



Monique Roffey



Ash Bhardwaj



Tipi Launch



Disunited Jukebox



Mark Billingham & Abir Mukherjee



Helen Lederer

## 11-28 April 2024

- Author talks and panel discussions
- Hybrid and online events
- Children's events
- Creative workshops and industry events
- Live music and performance poetry



Simon Armitage + LYR



Colin Grant & Alex Wheatle



lisa lux



Annapurna Indian Dance



Gavin Esler

HUDDERSFIELD  
LITERATURE  
FESTIVAL  
Bringing  
words to life

[www.huddlitfest.org.uk](http://www.huddlitfest.org.uk)

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**DEWSBURY CENTRES**

**Saturday 20 April 2024**

**10.30am - 12.30pm**

(last entry 12pm)

**HUDDERSFIELD CENTRES**

**Saturday 27 April 2024**

**10.30am - 1pm**

(last entry 12.30pm)



# Welcome to HuddLitFest24

Another year, another exciting line-up! The Festival launches on 11 April with a poetry and music performance from Poet Laureate **Simon Armitage** and his band **LYR**, followed by a diverse programme of authors, poets and performers. Alongside author talks and panel discussions, we have family events, performance poetry, creative writing and wellbeing workshops, music, dance and more.

Our theme this year is **Nature**: exploration, conservation and celebrating trees, rivers and wildlife – from butterflies to tigers!

We have a Tipi! In a Festival first, we will have a Tipi in the Courtyard of Lawrence Batley Theatre from **17-28 April**, in partnership with Huddersfield Live and sponsored by Huddersfield Town AFC. You can meet our **Dragon and Dragon Queen** on launch night, enjoy a drink from the bar, pick up a Festival brochure and find out more about events happening throughout the Festival – all welcome.

We are particularly grateful to Arts Council England for recognising Kirklees as a Priority Place and increasing our funding this year, also for the support of the University of Huddersfield, our sponsors and local partnership organisations.

Please spread the word about the Festival – and see you in the Tipi!



**Michelle Hodgson,**  
Festival Director

## Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards

We were thrilled to represent Huddersfield at the Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards in December 2023 – this time as finalists for both the **Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award** (which we won in 2022) and the new **Culture** award. It was great to be recognised for a second year, amongst high-profile organisations from across Yorkshire.

## Hybrid events

Look out for our 'Hybrid Event' logo next to events that can be accessed online as well as at a venue, and our 'Subtitles' logo next to events with live subtitling.



# Schedule in brief

Thu 11 April	7pm-8.30pm	Simon Armitage + LYR
Fri 12 April	11am & 1.30pm	The Printed Word – WYPW
Sat 13 April	11am-2pm	Stafflex Free Family Day
	3pm-4pm	Celebrate Eid with Rumi in Huddersfield
Tue 16 April	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: Ask an Agent
Wed 17 April	11am-12pm	Dr Nafhesa Ali
	5pm onwards	Tipi Launch – Meet the Dragon & Dragon Queen
Thu 18 April	2pm-4pm	Book Launch: Henry and his Horrendous Hiccups
	5.30pm-6.30pm	Sairish Hussain & Lucy Sheerman
	7pm-8pm	Gavin Esler – Britain Is Better Than This
	7pm-8pm	ONLINE Workshop: Vision Boarding
	7pm-9pm	Workshop: Ted Hughes
Fri 19 April	11am-12pm	Dinky Disco
	11am & 1.30pm	The Printed Word – WYPW
	12.30pm-1.30pm	An Introduction to Give... a few words
	2pm-4pm	Aspire Journeys
	7pm-8pm	Helen Lederer – Not That I'm Bitter
	7pm-8pm	Conscious Hour Unplugged
	7pm-10pm	Ink Spill Poetry Night - Water
Sat 20 April	11am-12pm	Wild Wanderers
	11am-1pm	Workshop: Between You and I
	11.30am-2pm	The Tiger Who Came to Tea
	2pm-3pm	Book Launch: In the Foothills of the Himalayas
	2pm-3pm	Where Are You From? No, Where Are You Really From?
	2.30pm-4.30pm	Workshop: Arvon North Comes to Huddersfield
	3.30pm-4.30pm	Monique Roffey – Passiontide
	4pm-5pm	Film premiere: River Wharfe
	5.30pm-6.30pm	Rose Condo – How to Find Where You Belong
	7.30pm-10pm	Poetry Slam 2024
Sun 21 April	12pm-1pm	The Rainbow Butterfly
	1pm-4pm	Workshop: Poetry in Mixed Media
	1.15pm-2.15pm	Workshop: Become a Rainbow Butterfly
	2pm-4pm	ONLINE Workshop: Writing a Memoir
	3pm-4pm	The Rainbow Butterfly
	3pm-4pm	Cream Tea with explorer Ash Bhardwaj
	7pm-9pm	Book Launch – Ordinary Extraordinary

Tue 23 April	6.30pm-8pm	Talking Zebras Open Mic
	7pm-8pm	A Tree in Time
	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: Learned By Heart
Wed 24 April	12pm	When There Is Always Love
	1pm-2pm	You're Nicked – with Ben Lamb
	2pm-3pm	Kate Rawles – The Life Cycle (Honley)
	2pm-4pm	Workshop: Give... a few words
	6.30pm-7.30pm	Kate Rawles – The Life Cycle (Meltham)
	6.30pm-7pm	Words, Vision & Sound
	7.15pm-8.30pm	Pitch to Publishers
Thu 25 April	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: Black Britain: Writing Back
	12.30pm-1.30pm	Poetry Competition Launch – U3A
	2pm	When There Is Always Love
	6pm-7pm	Charlotte Furness & Rebecca Ryan
	6pm-7pm	Book Launch: Eely
Fri 26 April	7.15pm-8.30pm	Book Launch: Grist
	11am-2pm	Finding Stories in Nature
	12.30pm-2pm	The Art of the Bizarre Vinyl Sleeve
	3pm-4pm	Workshop: Silk Painted Butterflies
	5.30pm-6.30pm	Gaia Holmes: He Used to Do Dangerous Things
Sat 27 April	7.30pm-8.30pm	lisa lxxx
	11am-12pm	We Are All Astronauts
	11.30am-12.30pm	Children's Crime Busting Workshop (Almondbury)
	1pm-2pm	Glitter Boy
	2.30pm-3.30pm	Children's Crime Busting Workshop (Lindley)
	2.30pm-3.30pm	Alex Wheatle & Colin Grant
	3pm-5pm	Workshop: with Andrew McMillan
	4.30pm-5.30pm	A Tribute to Benjamin Zephaniah
	7pm-8.45pm	Polari: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Writing Talent
Sun 28 April	9pm-10.30pm	Out + Loud Open Mic
	12.30pm-2pm	Open Mic – Young Poet Laureates
	2pm-4pm	Ink Spill Poetry Workshop
	2pm-4.30pm	Workshop: Vision Boarding
	2.30pm-3.30pm	Amy-Jane Beer – The Flow
	3pm-4pm	Everyday Shakespeare
	5pm-6pm	Mark Billingham & Abir Mukherjee
Tue 30 April	6.30pm onwards	Wrap Party in the Tipi
	7.30pm-9pm	Disunited Jukebox



