



# Welcome to Durham Book Festival 2018

**“Welcome back to Durham Book Festival, the home of inspiring events and unique commissions. We’re commemorating the centenary of the women’s suffrage movement with a host of events featuring brilliant women from Sarah Perry to Pat Barker and new commissions from Lucie Brownlee and Sarah Sayeed and a chilling Big Read from award-winning author Sarah Waters. Look out for our Little Read, Izzy Gizmo, aimed at some of the youngest readers in County Durham too. This year, the festival is also launching two new literary podcasts.”**

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**Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive,  
New Writing North**

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**“I’m very much looking forward to this year’s Durham Book Festival, which once again offers a range of fantastic events and activities that will appeal to readers of all ages. There are lots of opportunities to get involved and I would particularly encourage people to take part in the Big Read by visiting their local library. The festival also offers another opportunity for us to draw in visitors to the county and showcase everything we have to offer.”**

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**Councillor Simon Henig,  
Leader of Durham County Council**

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**“I am delighted to welcome the programme for the 2018 Durham Book Festival. The festival is a very important way for Durham University to celebrate our place within the local community, through our spaces, our people and our shared interests and values. I am especially glad this year to see the University’s Scottish Soldiers exhibition, Bodies of Evidence, at the heart of the programme, and to see the continuation of the long association between the festival and poetry in Durham.”**

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**Professor Stuart Corbridge  
Vice-Chancellor, Durham University**

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# Festival highlights

Join the conversation at Durham Book Festival, and be inspired by a host of writers, artists and thinkers. Here are just a few of this year's highlights...



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# The Big Read



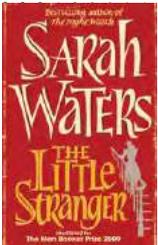
## The Little Stranger

This October, immerse yourself in the Gothic atmosphere of *The Little Stranger*, the Booker-nominated fifth novel from award-winning author Sarah Waters. This gripping ghost story deftly navigates the uncanny space between the psychological and the supernatural, drawing on the sense of decay, malaise and uncertainty that characterised the postwar Britain in which it is set. In 2018, Durham Book Festival will see people throughout County Durham reading *The Little Stranger* and celebrating the incredible career of this gifted author.

A descendant of Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* and Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Little Stranger* is bristling with plot twists and allusions that hold a mirror up to our own fears and anxieties.

Haunted by the shadow of the war, and threatened by the incipient advent of modernity, Hundreds Halls provides the backdrop to a family plunged into paranoia, hysteria and the insidious terror of haunting. Is the ghost of a dead child, Mrs Ayres' first daughter, making its presence felt? Or is something more psychologically sinister at work?

In 2018 Durham Book Festival will distribute 3,000 copies of *The Little Stranger* to schools, libraries, prisons and businesses, and to university staff and students across Durham.



## The Big Read in Durham Libraries

Library users all over County Durham will be sharing *The Little Stranger* this autumn. Participating libraries will include Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Durham Clayport, Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Seaham, Shildon, Spennymoor, and Stanley. Get in touch with your nearest library for details.

On **Thursday 27 September at 2.30pm**, we will be hosting a special free library book group meeting at Chester-le-Street library and inviting members from all the library book groups to join together for a discussion. There is no need to book for this event.

## Sarah Waters: The Little Stranger

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**Saturday 13 October, 7.30pm-8.30pm**  
Gala Theatre, Tickets: £10/£8

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Join us in celebrating the work of award-winning author Sarah Waters, whose haunting fifth novel, *The Little Stranger*, is this year's Durham Book Festival Big Read. Shortlisted for the Man Booker prize, *The Little Stranger* is a ghost story that combines sharp social observation with supernatural intrigue.

Sarah Waters was born in Wales in 1966 and has written six novels, including the bestselling *Fingersmith* and *The Night Watch*. *The Little Stranger* has been adapted for the screen, and will be released as a major motion picture this summer.

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Chaired by Caroline Beck

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Portrait photography

Sarah Waters  
Charlie Hopkinson

[durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com)

# Virago: Publisher in Residence

## Susie Boyt: Love & Fame

**Saturday 13 October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

Eve Swift, a nervous young actress from an esteemed theatrical dynasty, marries an even-tempered expert on anxiety called Jim. Across town, tabloid journalist Rebecca Melville is burning all her bridges. But how far can Eve and Rebecca go without losing the admiration of the people they love?

From the West End stage to the depths of the gutter press, *Love & Fame* asks: do we get what we deserve in life? Must the show always go on? Susie Boyt is the author of five other acclaimed novels and the memoir *My Judy Garland Life*.

Chaired by Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan,  
Durham University

## Virago Live: Can We All Be Feminists?

**Sunday 14 October, 12.30pm–1.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets £8/£6

Join us for a live recording of the Virago podcast – a monthly celebration of reading, writing and women’s voices. This event will bring together contributors to Virago’s new anthology, *Can We All Be Feminists?*, in which 17 writers from diverse backgrounds explore intersectionality, identity and finding the right way forward for feminism.

Soofiya Andry is a visual artist, illustrator and designer and has an essay in the collection about gender, non-conforming, bodies and feminism; she will be joined by Selina Thompson, an artist and performer based in Leeds, who has written about the issue of fat and feminism.

Chaired by Hayley Camis, Virago

## Rebecca (1940): Hitchcock After Dark

**Friday 12 October, 8pm–10.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £8/£6

(includes a drink on arrival)

‘Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again...’

Uncontrollable desires, corrosive jealousy and a malicious antagonist – *Rebecca* has it all. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the publication of Daphne du Maurier’s masterpiece, published by Virago Modern Classics, and to celebrate we’re holding a special screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s Academy Award-winning 1940 film adaptation in Durham’s historic Town Hall.

Starring Laurence Olivier as Maxim de Winter, Joan Fontaine as the wilfully naïve second Mrs de Winter, and Judith Anderson as the spitefully manipulative Mrs Danvers (‘the face that launched a thousand drag acts’), *Rebecca* is a masterclass in Gothic suspense and psychodrama.

Ticket price includes an exclusive cocktail created for Durham Book Festival by Durham Distillery. Join us for what promises to be a truly atmospheric evening of literature and classic cinema.

Introduced by Dr Stacy Gillis,  
Newcastle University



# Schools events

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**Tuesday 9 October**

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, All tickets: £4

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## **Helen Stephens: How to Hide a Lion at School** 10am–11am

Join author and illustrator Helen Stephens as she reads from *How to Hide a Lion at School*, the story of a lion stowing away on Iris's school trip to the museum and causing mayhem in the process! Helen will also introduce the newest instalment of the best-selling series: *How to Hide a Lion at Christmas*.

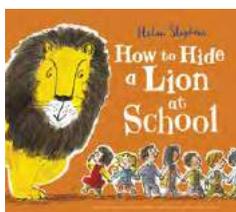
This interactive session includes live drawing and story-telling and is perfect for children under 7. Helen Stephens has won many awards for her books, which include *Fleabag* and *The Night Iceberg*. *How to Hide a Lion* has been featured on *CBeebies Bedtime Stories*.

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**Suitable for ages 4–6 / EYFS, KS1**

Themes: Animals, Friendship, Humour

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Teachers and  
adult helpers  
go free

## **Dave Shelton: The Book Case** 1.30pm–2.30pm

Crikey! From the award-winning author of *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* and creator of the comic strip *Good Dog, Bad Dog*, comes this rip-roaring riot of midnight feasts, trap doors and youthful hijinks. Book boffin Emily Lime has a mystery to solve!

Join Dave Shelton to find out more about this hilarious mystery and watch him draw some of the images from the book. Dave will talk about his career as a comic creator, writer and illustrator and offer advice to aspiring young writers in what promises to be an inspiring event.

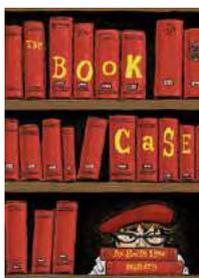
Dave Shelton won the Branford Boase Award and has been shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Prize and the Carnegie Medal.

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**Suitable for ages 9–12 / KS2 and KS3**

Themes: Adventure, Friendship, Humour

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**Wednesday 10 October**

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, All tickets: £4

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## **A Morning of Poetry with Imtiaz Dharker**

11am–12pm

We're delighted to welcome award winning poet Imtiaz Dharker to Durham. Born in Pakistan and brought up in Scotland, Imtiaz's poems question how we make sense of concepts such as faith, freedom and home. Her collections include *Postcards from God*, *I Speak for the Devil*, *The Terrorist at My Table*, *Leaving Fingerprints*, *Over the Moon*, and her latest, *Luck is the Hook*.

Imtiaz was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2014, and reads with other poets at Poetry Live! events all over the country to more than 25,000 students a year. For a number of years now, her poems have been taught on the UK national curriculum. Carol Ann Duffy said of her, 'Were there to be a World Laureate, Imtiaz Dharker would be the only candidate.'

