

# YORK

## LITERATURE FESTIVAL

March 2024

[yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk)

Including...



Grace Dent



Lemn Sissay



Natalie Haynes



Martin MacInnes



Jessica Andrews



Sheena Patel



Miki Berenyi



Rafael Behr



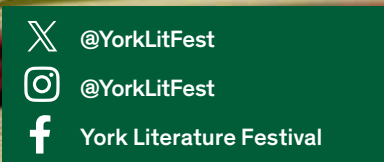
Stuart Turton



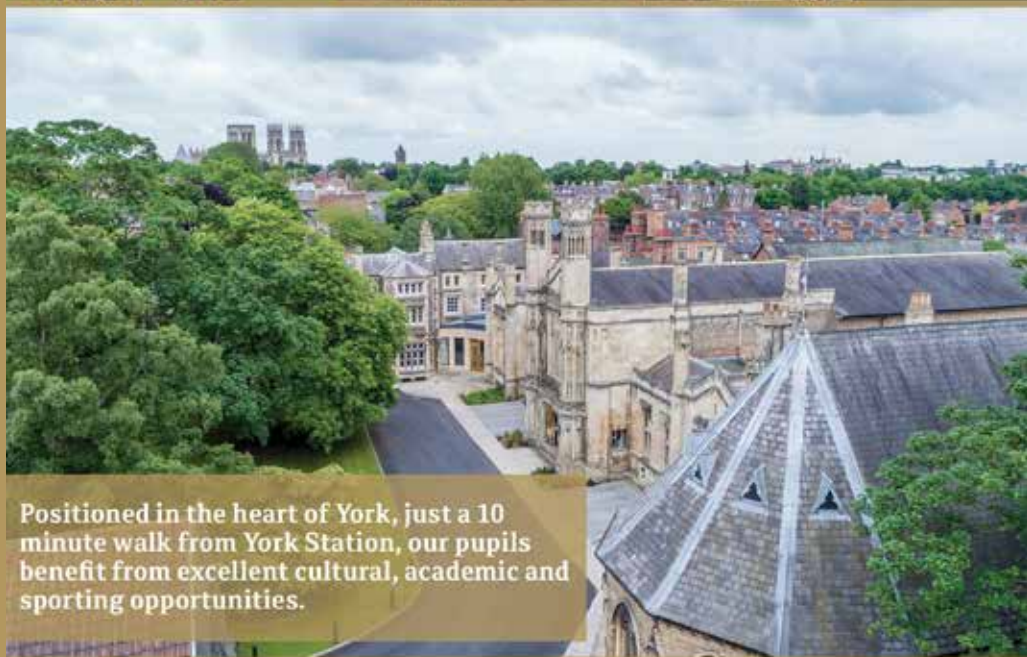
Cynthia Murphy

And many more...

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## Welcome to the 2024 York Literature Festival!

The team is thankful to York St John University for sponsoring and supporting the York Literature Festival, helping us to provide a wide range of events for the community. York is a city with a well-established literary heritage and we are delighted to support and promote local writers, groups and performers, as well as providing the general public with an annual programme of engaging literary events.

Our thanks go to those people and organisations that support us every year, including St Peter's School, The Mount School, York Theatre Royal and Explore York Libraries

and Archives. This year, we also acknowledge the support of local groups Howlers and Say Owt, as well as the Grand Opera House, York.

We hope that you will join us at our events taking place across our wonderful city.

So, look at our programme, book some tickets and we will see you there in March!

**Rob O'Connor and Shelby Gibbs,  
Festival Directors**

**York Literature Festival Board of Trustees**

### Ticket Information

## There are THREE ways to get your tickets for York Literature Festival!

**1)** For links to ALL tickets and for more information about all the events and authors, please visit  
**[www.yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://www.yorkliteraturefestival.co.uk)**

**2)** The York Theatre Royal box office and website is selling tickets to a selection of the events, and they can be contacted on  
**01904 623568** or online at **[www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk)**

**3)** You can get some tickets from other sources or venues. Please see each event description for more information of these other outlets.



