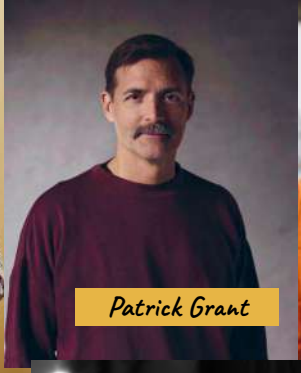

Jackie Kay


Patrick Grant


Joanne Harris


Rachel Joyce


Kate Fox


AA Dhand


Stuart Maconie


Alan Johnson

Pre-Festival March events with


Lorraine Kelly


Philippa Gregory

8-18 May 2025

- Children's events
- Author talks and panel discussions
- Creative workshops and industry events
- Music, dance and performance poetry
- Online events

and more!

HUDDERSFIELD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Bringing words to life

www.huddlitfest.org.uk

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Welcome to HuddLitFest25

We're excited to bring you another fantastic programme this year! Our Festival dates are 8-18 May with a theme of 'Yorkshire', showcasing local talent alongside a diverse range of authors, poets and performers.

We are partnering more closely with Lawrence Batley Theatre and many of our events will take place in the theatre's Cellar space.

There will be a Tipi in the theatre courtyard again this year, thanks to ongoing support from Huddersfield Live and new sponsors Huddersfield BID. Look out for a sparkling **Great Gatsby**-themed launch, plus events and community activities, or drop in for a drink and pick up a Festival brochure.

With enormous thanks as always to our funders and supporters, especially in the current challenging funding landscape. We look forward to seeing you at our events.



Michelle Hodgson
Festival Director

YORKSHIRE POST TOURISM AWARDS

We were thrilled to represent Huddersfield at the Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards in December 2024 as finalists for both the **Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award** (which we won in 2022) and the **Culture Award**. It was great to be recognised for the third year running, amongst high-profile organisations from across Yorkshire.



Michelle Brown, Michelle Hodgson & Milton Brown, Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards 2024

ACCESSIBLE & ONLINE

Look out for our 'Hybrid Event' and 'Online Event' logos next to events that can be accessed online, our 'Subtitled' logo next to events with live subtitling, and our 'Free Event' logo. All online events will be held on Zoom. A link will be sent the day before the event.



EARLY BIRD TICKETS

Save money by booking early - we have 'Early bird' tickets on many of our events, up to midnight on 22 April. Visit our website for details.

Schedule in brief

Pre-Festival events – March

Sat 8 March	6.30pm-7.30pm	An Evening with Lorraine Kelly
Mon 10 March	7pm-8pm	Philippa Gregory – Normal Women

Festival events – May

Thu 8 May	6.30pm-7.30pm	The Royal Family vs 'The Crown'
	7pm-8pm	Linda Green – The Woman With All the Answers
	7.30pm-8.30pm	Matt Jackson-Smith – My Life as a Yorkshire Vet
Fri 9 May	3.30pm-4.30pm	Scrolls: The Continuous Page
	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: Read Yourself Happy with Daisy Buchanan
	7pm-8pm	An Evening with Jackie Kay
Sat 10 May	11am-2pm	Letterpress Demonstrations at WYPW
	11.30am-12.30pm	Children's Crime Busting Workshop (Almondbury)
	12pm-1.30pm	Workshop: Calligraphy with Razwan Ul-Haq
	1pm-2pm (approx)	Design a Graphic Novel with Penny O'Neill
	1pm-4pm	Workshop: Silk Painting
	2pm-4pm	Workshop: Writing Setting with Okechukwu Nzelu
	2.30pm-3.30pm	Children's Crime Busting Workshop (Lindley)
	3pm-4pm	Gripping Mysteries with Yvonne Battle-Felton & Lisa Rookes
	3pm-4.30pm	ONLINE: MACFEST Multilingual Mushaira & International Poetry
	7pm-8.45pm	Polari: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Writing Talent
	9pm-10.30pm	Out + Loud Open Mic
Sun 11 May	12pm-1pm	ONLINE: Ask an Agent
	12.30pm-2pm	West Yorkshire Young Poet Laureates
	3pm-5pm	Self-Publishing Crash Course
	4pm-5pm	Alan Johnson on Harold Wilson
	7pm-8pm	David Barnett & Michael Stewart
Tue 13 May	12pm-1pm	Workshop: Dark Horse Theatre
	3.30pm-5pm	Workshop: Creative Writing & Poetry with Kate Fox
	5pm-8.30pm	Tipi Launch - The Great Gatsby + Open Mic

