women of the Fifties**, and **Kitchen Person: Notes on Cooking & Eating**.

Chaired by Claire Malcolm, New Writing North.



## Rob Cowen: **The North Road**

Sunday 12 October, 12:30–1:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

The A1, the Great North Road, is Britain's grand highway. This Roman road, pilgrim path, coach route and motorway has been the backbone through Britain for the last 2,000 years.

The discovery of a skull near this great road leads **Rob Cowen** to explore the secrets of the past, kept concealed for millennia. Journeying through history, place, people and time, Rob weaves his own history and memories into the story of the landscape in **The North Road**.

Rob Cowen is the award-winning author of books including **Skimming Stones**, **Common Ground** and best-selling debut book of poetry **The Heading**.

Chaired by James Routledge.



## Time for Crime: Ann Cleeves and Steph McGovern

Sunday 12 October, 1–2pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

Award-winning broadcaster **Steph McGovern** and Sunday Times best-seller **Ann Cleeves** join us to discuss their new crime novels: *Deadline*, inspired by Steph's on-screen career, and *The Killing Stones*, which sees a return to the story of Jimmy Perez, abandoning Shetland for Orkney.

Steph McGovern is an experienced presenter for BBC Breakfast, host of The Rest is Money podcast, and regular on Have I Got News for You.

Ann Cleeves' novels have been adapted into TV shows including ITV's Vera and The Long Call, and BBC's Shetland. In 2017, she was awarded the highest accolade in crime writing, the Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger.

**Chaired by Vic Watson, Bay Tales.**



## The Working Class Library Podcast Live!

Sunday 12 October, 1:45–2:45pm

Gala Cinema Screen 2

Tickets: £10/£9

The Working Class Library is a podcast from The Bee, a new platform for working-class writers, produced by **New Writing North**. For this episode, writer and editor of The Bee, **Richard Benson**, and CEO of New Writing North, **Claire Malcolm**, are joined by writer and editor, **Terri White**, author of *Coming Undone*. Together they discuss a book and whether it deserves to have a place on the shelves of the imaginary working-class library.

In a special live podcast, they will discuss Catherine Cookson. Born in South Shields in 1906, Cookson published her first novel aged 44 and went on to sell over 120 million books around the world—but her private life was riddled with unhappiness, abuse and illness. Join this special event to discuss her extraordinary career and life.





## Commentary Through Comedy

Sunday 12 October, 2:30–3:30pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

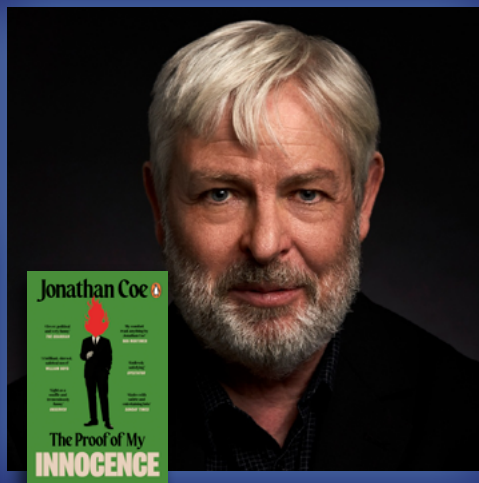
Disaffected millennial angst, ropery rentals, and complicated relationships link **Gráinne O'Hare**, **Vincenzo Latronico** and **Niamh Ní Mhaoldoin's** biting witty novels, which are three of the most exciting and timely fiction releases of 2025.

Gráinne O'Hare is a writer from Belfast based in Newcastle upon Tyne. She received a Northern Debut Award for Fiction from **New Writing North** in 2022 and is currently completing a PhD at Newcastle University. **Thirst Trap** is her first novel.

Vincenzo Latronico (joining online) is an Italian translator and author. **Perfection** is his fourth novel and first to be translated into English. It was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2025.

Niamh Ní Mhaoldoin is an Irish writer living in Edinburgh. Her debut novel **Ordinary Saints** was shortlisted for the Waterstones' Debut Fiction Prize 2025.

Chaired by Grace Keane, Girls Network.



## Jonathan Coe: The Proof of My Innocence

Sunday 12 October, 3–4pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5

**Jonathan Coe** takes on the state of the nation once again, darting between decades and genres in his wickedly funny and razor-sharp new novel, **The Proof of My Innocence**.