## Iain Dale - Kings and Queens

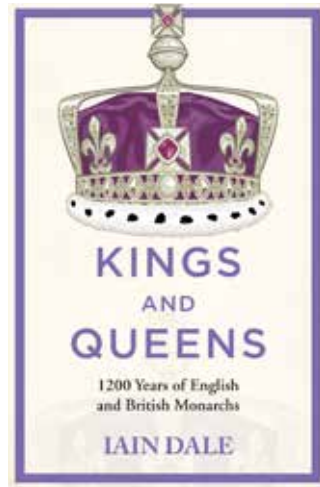
Friday 1 March, 7pm

History

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB  
£12 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

The British monarchy is one of the oldest in the world – dating so far back that even its origins are the subject of debate. Was William the Conqueror the first king of England, or was it Alfred the Great? Iain Dale will chart this long history of the English and British monarchy, joined by a panel of experts who have contributed to his book on every individual to have sat on the throne.

Iain Dale has previously produced best sellers *The Prime Ministers* and *The Presidents*, hosts his show on LBC and is a *Telegraph* Columnist. He has long been an innovator in the fields of blogging, twitter and podcasts.



## Scarred For Life – Folk Horror Show

Saturday 2 March, 7pm

Performance

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX  
£12 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3



From terrifying films like *The Wicker Man* and *Witchfinder General* to the gentle eeriness of *The Owl Service* and *Worzel Gummidge*, “Folk Horror” has become a thrilling genre in its own right. In this brand new live show, Stephen Brotherstone – co-author of the acclaimed *Scarred For Life* books – joins writer and broadcaster Bob Fischer to explore ancient magic, eerie stone circles and ask... what does actually lie beneath?

Folk Horror Day

Saturday 2 March

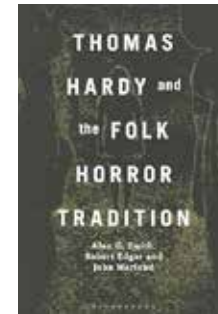
Folk Horror

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's walk, YO31 7EX

Free - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.

## Thomas Hardy and the Folk Horror Tradition – with Robert Edgar and Alan Smith

10.30–11.30am



Robert Edgar and Alan Smith are the authors of *Thomas Hardy and the Folk Horror Tradition* (Bloomsbury, 2023), which identifies parallels between Hardy's early life in rural Dorset and contemporary urban Britain as a site of and for folk horror. Robert and Alan will define folk horror, discuss Hardy as a novelist and look at Hardy's evocation of landscape before leading a Q&A and discussion.

## Circles of Stone: Weird Tales of Pagan Sites and Ancient Rites with Katy Soar

12–1pm



Katy Soar is the editor of *Circles of Stone: Weird Tales of Pagan Sites and Ancient Rites* (British Library Tales of the Weird, 2023) and the co-editor (with Amara Thornton) of *Strange Relics* (Handheld Press, 2022). Katy will be discussing the strange and unsettling allure of standing stones, stone circles, barrows and ancient rites and how this informed her choice of classic short stories as editor of her new collection published by the British Library.

## Writing Horror Fiction – a writing workshop with Naomi Booth

2–3.30pm



Naomi Booth is the author of the short-story collection *Animals at Night* and the novels *Sealed* and *Exit Management*. Naomi will be leading a writing workshop focussing on techniques and approaches in writing horror fiction. Writers of all levels are welcome.

## Andrew Michael Hurley: on writing folk horror fiction

4.30–5.30pm



Andrew Michael Hurley is amongst the leading writers of folk horror and his work includes *The Loney*, *Devil's Day* and *Starve Acre*, now a film adaptation. Andrew will be in discussion about the allure of folk horror, writing horror fiction, his work in adaptation, and forthcoming projects.

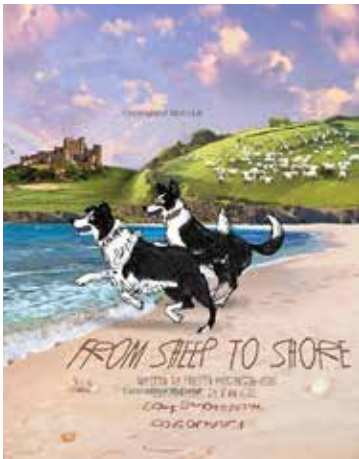
## From Sheep to Shore – Philippa Robinson-Gill and Adam Gill Children's Illustration Session

Saturday 2 March, 10am

Children (Picture Books)

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£5 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3



Based on the adventures of sheep dogs Meg & Jack. With young children in mind (ages 4-11) we will have readings from the book and a practical hands-on workshop on how to create your own illustrations. Feel free to bring along pictures of your own pets or animals that you think would make good illustrations.