## Simon Armitage + LYR

Thursday 11 April, 7pm-8.30pm



📍 Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £25 (£20 conc)

👤 Age guidance: 14+

An unmissable evening of poetry and music. A performance by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, including work from his new collection of lyrics, **Never Good with Horses**. Followed by a live performance by the band, comprising Simon, singer-songwriter Richard Walters and multi-instrumentalist and producer Patrick Pearson.

LAWRENCE BATLEY  
**THEATRE**  
HUDDERSFIELD

## The Printed Word – WYPW

Friday 12 April & Friday 19 April  
11am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-3pm



📍 West Yorkshire Print Workshop Unit, Piazza,  
Princess Alexandra Walk HD1 2RS

🎫 Free (no booking required)

👤 Age guidance: 6+



Print epic opening lines from books with West Yorkshire Print Workshop and learn more about the art of letterpress printing. Handle historic wooden type and see some traditional printing equipment and presses at work. Repeated on Friday 19 April.







## Stafflex Free Family Day

Saturday 13 April, 11am-2pm



📍 North Huddersfield Trust School, Woodhouse Hall Road HD2 1DJ

📄 Free (no booking required)

👤 Age guidance: all ages

Bring the family and enjoy free entertainment, including:

- Annapurna Indian Dance – animal puppetry and dance performance
- Animal mask-making – with fairandfunky using eco materials
- Meet Spider-Man!
- Face painting, stalls and games



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## Celebrate Eid with Rumi in Huddersfield

Saturday 13 April, 3pm-4pm



📍 Attic, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD2 2SP

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤 Age guidance: 12+

**FREE  
EVENT**



Celebrate Eid with a magical performance inspired by Rumi's *The Alchemy of Love*, featuring Gulcin Bulut and the Sahba Ensemble. A partnership event with MACFEST.

## Dr Nafhesa Ali

Wednesday 17 April, 11am-12pm



📍 Birkby & Fartown Library, Lea Street, Hillhouse HD1 6HF

📄 Free (booking recommended)

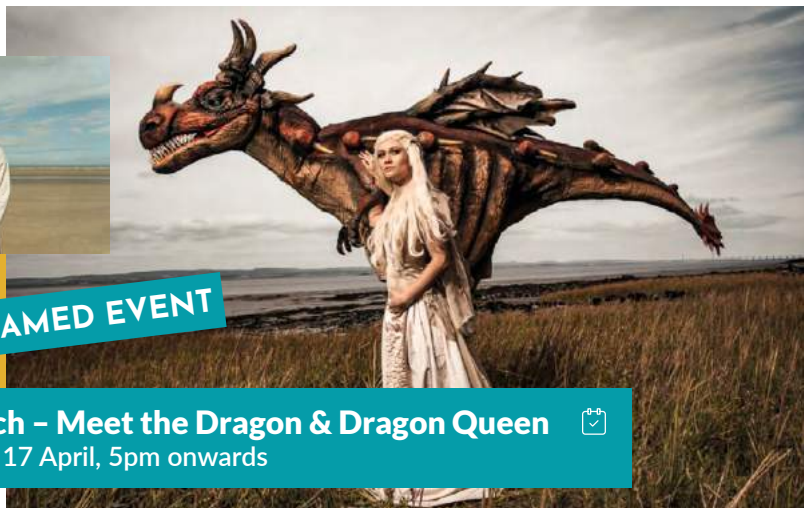
👤 Age Guidance: 16+

Sponsored by:

**FREE  
EVENT**



Dr Nafhesa Ali talks about her new book, *Older South Asian migrant women's experiences of ageing in the UK*, which provides a complete picture of the experiences of women who migrated from South Asia in the 1960s and 1970s.



**LIVESTREAMED EVENT**

## Tipi Launch – Meet the Dragon & Dragon Queen

Wednesday 17 April, 5pm onwards



📍 **Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP**

🎟️ **Free (booking recommended)**

👤 **Age guidance: all ages**

Join us for our Festival Tipi launch – all welcome! Meet our Dragon and Dragon Queen – prizes for the best costumes inspired by **Game of Thrones** characters. Plus a special performance from a local Soul Choir and from Huddersfield rapper, musician and youth music workshop founder Joel Simmy, who has performed in London and across the north, and been featured on BBC Radio 1Xtra, Capital Xtra and Kiss Fresh FM.

The Tipi is brought to the town in partnership with Huddersfield Live and sponsored by Huddersfield Town AFC.

**FREE  
EVENT**



Following launch night, **the Tipi will open daily from 11am-10pm from Thursday 18 April to Sunday 28 April, apart from Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 April: 5pm-10pm.**



**HuddersfieldLive™**

## Book Launch: Henry and his Horrendous Hiccups

Thursday 18 April, 2pm-4pm

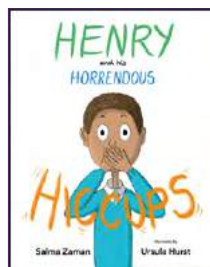


**FREE  
EVENT**

📍 **Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP**

🎟️ **Free (booking recommended)**

👤 **Age guidance: all ages**



A storytelling, activity and craft session for young children, with creative movement and dance, led by local author and Bollywood dance teacher Salma Zaman.





## Sairish Hussain & Lucy Sheerman

Thursday 18 April, 5.30pm-6.30pm



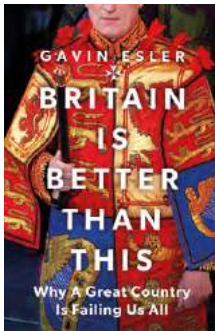
FREE  
EVENT

📍 Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH

🎟️ Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

The critically acclaimed author of **The Family Tree** Sairish Hussain talks about her new novel **Hidden Fires**, set at the time of the Grenfell Fire. She is joined by poet Lucy Sheerman, the author of an experimental memoir **Pine Island**.