	6.30pm-7.30pm	Rassam – exhibition & talk
	7pm-8.20pm	Kate Fox: Bigger on the Inside
Wed 14 May	12.30pm-1.30pm	An Introduction to Give... a few words
	5pm-6pm	Business Networking & 'The Authentic Organization'
	6.30pm-7.30pm	Why Are We So Fascinated by Ancient Egypt?
	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: Polly Atkin – The Company of Owls
	7pm-8pm	Introduction to Bollywood Dance
	7.30pm-10pm	Radio Sangam Qawwali Night
Thu 15 May	12pm-2pm	Workshop: Photography with BSDC
	4pm-6pm	Message in a Bottle
	6.30pm-8pm	Open Mic with Talking Zebras
	7pm-8pm	ONLINE: AI – Terrifying Tech or Conduit to Creativity?
	7pm-8pm	Yorkshire Crime Fiction with AA Dhand & Russ Thomas
	7pm-8pm	A Wilding Year with Hannah Dale
Fri 16 May	11am-12pm	Meet Spider-Man
	2pm-4pm	Workshop: Give... a few words
	2pm-5pm	Balbir Singh Dance Company – Captured
	6pm-7pm	Sex, Spies & Politics – with Stephen May
	7pm-8pm	Patrick Grant – Less
	7.30pm-9pm	Pennine Platform Issue 97: Live Launch
Sat 17 May	11am-1.45pm	Meet Peter Rabbit
	12pm-1pm	The Mic Champs Programme
	12pm-1pm	Grandad Wheels – storytelling & drawing activity
	2pm-3pm	Joanne Harris – Vianne
	2pm-4pm	Workshop: 'Origins' Poetry workshop
	4pm-5pm	Stuart Maconie on The Beatles
	5.30pm-7pm	Open Mic hosted by Musica Kirklees
	7.30pm-10pm	Poetry Slam 2025
Sun 18 May	12pm-12.45pm	Meet Peter Rabbit
	2pm-4pm	Huddersfield Authors' Circle – Celebrating 90 Years
	2pm-4.30pm	Finding Stories in the Park
	3pm-4pm	An Afternoon with Rachel Joyce
	4pm-6pm	Lesley McEvoy
	5pm-6.30pm	HD Sounds Performance
	6pm onwards	Wrap Party

Join us for two special pre-Festival events in March



An Evening with Lorraine Kelly

Saturday 8 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm

- Main auditorium | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Early bird tickets £12.50 (£10 conc)
- Age guidance: 14+

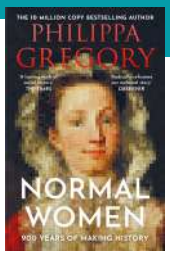
Much-loved TV presenter Lorraine Kelly CBE talks about her uplifting and heartwarming Sunday Times bestselling debut novel, **The Island Swimmer,** set on Orkney. Lorraine has worked in breakfast TV for 40 years and now presents *Lorraine* on ITV.



Philippa Gregory – Normal Women

Monday 10 March | 7pm-8pm

Philippa Gregory's award-winning book **Normal Women – Making History for 900 Years** is the first long-form history of England with women at the centre of the story. Join us to celebrate the launch of a new YA edition – and enjoy an evening of fun, scholarship and storytelling.



- The North Light | Brookes Mill | 78 Armitage Road | HD4 7NR
- £9 (ticket only) | £17 (ticket + book)
- Age guidance: 12+

In partnership with Read.

HUDDLITFEST IN THE COMMUNITY

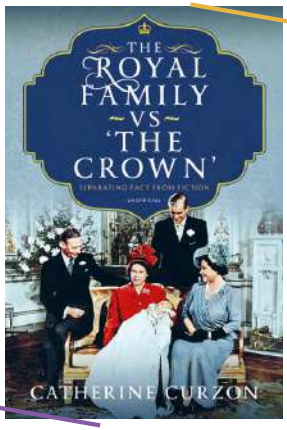
We work closely with many local community organisations, from hosting and promoting their workshops and events to funding special projects.