Exploring the lengths a sinister think-tank will go to in their scheme to push the British Government further to the far-right, two friends-turned-detectives are determined to uncover the truth in this blistering political critique wrapped up in a murder mystery.

Birmingham-born Jonathan Coe is a best-selling, award-winning, author of 14 novels including **What a Carve Up!**, **The Rotters' Club**, **Middle England** and **Bournville**.

Chaired by Rachel Cooke.





## Eliza Clark: *She's Always Hungry*

Sunday 12 October, 4.30pm–6pm

Gala Studio

Tickets: £10/£9

Livestream: £5

Presenting an exclusive dramatic live reading from *She's Always Hungry*, directed by **Maria Crocker**, a Durham Book Festival commission, followed by a Q&A with author **Eliza Clark**.

*She's Always Hungry* is the debut short story collection from acclaimed North East writer Eliza Clark. Unsettling, revelatory, and laced with her signature dark humour, these stories plumb the depths of that most basic human feeling: hunger.

Eliza Clark is the author of *Boy Parts* and *Penance* and also writes for film and television. She was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists in 2023 and grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Chaired by Eirinie Lapidaki.



## Fiona Hill: *Forged in the North*

Sunday 12 October, 5–6pm

Gala Theatre Main House

Tickets: £15/£12

Livestream: £5



*Forged in the North* is a new podcast series from **Fiona Hill**, exploring how the North East has shaped the lives of successful people, from musical icon Sting and writers such as Lee Hall and Peter Straughan, to entrepreneur and former Dragon Sara Davies.

In this special event, Fiona will be speaking to authors **LJ Ross** and **Richard O'Neill** about how they tell the story of our region in their books and how the North East has forged them both.

LJ Ross is the Northumberland-born and internationally best-selling author of crime novels. Richard O'Neill is a sixth generation master storyteller and author from the Romani tradition.

Fiona Hill is the Chancellor of Durham University and a political advisor specialising in Russian and European Affairs. From 2018 to 2019 she was deputy assistant to the President of the United States and served on the National Security Council. Her memoir *There is Nothing For You Here* was published in 2021.



## Little Read Storytime: Help! We Need a Story

Saturday 11 October, 11–11:45am

Clayport Library

Tickets: Free/Drop-in

Join us for a Little Read story time with North East author **James Harris**. **Help! We Need a Story** is a picture book about storytelling and the joy of being creative, with illustrations from **Marija Ollustrajo**.

It's a dull day in the jungle and **Artie the macaque's friends** are **BORED!** But with paper, pens and ink, a splash of inspiration, and a pinch of imagination, Artie creates something magical . . . a book!

500 free copies of the book will be available in libraries around County Durham as part of the **2025 Little Read**.

Suitable for ages 3+



## Little Read Workshops

Young readers and their families can take part in a free **Little Read Workshop** with **James Harris** during October half-term.

### Chester le Street Library

Monday 27 October, 10:30–11:30am

### Newton Aycliffe Library

Thursday 30 October, 11am–12pm

### Shildon Library

Thursday 30 October, 2–3pm

### Seaham Library

Friday 31 October, 10:30–11:30am

Pop in to find out more and book your free place.





## Em Lynas: The Bear and the Hare and the Fair Storytime

Saturday 11 October, 10–10:45am

Clayport Library

Tickets: £3

Join **Em Lynas** for a fabulously fun and seriously silly storytime for her new picture book, **The Bear and the Hare and the Fair**.

Bear and Hare can't find a fairground ride they both enjoy. Rides that go twirl and whirl are not for Bear. But Hare does not like rides that go bump and thump. Uh-oh! Will the two friends EVER find something they both like?

This delightful book, illustrated by **Matt Hunt**, is full of rhymes to get children laughing along, as Bear and Hare ask if you dare join them at the fair?

Em Lynas is based in Saltburn.

**Suitable for ages 3+**

## Children's Books North Network

These workshops have been curated by **Children's Books North Network**, who connect and support published children's writers, illustrators and publishing professionals living in the North West, North East, Yorkshire and Scotland. They focus on the importance of regional diversity in children's books and the wider industry.