HYBRID  
EVENT

SUBTITLES

## Gavin Esler – Britain Is Better Than This

Thursday 18 April, 7pm-8pm

📍 Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH

🎟️ £10 (£8 conc), online tickets: £5

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

The award-winning broadcaster, writer and journalist discusses his latest book: **Britain Is Better Than This**. Drawing on his long experience as a political commentator, including 12 years presenting the BBC's *Newsnight*, he sheds light on the failures at the heart of our political system and its culture of lies, distrust and corruption.

Sponsored by:



## Workshop: Ted Hughes

Thursday 18 April, 7pm-9pm



📍 Room OA5/11, Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH

📄 £12 (£5 conc)

👤 Age guidance: 16+

Is *Mayday* on *Holderness* Ted Hughes's most important poem? Join Steve Ely, poet and Director of the Ted Hughes Network, for a talk, close reading and discussion of this seminal poem, which lays out the major theme of Hughes's subsequent work.



## Dinky Disco

Friday 19 April, 11am-12pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 £7 adult + child, £5 further adult or child tickets, additional siblings U12 months, free

👤 Age guidance: Under 5s

A daytime dance party with tracks to be enjoyed by adults as well as the very young. Dance activities, lights, glow sticks and sensory toys.

## An Introduction to Give... a few words



Friday 19 April, 12.30pm-1.30pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (no booking required)

👤 Age guidance: 10+

**FREE  
EVENT**

Sharron Wilkinson will introduce the letter-writing organisation *Give... a Few Words* and explore why letter writing is good for us and how receiving letters impacts others. Plus ideas for your first letter.

## Aspire Journeys

Friday 19 April, 2pm-4pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (no booking required)

👤 Age guidance: all ages


An exhibition that celebrates *Aspire Creating Communities* members' work with local schools. Aspire has collaborated with local photographer Chris Chinnock to produce artwork together with the children for this exhibition, celebrating 'Journeys' in every sense of the word.




**FREE  
EVENT**

## Helen Lederer – Not That I'm Bitter

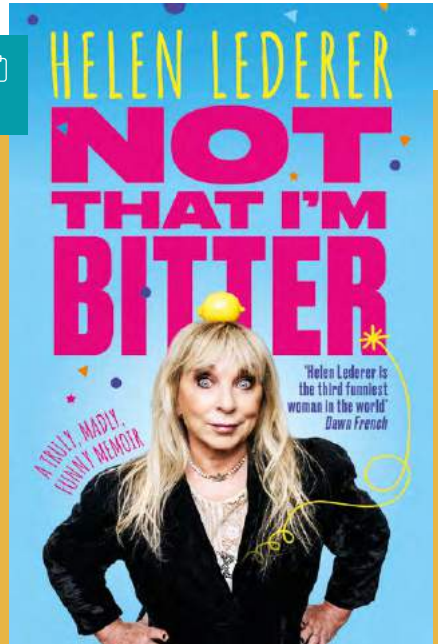
Friday 19 April, 7pm-8pm

 Cellar, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

 £12 (£10 conc)

 Age guidance: 16+


Enjoy a riotously enjoyable evening with the comedian and writer, who was at the heart of the alternative comedy scene of the 1980s. Best known for her role as Catriona in **Absolutely Fabulous**, Helen reveals all in her frank, moving and characteristically funny memoir, **Not That I'm Bitter**.




Sponsored by:

## Conscious Hour Unplugged

Friday 19 April, 7pm-8pm

 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

 Free (no booking required)

 Age guidance: 16+

**FREE  
EVENT**


Award-winning community organisation Conscious Youth presents an Open Mic evening of poetry and performance.




## Ink Spill Poetry Night – Water

Friday 19 April, 7pm-10pm

 Head of Steam, 8 St George's Square HD1 1JB

 Free (no booking required)

 Age guidance: 16+

**FREE  
EVENT**

For all storytellers, poets and lovers of literature, a free evening of creative workshops and a literature-specific open mic, run by Ink Spill.



## Wild Wanderers

Saturday 20 April, 11am-12pm

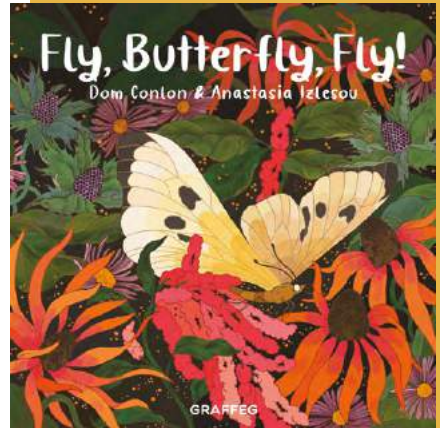


📍 **Slaithwaite Library, Slaithwaite Town Hall, Cross Street, Slaithwaite HD7 5AF**

🏷️ **£5 adult + child, £2 further adult or child tickets, additional siblings U12 months, free**

👤 **Age guidance: 3-7 years**

With the aid of a giant world map, author Dom Conlon will take your young adventurers on a fun and exciting journey through the natural world. Find out how hares adapt to climate, how sharks protect the air we breathe and how the wind brings life to the Amazon rainforest.



## Workshop: Between You and I

Saturday 20 April, 11am-1pm



📍 **Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH**

🏷️ **£12 (£5 conc)**

👤 **Age guidance: 16+**

An interactive workshop led by author and editor Yvonne Battle-Felton with writing exercises, questions and activities that aim to ignite your curiosity about your characters and help to explore the story the character wants/needs to tell.

## The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Saturday 20 April, 11.30am-2pm



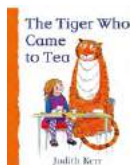
📍 **Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP**

🏷️ **Free (no booking required)**

👤 **Age guidance: all ages**



**FREE  
EVENT**

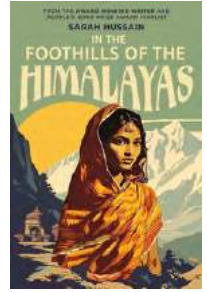


**The Tiger Who Came to Tea** is coming to Huddersfield! Bring the family to meet the much-loved character from the classic picture book by Judith Kerr, with character walkabouts at 12.15pm-12.45pm & 1.30pm-2pm. Plus make a tiger mask with [The Children's Art School](#) from 11.30am (in the Tipi) or make tiger bodies from 11am-3pm (at MakerWorld, Piazza).



## Book Launch: In the Foothills of the Himalayas

Saturday 20 April, 2pm-3pm



📍 Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 12+

**FREE  
EVENT**

Join Huddersfield author and educator Dr Sarah Hussain for the launch of her new novel, an eco-thriller about a young woman's fight against deforestation, set against the majestic backdrop of the Himalayas.