Our Schools Programme of author visits, assemblies and resources is offered to schools across Huddersfield, reaching and inspiring thousands of students. We are grateful to One17 Charitable Trust for sponsoring our 2025 Schools Programme.

Supporting Our Local Community
ONE17 CHARITABLE TRUST
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Our May Festival events





The Royal Family vs 'The Crown'

Thursday 8 May | 6.30pm-7.30pm

Merrie England | New Hey Road | Oakes | HD3 4BU

£5

Age guidance: 14+

If you were gripped by Netflix's smash-hit factual drama The Crown, you probably wondered how true to life this Royal Family saga was. Huddersfield historian Catherine Curzon reveals the real stories behind the drama, from her new book **The Royal Family vs 'The Crown'.**



Linda Green – The Woman with All the Answers

Thursday 8 May | 7pm-8pm

Honley Library | West Ave | Honley | HD9 6HF

£5 (£4 conc)

Age guidance: 12+

Richard & Judy bestselling author Linda Green talks about her brilliantly observed, witty and heart-warming new book club read **The Woman with All the Answers.** Linda is the bestselling author of 11 novels, which have sold more than 1.4 million copies.

Matt Jackson-Smith – My Life as a Yorkshire Vet

Thursday 8 May | 7.30pm-8.30pm

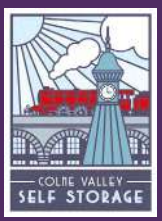
The Civic Holmfirth | Huddersfield Road | Holmfirth | HD9 3AS

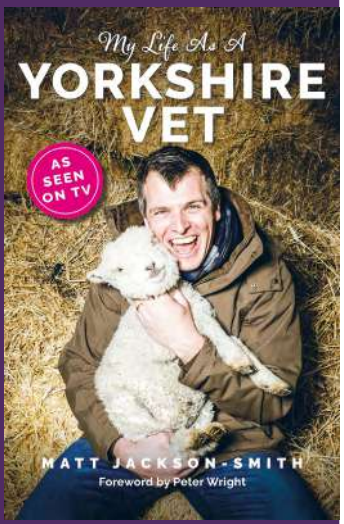
£9 (£7 conc)

Age guidance: 10+

An evening with one of the stars of Channel 5's hit show *The Yorkshire Vet*. In his funny, engaging and honest memoir, Matt Jackson-Smith reveals his journey so far – from watching *The Yorkshire Vet* with his gran, to heartwarming tales as one of TV's most popular animal experts.

Sponsored by





Scrolls: The Continuous Page

Friday 9 May | 3.30pm-4.30pm



West Yorkshire Print Workshop | The Piazza
42-44 Princess Alexandra Walk | HD1 2RS

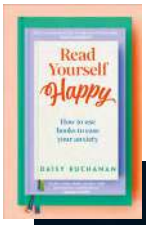
£10 (incl. drink)

Age guidance: 14+

In this talk and Q&A, artist Lucy May Schofield explores the scroll as a record of time, distance, and unfolding narratives. Plus, view her exhibition of traditional prints, books, scrolls and works on paper reflecting on landscapes and the seasons (10.30am-2.30pm, Thu, Fri & Sat from 5 April – 14 June).

ONLINE: Read Yourself Happy with Daisy Buchanan

Friday 9 May | 7pm-8pm



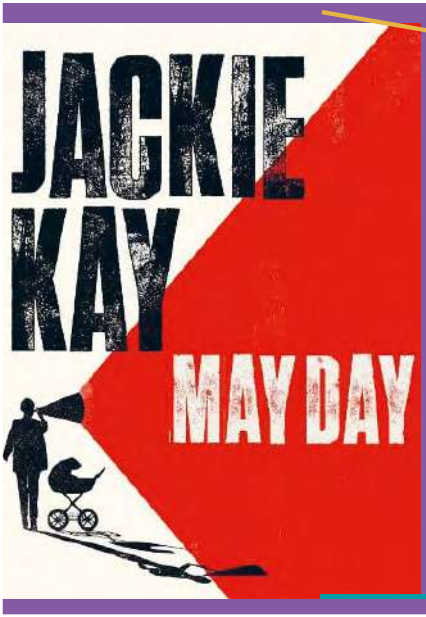
Online

£2

Age guidance: 16+

ONLINE EVENT

Instead of 'self-help', embrace 'shelf-help' with the award-winning journalist, author and speaker, Daisy Buchanan. In this online event, she will chat to Capital XTRA's Jojo Silva about the healing power of books and how reading can inspire, comfort and fortify.