## Carole Bromley – Blast Off!: A Poetry Workshop for Children

Saturday 2 March, 11.30am

Children (7-10)

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£5 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Carole Bromley is a well-known poet for both children and adults. She will give a short reading from her poetry collection, *Blast Off!* and from the various anthologies in which she is featured. This will be followed by a fun, interactive poetry workshop where participants will be invited to respond to a variety of prompts and to experiment with writing their own poems.



## Cynthia Murphy – Signed, Sealed, Dead

Young Adult Fiction

Saturday 2 March, 11.30am

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£5 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Acclaimed Young Adult thriller writer Cynthia Murphy will be in conversation about horror and mystery writing, as well as reading from her latest novel *Signed Sealed Dead*.

Cynthia Murphy is the author of four other thrillers for Young Adults, including *Last One to Die* and *The Midnight Game*.



## Writing the Future

Speculative Fiction

Tuesday 5 March, 2.30 - 6pm

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

Free - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.



A celebration of science fiction and speculative fiction. The afternoon will include a writing workshop with Adam Marek (2.30-3.30pm) and a panel discussion with Dan Coxon, Una McCormack, S.J. Groenewegen and Abi Curtis (5-6pm). You can sign up for either or both events.

See the York Literature Festival website for more details on the two events.

The workshop is aimed at writers of all levels.

## How to get published: Agent, Publisher and Editor Panel Q & A

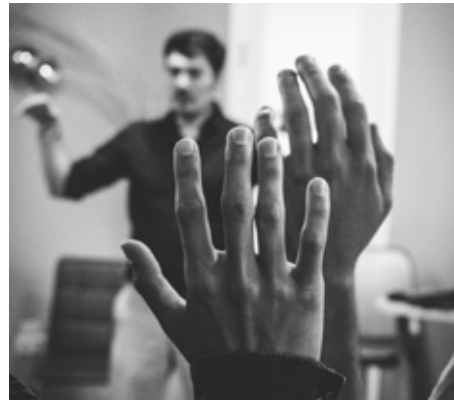
Wednesday 6 March, 6pm

Publishing

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

**Free** - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.

A panel discussion with six UK agents, publishers and editors answering all of your burning questions about how to get your writing out there. The panel includes Donald Winchester and Megan Carroll from London based literary agency Watson, Little; Jen Hamilton-Emery and Christopher Hamilton-Emery from award-winning independent publisher, Salt; Una McCormack, best-selling sci-fi author and editor; and Wendy Pratt, poet, prose-writer and editor of Spelt poetry magazine. Introduced by Abi Curtis, Professor of Creative Writing.



## Polari Literary Salon

Thursday 7 March, 7pm

Various

Theatre@41, 41 Monkgate, York, YO31 7PB

**£10** - Tickets are available from Theatre@41

Part of the Polari Prize National Showcase supported by Arts Council England. Award-winning Literary Salon Polari, inspired by the gay slang of the same name, is a celebration of LGBTQ+ words and voices – whether written, spoken or sung. This evening is an exciting and eclectic showcase of LGBTQ+ writers and performers, both local and from outside York. Founder Paul Burston will also be in conversation discussing LGBTQ+ writing and publishing.



For more information on featured performers, please visit the festival website.

## Food Writing: Nina Mingya Powles and Ella Risbridger in Conversation

Food Writing

Thursday 7 March, 7pm

The Mount School, Dalton Terrace, York, YO24 4DD

**£12** - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Join award-winning writers Nina Mingya Powles (*Tiny Moons*, *Small Bodies of Water* and *Magnolia*) and Ella Risbridger (*Midnight Chicken*, *The Dinner Table* and *The Year of Miracles*) in conversation on all things food writing. Dip into the cuisines that have shaped these authors and their writing and discover that there is more to the genre than just delicious cookbooks.



## International Women's Day Poetry Showcase

Poetry

Friday 8 March, 7pm

The Basement, City Screen Picturehouse, Coney Street, YO1 9QL

**£10** - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Celebrate International Women's Day with a special performance from acclaimed poets Olivia Mulligan, Anne Caldwell, Simone Yasmin and Allie Esiri. As well as reading from their work, the poets will also be in conversation with Chloe Hanks, co-host of York-based open mic group Howlers.