## Where Are You From? No, Where Are You Really From?

Saturday 20 April, 2pm-3pm



📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

📄 £5, online ticket: £2

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

**HYBRID  
EVENT**

Professor Audrey Osler draws on stories from her mixed-heritage family to explore ideas around migration, identity and belonging. With poet and playwright Chérie Taylor Battiste. *"Lovely, perceptive and timely"* Yasmin Alibhai-Brown



## Workshop: Arvon North Comes to Huddersfield

Saturday 20 April, 2.30pm-4.30pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 12+

**FREE  
EVENT**



They say everyone has a book in them...so if you've always fancied trying to free your inner storyteller, come and join [Arvon North](#) for some creative inspiration.

**ARVON**

## Monique Roffey – Passiontide

Saturday 20 April, 3.30pm-4.30pm



📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

📄 £5, online ticket: £2

👤+ Age Guidance: 16+

**HYBRID  
EVENT**



Transport yourself to the Caribbean with the Costa prize-winning author of *The Mermaid of Black Conch* and her electrifying new novel *Passiontide*. At the close of St Colibri's carnival, a young female steel pan player is found dead beneath a cannonball tree – a discovery that will transform the lives of everyone on the small island.



**Film premiere: River Wharfe**

Saturday 20 April, 4pm-5pm

**SUBTITLES**

📍 **Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH**

🎫 **£3**

👤 **Age guidance: 12+**



The premiere of **River Wharfe: A Living Artery**, followed by a Q&A with documentary-maker and clean rivers campaigner Mark Barrow. The film celebrates the beauty of the natural world while raising awareness of the damage done by pollution, climate change and the destruction of habitats. The film has subtitles.

**Rose Condo – How to Find Where You Belong**

Saturday 20 April, 5.30pm-6.30pm



📍 **Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD**

🎫 **£5, online ticket: £2**

👤 **Age Guidance: 16+**

**HYBRID  
EVENT**

The critically acclaimed and multi-award-winning poet performs work from her latest collection **How to Find Where You Belong** – a love letter to home, wherever you might find it. Followed by a Q&A and signing.

**Poetry Slam 2024**

Saturday 20 April, 7.30pm-10pm



📍 **Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD**

🎫 **£8 (£5 conc), online ticket: £3**

👤 **Age Guidance: 16+**

Ten amazing poets compete to become our 2024 Slam Champ. Hosted by award-winning poet Rose Condo. 1st Prize: £50, and a guest spot at our 2025 Poetry Slam.

**To apply:** Send a video (max length 3 minutes, phone videos accepted) of you performing your work to [HLFPoetrySlam@gmail.com](mailto:HLFPoetrySlam@gmail.com) by Friday 22 March. Visit [HuddLitFest](http://HuddLitFest) website for T&Cs.

**HYBRID  
EVENT**

## The Rainbow Butterfly

Sunday 21 April, 12pm-1pm & 3pm-4pm



📍 The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3AS

🎫 £5 per child, adults free but booking required, additional siblings U12 months, free

👤 Age guidance: 3+

Maya has wings that sparkle and shimmer as they explore the world and outer space as a Rainbow Butterfly. An interactive performance for children, weaving together aerial circus, contemporary and Hip Hop dance. **NOTE:** two performances, at 12pm and 3pm; each 25-minute show will be followed by a stay-and-play session. Ideal for children aged 3+, SEND families welcome.

*"It was so joyful for my children to see themselves reflected in the performers and the show is so much fun: a beautiful bonding and reaffirming experience for multiple heritage children"* Corinne Bailey Rae



## Workshop: Become a Rainbow Butterfly

Sunday 21 April, 1.15pm-2.15pm



📍 The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3AS

🎫 £3 per child, adults free but booking required, additional siblings U12 months, free

👤 Age guidance: 3+

Eco-craft activity for families offered between the two performances of **The Rainbow Butterfly** (separate booking). Make your own colourful butterfly wings with The Children's Art School.



## Workshop: Poetry in Mixed Media

Sunday 21 April, 1pm-4pm



📍 Tolson Museum, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Moldgreen HD5 8DJ

🎫 £5

👤 Age guidance: 12+

Create a mixed media image using lines from poetry with art tutor Louise Grassby. All materials provided, no experience required. Booking recommended.

## Cream Tea with explorer Ash Bhardwaj

Sunday 21 April, 3pm-4pm



**HYBRID  
EVENT**

📍 The Big Red Suite, John Smith's Stadium, Stadium Way HD1 6PG

📄 £15 (includes cream tea), online ticket: £3

👤+ Age guidance: 12+

Join global explorer Ash Bhardwaj on an exciting journey through his travel experiences – including accompanying Levison Wood on several expeditions – and find out about the inspiration behind his new book *Why We Travel*.

*"Ash brings fun, excitement and intellect to the world of adventure journalism. His storytelling is a joy to behold."* Levison Wood, explorer



## Book launch – Ordinary Extraordinary

Sunday 21 April, 7pm-9pm



📍 Attic, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 £10

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

Serendipity brings you a selection of writing from those often marginalised in society in an anthology that showcases that labels aren't a barrier to creative expression.



## Talking Zebras Open Mic

Tuesday 23 April, 6.30pm-8pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (no booking required)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

**FREE  
EVENT**

Open Mic slots led by long-established local group Talking Zebras. Sign up on the night.



## A Tree in Time



Tuesday 23 April, 7pm-8pm

📍 Attic, Lawrence Batley Theatre,  
Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £5

👤 Age guidance: 16+

The magical [Annapurna Indian Dance company](#) presents **A Tree in Time**: a dance and storytelling session with live Tabla, inspired by the true story of 112-year-old Saalumarada Thimmakka, an Indian woman who has dedicated her life to planting trees.

## When There Is Always Love



Wednesday 24 April, 12 noon

📍 Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre,  
Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 Free (no booking required)

👤 Age guidance: all ages

**FREE  
EVENT**



Street theatre from [Dark Horse Theatre](#) inspired by poems about love – in all its complications, heartbreak and wonder.



## You're Nicked – with Ben Lamb



Wednesday 24 April, 1pm-2pm

📍 Skelmanthorpe Library, 24 Commercial Rd,  
Skelmanthorpe HD8 9DA


🎫 £3

👤 Age guidance: 12+

A fascinating talk by the author of **You're Nicked: Investigating British television police series** from the inner workings of the police station to the civilian life of criminals and the private lives of police officers. A must for crime-drama enthusiasts!