An Evening with Jackie Kay

Friday 9 May | 7pm-8pm



Diamond Jubilee Lecture Theatre | Charles Sikes Building
University of Huddersfield | 78 Firth Street | HD1 3BN

£10 (£8 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

SUBTITLES

Share an inspiring, uplifting and entertaining evening with Jackie Kay, one of the nation's best-loved poets and former Scottish Makar (National Poet). Jackie will perform work including poems from her long-awaited new collection **May Day,** followed by a Q&A.

Letterpress demonstrations at WYPW

Saturday 10 May | 11am-2pm

West Yorkshire Print Workshop | The Piazza 42-44 Princess Alexandra Walk | HD1 2RS

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: 12+

Come and find out about setting wood and metal type, which would traditionally have been used for book printing, and have a go at printing yourself!





Children's Crime Busting Workshops

Saturday 10 May

11.30am-12.30pm
Almondbury Library | Off Farfield Road | Almondbury | HD5 8TD

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 these fabulous Crime Busting Workshops 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.



Workshop: Calligraphy with Razwan Ul-Haq

Saturday 10 May | 12pm-1.30pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£15 (£10 conc)

Age guidance: 12+

Expert Razwan Ul-Haq will talk about traditional calligraphy and how it is used today, before leading you through a practical workshop in Nastaliq Arabic Calligraphy, using bamboo pens and handmade inks.

Design a Graphic Novel with Penny O'Neill

Saturday 10 May | 1pm-2pm (approx)



Read Bookshop | 41 Huddersfield Road | Holmfirth | HD9 3JH
£1 (booking recommended)
Age guidance: 6-9

Learn how to make your own graphic novel with Penelope O'Neill, from designing a comic book hero and villain to mapping out a comic book strip. Plus a draw-a-long of a Floof character from her new graphic novel **The Floofs Reach for the Stars.**



Workshop: Silk Painting

Saturday 10 May | 1pm-4pm

Tolson Museum | Ravensknowle Park | Wakefield Road Moldgreen | HD5 8DJ
£15
Age guidance: 12+

Capture a special place in Yorkshire and learn the relaxing art of silk painting. Local artist Louise Grassby will guide you to create a silk painting of a Yorkshire scene from a choice of pre-drawn images. Limited places, book early.

Workshop: Writing Setting with Okechukwu Nzelu

Saturday 10 May | 2pm-4pm

TEN | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP
£15 (£10 conc)
Age guidance: 16+

Setting can be one of the most crucial parts of fiction: it's how your characters experience the world, and it can help make that world more convincing. Award-winning novelist and creative writing tutor Okechukwu Nzelu will use discussions, writing prompts and extracts from published work to help you develop the portrayal of setting in your own writing.



Gripping Mysteries with Yvonne Battle-Felton & Lisa Rookes

Saturday 10 May | 3pm-4pm

- Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- £7 (£5 conc)
- Age guidance: 12+

If you're a fan of gripping mysteries with bold characters and unexpected twists then you'll love this event! Yvonne Battle-Felton and Lisa Rookes chat about their compelling new novels, **Curdle Creek** and **The Village**, both set in small communities where dark secrets are revealed with dramatic consequences.





A captivating afternoon of multilingual poetry and Mushaira, where the rich literary traditions of the Muslim world come alive through spoken word.

ONLINE: MACFEST Multilingual Mushaira & International Poetry

Saturday 10 May | 3pm-4.30pm

- Online
- Free (booking required)
- Age guidance: 16+

ONLINE EVENT

Polari: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Writing Talent

Saturday 10 May | 7pm-8.45pm

- Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- £10 (£8 conc)
- Age guidance: 12+

A fabulous and talented line-up of LGBTQ+ writers. Polari is hosted by author Paul Burston, with performances from Okechukwu Nzelu, Rosie Garland and Hook.