## Chris Mullin – Didn't You Use To Be Chris Mullin?

Friday 8 March, 7pm

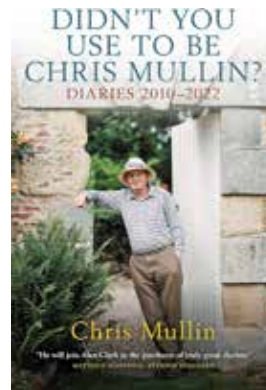
Politics

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

No longer in the tent, but not quite out of it, celebrated diarist Chris Mullin will return to York to give his take on the twelve turbulent years since he left Parliament. With his trademark wit and keen eye for the absurd, he will recount events from the fall of New Labour to the death of the Queen. Rich in anecdote, this promises to be an evening of insight and entertainment. Chris Mullin was the long serving MP for Sunderland & is a journalist, campaigner and celebrated political diarist.

"One of Mullin's charms is his readiness to like people who don't echo his politics." *Jenni Russell, Sunday Times*



## Rafael Behr – Politics: A Survivor's Guide

Saturday 9 March, 7pm

Politics

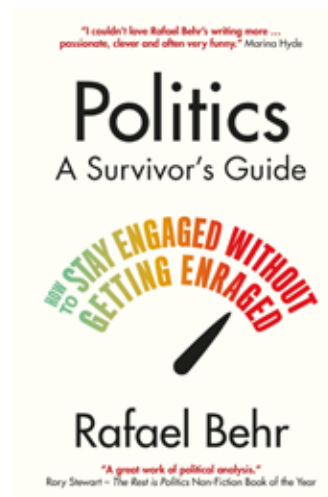
St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

We live in an age of fury and confusion. A new crisis erupts before the last one has finished: financial crisis, Brexit, pandemic, war in Ukraine, inflation, strikes. Prime Ministers come and go but politics stays divided and toxic.

It is tempting to switch off the news, tune out and hope things will get back to normal. Except, this is the new normal, and our democracy can only work if enough people stay engaged without getting enraged. But how?

To answer that question, award-winning journalist Rafael Behr takes the reader on a personal journey from despair at the state of politics to hope that there is a better way of doing things, with insights drawn from three decades as a political commentator and foreign correspondent.



## Beyond the Walls Student Showcase

Performance

Monday 11 March, 7pm

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

Free - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.

Join us for exciting readings of creative pieces written by the talented students and staff of York St John University. The event is celebrating the annual Beyond the Walls anthology project and is hosted and organised by York St John University creative writing students.



## Nicholas Royle – David Bowie, Enid Blyton and the Sun Machine

Memoir

Tuesday 12 March, 6pm

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's walk, YO31 7EX

Free - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.

## David Bowie, Enid Blyton and the sun machine



Nicholas Royle

In this one-of-a-kind book, novelist and academic Nicholas Royle brings together two remarkably different creative figures: Enid Blyton and David Bowie. Blending elements of memoir and cultural commentary, Royle creates a tender and often hilarious portrait of family life during the pandemic, weaving it together with musings on dreams, second-hand bookshops and previously unpublished photos of Bowie taken by Stephen Finer. He also shares previously unrecorded details about Blyton's personal life, notably her love affair with Royle's grandmother.

In this special event, Nicholas Royle will be in conversation with Dr Sam Reese, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at York St John University.

## Ian Moore - Death at the Chateau

Thursday 14 March, 6pm

Crime/Mystery

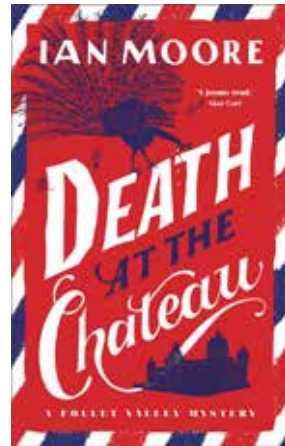
York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£8 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

From the bestselling author of *Death and Croissants* and *Death and Fromage* comes a murder mystery perfect for fans of Richard Osman, Julia Chapman or MC Beaton.

Richard Ainsworth's French B&B has been taken over by a production company shooting a historical film at the Château de Valençay. But everything grinds to a halt with the sudden passing of an actor under suspicious circumstances.

Come and join author Ian Moore as he discusses his latest mystery novel.



## Steve Richards – Turning Points

Saturday 16 March, 7pm

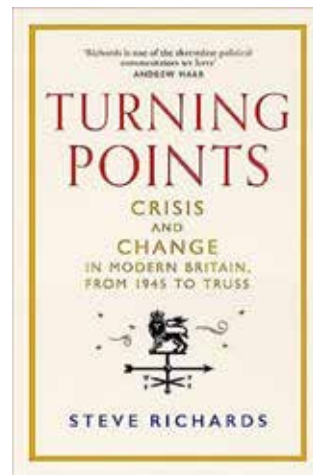
Politics

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

With his trademark insight, forged over several decades as one of the UK's foremost political commentators, Steve Richards blends anecdote and analysis to explore the biggest events in British political history. The evening promises to be enlightening and entertaining in equal measure. Steve will take us through turning points from 1945 to Liz Truss as we await this year's general election – quite possibly our next big turning point.