### Kate Rawles – The Life Cycle

Wednesday 24 April, 2pm-3pm

📍 Honley Library, West Ave, Honley HD9 6HF

🏷 £3

👤 Age guidance: 12+

### Kate Rawles – The Life Cycle

Wednesday 24 April, 6.30pm-7.30pm

📍 Meltham Library, Jubilee Hall, Carlile Institute, 54 Huddersfield Road, Meltham HD9 4AG

🏷 £3

👤 Age guidance: 12+

Stories from eco adventurer Kate Rawles, whose book **The Life Cycle** documents her 8,000-mile journey through South America on a bicycle she built from bamboo, with important messages about the Climate Crisis and biodiversity.

## Workshop: Give... a few words

Wednesday 24 April, 2pm-4pm

📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🏷 Free (booking recommended)

👤 Age guidance: 10+

**FREE EVENT**

In this fun and interactive workshop, Sharron Wilkinson and Patrycja Bartosinska-Kos will explain the wellbeing benefits of writing letters and show you how to get creative using origami and mandala. No experience needed, all materials provided.





## Words, Vision & Sound



Wednesday 24 April, 6.30pm-7pm

📍 **Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH**

📄 **Free (booking recommended)**

👤 **Age guidance: 16+**

An immersive experience that envelopes audiences: words from three original stories are projected on to large screens and enhanced by specially designed visuals, sound and narration. Curated by Somerset Award-winning writer Akeem Balogun. Originally commissioned by Off the Shelf, supported by ACE.

**FREE  
EVENT**



## Pitch to Publishers



Wednesday 24 April, 7.15pm-8.30pm

📍 **Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH**

📄 **£5**

👤 **Age guidance: 16+**

A fast-paced pitching session where each writer gets a minute to pitch to our panel of publishers, including Kevin Duffy from multi-award-winning Yorkshire indie publisher Bluemoose Books and Sarah Castleton, Editorial Director at Hachette.

## Poetry Competition Launch – U3A

Thursday 25 April, 12.30pm-1.30pm



📍 **Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP**

📄 **Free (booking recommended)**

👤 **Age guidance: 16+**

**FREE  
EVENT**

The Huddersfield & District U3A launches a poetry competition to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the University of the Third Age.



## When There Is Always Love



Thursday 25 April, 2pm

📍 **Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP**

📄 **Free (no booking required)**

👤 **Age guidance: all ages**

See Wednesday, 12 noon.



**FREE  
EVENT**

## Charlotte Furness & Rebecca Ryan

Thursday 25 April, 6pm-7pm



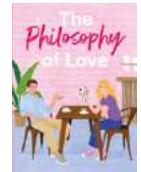
📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 12+

Two local authors discuss their work and celebrate their latest publications. Charlotte Furness writes engaging non-fiction books about women's history and country houses in the UK, while Rebecca Ryan is the author of entertaining contemporary fiction about life and love.

**FREE  
EVENT**



## Book Launch: Eely

Thursday 25 April, 6pm-7pm



📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

The Huddersfield launch of **Eely**, the latest poetry collection from the award-winning poet Steve Ely.



**FREE  
EVENT**

## Book Launch: Grist

Thursday 25 April, 7.15pm-8.30pm



📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

**FREE  
EVENT**

The launch of the latest **Grist** anthology: **Apocalypse Now!** **Stories for the End of the World**, a collection of innovative short stories that explore, imagine and dramatise the end of things. Hosted by writer and editor Michael Stewart.



University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals



## Finding Stories in Nature

Friday 26 April, 11am-2pm



📍 Eden Forest, Hall Ing Lane, Honley HD9 6QR

🎫 £25 (includes hot drinks and lunch)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+



Explore the beautiful woodlands of Eden Forest, gather around the fire to write with prompts from coach Juliet Thomas to inspire you, and enjoy a wood-fired pizza for lunch. See event entry on our website for directions. Limited numbers – early booking advised.

## The Art of the Bizarre Vinyl Sleeve

Friday 26 April, 12.30pm-2pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 12+

Join Simon Robinson and Steve Goldman, co-authors of the book **The Art of the Bizarre Vinyl Sleeve** (which has caused such fun on BBC's Front Row and Have I Got News For You), on an illustrated journey into some of the worst album covers ever released. But be warned, once seen, these covers will never be forgotten!



**FREE  
EVENT**

## Workshop: Silk Painted Butterflies

Friday 26 April, 3pm-4pm



📍 Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £3

👤+ Age guidance: 4+

Create a silk painted butterfly card with art tutor Louise Grassby. All materials provided, no experience required. Limited numbers – early booking recommended.



## Gaia Holmes: He Used to Do Dangerous Things

Friday 26 April, 5.30pm-6.30pm



📍 Attic, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £5

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

A reading and Q&A with award-winning local writer Gaia Holmes for the launch of her debut short story collection: **He Used to Do Dangerous Things**.



## lisa luxx

Friday 26 April, 7.30pm-8.30pm



📍 Attic, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £10 (£8 conc)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

Captivating performance poetry from Festival Patron [lisa luxx](#), with readings from her debut collection **Fetch Your Mother's Heart** and from her new short story collection **Sun Son**, accompanied by Kareem Samara on the oud.



*"I am incredibly moved to become a Patron of Huddersfield Literature Festival. A festival that has supported me consistently over the years as I developed my writing, practice and position in the industry. Being a part of my hometown's literary hub is a milestone. I hope to bring my transnational poetry community into the fold of Huddersfield, and to represent the festival while touring and publishing internationally too."* lisa luxx





## We Are All Astronauts

Saturday 27 April, 11am-12pm



📍 Meltham Library, Jubilee Hall, Carlile Institute,  
54 Huddersfield Road, Meltham HD9 4AG

🏷️ £5 adult + child, £2 further adult or child tickets,  
additional siblings U12 months, free

👤+ Age guidance: 5-9

Reach for the stars and learn all about the universe in this exciting event for young space explorers. A fun-filled session packed with space facts, female pioneers of space travel, dressing up and drawing, led by Kate Pankhurst, the bestselling author and illustrator of the trailblazing **Fantastically Great Women** books.



## Children's Crime Busting Workshop

Saturday 27 April, 11.30am-12.30pm



📍 Almondbury Library, Off Farfield Road,  
Almondbury HD5 8TD

🏷️ £5 adult + child, £2 further adult or child tickets,  
additional siblings U12 months, free

👤+ Age guidance: 8-11

## Children's Crime Busting Workshop

Saturday 27 April, 2.30pm-3.30pm

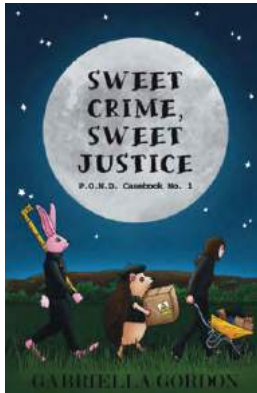


📍 Lindley Library, Lidget Street, Lindley HD3 3JP

🏷️ £5 adult + child, £2 further adult or child tickets,  
additional siblings U12 months, free

👤+ Age guidance: 8-11

Bring your young super sleuths to this fabulous Crime Busting Workshop with author Gabriella Gordon. After an introduction to Gabriella's **Sweet Crime, Sweet Justice** book, children will get a chance to unravel a series of clues and solve a crime.