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**Suitable for ages 12+ / KS3, KS4 and KS5**

Themes: Conflict, Displacement, Freedom, Home, Faith, Poetry, SMSC

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## **Kate Pankhurst: Fantastically Great Women Who Made History**

1.30pm–2.30pm

Kate Pankhurst, author and illustrator of the number-one best-selling children's book *Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World*, is coming to Durham for a very special schools event. Kate will be introducing her brand new book, *Fantastically Great Women Who Made History*, and taking us on a journey through time to explore the stories, accomplishments and adventures of many brilliant women from throughout history.

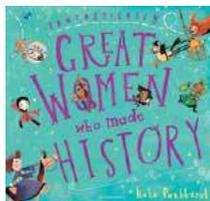
Overflowing with detail, *Fantastically Great Women Who Made History* is a celebration of some of the inspirational women who put their mark on the world we live in, from courageous Harriet Tubman to Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*.

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**Suitable for ages 7-11 / KS1 and KS2**

Themes: History, Women, Feminism, PSHE, SMSC

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Portrait photography

Helen Stephens  
Sarah Chappell

Imtiaz Dharker  
Ayesha Dharker Taylor

Kate Pankhurst  
Joanne Crawford

# The Gordon Burn Prize

**Thursday 11 October, 8pm–10.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8 (includes a Durham Gin and tonic courtesy of Durham Distillery)

**Join us for a celebratory evening as we introduce the shortlisted titles and announce the winner of the Gordon Burn Prize 2018.**

**The evening will include readings by the shortlisted writers and a discussion of their work, chaired by broadcaster and journalist Mark Lawson. The announcement of the prize will be followed by an exclusively commissioned piece of music, written and performed by Andrew Weatherall, which responds to Gordon Burn's legacy.**

The Gordon Burn Prize celebrates daring works of fiction and non-fiction from the UK and US, with the winning writer awarded £5000 and a writing retreat. This year's prize has been judged by critic and journalist Alex Clark, chair of the judges; poet and author Kei Miller; artist Gillian Wearing; and musician Andrew Weatherall.



## **H(a)ppy by Nicola Barker**

Nicola Barker's twelfth novel, *H(a)ppy*, is a stylistically innovative story set in a dystopian future where perfected humans have their dreams, thoughts and everyday actions recorded and shared with one another. Within this world Mira A is beginning to tentatively question why she is merely h(a)ppy. Untethered by convention, Nicola Barker's fascinating novel envisions where its relationship with technology may one day lead our species.



## **Census by Jesse Ball**

US writer Jesse Ball has written more than ten books of prose and poetry, but *Census* is his first UK publication. The novel follows a father and son as they travel across a nameless landscape in the wake of the father's terminal diagnosis. As their story progresses, we discover more about the remarkable boy and his condition, and the love and understanding between a father and his child. Jesse Ball was included in *Granta: Best of Young American Novelists* in 2017.



## **In Our Mad and Furious City by Guy Gunaratne**

Guy Gunaratne's ambitious debut, *In Our Mad and Furious City* is set on a London estate during the tense and unsettled summer days following the murder of a British soldier. Tracing the passions, dreams and pains of lifelong friends Selvon, Yusuf and Ardan, the novel bristles with energy as it explores an estate where football, grime, sex and radicalism are explosively propelled towards each other.



## Crudo by Olivia Laing

Following three works of non-fiction, Olivia Laing's *Crudo* is an intimate, funny novel, set during the tumultuous summer of 2017. Kathy – who may or may not be countercultural icon Kathy Acker – has just turned 40 and is assessing her life choices while trying to enjoy her honeymoon, in spite of an impending sense of apocalypse. Olivia Laing's previous books, *The Trip to Echo Spring* and *The Lonely City*, were shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize in 2014 and 2016.



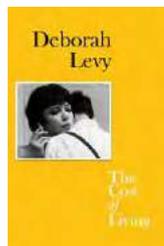
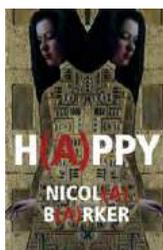
## The Cost of Living by Deborah Levy

Deborah Levy's elegiac memoir is a meditation on what it means to be alive. In a deeply reflective and personal account, Levy examines afresh her life, the relationships closest to her and what it is to be a woman and a writer. In precise and candid language, she describes the fallout following the breakup of her marriage and the seismic impact of her mother's death. Deborah Levy's six celebrated novels include *Swimming Home* and *Hot Milk*, both shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.



## I'll Be Gone in the Dark by Michelle McNamara

*I'll Be Gone in the Dark* is an utterly gripping account of journalist Michelle McNamara's investigation into the Golden State Killer, a serial murderer who remained undetected by authorities for decades. McNamara's book takes the reader deep into both her subject and her own obsessive pursuit of the truth. This compelling book is a landmark in true-crime writing that is underscored by the early death of its author, who passed away while still writing and researching her story.



### Portrait photography

Nicola Barker  
Emonn McCabe

Jesse Ball  
Joe Lieske

Guy Gunaratne  
Cade Moulla

Olivia Laing  
Liz Seabrook

Deborah Levy  
Sheila Burnett

Michelle McNamara  
Robin van Swank

# Commissions

## Una: Cree

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**Friday 5 October, 6pm–7pm**

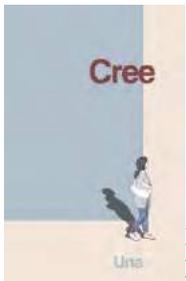
Waterstones, Durham

Tickets: £4 (including drink on arrival)

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In 2017 Durham Book Festival commissioned acclaimed graphic novelist Una to create a graphic novel inspired by the people of Durham and its landscapes. Una spent time at the Just for Women Centre in Stanley and the women she met there inspired her book *Cree*, which we're delighted to launch at Durham Book Festival 2018.

*Cree* is the story of Joy, a woman from Durham who finds solace, support and ultimately hope from attending the women's Cree group in Stanley. Una's beautifully drawn landscapes and characters reflect the spirit of County Durham. This special launch event is an opportunity to meet Una and discover this book for the first time.



Original  
Commission

## Bob Beagrie: Civil Insolencies

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**Sunday 7 October, 10.30am–11.30am**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

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This exciting new commission from the creator of *Leásungspell*, one of 2018's sell-out events, sheds fresh light on the bloody Battle of Guisborough, fought in the heart of the Tees Valley on 16 January 1643.

Join Teesside poet Bob Beagrie as he brings the past to life in vivid detail with words and music, exploring parallels between 17th century attitudes and contemporary issues surrounding free speech, fake news and social division.

*Civil Insolencies* charts the events leading up to the battle, the clash between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers, and the conflict's horrific aftermath of 'A World Turn'd Upside Down' from the perspectives of several historical characters.

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Introduced by Phil Philo, former museum curator, Captain Cook Birthplace & Dorman Museums

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Original  
Commission

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Photography

Keith Pattison



**This year's festival commissions reflect themes including the 100 year anniversary of the Representation of the People Act, freedom of speech and the age of anxiety. We're proud to be showcasing a diverse range of Northern voices here at Durham.**

## **Tamsin Daisy Rees: Living in the Age of Anxiety**

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**Sunday 7 October, 3.30pm–5pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

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'Are we living in an age of anxiety?'

We commissioned Durham-born writer Tamsin Daisy Rees to write a monologue inspired by this theme. As part of this commission, Tamsin will also be working with pupils at her former school in Wolsingham.

### **Teddy**

*Fifteen-year-old Teddy spends most days after school helping out Roger with his allotment, drinking tea and eating stale custard creams. But today is the first time she's been round in a while. And there's stuff to be said, but she's not sure how. And neither is Roger.*

Directed by Anna Ryder and performed by Jackie Edwards, *Teddy* is about unlikely friendships, loneliness, the anxiety behind grief, and butternut squashes.

Following the performance, Tamsin will be joined in discussion by Caroline Dower, Head of the Counselling Service at Durham University, Dr Dave Tomson, who specialises in mental health issues and community psychiatry, and Veronica Harnett, CEO of Redcar and Cleveland Mind. Together they will discuss the issues relating to mental health and young people.

## **Lucie Brownlee: The World Above**

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**Sunday 7 October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**

The Miners' Hall, Redhills, Tickets: £8/£6

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Mining stories are integral to the history of County Durham; however, the stories of the women and girls who lived in the world above the pit are not heard as frequently as those of their male counterparts.

Durham Book Festival commissioned writer Lucie Brownlee to interview women in Easington, many of whom were activists during the miners' strike. In particular, Lucie will consider how living in 'the world above' the pits shaped the lives and characters of four women across three generations, spanning 100 years. Lucie will also undertake a residency in the archives at Redhills, home of the Durham Miners' Association, exploring the many stories of the mining community held there.

This special event will bring together Lucie Brownlee, with Durham activists Heather Wood and Charlotte Austin, to discuss the mining community of the past, and how the decimation of this community impacts the future for the women and girls who live there today.

The audience will hear a soundscape of the colliery women's voices and view a special light installation inspired by Lucie's research, situated in the grounds of Redhills.