Steve Richards has had a long and distinguished journalistic career on newspapers and the BBC and is the host of the *Rock & Roll Politics* podcast.



## Literary Walk, with David Holt

Various

Saturday 16 March, 11am

Museum Gardens, Museum Street entrance

£10 – Pay the guide on arrival in cash.

Join Blue Badge Guide for Yorkshire David Holt on a literary themed tour of York. David has outstanding knowledge of York and Yorkshire as well as having taught History for almost 30 years. Advance bookings are encouraged by contacting David on **07803 605037** or **greatyorkshiretours@gmail.com**



## Martin MacInnes – In Ascension

Literary Fiction

Saturday 16 March, 2pm

York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York, YO1 8AW

£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Leigh grew up in Rotterdam, drawn to the waterfront as an escape from her unhappy home life and volatile father. Enchanted by the undersea world of her childhood, she excels in marine biology, travelling the globe to study ancient organisms. When a trench is discovered in the Atlantic ocean, Leigh joins the exploration team, hoping to find evidence of the earth's first life forms – what she finds calls into question everything we know about our own beginnings.

Longlisted for The Booker Prize 2023, *In Ascension* is a mesmerising and compelling novel. Come and join Martin MacInnes as he reads from and discusses the book.



## Jessica Andrews – Milk Teeth

Saturday 16 March, 6pm

Literary Fiction

York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York, YO1 8AW

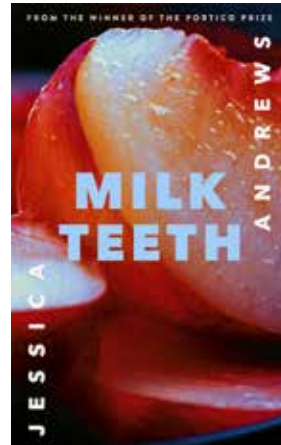
£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

From the author of the award-winning *Saltwater* comes a beautifully told love story set across England, France and Spain.

A girl grows up in the north of England amid scarcity, precarity and the toxic culture of heroin chic, believing that she needs to make herself smaller to claim presence in the world.

Years later, as a young woman with unattainable ideals, she meets someone who calls everything into question, and is forced to confront episodes from her past. Their relationship takes her from London to Barcelona and the precipice of a new life, full of sensuality. Yet she still feels an uneasiness. In the sticky Mediterranean heat, among tropical plants and secluded beaches, she must decide what form her adult life should take and learn how to feel deserving of love and care.

Jessica will be in conversation about her novel.



## Smith and Waugh Talk Satire Live – The Brontës and Satire

Sunday 17 March, 2pm

Academic Talk

York St John University, Creative Centre, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

Free - tickets are required from the York St John University Eventbrite page.

Join Drs Jo Waugh and Adam James Smith (co-hosts of the ongoing podcast Smith and Waugh Talk About Satire and directors of the York Research Unit for the Study of Satire) for a deep dive into the lighter side of the lives, literature and legacies of the Brontë sisters. Following their talk Jo Waugh and Adam Smith will open the conversation up to the audience, examining together the implications of acknowledging the comedy and satire that surround the life and work of the Brontë sisters.



Various

## Mini Zine Fair and Workshop

Tuesday 19 March, 6-9pm

Free - No need to book. The Crescent, 8 The Crescent, York, YO24 1AW



A pop-up evening in collaboration with York Zine Fest, featuring stalls from local, grassroots publishers. If you have ever wondered what a zine is or wanted to have a go, there is the opportunity to get creative and make your own unique zine at a drop-in workshop. Friendly, fun and free for all.

## Catherine Taylor - Stirring Up the Past with Memoir

Memoir

Tuesday 19 March, 6pm

York Explore Library and Archives, Museum Street, YO1 7DS

£8 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3



Catherine Taylor's memoir, *The Stirrings*, takes readers back to Sheffield in the 1970s and 80s and one young woman's coming of age there. Behind it all, the murders of serial killer Peter Sutcliffe are a haunting presence. *The Stirrings* evokes all this with sharp wit and poetic language. It is a book for anybody who wants to be taken back to the past, experience it vividly and find ways to make sense of it all. In conversation with Dr Helen Pleasance, Catherine will talk about how memoir provides new routes back to the past.