Followed at 9pm by

Out + Loud Open Mic

Saturday 10 May | 9pm-10.30pm

- Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Free (booking recommended)
- Age guidance: 16+

FREE EVENT

An Open Mic night for queer performers of all kinds, hosted by poetic comedian Zee and drag king musician Ding Frisby. To perform, email: outnloud.events@gmail.com or sign up on the door.

OUT + LOUD







ONLINE: Ask an Agent

Sunday 11 May | 12pm-1pm

Online

£5

Age guidance: 16+

ONLINE EVENT

Your chance to put your questions about the publishing process to literary agents Clare Coombes from The Liverpool Literary Agency, Marilia Savvides from The Plot Agency and Jenny Savill from Andrew Nurnberg. Hosted by Michael Stewart.

West Yorkshire Young Poet Laureates

Sunday 11 May | 12.30pm-2pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: 7+

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 West Yorkshire Young Poet Laureate scheme. Hosted by Yorkshire poet Sharena Lee Satti.





Self-Publishing Crash Course

Sunday 11 May | 3pm-5pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£9 (£7 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

Learn the top tips for self-publishing from bestselling local author and publisher of Curious Cat Books, Rachael Hardcastle. Rachael will share no-nonsense, honest advice on how to use print-on-demand technology to write, edit and design your book – and how to utilise Amazon to reach potential readers all over the world.



Alan Johnson on Harold Wilson

Sunday 11 May | 4pm-5pm

Diamond Jubilee Lecture Theatre | Charles Sikes Building
University of Huddersfield | 78 Firth Street | HD1 3BN

£15 (£10 conc), online tickets: £5

Age guidance: 16+



Former Labour cabinet minister and bestselling author Alan Johnson presents a portrait of Harold Wilson, one of the most successful politicians of the 20th century. Huddersfield born and bred, Wilson was Prime Minister from 1964-70, and again from 1974-76. The achievements of the Wilson Era – from legalising homosexuality to protecting ethnically diverse groups, from women's rights to the Open University – radically improved ordinary people's lives for the better.

SUBTITLES

HYBRID EVENT

Sponsored by

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Hybrid provision by

KLTV

David Barnett & Michael Stewart

Sunday 11 May | 7pm-8pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£9 (£7 conc)

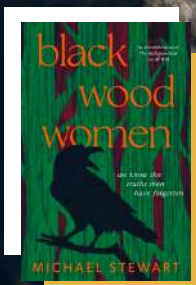
Age guidance: 16+

Two critically acclaimed Yorkshire writers discuss their latest folk horror novels. In David Barnett's **Scuttler's Cove**, a woman discovers something terrible awakening beneath her home town, while Michael Stewart's **Black Wood Women** follows a 17th-century Catholic Irish girl who encounters a remote coven of women.









Workshop: Dark Horse Theatre

Tuesday 13 May | 12pm-1pm



Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

Free (booking required)

Age guidance: 18+

FREE EVENT

Join the Dark Horse team for a workshop inspired by their upcoming show **We're in Love (Actually)**. The workshop is aimed at people age 18+ who have learning disabilities and/or autism, and who are interested in performing and theatre-making. Expect engaging games and partner work designed to help you build confidence, explore new movements and use your voice.



Workshop: Creative Writing & Poetry with Kate Fox

Tuesday 13 May | 3.30pm-5pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen | Street | HD1 2SP

£15 (£10 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

A creative writing/poetry workshop focusing on wellbeing led by Radio 4 regular and stand-up poet Kate Fox. A mixture of fun, practical exercises and prompts, the workshop will look at what we need to flourish and thrive – drawing on Kate's interest in the links between neurodiversity and biodiversity. Suitable for all levels of writer.