These events are programmed to mark the launch of the inaugural Children's Books North Network Prize for aspiring picture book writers and illustrators based in the North of England, in partnership with New Writing North and funded by Arts Council England and Manchester Metropolitan University.

This year the prize is focused on picture book illustrators.

To find out more, go to

**[ChildrensBooksNorth.co.uk/CBNN-Prize](http://ChildrensBooksNorth.co.uk/CBNN-Prize)**

# Illustration Workshops for Adults



## CBNN Portfolio Review 1-1 Sessions

*Saturday 11 October, 10–11:30am*

*Clayport Library*

*Tickets: Free (booking required)*

Aspiring children's picture book illustrators can book an exclusive portfolio review and receive personalised feedback on their artwork from literary agent Emma Layfield (Children's Books North Agency), designer and illustration agent **Bethany Sparks**, and award-winning children's book illustrator, **Sara Ogilvie**.

Review sessions are limited to 10 minutes and one member of the review panel will be assigned to look at each participants' work.

Limited to 24 places. Advance booking through the Durham Book Festival website is essential.



## Picture Book Illustration Workshop with Dapo Adeola

*Saturday 11 October, 12–1:30pm*

*Clayport Library*

*Tickets: £15/£12*

Transform your illustrations and create characters from all walks of life in this picture book illustration workshop with award-winning author and illustrator, **Dapo Adeola**.

This practical and exciting interactive workshop gives an insight into the thinking behind Dapo's character design work for storytelling in picture books and other media. You'll also have the opportunity to receive feedback on your work.

Dapo's books include **Speak Up!**, and **Look Up!**, which won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. He was awarded Illustrator of the Year at The British Book Awards in 2022. Dapo is based in Manchester.



# Collected

44 The Riverwalk, Durham City



## Natasha Brown: *Universality*

Saturday 11 October, 6:30–7:30pm

Collected Books

Tickets: £5

One of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists, **Natasha Brown**, introduces her acclaimed second novel, *Universality*.

When a man is bludgeoned to death with a solid gold bar, a plucky young journalist is determined to solve the mystery of why he was killed. When her investigations lead to a viral exposé linking an amoral banker landlord, an iconoclastic columnist, and a radical anarchist movement, more questions are raised than answered.

Natasha Brown was named one of the Observer's Best Debut Novelists in 2021 for her debut novel *Assembly*, which was shortlisted for awards including the Goldsmiths Prize and the Orwell Prize for Fiction.

**Chaired by Tess Denman-Cleaver,**  
New Writing North.



## PBS Showcase with Mona Arshi and Caroline Bird

Sunday 12 October, 5:30–6:30pm

Collected Books

Tickets: £5

The Poetry Book Society presents two award-winning poets featured in their prestigious Autumn 2025 recommendations list.

**Mona Arshi's** third poetry collection, *Mouth*, follows women navigating the terrible reality and aftermath of war, from Greek tragedy to the conflicts of today, based on her experiences as a human rights lawyer. In 2015 she won the Forward Prize for her debut collection, *Small Hands*.

**Caroline Bird** is an editor of *Something New: Alternative Poems for Alternative Weddings*. She won the Forward Prize for *The Air Year* and has been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot, Polari and Dylan Thomas Prizes.

**Introduced by Alice Mullen, PBS.**



## Venue information

This year's festival takes place at:

**Gala Durham** and **Clayport Library**  
Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA

### Collected Books

44 Riverwalk, Durham, DH1 4SL

## Accessibility

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

All Gala Theatre, Studio and cinema events will be live-captioned and livestreamed. 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.**

## Access Information

### Gala Durham

- Lifts to all levels
- 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, personal assistant tickets are free of charge. Please ask at the Box Office
- Assistance dogs are welcome
- Sennheiser infrared amplification system in the main auditorium – headsets are available at Box Office.

### Clayport Library

- Lifts to all levels
- Accessible toilets located throughout
- Loop hearing system

## 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.



## 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 **livestream**.

Many events sell out very quickly. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment. Any remaining tickets can be purchased on the day at the Box Office.

To reduce the environmental impact of the festival, we encourage customers to use **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 by phone

03000 266 600

### Book online

DurhamBookFestival.com

### Commissioned by



### Festival Producer

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### Festival Partners



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