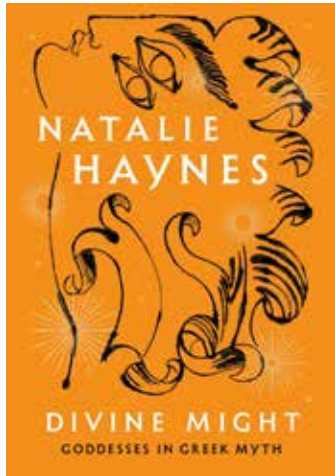
Mythology

**Natalie Haynes – Divine Might**

Tuesday 19 March, 7pm

St Peter's School, Clifton, York, YO30 6AB

£12 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3



Natalie Haynes, the bestselling author of *Stone Blind* and *Pandora's Jar*, will introduce us to the stories of the Greek goddesses. As fearsome, powerful and beloved as their male counterparts, she'll take us beyond the columns of a ruined temple to the awesome power within.

Examining the role of these goddesses and more, *Divine Might* will change everything you thought you knew about our most ancient stories. Full of fire, fury and devotion, Natalie Haynes will bring the divine women of Olympia kicking and screaming into the modern age.

Natalie Haynes is a writer, comedian and broadcaster, best known for her BBC Radio 4 series and podcast *Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics*.

**Sheena Patel – I'm A Fan**

Thursday 21 March, 6pm

Literary Fiction

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS.

£8 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3

Sheena Patel's debut novel *I'M A FAN* tells the story of an unnamed narrator's involvement in a seemingly unequal romantic relationship. With a clear and unforgiving eye, Sheena Patel makes startling connections between power struggles at the heart of human relationships to those in the wider world, offering a devastating critique of social media, access and patriarchal systems.

One of the Observer's Best Debut Novels of the Year 2022, *I'M A FAN* is an exhilarating, addictive take on obsession, race, gender and power dynamics through the lens of a corrosive relationship.



**Literary Walk, with David Holt**

Saturday 23 March, 11am

Museum Gardens, Museum Street entrance. | £10 – Pay the guide on arrival in cash.

See detailed information on page 13.

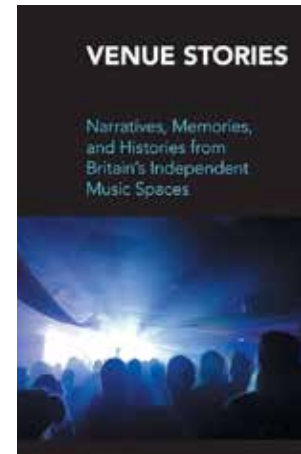
**Venue Stories**

Sunday 24 March, 1pm

Memoir

The Crescent Community Venue, 8 The Crescent, York, YO24 1AW.

£5 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3. Tickets also available from The Crescent.



*Venue Stories* is an anthology that pays a visit to the toilet venues, back rooms and ad-hoc club nights that make up our musical landscape. The writers in this collection have a shared passion for venues in all their splendid variety with memories of seismic gigs and life-altering raves in spaces which are independent, original and wonderfully weird. This event celebrates the importance of these cultural spaces.

**Miki Berenyi in Conversation: Fingers Crossed.**

Sunday 24 March, 3pm

Memoir

The Crescent Community Venue, 8 The Crescent, York, YO24 1AW.

£12 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3. Tickets also available from The Crescent.



The searingly honest and beautifully written memoir by musician Miki Berenyi, former lead singer, rhythm guitarist and founder member of Lush. *Fingers Crossed* is an incredible account of a trailblazing woman and a seminal band delivered with the vivid, emotional power of an accomplished storyteller. Miki will be in conversation about the book and her career.

'Breaks the mould of music memoir' *The Guardian*  
'A salutary corrective to a much-mythologised musical era'

Observer

'Outstanding' *Record Collector*

'Utterly engrossing' *Red Magazine*

'A brilliant and engaging read' *Classic Rock*

## Folklore and Fantasy Fiction: RJ Barker and Eliza Chan in Conversation

Tuesday 26 March, 6pm

Fantasy Fiction

York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York, YO1 8AW  
**£10** - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3



RJ Barker is the acclaimed author of the two fantasy series *The Wounded Kingdom* and *The Tide Child*. His new novel *The Gods of the Wyrdwood* imagines a forest world born from our darkest folklore. Eliza Chan's debut novel *Fathomfolk* reimagines marine folklore into a creative fantastical world. Both authors will be in conversation about their novels and the role of folklore within fantasy fiction.