Tipi Launch – The Great Gatsby + Open Mic

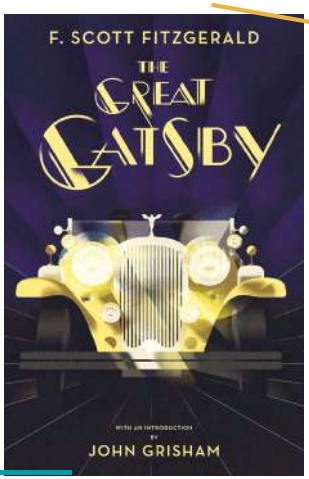
Tuesday 13 May | 5pm-8.30pm

Courtyard | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP

Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: all ages

FREE EVENT



Join us for our Festival Tipi launch – all welcome! To celebrate the centenary of the publication of F Scott Fitzgerald's novel, the launch theme will be **The Great Gatsby**. Come dressed up and enjoy discounted drinks. Plus, from 7pm, an Open Mic run by the University of Huddersfield's Creative Writing Society, hosted by local writer Joseph Blythe and featuring early career writers with slots for audience members. In partnership with Huddersfield Live, sponsored by Huddersfield BID and with the support of Lawrence Batley Theatre. Following launch night, the Tipi will open daily to 18 May.

HuddersfieldLive™

LAWRENCE BATLEY THEATRE HUDDERSFIELD

HUDDERSFIELD BID



Rassam – exhibition & talk

Tuesday 13 May | 6.30pm-7.30pm

Gallery | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
Free (booking recommended)
Age guidance: all ages

Rassam is an exhibition of photographs by Hardeep Singh Sahota and John Slemensek-Thorne exploring South Asian dance, traditions and celebrations, currently on view in the Lawrence Batley Theatre bar. In this talk, Hardeep will share the ideas and stories that inspired the exhibition.

FREE EVENT

Kate Fox: Bigger on the Inside

Tuesday 13 May | 7pm-8.20pm

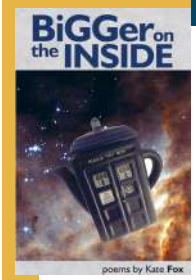
Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP
£10 (£8 conc)
Age guidance: 12+

Like the TARDIS in Doctor Who, we're all **Bigger on the Inside**. Join stand-up poet and Radio 4 regular Kate Fox on a funny, thought-provoking and poetic trip through time and space. Finding inspiration in Doctor Who and neurodivergent joy, she uncovers new ways to think about labels like Autism and ADHD.



Sponsored by

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An Introduction to Give... a few words

Wednesday 14 May | 12.30pm-1.30pm

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: 12+

FREE EVENT

Give...A Few Words post "one off" uplifting letters and artwork out to others to reduce social isolation and improve social connections. In this introductory session you will get to hear all about this project, find out why letter writing for others is good for writers too and there will also be hints, tips and ideas for your first letters.



Business Networking & 'The Authentic Organization'

Wednesday 14 May | 5pm-6pm

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

Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: 16+

An open networking event for local businesses with a talk by entrepreneur Gina Battye, author of **The Authentic Organization: How to Create a Psychologically Safe Workplace**.

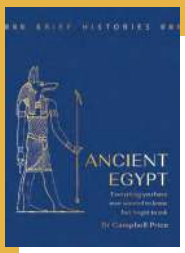
Why Are We So Fascinated by Ancient Egypt?

Wednesday 14 May | 6.30pm-7.30pm

Diamond Jubilee Lecture Theatre Charles Sikes Building | University of Huddersfield | 78 Firth Street | HD1 3BN

£7 (£6 conc)

Age guidance: 10+



Enjoy a trip back in time with Dr Campbell Price, author of **Ancient Egypt**, as he explores one of the most fascinating and influential periods of history – from the pyramid builders to the Pharaohs, and from hieroglyphics to Egyptian art.



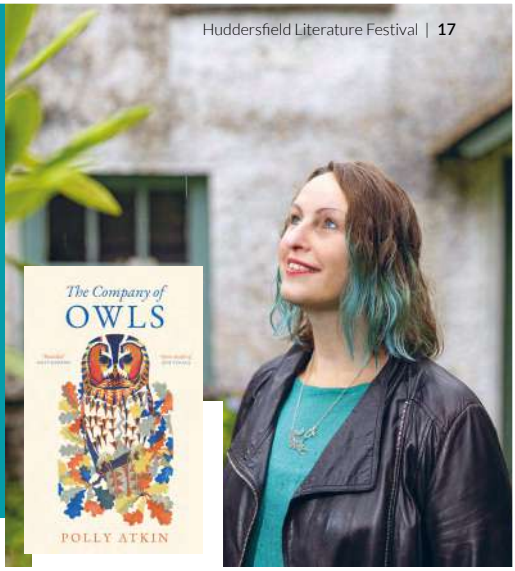
ONLINE: Polly Atkin – The Company of Owls