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Chaired by Dr Jennifer Luff, Durham University  
Supported by Arts Council England

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Original  
Commission



Original  
Commission

# Commissions

## **Song for Sophia: Radical Women Then and Now: Sarah Sayeed, Caitlin Davies and Fern Riddell**

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**Sunday 7 October, 2pm–3.30pm**

The Miners' Hall, Redhills, Tickets: £8/£6

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This event and special commission commemorate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which granted some women in the UK the right to vote for the first time and was an important step towards universal suffrage.

We commissioned writer and composer Sarah Sayeed (BBC Verb New Voices 2018) to write a dramatic monologue which will weave together the lives of two women: the real life Victorian suffragette Princess Sophia Singh and the fictional Prem, a contemporary British Asian woman who is campaigning for justice within her own community.

Following a short performance, Sarah will be joined in conversation with author Caitlin Davies, whose book *Bad Girls: A History of Rebels and Renegades* uses Holloway Prison, which played a pivotal part in the suffragettes' campaign and housed Emmeline Pankhurst and Alice Wheeldon, as a starting point to explore a history of women's incarceration. Historian Fern Riddell will join the panel to discuss *Death in Ten Minutes*, the story of radical suffragette Kitty Marion, whose story she tells through Kitty's own diaries.

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Chaired by Caroline Beck

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Original  
Commission

## **Alta'ir: Durham-Jordan Creative Exchange**

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**Sunday 14 October, 12pm–1pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery),

Tickets: £5/£4

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Alta'ir means bird, and is the Arabic name for the brightest star in the constellation of Aquila. This cross-cultural exchange between Durham and Amman was established to help raise the profile of British writing in Jordan and of Arab writing and culture in the UK, in the hope that long-lasting connections between writers in the UK and the Arabic-speaking world will be forged.

In September 2018 Durham Book Festival will send award-winning poet Linda France to undertake a residency at the British Institute in Amman, Jordan, giving her a unique space to write and share her work with Arab audiences. In October 2018 we will welcome Jordanian author, playwright, and screenplay writer Mefleh Al-Adwan to undertake a similar month-long residency at St Mary's College, Durham. This event will bring the two writers together to share their experiences and to discuss their writing.

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Chaired by Dr Fadia Faqir, Durham University

Alta'ir is a partnership project between Durham Book Festival/New Writing North, the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), St Mary's College, Durham University, Dr Fadia Faqir and the British Council.

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Original  
Commission



## David Olusoga: *Black and British: Growing up in the North East*

**Sunday 14 October, 3.30pm–4.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

Join historian and broadcaster David Olusoga as he presents this special Durham Book Festival commission. David will write about and share his experiences of growing up in Gateshead and his subsequent journey to reconnect with the North East of England as an adult.

David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian, BAFTA-winning broadcaster, and filmmaker. His most recent book, the award-winning *Black and British*, tells the rich and revealing story of the long relationship between the British Isles and the people of Africa and the Caribbean. It was published to accompany his landmark BBC Two series. David's other recent work with the BBC includes the series *A House Through Time* and *Civilisations*, which he presented alongside Mary Beard and Simon Schama.

Chaired by Professor Tom Lawson,  
Northumbria University

Original  
Commission



## Jacob Polley: *Lamanby*

**Sunday 14 October, 6.30pm–7.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £8/£6

Jacob Polley is regarded as one of the leading talents of the new generation of British poets, and we are delighted to welcome him to Durham as this year's Festival Laureate. *Lamanby* is his extraordinary drama of a childhood house that becomes the site of an alternative personal history and dream-vision of boyhood and the North of England.

Based on his award-winning collection of poems, *Jackself*, *Lamanby* resonates with voices, monsters and music, telling a story charged with strangeness and poetry. With remarkable music and soundscapes created by John Alder, filming by Ian Fenton, and direction from Tess Denman-Cleaver, *Lamanby* movingly explores how we might hold on to what matters.

Jacob Polley was born and grew up in Cumbria. He won the 2016 TS Eliot Prize for Poetry for his fourth collection, *Jackself*. Jacob will write a specially commissioned poem as part of his Laureateship, as well as appearing at a special event for Durham University students.

Introduced by Professor Stephen Regan,  
Durham University

The Festival Laureateship is run in partnership  
with Durham University

Original  
Commission



Portrait photography

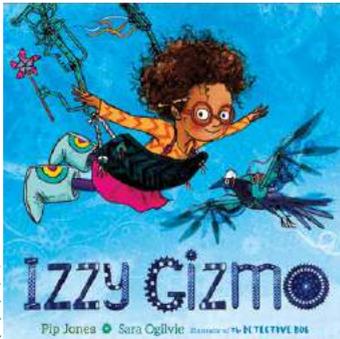
Jacob Polley  
Ian Fenton

# Izzy Gizmo: The Little Read Celebration

## The Little Read Celebration

Izzy Gizmo loves to invent things, but her inventions never seem to work the way she wants them to. When she finds a crow with a broken wing she just has to help. But will she be able to put her frustrations to one side and help her new friend to fly again?

This year we are launching a Little Read for County Durham and are giving away 500 copies of the picture book *Izzy Gizmo* by Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie. We'll be sending a copy of the book to every primary school in Durham along with teachers' resources, for pupils in EYFS and KS1. We'll also be working with five community centres in County Durham, including Wheatley Hill, Blackhall, Pelton and Tow Law. Children in these communities will take part in Izzy Gizmo workshops to create songs and crafts inspired by the book.



## Izzy Gizmo: A Story Gig

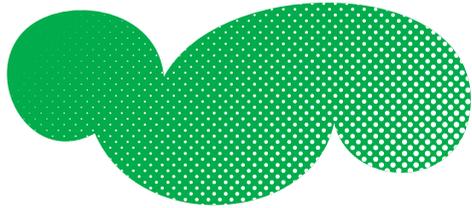
**Saturday 13 October, 11am-12pm**

Gala Theatre, Tickets: £7/£5

From the team behind *Do Not Enter The Monster Zoo*, *Hey, Presto!*, *Man on the Moon* and *The Worst Princess*, comes a brand new musical adventure for little tinkers everywhere.

This one-off performance features live original music, inspired by the book and created with the help of children from all over County Durham. Children under 7 and their families are invited to join us for a morning of singing, dancing and the opportunity to meet Izzy's illustrator, Sara Ogilvie.

*Based on the book written by Pip Jones and illustrated by Sara Ogilvie, adapted by Ruth Johnson and Jeremy Bradfield.*



Little  
Read  
DURHAM  
BOOK  
FESTIVAL

Illustration

Sara Ogilvie

[durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com)

# Family Day

Join Durham Book Festival  
for a day of book-based family fun!

## Rebel Kids and Mini Manifestos

**Saturday 6 October, 10.30am-12pm**

Gala Studio, Tickets: £4

Do you want to change the world? Inspired by the spirit of *Bedtime Stories for Rebel Girls* and *Boys that Dare to Be Different*, this is a hands-on session for mini-activists. Hear stories of amazing lives from our Storytelling Suffragette (and have a chance to write your own) and design your own placards and manifestos, which will feature on our Wall of Inspiration.

Note: There will be crafts on offer, so wear clothes you don't mind getting messy!

Recommended age: 5+

## My First Gig with Field Music

**Saturday 6 October, 2.30pm-4pm**

Gala Studio, Tickets: £7/£5

Join Mercury Prize-nominated band Field Music for a very special family gig, playing songs inspired by their favourite children's books, nursery rhymes and some of those VERY familiar TV theme tunes. There will be face-painting, disco balls, dancing and blow up guitars at the best first gig you could wish for!

Recommended age: 2+



Portrait photography

Field Music  
Andy Martin

Book by phone on 03000 266 600

# Poetry

## Owen Sheers: The Green Hollow

**Saturday 6 October, 11am–12pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

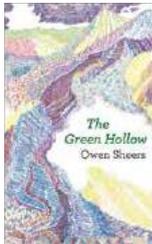
In 1966 a coal slag-heap collapsed on a school in South Wales, killing 144 people, most of them children. Poet Owen Sheers has given voice to those who still live in Aberfan, the pit village in which tragedy struck, and uses their collective memories to create a striking work of poetic power.

Based on the BBC One production, *The Green Hollow* is a beautifully rendered picture of a time and place – and a life-altering event whose effects are irrevocable.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, Owen has also written a verse-poem, *To Provide All People*, which takes place over 24 hours in the life of a regional hospital.

Owen Sheers is a poet, author and playwright. His first novel, *Resistance*, was translated into ten languages and adapted into a film. In 2018 he won the Wilfred Owen Poetry Award and in 2017 *The Green Hollow* was nominated for a BAFTA.

Chaired by Professor Stephen Regan,  
Durham University



## Rowan McCabe: The Door-to-Door Poet

**Saturday 6 October, 7pm–8pm**

Palace Green Library Café, Tickets: £6/£4

What do you think would happen if you knocked on a stranger's door and offered to write them a poem? Join Newcastle-based poet Rowan McCabe as he talks about his experience of becoming the world's first Door-to-Door Poet, and the unexpected stories that emerged along the way.

