



## Huddersfield Literature Festival hosts a wealth of family-friendly events

The award-winning [Huddersfield Literature Festival](#) returns this spring with a blended programme of online and venue-based events. The Festival will run from 24 March – 3 April 2022, with a theme of ‘One World’, focusing on our shared responsibility for the wellbeing of our planet and its people.

Established in 2006, The Festival was launched to offer a diverse programme of author talks, workshops, discussion topics, performance poetry, multi-arts performances, wellbeing projects, as well as a wealth of events for young people and family-friendly events.

The Festival will be launched at the Free Family Preview on Saturday 5 March at the Festival Hub (located on the Huddersfield Piazza, next to Toyland).

The event, which will be officially opened at noon by the Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin, will feature a host of free fun activities for all the family, including an appearance by Julia Donaldson’s friendly dragon Zog, storytelling with Grandad Wheels and ‘dragon mask’ making at MakerWorld (Children’s Art School).

Other family-friendly events taking place throughout the Festival include:

- Number one bestselling author and poet Lemn Sissay and illustrator Greg Stobbs will be hosting a fun storytelling and colouring activity session, with video animation, based on their new book *Don’t Ask the Dragon* (Saturday 19 March).
- Stafflex Free Family Day (Saturday 26 March) with stalls, activities and entertainment, including a Recycle Magic show, Bhangra demonstration and Rappaman.

- Adventures Around Our Blue and Green Planet with Leisa Stewart-Sharpe (Sunday 27 March); then join fairandfunky for SCRAPtastic Stories – creative storytelling with an environmental message (Saturday 2 April).
- Learning about drawing for children's books with Onyinye Iwu, illustrator of Benjamin Zephaniah's children's book: We Sang Across the Sea: The Empire Windrush and Me (Saturday 2 April).

The Festival will also run venue-based and online activities for families with special needs and disabilities.

Festival Director Michelle Hodgson said: "Our 2022 programme showcases a wide representation of voices and events, and it so important for us to ensure there is a full programme of events and activities for all the family. We can't wait to welcome children and young people of all ages to our Preview event and officially launch this year's festivities."

Find the full 2022 programme and book tickets: <https://www.huddlitfest.org.uk/>

**ENDS**

#### **Media contact**

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Hi-res mages are available upon request.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **About [Huddersfield Literature Festival](#)**

Huddersfield Literature Festival (HLF) is an award-winning 10-day Festival held annually in the spring. A blended Festival of 50+ digital, outdoor and venue-based events, HLF champions accessibility, diversity and under-represented groups. Showcasing emerging writers and artists alongside major names, the Festival offers a diverse programme of author talks, workshops, discussion topics, performance poetry, multi-arts performances, wellbeing projects and family-friendly events.

Innovative special projects and commissions, often inspired by local community partnerships, are designed to promote community cohesion, improve wellbeing and proactively engage with under-represented artists, performers and audiences. With many free and low-cost

events, including some with live subtitling, and Access Guides to key venues, HLF promotes accessibility with a view to offering more opportunities for a wider range of people to enjoy arts and culture.

Established in 2006, HLF is a major fixture on the town's cultural calendar. The Festival has been selected as a finalist in the prestigious Welcome to Yorkshire White Rose Awards on three occasions (2016, 2017 & 2020), and in 2017 won the Examiner Community Award for Arts.