Wednesday 14 May | 7pm-8pm

- Online
- £2 (booking required)
- Age guidance: 16+

ONLINE EVENT

How do we find joy in unexpected places at challenging times? Polly Atkin tells of how watching a trio of owlets grow from fledglings near her home in Grasmere taught her to listen when all around seemed noise. **The Company of Owls** is a love song to these incredible creatures, and a reflection on what makes them, and us, unique.



Introduction to Bollywood Dance

Wednesday 14 May | 7pm-8pm

- Tipi | Courtyard | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Free (booking recommended)
- Age guidance: 13+

FREE EVENT

Salma's BOLLYWOOD ACADEMY

Let your inner Bollywood star shine with Salma Zaman's fun Bollywood dance session for women and girls (age 13+). Beginners welcome, those with limited mobility can take part seated.



Radio Sangam Qawwali Night

Wednesday 14 May | 7.30pm-10pm

- Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- £12
- Age guidance: 16+

A fabulous musical evening from a renowned Qawwali group, which will include some popular Bollywood music. A women-only event. Limited ticket availability, early booking advised.

Supported by funding from

CREATIVE SCENE

CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Workshop: Photography with BSDC

Thursday 15 May | 12pm-2pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£4

Age guidance 16+

A fun and engaging photography workshop for all levels, led by Balbir Singh Dance Company, exploring ideas around photographing dancers, the local built environment and yourselves. Bring your smart phones or cameras.





Message in a Bottle

FREE EVENT

Thursday 15 May | 4pm-6pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: No age restrictions

A creative intergenerational project connecting older adults and primary school children through photography, poetry, and art. Come and see their artwork, hear their stories and enjoy a poetry performance!

Open Mic with Talking Zebras

Thursday 15 May | 6.30pm-8pm

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: 16+

FREE EVENT

TALKING ZEBRAS

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



Image generated by panelist using AI

ONLINE: AI – Terrifying Tech or Conduit to Creativity?

Thursday 15 May | 7pm-8pm

Does AI pose a grave danger to creative people and projects or is it a useful tool to be harnessed? Join our expert panel to hear both sides.

Online

£2

Age guidance: 16+

ONLINE EVENT



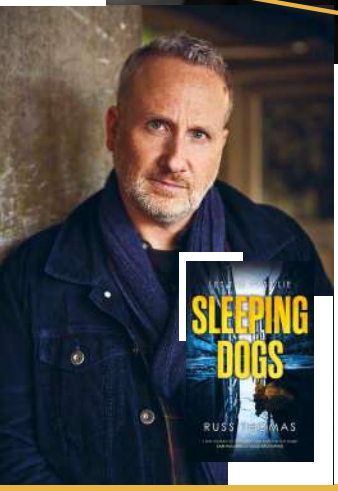
Yorkshire crime fiction with AA Dhand & Russ Thomas

Thursday 15 May | 7pm-8pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£9 (£7 conc)

Age guidance: 16+



For fans of crime fiction, your chance to hear from acclaimed writers AA Dhand and Russ Thomas about their latest Yorkshire-set crime thrillers. AA Dhand is the author of the Harry Virdee novels, which he recently adapted for a BBC drama. His latest adrenaline-filled thriller, **The Chemist**, sees a Bradford pharmacist searching for his missing childhood sweetheart. **Sleeping Dogs** is the latest in Russ Thomas's DS Adam Tyler series; a Sheffield-set police procedural novel with shades of **Line of Duty** – a cold case investigation with an element of police corruption and a clever twist.

Supported by funding from

CREATIVE SCENE

CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PLACES

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

A Wilding Year with Hannah Dale

Thursday 15 May | 7pm-8pm

Marsden Mechanics | Peel Street | Marsden
HD7 6BW

£10 (£8 conc)

Age guidance: 10+

Enjoy an illustrated talk from Hannah Dale about the ambitious rewilding project at her 300-acre farm. The artist behind successful stationery company Wrendale Designs, Hannah will show some of her stunning illustrations and talk about how she and her husband restored the farm's ecosystems.