Through a funny and thought-provoking mix of spoken word and theatre, find out about the people Rowan met on his journey around the North East of England; from a council estate in Stockton, to his appearance on *BBC Breakfast*; from a mosque in Newcastle, to the most expensive houses in the region.

Directed by Peadar Kirk

## Faber Poets: Rachael Allen, Sophie Collins and Zaffar Kunial

**Sunday 7 October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

Join three of Faber's exciting new poets as they read from their work. Rachael Allen is poetry editor of *Granta* magazine and her first full collection will be published by Faber in 2019. Sophie Collins is the author of the Faber collection *Who Is Mary Sue?*, which will resonate with anyone concerned with identity, shame, gender, trauma, and culture. Zaffar Kunial won the Geoffrey Dearmer prize for his poem 'The Word', and his debut collection, *Us*, looks with a tender toughness at his upbringing by his English mother and Lahore-based Kashmiri father, and the distances his own life has had to travel in between.

Introduced by Professor Stephen Regan,  
Durham University

## Simon Armitage at Chad's

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**Thursday 11 October, 6pm–7pm**

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St Chad's Chapel, Tickets: £8/£3

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Join award-winning poet Simon Armitage for this intimate reading in the beautiful setting of St Chad's Chapel. This event is held in partnership with Durham University's Centre for Poetry and Poetics and launches their conference on Literary Birds.

Simon Armitage is the author of numerous poetry collections, including *The Unaccompanied*, *Paper Aeroplane: Selected Poems 1989–2014* and *Zoom!* He has also published fiction and non-fiction. He is Oxford Professor of Poetry and in 2017 was appointed Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds.

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Introduced by Helena Habibi

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## Owen Lowery: Transitions

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**Saturday 13 October, 4pm–5pm**

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Palace Green Library, Tickets: £5/£4

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Join award-winning poet Owen Lowery as he discusses his new project, *Transitions*.

At the age of 18 Owen suffered a severe spinal injury and became paralysed from the shoulders down. Drawing on this experience, his latest tour explores the highly personal yet universal themes of transition and transformation, both in the natural and human world.

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Introduced by Degna Stone

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*Transitions* is commissioned and supported by Unlimited, celebrating the work of disabled artists, with funding from Arts Council England

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## Carol Ann Duffy and Friends

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**Saturday 13 October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**

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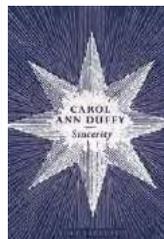
Gala Theatre, Tickets: £10/£8

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Join Carol Ann Duffy, as she reads from her final full poetry collection as Poet Laureate. *Sincerity* is a frank, disarming and deeply moving exploration of loss and remembrance in their many forms. Carol Ann has invited fellow poets Mark Pajak and Keith Hutson to join her on stage to share their work.

Dame Carol Ann Duffy was appointed Poet Laureate in 2009. She has written for both children and adults, and her poetry has received many awards, including the Signal Prize for Children's Verse, the Whitbread, Forward and TS Eliot Prizes. In 2011 *The Bees* won the Costa Poetry Award, and in 2012 she won the PEN Pinter Prize.

Look out for Durham University Foundation Centre's Poetry Pop Ups – relaxed and friendly spaces where you can share, read, or write poems, held in a range of cultural spaces in and around Durham. Check the Durham Book Festival website for updates.



Portrait photography

Carol Ann Duffy  
Michael J Woods

# Performance, podcasts and commissions

## Julia Darling: Pearl

**Sunday 7 October, 7pm–8pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

Join us to celebrate the publication of *Pearl*, a collection of short stories from a beloved North Eastern poet, playwright and novelist the late Julia Darling, published by Mayfly and the Julia Darling Trust.

Including a selection of stories taken from her acclaimed first collection *Bloodlines*, BBC Radio 4 broadcasts and unpublished archive, these stories will be brought to life with readings and memories from some of Julia's friends: actors Charlie Hardwick (*Emmerdale*) and Zoe Lambert.

Julia Darling wrote two novels: *Crocodile Soup* and *The Taxi Driver's Daughter*; her poetry collection, *Sudden Collapses in Public Places*, was a Poetry Book Society recommendation.

This event will tour to libraries and community centres in County Durham and will be accompanied by free creative writing workshops led by writers Kirsty Logan and Michelle Green.

See [durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com) for more information.

Original Commission



## Andrew McMillan: Rich Seams Podcast Live

Original Commission

**Saturday 13 October, 12.30pm–1.30pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery), Tickets: £3

Award-winning poet Andrew McMillan takes a deeper look at the poetry of the North, as part of *Rich Seams*, a brand new podcast series celebrating the best of new and emerging poetry in the North of England.

In this live podcast recording, Andrew will interview some members of the next generation of North East poets – Jake Campbell, John Challis and Degna Stone – who will also read from their work.

To find out more about the *Rich Seams* podcast, visit [durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com).

## Andrew McMillan: Playtime

**Sunday 14 October, 4pm–5pm**

Old Cinema Launderette, Tickets: £7/£5

(includes a soft or alcoholic drink)

Join Andrew McMillan for an intimate poetry reading in the Old Cinema Launderette. Andrew's brand new collection, *Playtime*, takes us back to childhood and early adolescence to explore the different ways we grow into our sexual selves and our adult identities.

His Guardian First Book award-winning debut collection, *Physical*, was praised for a poetry that was tight and powerful, raw and tender, and *Playtime* expands that narrative frame and widens the gaze.

## Unexplained: Live with Richard Maclean Smith

**Saturday 13 October, 7.30pm–8.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £8/£6

Maybe some things are better left unexplained...

Come and hear tales of the unexplained from Richard Maclean Smith, the creator of ‘the world’s spookiest podcast’ (*Guardian*). Journey beyond the veil of the uncanny and settle in for the extraordinary story of the Hexham Heads, which will be followed by a discussion on what might be behind the most persistent and baffling mysteries of all time.

*Unexplained* is one of the most successful paranormal podcasts ever, with over 10 million streams and downloads to date. *Unexplained*, a book of all new material, is published in October.

Chaired by Professor Michael Green,  
Northumbria University



Portrait photography

Richard Maclean Smith  
Donna Mackay

Neal Pike  
Bish

## Five Years

**Sunday 14 October, 7pm–8pm**

Gala Studio, Tickets: £8/£6

‘Let me tell you about Foxwood...’

From 1998-2002, Neal Pike attended Foxwood, a special educational needs school in Nottinghamshire. *Five Years* is an autobiographical one-man show about trying to hold on to a sense of who you are during those messy, brutal and mundane years of adolescence.

With warmth and humour that cuts to the bone, Neal explores identity, community and the parts of him that were shaped by Foxwood.

Written and performed by Neal Pike and  
directed by Matt Miller

# Fiction

## AJ Pearce and Anne Youngson: Literary Letters

**Saturday 6 October, 4pm–5pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

Set in 1940s London, AJ Pearce's novel *Dear Mrs Bird* is a love letter to female friendship, Blitz spirit, the kindness of strangers and the art of letter-writing itself.

Anne Youngson's *Meet Me at the Museum* tells of a man and a woman with more of their life behind them than ahead, who connect unexpectedly through letters and a shared love of ancient history, personal treasures and nature.

Join these authors to hear about their debut epistolary novels, which are set to be big hits for 2018.

Chaired by Caroline Beck

## Persephone Books: Afternoon Tea

**Friday 12 October, 2.30pm–4pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10.50/£8.50

Nicola Beauman, of beloved publisher Persephone Books, returns to Durham for a special afternoon tea. Join Nicola as she talks about her 20 years of running Persephone, which reprints fiction, short stories, cookery books and memoirs by mid-20th century women writers including Noel Streatfeild, Dorothy Whipple and EM Delafield.

She will also be launching Persephone's two October titles: *The Call* (1924) by Edith Zangwill, about a woman scientist who becomes a suffragette, and *National Provincial* (1938) by Lettice Cooper, about politics in Leeds in the mid 1930s.

Ticket price includes a tea or coffee and cake

Chaired by Claire Malcolm, New Writing North

## Sarah Perry: Melmoth

**Friday 12 October, 6.30pm–7.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

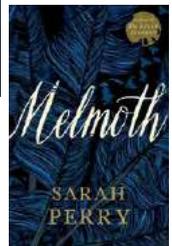
Join Sarah Perry, author of international bestseller *The Essex Serpent*, as she talks about her new novel *Melmoth*, a chilling and deeply moving book that speaks urgently to our times.

*Melmoth* tells the story of Helen Franklin, who 20 years ago did something for which she cannot forgive herself. As Helen's past finally catches up with her, she must make a choice – to live with what she's done, or be led into the darkness by Melmoth the Witness.

Gripping until the very last page, this is a masterpiece of moral complexity, asking us profound questions about mercy, redemption, and how to make the best of our conflicted world.

Sarah Perry's *The Essex Serpent* won Waterstones Book of the Year in 2016 and both Fiction Book of the Year and Overall Book of the Year in 2017 at the British Book Awards.