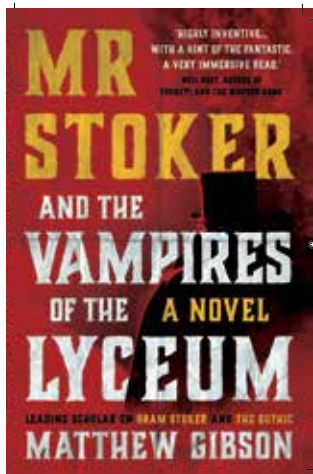
## Matthew Gibson – Mr Stoker and the Vampires of the Lyceum

Thursday 28 March, 6pm

Historical Fiction

York Explore Library and Archives, Library Square, Museum Street, YO1 7DS.

**£8** - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see page 3. Tickets also available from The Crescent.



Join leading Bram Stoker scholar Matthew Gibson as he discusses his debut Gothic crime thriller *Mr Stoker and the Vampires of the Lyceum*. Set in 1888 Jack-the-Ripper London, the novel features Stoker – acting manager of The Lyceum Theatre by day and aspiring novelist by other means – as the inadvertent investigator of unfolding vampiric events; events that may have inspired his masterpiece, *Dracula*.

Performance (Poetry and Prose)

## Howl Owt Open Mic

Thursday 28 March, 7pm sign-up, 7.30pm start.

The Blue Boar, 5 Castlegate, York, YO1 9RN | Free

York poetry organisations Howlers and Say Owt are teaming-up for a raucous night of words. The poetry pals are swapping duties: Say Owt will be running the open mic. The Howlers hosts will be presenting a special guest poet!



Alex Mepham is a writer and translator based in York. Alex's work has been published in various print and online journals, and was awarded the 2023 Northern Debut Award for Poetry by New Writing North.

## Lemn Sissay: Let the Light Pour In

Poetry

Saturday 30 March, 2pm

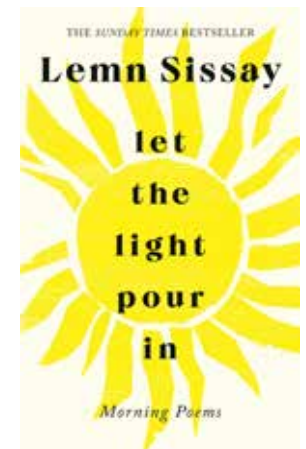
Grand Opera House York, Clifford and Cumberland Street, YO1 9SW

**From £16.25** - Tickets available from the Grand Opera House, York.

For the past decade, Lemn Sissay has composed a short poem as dawn breaks each morning. Life-affirming, witty and full of wonder, these poems chronicle his own battle with the dark and are fuelled by resilience and defiant joy. *Let the Light Pour In* is a collection of the best of these poems, and a book celebrating this morning practice.

Lemn Sissay is a BAFTA-nominated, award-winning writer and broadcaster. He has authored collections of poetry and plays and his memoir *My Name Is Why* was a number one Sunday Times bestseller. His Landmark poems are visible in London, Manchester, Huddersfield and Addis Ababa. He has been made an Honorary Doctor by the Universities of Manchester, Kent, Essex, Huddersfield and Brunel, and in 2019 he was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize. He received an MBE in 2010 and an OBE in 2021 for services to literature and charity. In 2023, Sissay was awarded the Freedom of the City of London. He is British and Ethiopian.

@lemnsissay | lemnsissay.com



**'How do you do it?' said night**  
**'How do you wake up and shine?'**  
**'I keep it simple,' said light**  
**'One day at a time.'**

## An Audience with Grace Dent

Saturday 30 March, 7pm

Memoir

Grand Opera House York, Clifford and Cumberland Street, YO1 9SW

From £22 - Tickets available from the Grand Opera House, York. [page 3](#)



Come and join us as we celebrate the end of the 2024 York Literature Festival with food critic, columnist, author and presenter Grace Dent. In this special event, Grace will be in conversation about all things food, her memoir *Hungry* and her other work.

As a columnist, Grace has written weekly columns for *The Independent* and *The London Evening Standard* until she took on the revered role of restaurant critic for *The Guardian*, for which she won the *Guild of Food Writers' Food Writing Award 2019*. In October 2020, HarperCollins published Grace's memoir *Hungry*, a book for people who love to eat and love to laugh.