## Glitter Boy

Saturday 27 April, 1pm-2pm

📍 Read Bookshop, 41 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3JH

🎟️ Free (booking recommended)

👤+ Age guidance: 10+

A heart-warming and inclusive story about James, an 11-year-old boy facing up to bullying for his love of dancing, poetry, and Mariah Carey. Polari-Prize-winning author Ian Eagleton talks about his joyful and timely novel about being true to who you are.







## Alex Wheatle & Colin Grant

Saturday 27 April, 2.30pm-3.30pm

📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

🎟️ £5, online ticket: £2

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

**HYBRID EVENT**

A chance to hear from the acclaimed authors of two important memoirs: Alex Wheatle's **Sufferah: Memoir of a Brixton Reggae Head** and Colin Grant's **I'm Black So You Don't Have to Be**. Alex Wheatle MBE spent most of his youth in the notorious Shirley Oaks children's home and his story was portrayed in Steve McQueen's **Small Axe** series. Colin Grant is the author of several fiction and non-fiction books and the director of WritersMosaic, a division of the Royal Literary Fund.

## A Tribute to Benjamin Zephaniah

Saturday 27 April, 4.30pm-5.30pm

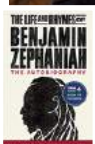
📍 Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

🎟️ £5, online ticket: £2

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

**HYBRID EVENT**

In this special tribute, poet Michelle Scally Clarke and writers Colin Grant and Alex Wheatle explore the legacy of the poet, novelist, playwright, musician, TV and radio presenter, actor and professor of creative writing **Dr Benjamin Zephaniah** (1958-2023).

## Workshop: with Andrew McMillan



Saturday 27 April, 3pm-5pm

TEN, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

£12 (£5 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

Your chance to take part in a workshop taught by multi-award-winning poet Andrew McMillan, inspired by the anthology he curated with Mary Jean Chan, **100 Queer Poems** – a rich and diverse celebration of thrilling contemporary voices and visionary poets of the past, from WH Auden to Ocean Vuong and Kae Tempest.



## Polari: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Writing Talent



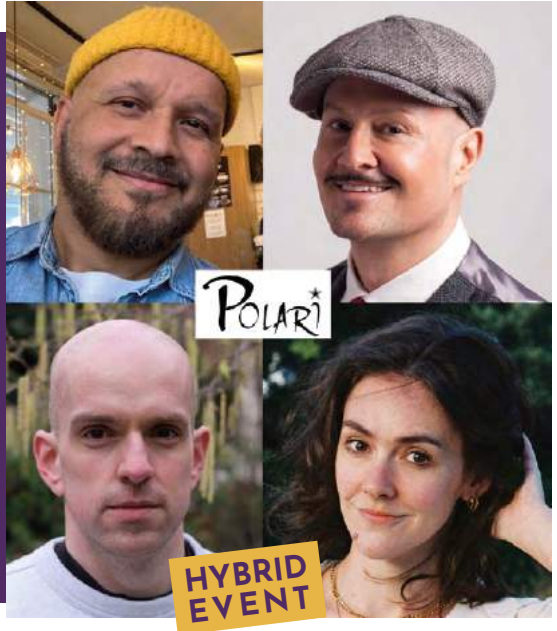
Saturday 27 April, 7pm-8.45pm

Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

£8 (£5 conc), online ticket: £3

Age guidance: 16+

Enjoy fabulous performances from a diverse and talented line-up of LGBTQ+ writers. **Polari** is hosted by author and journalist Paul Burston, with readings from novelist Juliet Armfield who won the 2023 Polari Prize, Huddersfield novelist Paul David Gould, and Yorkshire poet and novelist Andrew McMillan.



Followed by

## Out + Loud Open Mic



Saturday 27 April, 9pm-10.30pm

Small Seeds, Castlegate (New Street junction) HD1 2UD

Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: 16+



An Open Mic night for queer performers of all kinds, hosted by poetic comedian Zee. To perform, email: [outnloud.events@gmail.com](mailto:outnloud.events@gmail.com) or sign up on the door.

## Open Mic – Young Poet Laureates

Sunday 28 April, 12.30pm-2pm



📍 Cellar, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤 Age guidance: 10+

Poetry can be written and enjoyed by all ages, and this event will showcase the incredible talent of the young people selected to take part in the inaugural West Yorkshire Young Poet Laureate scheme. Hosted by local poet Sharena Lee Satti.

**FREE  
EVENT**



## Ink Spill Poetry Workshop

Sunday 28 April, 2pm-4pm



📍 TEN, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

📄 Free (booking recommended)

👤 Age guidance: 16+

**Moors, Mills and Misers** is a free workshop challenging northern stereotypes through poetry, run by Ink Spill Poetry Night.



## Workshop: Vision Boarding

Sunday 28 April, 2pm-4.30pm



📍 Hive Café, 46 John William Street HD1 1ER

📄 £20 (£15 conc)

👤 Age guidance: 16+

Dream big and create the life you want in 2024! Juliet Thomas will give you an overview of what a Vision Board is and show you how to create your own, with advice on how to use it to have the maximum impact on your life.





## Amy-Jane Beer – The Flow

Sunday 28 April, 2.30pm-3.30pm



📍 Marsden Mechanics Hall, Peel Street, Marsden HD7 6BW

🎫 £8 (£5 conc)

👤 Age guidance: 10+



The writer and naturalist Amy-Jane Beer talks about her lyrical and moving new book: **The Flow: Rivers, Water and Wildness**, which won the prestigious Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing (2023). In partnership with the Friends of Marsden Library.

## Everyday Shakespeare

Sunday 28 April, 3pm-4pm



📍 Cellar, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £8 (£5 conc), online ticket: £3

👤 Age guidance: 14+

In this lively and hugely entertaining show, actor Ben Crystal and language expert David Crystal bring to life some of Shakespeare's many phrases still in everyday use. The father-son team have co-authored several books, including their latest **Everyday Shakespeare**.