Chaired by Professor Simon James,  
Durham University



## Pat Barker: The Silence of the Girls

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**Saturday 13 October, 12pm-1pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

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We are delighted to welcome Book Festival favourite Pat Barker back to Durham this year. The Booker Prize-winning author of *Regeneration* and one of our greatest contemporary writers on war will be discussing her reimagining of the most famous conflict in literature – the legendary Trojan War.

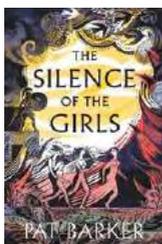
The Trojan War is known as a man's story: a quarrel between men over a woman, stolen from her home and spirited across the sea. But what of the other women in this story, silenced by history? What words did they speak when alone with each other, in the laundry, at the loom, when laying out the dead?

In this magnificent historical novel, Pat Barker charts one woman's journey through the chaos of war, as she struggles to free herself and to become the author of her own story.

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Chaired by Dr Anne Whitehead,  
Newcastle University

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## Kate Mosse: The Burning Chambers

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**Saturday 13 October, 1.30pm-2.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £8/£6

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Kate Mosse returns to Durham to discuss the latest instalment in her bestselling sequence of novels set against the backdrop of 300 years of history, from 16th century France to 19th century South Africa.

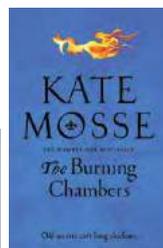
*The Burning Chambers* brings 16th century Languedoc to life, with a gripping story of love and betrayal, mysteries and secrets, war and adventure, conspiracies and divided loyalties.

Kate Mosse is an international bestselling author with sales of more than five million copies. Her fiction includes the novels *Labyrinth*, *Sepulchre* and *The Taxidermist's Daughter*. Kate is the co-founder and Chair of the Board of the Women's Prize for Fiction and was awarded an OBE in 2013.

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Chaired by Caroline Beck

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Portrait photography

Sarah Perry  
Jamie Drew

Pat Barker  
Justine Stoddard

Kate Mosse  
Ruth Crafer

# Fiction

## Faber Proof Party: Bev Thomas, Claire Adam and Claire McGlasson

**Saturday 6 October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**

Palace Green Library Café, Tickets: £5  
(ticket price includes a drink from Durham  
Distillery on arrival)

Join publisher Faber & Faber for this exclusive preview of the books they are most excited about launching in 2019. Faber editor Louisa Joyner will introduce three brilliant new fiction authors: Bev Thomas, Claire Adams and Claire McGlasson.

Bev Thomas' *A Good Enough Mother* is a literary psychological thriller perfect for fans of *Apple Tree Yard*. Claire Adam's *Golden Child* is a deeply affecting debut novel set in Trinidad, following the lives of a family as they navigate impossible choices. Claire McGlasson's *The Rapture* is a strange tale of a terribly English female cult operating in the shadow of the Great War.

Attendees will receive a special Faber goody bag containing early proof copies of all the books.

Chaired by Louisa Joyner, Faber & Faber

## FABER & FABER

## Northern Fiction Alliance

**Saturday 13 October, 4pm–5pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery)  
Tickets: £5/£4

The Northern Fiction Alliance is a radical collective devised to showcase publishing in the North. This event brings together authors from Bluemoose Books, Peepal Tree Press and Comma Press.

Jacqueline Crooks was a Windrush baby and her timely collection of short stories, *The Ice Migration*, is inspired by her own family history and highlights the experiences of migrants from all generations. Colette Snowden's *The Secret to Not Drowning* is a thought-provoking thriller about an isolated woman trapped in an abusive marriage. Martyn Bedford is an award-winning author: *Letters Home* is a collection of short stories exploring issues including home and identity.

Chaired by Kevin Duffy, Bluemoose Books

## The Art of Translation

**Sunday 14 October, 4pm–5pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery)  
Tickets: £5/£4

Join a trio of international authors for a fascinating discussion. Catherine Dousteysier-Khoze is Associate Professor of French at Durham University; her darkly comic and sinister novel, *The Beauty of the Death Cap*, won several prizes on first publication in France.

Pauls Bankovskis is an award-winning Latvian writer, whose work ranges from Latvian history to the realities of its recent Soviet past, and the possibilities for the future. His latest novel is *18*.

Chilean writer Alia Trabucco Zerán's debut novel, *The Remainder*, won Chile's national prize for an unpublished debut. It offers a gripping new perspective on dictatorships and their aftermath.

Chaired by Professor Jonathan Long,  
Durham University

# Crime

## An Evening with Peter James

Monday 8 October, 7.30pm–8.30pm

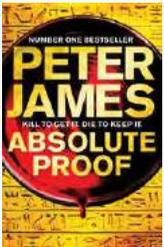
Gala Theatre, Tickets: £10/£8

Peter James is the international bestselling author of many award-winning novels. His Detective Superintendent Roy Grace series has had worldwide sales of 19 million and achieved 12 Sunday Times number ones, while *The Perfect Murder*, *Dead Simple* and *Not Dead Enough* have all been turned into hit stage plays.

In this fascinating event, Peter will talk about his acclaimed crime-writing career, which has seen him voted the Best Crime Author of All Time by WH Smith's readers and receive the CWA Diamond Dagger lifetime achievement award for sustained excellence.

Peter's new stand-alone thriller, *Absolute Proof*, is published in October. This is a chance to hear first-hand from a master of the crime genre.

Chaired by Steph Finnon, BBC Newcastle



Portrait photography

Peter James  
James Clark

## Claire Harman: Murder by the Book: The Crime that Shocked Victorian Literary London

Saturday 13 October, 11.30am–12.30pm

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

We are thrilled to welcome award-winning biographer Claire Harman to Durham Book Festival. *Murder by the Book* is a gripping investigation into a vicious murder that scandalised Victorian literary London, a crime inspired – or so the killer claimed – by one of the bestselling novels of the day.

Claire Harman is the bestselling biographer of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Robert Louis Stevenson and the author of *Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World* and the acclaimed *Charlotte Brontë: A Life*.

Chaired by Professor Simon James,  
Durham University

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# Life writing and memoir

## Jessica Hepburn and Libby Page: *Swimming Outside the Lines*

**Saturday 6 October, 6pm–7pm**

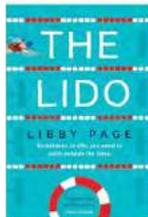
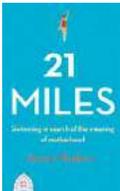
Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

Join Jessica Hepburn and Libby Page as they discuss two powerful new books: *21 Miles* and *The Lido*, both inspired by the power of swimming.

After a decade of trying to become a mother – 11 rounds of unsuccessful IVF, multiple miscarriages and a pregnancy that proved almost fatal – Jessica Hepburn knew it was time to do something different. So she decided to swim the English Channel. Before doing so, Jessica wrote to a series of inspiring women from baronesses to award-winners, asking: does motherhood make you happy? She took their compelling responses to sea with her in a bid to answer the question.

Brockwell Lido is under threat of closure from property developers, until two unlikely allies join forces to save it. Joyous and uplifting, this highly anticipated debut novel from *Guardian* writer Libby Page is about swimming in the heart of a community, loneliness, friendship and hope.

Chaired by Caroline Beck



## Alan Johnson: *In My Life: A Music Memoir*

**Wednesday 10 October, 7.30pm–8.30pm**

Gala Theatre, Tickets: £12/£10

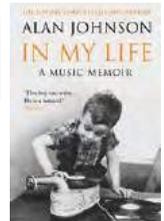
DBF favourite Alan Johnson is back to talk about the fourth instalment in his memoirs, *In My Life*, which tells the story of his life through the music that has inspired him along the way.

From being transported by the sound of ‘True Love’ by Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly as a small child in 1950s West London, to going out to work as a postman humming ‘Watching the Detectives’ by Elvis Costello in 1977, Alan’s life has always had a musical soundtrack. But this isn’t just a book about music: *In My Life* adds a fourth dimension to the story of Alan Johnson, the man.

Alan Johnson is a British Labour Party politician who served as both Home Secretary and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer under the Blair and Brown governments.

Chaired by Steve Drayton, BBC Newcastle

Sponsored by Banks Group



Portrait photography

Jessica Hepburn  
Kim Cunningham

Libby Page  
Natalie Dawkins

Alan Johnson  
Neill Dunn

## Damian Le Bas: The Stopping Places: A Journey Through Gypsy Britain

**Saturday 13 October, 2.30pm–3.30pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery)

Tickets: £5/£4

Join Damian Le Bas as he discusses *The Stopping Places*, an enthralling account of what it means to be a Gypsy in Britain today.

In a bid to better understand his Gypsy heritage, the history of the Romany in Britain, and the rhythms of their life today, Damian sets out on a journey to discover the atchin tans, or ‘stopping places’ – the old encampment sites known only to Travellers. From winter frosts to summer dawns, he travels the country to visit horse fairs, urban lay-bys and hidden Gypsy churches.