On screen Grace is perhaps best known as a regular guest and critic on *MasterChef* and *MasterChef: The Professionals*. She also hosts the hugely successful podcast entitled *Comfort Eating*, which inspired the recent book of the same name.

This promises to be an entertaining evening of informal discussion. Make sure you don't miss out!

## Stuart Turton - The Last Murder at the End of the World

Thursday 4 April, 6pm

Dystopian Thriller

Venue to be confirmed. Please go to the festival website for updated information.

£10 - Tickets from York Theatre Royal, see [page 3](#)



Stuart Turton will be in conversation about his brand new novel, *The Last Murder at the End of the World*.

This is the outstanding new high-concept murder mystery from the Sunday Times bestselling and Costa Book Award winning author of *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*.

An ingenious puzzle, an extraordinary backdrop, an audacious solution. A world destroyed by a mysterious fog. An island, living in peaceful harmony, shook to its core by a murder. Solve the murder to save what's left of the world

## Festival Team

Festival Director:

**Dr Rob O'Connor**

Assistant Festival Director:

**Shelby Gibbs**

Co-Chair:

**Henry Raby**

Co-Chair:

**Sally O'Connor**

Treasurer:

**Jeff Todd**

Secretary:

**Dr Angela Ranson**

Programming Support:

**Chloe Hanks**

Programming Support:

**Professor Abi Curtis**

Programming Support:

**Kerry Holmes and Sara Young**

Explore York programme:

**Lyndsay Glover and Barbara Swinn**

St Peter's School programme:

**Ben Fuller**

The Mount School programme and

Creative Writing Competition:

**Lisa Obi**

York St John University programme:

**Professor Rob Edgar, Dr Helen Pleasance,  
Dr Adam Smith, Dr Jo Waugh**

Brochure Design:

**Craig Walton | [grafik.co.uk](#)**

Website support:

**Craig Walton | [grafik.co.uk](#)**

## Thanks

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Fox Lane Books:

**Kirstie Lount**

Little Apple Bookshop:

**Philippa Morris and Tim Curtis**

Criminally Good Books:

**Isla Coole**

St Peter's School:

**Jeremy Walker, Duncan Gillies, Ali Fuller, Sara Burns,  
James Blane, Cindy Bushell, Olivia Conroy,  
Darren Adamson, Stuart Wall, & all in the ICT,  
catering, estates, office and housekeeping teams.**

York St John University:

**Jessica Baxter**

York Theatre Royal:

**Vicky Biles, Jenny Jenkins, Clare Bewers  
and Richard Bayton**

Grand Opera House York:

**Laura McMillan and Grace Gama**

Our thanks also go to all the agents, publishers, contributors and artists who are supporting this year's festival, and our wonderful team of volunteers who share their time in order to make this happen. Thanks also to everyone attending an event. You are why we do this!



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Partners



# Creative Writing Competition



Calling brilliant young writers. Here's your chance to get creative, show off your talents & win some book vouchers!



To enter, write an original short story or poem using this year's theme 'Peace'.

## 3 AGE CATEGORIES

11 & under

12 - 15

16 - 18

## ENTRY DEADLINE

Sunday 24 March 2024

## HOW TO ENTER

- Submit a short story (no longer than 1500 words) or a poem (no longer than 30 lines) using the theme 'Peace'.
- Entries must be marked with the entrant's full name, email address, current school and a contact telephone number.
- Entries must be emailed to [marketing@mountschoolyork.co.uk](mailto:marketing@mountschoolyork.co.uk) by 6pm 24/03/24

For the full rules please visit [mountschoolyork.co.uk/yorkliteraturefestival24](http://mountschoolyork.co.uk/yorkliteraturefestival24)



# York Centre for Writing

AT YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

The York Centre for Writing is a hub for creative writing activities at York St John University and beyond. It is home to the established undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in Creative Writing in the School of Humanities at York St John University. Come and be inspired by our team of published writers and visiting authors, editors and publishers.

## Our courses:

- Creative Writing BA
- Creative Writing Joint Honours
- Creative Writing MA
- Publishing MA
- Publishing and Creative Writing MA
- Publishing and Contemporary Literature MA
- Creative Writing MFA
- Creative Writing PhD

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[yorks.ac.uk/york-centre-for-writing](https://yorks.ac.uk/york-centre-for-writing)

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