## Mark Billingham & Abir Mukherjee

Sunday 28 April, 5pm-6pm



📍 Cellar, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

🎫 £8 (£5 conc), online ticket: £3

👤 Age guidance: 14+

A chance to hear from two crime writers at the top of their game. Author of 21 Sunday Times bestsellers, Mark Billingham introduces his first new series for 20 years with **The Last Dance**. And the award-winning author of the bestselling Sam Wyndham crime novels set in 1920s India, Abir Mukherjee, introduces his exciting new contemporary thriller **Hunted**.

Sponsored by:





## Wrap Party in the Tipi

Sunday 28 April, 6.30pm onwards



Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street HD1 2SP

Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: all ages



Join us for one final time in the Tipi for our Wrap Party, with music and entertainment.

## Post-festival event



## Disunited Jukebox – A 21st Century Opera from Company Carpi

Tuesday 30 April, 7.30pm-9pm



St Paul's Hall, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate HD1 3DH

£10 (£8)

Age guidance: 16+

Angry, serious, comic, inquisitive, personal and emotional... **Disunited Jukebox** is a brand-new contemporary anthology chamber opera about the bewildering state of the modern world, created by composer Gary Lloyd & choreographer Bettina Carpi of Company Carpi. The many contributors to the libretto include Mary Talbot, Neil Gaiman and Ken MacLeod, and the musicians are drawn from top UK orchestras.

Sponsored by:





## Online events

All online events will be held on Zoom. A link will be sent the day before the event.

### ONLINE: Ask an Agent Tuesday 16 April, 7pm-8pm

✂ £5 (booking required)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

Your chance to put your questions about the publishing process to literary agents, including Clare Coombes from the [Liverpool Literary Agency](#) and Davina Andrew Lynch from [Curtis Brown](#).



### ONLINE Workshop: Vision Boarding Thursday 18 April, 7pm-8pm

✂ £5 (booking required)

👤+ Age guidance: 16+

Dream big and create the life you want in 2024! Juliet Thomas will give you an overview of what a Vision Board is and share tips on how to put one together and use it going forwards to have the maximum impact on your life.



### ONLINE Workshop: Writing a Memoir: Where Do I Start? Sunday 21 April, 2pm-4pm

✂ £5 (booking required)



👤+ Age guidance: 16+

Do you want to write about your life and don't know how to get going? This friendly and encouraging webinar workshop with acclaimed writer Cathy Rentzenbrink will offer tools and techniques to help you start turning your life events into a narrative.



## ONLINE: Learned By Heart

Tuesday 23 April, 7pm-8pm

 Free (booking required)  
 Age guidance: 14+



**FREE  
EVENT**



Emma Donoghue talks about her latest novel **Learned By Heart**, the heartbreaking story of the love of two women: Anne Lister, the real-life inspiration behind **Gentleman Jack**, and her first love, Eliza Raine. A beautiful and evocative historical novel from the bestselling author of **Room** and **The Wonder**.

## ONLINE: Black Britain: Writing Back

Wednesday 24 April, 7pm-8pm

 Free (booking required)  
 Age guidance: 14+

**FREE  
EVENT**





Your chance to hear from three authors featured in Penguin's **Black Britain: Writing Back** series – **Judith Bryan**, **Charlotte Williams OBE** and **Nicola Williams** – in an event presented by the series editor **Ruby Fatimilehin**. Selected by Booker Prize-winning author Bernardine Evaristo, this important collection rediscovers pioneering books.

## Recorded Events

### ONLINE: The Shortest History of Sex

YouTube premiere on  
Friday 12 April at 12 noon

**FREE  
EVENT**

 Free (no booking required)  
 Age guidance: 16+

From the creation of sex two billion years ago to modern codes of flirting, David Baker offers a revealing and unique insight into one of the strongest forces of human nature. View the interview at: [YouTube.com/@huddlitfestHD1](https://www.youtube.com/@huddlitfestHD1)

## Podcasts

### Podcast Powerhouse – Arts & Culture in Huddersfield

Six podcasts created by young people aged 18-35 for a special project celebrating arts and culture in Huddersfield, released over the Festival period. Delivered in partnership with Kirklees Local TV and supported by Kirklees Council's Community Plus fund. For more information visit: <https://www.huddlitfest.org.uk/>



### Podcast series: James Baldwin

Six podcasts celebrating the life and work of the novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, social critic and civil rights activist **James Baldwin** (1924-1987). Delivered in partnership with Kirklees Local TV, the podcasts will be released in the run up to the centenary of Baldwin's birth: 2 August. James Baldwin's influential body of work includes the novel **Go Tell It on the Mountain** and essay collections **Notes of a Native Son** and **The Fire Next Time**. For more information visit: <https://www.huddlitfest.org.uk/>

## Kirklees Local TV

At HuddLitFest, we enjoy a close working relationship with **KLTV**, who support our Hybrid events and produce short films for the Festival. The KLTV team work tirelessly to promote the region and support arts and other community organisations.