In this remarkable debut Damian Le Bas captures the places, characters and stories of his ancestors, and learns more about his own identity along the way. *The Stopping Places* has been a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week.

Chaired by Dr Alex Barber, Durham University

## Lucy Mangan: Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading

**Saturday 13 October, 4.30pm–5.30pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

When Lucy Mangan was little, stories were everything. They opened up new worlds and cast light on all the complexities she encountered in this one.

She was whisked away to Narnia – and Kirrin Island – and Wonderland. She ventured down rabbit holes and wobble burrows into midnight gardens and chocolate factories. She wandered the countryside with *Milly-Molly-Mandy*, and played by the tracks with the *Railway Children*. With *Charlotte’s Web* she discovered Death and with Judy Blume it was Boys.

Join Lucy as she revisits old favourites and also recommends a few forgotten treasures to inspire bookworms everywhere and set them on their way.

Lucy Mangan is a columnist for *Stylist*, a *Guardian* writer, and the author of several books.

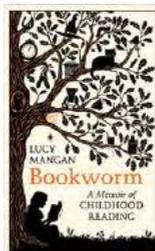
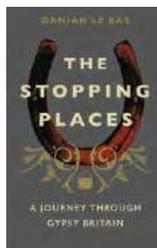
Chaired by Caroline Beck



Portrait photography

Damian Le Bas  
Charles Moriarty

Lucy Mangan  
*Stylist* magazine



# Life and death

## Charlotte Roberts and Chris Gerrard: Bodies of Evidence

**Sunday 7 October, 12pm–1pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4

Discover the chilling secret beneath Durham's Palace Green Library, as two archaeological experts discuss the tragic fate of a cohort of Scottish soldiers who died in 1650 following the Battle of Dunbar. This event marks the close of Palace Green Library's *Bodies of Evidence* exhibition, exploring the story of the men and boys whose remains were discovered in two mass burial sites in Durham city centre in 2013.

Charlotte Roberts is Professor of Archaeology at Durham. She has been heavily involved with the skeleton science aspect of the *Bodies of Evidence* exhibition.

Chris Gerrard is Professor of Archaeology at Durham. He is a historical archaeologist and the team leader for the Scottish Soldiers project.

Chaired by Dr Stefanie Kappler,  
Durham University



Portrait photography

Professor Dame Sue Black  
Condé Nast Publications Ltd

## Professor Dame Sue Black: All That Remains: A Life in Death

**Sunday 7 October, 1.30pm–2.30pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

Durham Book Festival is delighted to welcome Professor Dame Sue Black, one of the world's leading forensic anthropologists, to discuss her book *All That Remains: A Life in Death*. This gripping memoir was featured on BBC Radio 4's *Start the Week* and provides a fascinating look at death – its causes, our attitudes toward it, and the forensic scientist's way of analysing it.

Sue's expertise has been crucial to many high-profile criminal cases, and in 1999 she headed the British forensic team's exhumation of mass graves in Kosovo. She has been a guest on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*, and in 2016 was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to forensic anthropology.

Chaired by Claire Malcolm, New Writing North



## Kathryn Mannix: With the End in Mind

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**Sunday 14 October, 2.30pm–3.30pm**

Durham Town Hall (Burlison Gallery)

Tickets: £5/£4

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After 30 years as a palliative care specialist, Kathryn Mannix is on a mission. She feels passionately that it's time to re-claim public understanding of dying; understand what the process is, and how it allows us to plan and relate to our dearest during the last part of our, or their, lives.

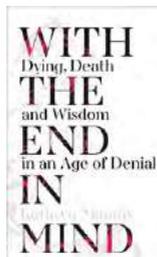
Join Kathryn as she discusses her new book, *With the End in Mind*, an exploration of one of the biggest taboos in our society and the only certainty we all share: death. This extraordinary book sends a vital message to the living and answers the most urgent, intimate and fascinating questions about the end-of-life process with touching honesty and humility.

Kathryn will be in conversation with Professor Douglas Davies (Durham University), author of the widely used book *Death, Ritual and Belief: The Rhetoric of Funerary Rites*.

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Chaired by Professor Douglas Davies,  
Durham University

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## Robin Ince: I'm a Joke and So Are You: A Comedian's Take on What Makes Us Human

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**Sunday 14 October, 5pm–6pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

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Comedian and science presenter Robin Ince joins us to talk about his new book, *I'm a Joke and So Are You*, an investigation of the human condition that blends memoir, wit and popular science.

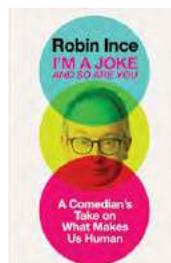
As a connoisseur of comedy, Robin has spent decades mining our eccentricities to create gags – and watching other strange individuals do the same. And for years on *The Infinite Monkey Cage* he has sought – sometimes in vain – to understand the world around us. In this book, he unites these pursuits to examine the human condition through the prism of humour.

Robin is co-presenter of the award-winning BBC Radio 4 show *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, and has won the Time Out Outstanding Achievement in Comedy Award.

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Chaired by Caroline Dower, Durham University

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Portrait photography

Kathryn Mannix  
Craig Fordham

# Classic literature

## Claire O'Callaghan and Sophie Franklin: The Brontës Revisited

**Saturday 6 October, 2.30pm–3.30pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £6/£4.

In her new book, *Emily Brontë Reappraised*, Dr Claire O'Callaghan of Loughborough University conjures a new image of the *Wuthering Heights* author. At a time when contemporary women are making their voices heard and questioning convention, it now appears that Emily Brontë was, in fact, a 'thoroughly modern woman'.

In turn, Durham University's Sophie Franklin's *Charlotte Brontë Revisited* introduces us to the novelist's private world of convention, rebellion and imagination, and offers insight into her life, writing and obsessions – including the paranormal, nature, feminism and politics.

Join Claire and Sophie as they discuss the enigmatic Brontë sisters, their works and world, in an event celebrating the bicentenary of Emily's birth.

Chaired by Dr Sarah Wootton,  
Durham University



## Miranda Seymour: In Byron's Wake

**Saturday 13 October, 2.30pm–3.30pm**

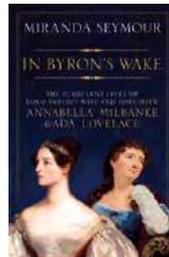
Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

Miranda Seymour, author of the award-winning *My Father's House*, has drawn on fascinating new material to tell the stories of County Durham-born Annabella Milbanke and Ada Lovelace, wife and daughter respectively of the poet Lord Byron.

Brought up by a mother who became one of the most progressive reformers of Victorian England, Ada was introduced to mathematics as a means of calming her wild spirits. She combined her education with a rebellious heart and a visionary imagination, ultimately predicting – as nobody would do for another century – the dawn of the computer age.

Join Miranda as she unpicks the lives of these remarkable women, revealing how two turbulent lives were often governed and always haunted by the dangerously enchanting, quicksilver spirit of the extraordinary father whom Ada never knew.

Chaired by Professor Claire Harman,  
Durham University



# Politics and society

## Julian Baggini: How the World Thinks

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**Saturday 6 October, 1pm-2pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

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Join Julian Baggini as he talks about his book *How the World Thinks*, the first global overview of philosophy. Travelling to Japan, China, India and more, the project soon became one of the most rewarding intellectual journeys of his life. He argues that we cannot begin to understand other cultures until we examine the software their minds work on – and, more than that, we cannot understand ourselves.

Julian Baggini is a popular philosopher and author of more than ten books. He has appeared on *Newsnight*, many BBC Radio 4 programmes, and even as a character in an Alexander McCall Smith novel!

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Chaired by Dr Emily Thomas,  
Durham University

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## Chris Mullin: Great Political Disasters I Have Known (and Some That I Haven't)

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**Saturday 13 October, 10.30am-11.30am**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

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Chris Mullin, festival favourite and author of the widely acclaimed memoir *Hinterland* and three volumes of diaries, returns to Durham to explore what happens when politics goes horribly wrong.

From the Poll Tax to Brexit, from Suez to Iraq, author, journalist and former Labour minister Chris Mullin discusses the great political disasters of the last century and the unintended consequences to which they gave rise. Iraq, for example, led – among many other things – to the election of Jeremy Corbyn as Leader of the Labour Party...

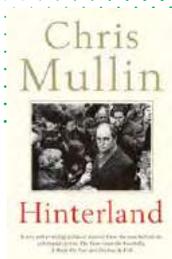
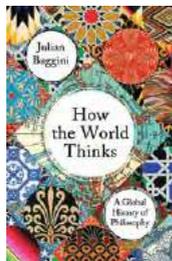
Chris Mullin was MP for Sunderland South from 1987 to 2010. His novel *A Very British Coup* was made into an award-winning television series.



Portrait photography

Julian Baggini  
Richard H Smith

Chris Mullin  
David Partner



# Politics and society

## Steve Bell: Corbyn: The Resurrection

**Saturday 13 October, 1pm–2pm**

Palace Green Library, Tickets: £8/£6

Join one of Britain's best-loved political cartoonists, the *Guardian's* Steve Bell, as he talks about his new collection of uproariously entertaining cartoons charting the rise and rise of Jeremy Corbyn.

Since the 2015 Labour leadership election, Jeremy Corbyn has been on a seemingly unstoppable upward trajectory, from 'the unelectable' to 'the Prime Minister-in-waiting'. And Steve has been with him every step of the way, irreverently charting one of the most turbulent periods in the history of UK politics.

Offering insight into Steve's creative process and impressive career so far, this is sure to be a lively and caustically witty event.

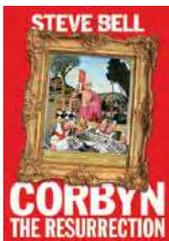
Steve Bell is a multi-award-winning political cartoonist and began working for the *Guardian* in 1981.

Chaired by Chris Mullin



Portrait photography

Steve Bell  
Hugh Card



## Jason Cowley and Lewis Goodall: Understanding the Age of Upheaval

**Saturday 13 October, 3pm–4pm**

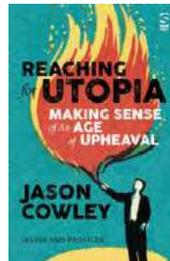
Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8

*New Statesman* editor Jason Cowley is one of the most influential journalists in Britain. His new book, *Reaching for Utopia*, brings together insightful essays and profiles chronicling the remarkable political and cultural transformations of the last decade – from the fall of Blair to the rise of Corbyn and Brexit.

Sky News political correspondent Lewis Goodall's *Left for Dead: The Strange Death and Rebirth of Labour Britain* is a timely and provocative account of the fall of New Labour, the rise of Corbyn, and what it means for the Left in Britain.

Join Jason and Lewis as they discuss one of the most turbulent periods in UK political history, and attempt to make sense of the forces driving this age of upheaval.

Chaired by Professor Tanja Bueltmann,  
Northumbria University



## Kate Fox: Where There's Muck, There's Bras

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**Sunday 14 October, 10.30am–12pm**

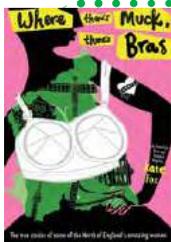
Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/£8.

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*Where There's Muck, There's Bras* is a hilarious and thought-provoking show which sees stand-up poet Kate Fox and actor Joanna Holden explore the Northern women you've heard of (and the ones you haven't).

This funny performance lecture uncovers the hidden history of the writers, scientists, sportswomen, politicians, protestors, musicians and other heroines who make up a far more diverse North than we usually see.

*'Where There's Muck, There's Bras' was commissioned by Great Exhibition of the North 2018.*



## Cathy Newman: Bloody Brilliant Women: The Unsung Heroines Who Made 20th Century Britain

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**Sunday 14 October, 2pm–3pm**

Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £10/ £8

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*Bloody Brilliant Women* is the new book from journalist Cathy Newman, a freewheeling feminist history of Britain exploring the motivations of the women who played a crucial role in the dramatic transformations that took place in British women's lives from the mid-19th century onwards. Join Cathy as she talks about these uncompromising women who refused to be bowed by tradition, or their generation's hostile, entrenched views about gender.

A celebration of the women who paved the way from the 1918 Representation of the People Act through to Thatcher's 1990 ousting from Downing Street, *Bloody Brilliant Women* seeks to restore these pioneering women to their rightful place in British history.

Cathy is one of *Channel 4 News'* main studio presenters and also presents other Channel 4 programmes including the recent *Alternative Election Night*.

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Chaired by Dr. Eleanor Barraclough,  
Durham University

Sponsored by Sunderland University

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# Join in

## Inside the Archives: The Changing Role of Women and the Struggle for the Vote

**Saturday 6 October, 2pm–3pm**

Barker Research Library,  
Palace Green Library, Tickets: £4

Join the Library and Culture Learning Team for a hands-on session that focuses on the changing role of women and how they campaigned to be included in the franchise. The session will offer participants the chance to view instructional manuals on how women in the 19th century should behave, women's magazines casting light on their lives and interests, material issued by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the correspondence of Else Headlam Morley, who was involved in the suffrage movement.

With the Culture Durham Learning Team,  
Durham University

## Inside the Archives: The Most Dangerous Books in the World

**Sunday 7 October, 2.45pm–3.45pm**

Barker Research Library,  
Palace Green Library, Tickets: £4

Does free speech exist? The limits of expression, from social media and hate speech to the Leveson Inquiry, now provoke intense debate. In fact, since the 17th century, England has been seen by many as the cradle of the free press. This session is a chance to see, handle and discuss historic texts and images relating to freedom of speech, from the archives of Palace Green Library. From John Milton's *Areopagitica*, the first English language book to argue that ideas should be left free, to William Prynne, who had his ears cropped for seditious libel, these artefacts offer a fascinating glimpse into how dangerous ideas have been handled over the past 400 years.

With Dr Alex Barber, Durham University

## Inside the Archives: Witchcraft, Monsters and Magic

**Saturday 13 October, 1.15pm–2.15pm**

Barker Research Library,  
Palace Green Library, Tickets: £4

Witches, monsters and magic remain a source of fascination in the present day and the subject has long intrigued people. This session is a chance to see, handle and discuss historic texts and documents relating to witchcraft and monsters from the archives and special collections of Palace Green Library. On display will be books containing contemporary depictions of monsters, texts arguing for and against the existence of witchcraft, trial records of those accused of witchcraft and sorcery, and accounts of the Salem witch trials.

With Francis Gotto, Durham University



## New Writing North Young Writers: Reviewers in Residence

A team of young reviewers aged between 15–23 will be attending book festival events and casting a critical eye over all they see. We're excited to see the blogs, vlogs and podcasts they'll produce during the festival. To read and listen to their reviews visit [durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com).

To get involved or find out more about New Writing North's work with young writers visit [newwritingnorth.com](http://newwritingnorth.com).

## Katy Massey: Who are we now? Life-writing post-Brexit and beyond

**Saturday 6 October, 10am–12.30pm**

Clayport Library, Tickets: £3

Interested in memoir and life-writing? Do you have a story to tell about how your life in the UK has changed since the Brexit referendum? Then this workshop is for you.

Journalist and memoirist Katy Massey will help you craft a piece of writing based on your own experience of the social upheaval started by the Brexit referendum result. After the workshop you are invited to submit your work to appear in an anthology of *Who Are We Now?* authors, which is due to be published online and in print in spring 2019.

*The workshop is suitable for beginners and fiction and poetry writers who find themselves drawn to non-fiction by recent events.*



## Zine-making Workshop with Lois Burke

**Sunday 14 October, 2pm–4pm**

Palace Green Learning Centre, Tickets: £5

It's a truth universally acknowledged that women and girls have been largely left out of the historical record. Yet female life writings such as diaries and letters abound in archives and collections.

Join Lois Burke, a researcher of Victorian girls' writings, in a workshop that takes inspiration from materials in Durham's Palace Green Library and other collections to encourage a creative engagement with women's history.

In the style of zine culture, you will cut, glue, and piece together your own interpretation of history! This is a great opportunity to share your interests and experiences in a supportive and creative environment. All materials will be provided for you to create your own zine.



# Nature writing

## The Moon Under Water: Words from England's Last Wilderness

Discover our brand new podcast from journalist and broadcaster Caroline Beck.

Somewhere high up in North Pennines, between everywhere and nowhere at all, is Weardale, a remote northern dale known as England's Last Wilderness. It's a place of old lead mines, deep worked out limestone quarries, and the continuous heft of sheep farming: the home of day-dreamers, hill-farmers, star-gazers, wild swimmers, moorland cyclists, poachers and falconers. And just occasionally, a writer wanders in off the moors into the pub called 'The Moon Under Water'.

Set to feature interviews with writers including Carys Davies and Benjamin Myers, *The Moon Under Water* podcast will be available on [durhambookfestival.com](http://durhambookfestival.com) from October 2018.