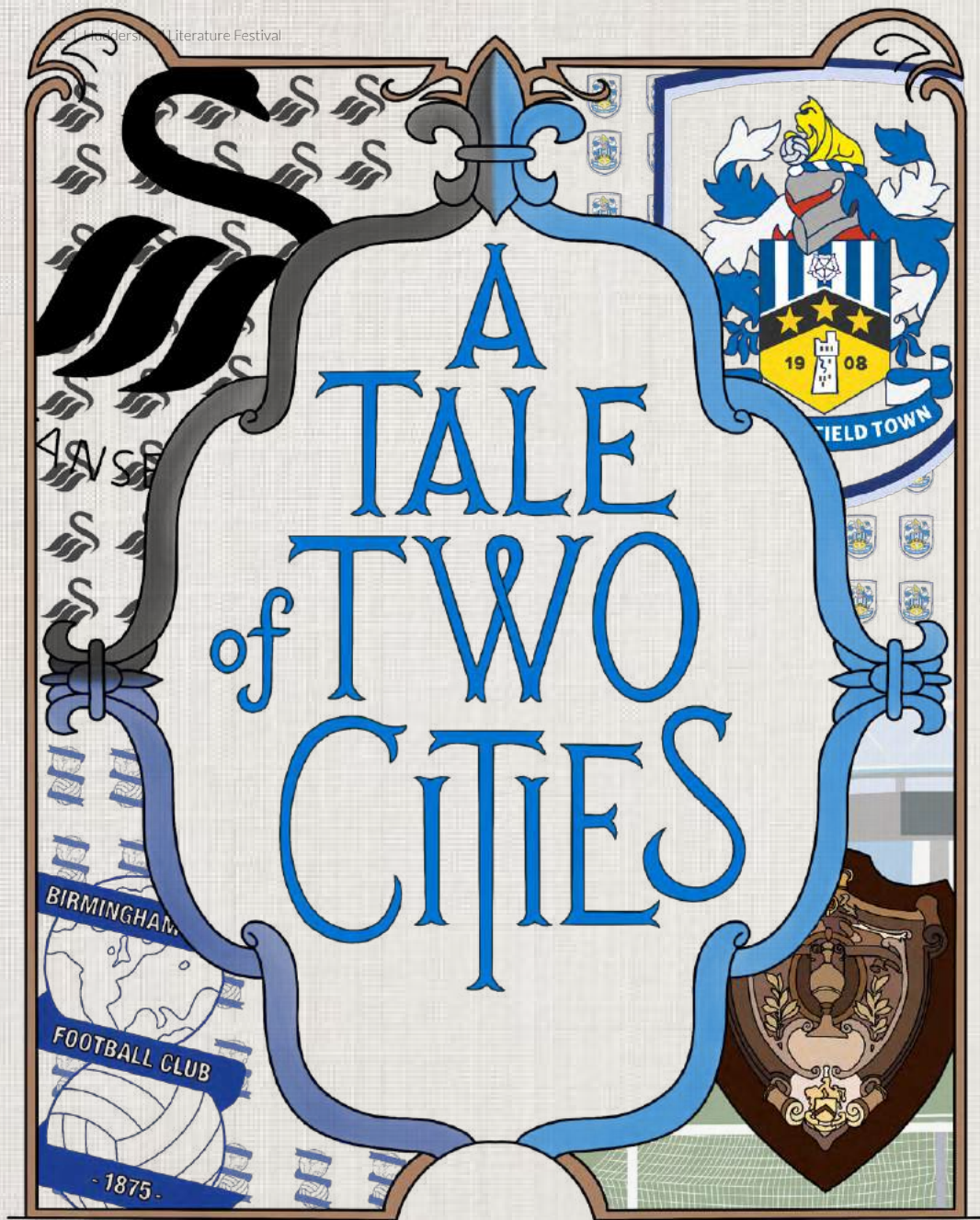
## HuddLitFest in the community

Our Schools Programme has been expanded again this year, with author visits, assemblies and resources offered to local schools.

*"HLF have been phenomenal in raising and promoting literacy standards and instilling a love of reading for our students by coordinating guest speakers into school."* Salendine Nook School

We also work closely with many other local community organisations, from hosting and promoting their workshops and events to funding special projects. Listen out for our first ever Festival theme tune, created by Conscious Youth!





WATCH HUDDERSFIELD TOWN LIVE THIS MONTH  
SWANSEA CITY 3PM SATURDAY 20 APRIL  
BIRMINGHAM CITY 3PM SATURDAY 27 APRIL  
JOHN SMITH'S STADIUM  
HTAFC.COM/TICKETS 01484 960 606  
FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



# If These Walls Could Talk

A writing workshop and sharing event exploring The Arcade Dewsbury as place, memory and imagination. Participants will write fiction, non-fiction and poetry inspired by The Arcade. Led by author Yvonne Battle-Felton.

FREE – Book at <https://www.huddlifest.org.uk/>

Choose one of three workshops on:

Fri 5 Apr or Fri 12 Apr - 1-4pm, Sat 13 Apr - 11am-2pm

Sharing Event

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May - 11am to 1pm

Venue – Dewsbury Town Hall



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

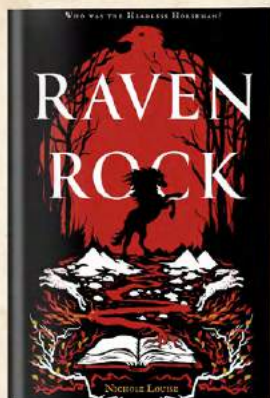


**The Arcade  
Dewsbury**



## RAVEN ROCK

BY NICHOLE LOUISE



A PREQUEL TO  
THE LEGEND OF  
SLEEPY HOLLOW  
&  
A HEADLESS  
HORSEMAN  
ORIGIN STORY

"RAVEN ROCK STANDS RESOLUTE AS A SELF-CONTAINED MASTERPIECE, AN ENGROSSING NARRATIVE EXQUISITELY CRAFTED WITH PROSE THAT RESONATES WITH A RAPE, BREATHTAKING SPLENDOR." - THE HISTORICAL FICTION COMPANY

BOOKS2READ.COM/RAVENROCK

NICHOLOULOUSE.COM

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## English Literature and Creative Writing Masters

If you are passionate about literature or writing an MA by Research will enable you to explore your specialism in detail with a supervisor who is an expert in the field.

### Literature

You can research pretty much any writer or writing movement that you want. We have particular specialisms in:

- Environmental Literature: Shakespeare to the Present
- Renaissance Autobiography
- Victorian and Contemporary Novelists
- Modern and Contemporary Poetry
- Life Writing

### Creative Writing

You can write and research any form of Creative Writing. Our writers specialise in:

- Scriptwriting
- Short Fiction
- The Novel
- Poetry
- Life Writing

An MA by Research full-time will take a year and two years for part-time study. Start dates are available for September and January.

For more information, please email our admissions tutor, Dr Todd Borlik  
T.Borlik@hud.ac.uk



Web: [hud.ac.uk/qv](http://hud.ac.uk/qv)

Centre for Contemporary Poetry: [hud.ac.uk/pc](http://hud.ac.uk/pc)

[mhmuuddersfield](https://www.facebook.com/mhmuuddersfield)

[mhmuudders](https://twitter.com/mhmuudders)

# Booking and other info

**Venue-based events:** Booking is via our website through Eventbrite unless otherwise stated. Tickets will be available on the door for events that are not sold out. Some events will take place in the Festival Tipi in the Courtyard of Lawrence Batley Theatre. Visit our website for the full programme.

**Online events:** These take place on Zoom and must be booked in advance through our website, where you can also find our Guide to Using Zoom.

## General info:

[info@huddlitfest.org.uk](mailto:info@huddlitfest.org.uk)

[www.huddlitfest.org.uk](http://www.huddlitfest.org.uk)

01484 951108

**Access for all** – we are committed to offering accessible free or low-cost events. Our programme is diverse and representative, and includes online, hybrid and subtitled events. Many events are free to essential carers accompanying a ticket holder and to University of Huddersfield staff and students. If you have specific access needs or prefer to be seated away from other audience members as a Covid-safety measure, please contact our Admin at: [info@huddlitfest.org.uk](mailto:info@huddlitfest.org.uk). Our Access Guides to key venues can be found at: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/huddersfield-literature-festival>.

**Please note:** While we aim to present events as detailed here, the Festival reserves the right to make changes if necessary. For the latest updates, sign up to our mailing list, check on our website or social media, or call 01484 951108.

Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.



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