This project is supported by Northern Heartlands

Original  
Commission

## Rosamund Young: The Secret Life of Cows

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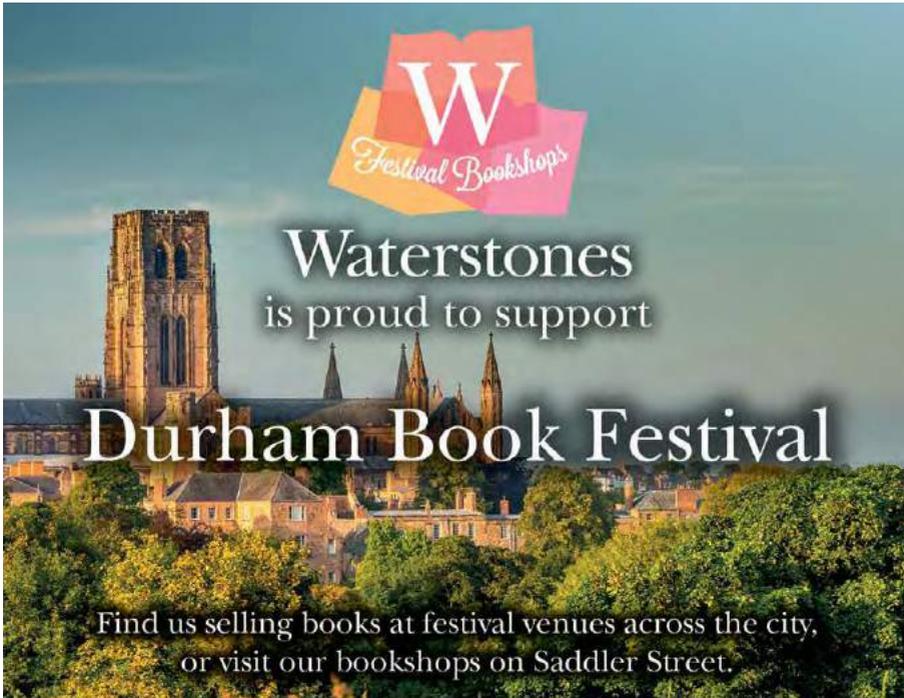
**Saturday 13 October, 6pm-7pm**  
Durham Town Hall, Tickets: £8/£6

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We are delighted to welcome Rosamund Young to this year's Festival, where she will be discussing her Sunday Times Top Ten bestseller *The Secret Life of Cows*.

Cows are as varied as people. They can be highly intelligent or slow to understand, vain, considerate, proud, shy or inventive. Although much of a cow's day is spent eating, they always find time for activities such as babysitting, playing hide and seek, blackberry picking, or fighting a tree. From the author's own organic farm, this is an affectionate record of a hitherto secret world.

Rosamund Young and her family run Kite's Nest Farm on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment. Nature is left to itself as much as possible and the animals receive exceptional kindness and consideration.



The poster features a background image of Durham Cathedral and the city skyline. At the top, there is a stylized logo for 'Festival Bookshops' with a large white 'W' on a pink and orange background. Below this, the text reads 'Waterstones is proud to support Durham Book Festival'. At the bottom, it says 'Find us selling books at festival venues across the city, or visit our bookshops on Saddler Street.'

# Festival fringe

## The Poetry Exchange at St Chad's Chapel

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**Saturday 6 October and Sunday 7 October**  
FREE (booking required)

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You're invited to book an individual slot to come and explore a poem that has been a friend to you, in conversation with The Poetry Exchange team.

The conversation will take place in a warm and relaxed environment, over a cup of tea, with two members of The Poetry Exchange team. Together, you'll explore your chosen poem and the ways in which it has been a friend to you.

In exchange, you'll receive a gift: a special recording of your chosen poem, inspired by your thoughts and feelings about it.

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In association with Durham University  
[www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk](http://www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk)

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Book your visit to The Poetry Exchange at  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-poetry-exchange-at-durham-book-festival-tickets-47420353554](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-poetry-exchange-at-durham-book-festival-tickets-47420353554)

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## Derek Wall: Elinor Ostrom's Rules for Radicals

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**Saturday 6 October, 3pm-4pm**  
The People's Bookshop, Tickets: £5

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Join political activist Derek Wall as he discusses his new book, *Elinor Ostrom's Rules for Radicals*. Elinor Ostrom was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Economics. Her theorising of the commons has been celebrated as groundbreaking and opening the way for non-capitalist economic alternatives, yet many radicals know little about her.

Derek Wall is the former joint International Co-ordinator for the Green Party and is known as a prominent eco-socialist, campaigning both for environmentalism and socialism.

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In association with The People's Bookshop  
Buy tickets via:  
[www.wegotickets.com/event/436136](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/436136)

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## Liam Young: Rise

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**Sunday 7 October, 1pm-2pm**  
The Committee Room, Redhills, Tickets: £5

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The People's Bookshop are delighted to welcome Liam Young to this Fringe event in Redhills. Liam will be talking about his book *Rise*, a fascinating insider account of how the youth movement in the Labour Party galvanised the nation and how he saw Jeremy Corbyn inspire young people to demand a fairer, more equitable society.

Liam Young has campaigned for Jeremy Corbyn since 2015, and is now emerging as one of the most influential voices on the Left.

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In association with The People's Bookshop  
Buy tickets via: [www.eventbrite.com/e/rise-in-conversation-with-liam-young-tickets-46151638794](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/rise-in-conversation-with-liam-young-tickets-46151638794)

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# Festival fringe

## Anne-Marie Sanderson: Book Songs Volume I

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**Sunday 7 October, 4pm–5pm**

Claypath Delicatessen, Tickets: £7

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Join Anne-Marie Sanderson as she performs songs from her most recently recorded work, *Book Songs Volume I*. A celebration of books she has been inspired and enriched by, the songs draw on modern classics such as Robert Macfarlane's *Holloway* and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*.

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In association with The People's Bookshop

Buy tickets via:

[www.wegotickets.com/event/438655](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/438655)

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## Catherine Bird: The Dark Side of God

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**Monday 8 October, 7pm–8pm**

Prior's Hall, Durham Cathedral,  
Tickets: £5/£4

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Drawing on her travels to the darkest and most Northerly inhabited place in the world, Cathy Bird challenges the universal assumption that associates darkness with fear and evil.

Catherine Bird is a Methodist minister in the London Borough of Hackney and author of *The Divine Heart of Darkness* (Sacristy Press, 2017).

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In association with Sacristy Press

Buy tickets via: [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/whats-on/dark-side](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/whats-on/dark-side)

or Durham Cathedral's Information desk

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## Michael O'Neill and Jamie McKendrick

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**Tuesday 9 October, 6pm–7pm**

Hatfield College Chapel. Admission free

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Join two award-winning poets for a reading in Hatfield College Chapel. Michael O'Neill is Professor of English at Durham University. He co-founded and co-edited *Poetry Durham* (1982-1994) and has received both an Eric Gregory Award and a Cholmondeley Award for Poets. His new book of poems is *The Return of the Gift* (Poetry Book Society Special Commendation). Jamie McKendrick has written six poetry collections and has won several awards, including the Forward Prize for *The Marble Fly* (1997) and the Hawthornden Prize for *Out There* (2012).

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In association with Durham University Centre for Poetry and Poetics

Introduced by Dr Sarah Wootton

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## **Vibeke Vasbo and Gaye Kynoch: The Song of Hild: A Danish Take on British History**

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**Tuesday 9 October, 7pm–8pm**

Prior's Hall, Durham Cathedral, Tickets £5/£4

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Exquisitely translated by Gaye Kynoch from a bestselling Danish novel by Vibeke Vasbo, *The Song of Hild* is an epic new take on the prominent role of women in the Church during the period of conversion to Christianity in the seventh century.

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In association with Sacristy Press

Buy tickets via: [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/whats-on/song-of-hild](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/whats-on/song-of-hild)

or Durham Cathedral's Information desk

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## **Helen Mort: Scaling the Galleries**

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**Thursday 11 October, 7pm–9pm**

Oriental Museum, Durham University

Tickets: £5

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Climb the galleries of the Oriental Museum with award-winning poet Helen Mort. To coincide with the museum's *Scaling the Heights* exhibition about mountains and mountaineering literature, Helen makes a welcome return to Durham to present a selection of her poetry and prose interspersed with excerpts from contemporary accounts of historic Himalayan climbing expeditions.

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This is a promenade event with limited tickets available.

Contact the Oriental Museum to book a place via email: [oriental.museum@durham.ac.uk](mailto:oriental.museum@durham.ac.uk) or phone: 0191 334 5694

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## **Clinton Heylin and Matty Oliver: Bob Dylan: Blood on the Tracks**

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**Sunday 14 October, 4pm–5.30pm**

The City Theatre, Tickets: £10

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The People's Bookshop are delighted to welcome Clinton Heylin, a leading authority on Bob Dylan and author of the highly-praised biography *Dylan: Behind the Shades*, to Durham this year.

Accompanied by Durham-based musician Matty Oliver, Clinton will be talking us through one of Bob's major works – the seminal *Blood on the Tracks*.

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In association with The People's Bookshop

Buy tickets via:

[www.wegotickets.com/event/43613](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/43613)

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## **The Songs of Leonard Cohen: Concert By Keith James**

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**Wednesday, 17 October, 7.30pm–8.30pm**

St Chad's College Chapel, Tickets: £6/£3

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Celebrated singer-songwriter Keith James presents the songs of Leonard Cohen in an intimate style. As part of this concert of Cohen's best-known songs, including 'Famous Blue Raincoat', 'Sisters of Mercy', 'Suzanne' and 'Hallelujah', are poems by Federico García Lorca set to music. Lorca is said to be Cohen's greatest influence. The concert will also include songs from Leonard Cohen's Album *You Want it Darker*, released only 19 days before his death.

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In association with Durham University Centre for Poetry and Poetics

Buy tickets via:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/keithjamesconcerts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/keithjamesconcerts)

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Ted Holloway, Testing for Gas (1956) Oil on canvas