Sponsored by

Longley Farm



FRIENDS OF MARSDEN LIBRARY



Meet Spider-Man

Friday 16 May | 11am-12pm

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: all ages

Bring your mini-Spidey fans to meet and take a picture with your friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man! Plus colouring activities.

Workshop: Give... a few words

Friday 16 May | 2pm-4pm

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

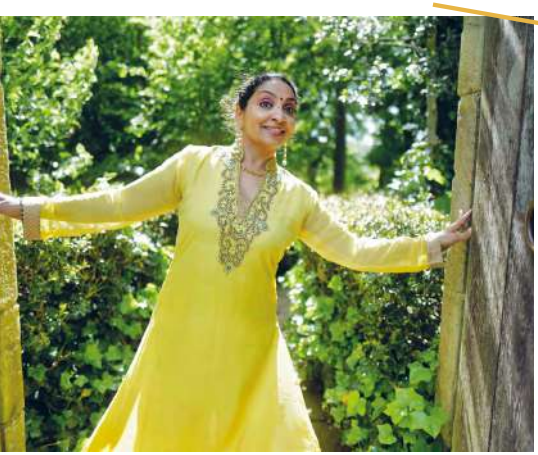
Free (booking recommended)

Age guidance: 12+

FREE EVENT

In this fun and interactive workshop, Sharron Wilkinson and Alex Hutchinson (Little Enchanted Hut), will explain the wellbeing benefits of writing for others, share some top tips and ideas and show you how to get creative by making flowers out of recycled books. No experience needed and all materials provided.





Balbir Singh Dance Company – Captured

Friday 16 May | 2pm-5pm

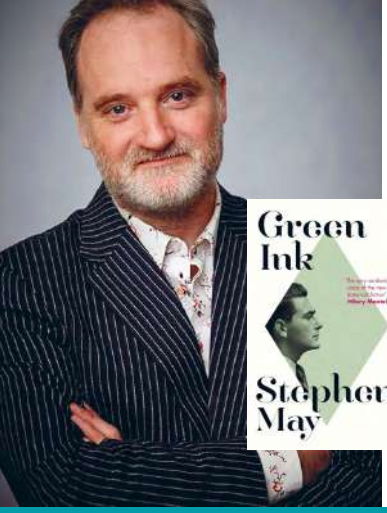
Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: all ages

FREE EVENT

A Work–in–Progress Sharing from BSDC. Step into the dialogue between dancer and photographer – where movement meets the lens. An open and accessible session for all – inviting you to see in new ways.



Sex, Spies & Politics – with Stephen May

Friday 16 May | 6pm-7pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£5

Age guidance: 16+

Stephen May talks about his brilliantly sharp, witty and irreverent new novel **Green Ink**, based on the true story of Victor Grayson, firebrand Labour MP for the Colne Valley who mysteriously vanished in 1920 after threatening to implicate PM David Lloyd George in a selling honours scandal.

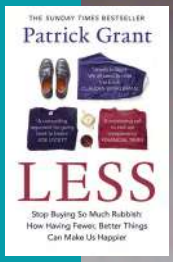
Patrick Grant – Less

Friday 16 May | 7pm-8pm

The Civic Holmfirth | Huddersfield Road Holmfirth | HD9 3AS

£20 (£17 conc)

Age guidance: 12+



Join *Great British Sewing Bee* judge Patrick Grant to find out how having fewer better things can make us happier. The average person today has nearly five times as many clothes as people did 50 years ago. In his new book **Less**, he celebrates craftmanship, buying with thought and valuing what we own.

Pennine Platform Issue 97: Live Launch

Friday 16 May | 7.30pm-9pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£5

Age guidance: 16+



Pennine Platform is an internationally respected magazine with strong Huddersfield links. Julia Deakin showcases the new issue, including the legendary Albert Poets, whose inspirational voices have helped make Huddersfield 'the poetry capital of the north'.

Meet Peter Rabbit

Saturday 17 May | 11am-1.45pm

FREE EVENT



Hop along to meet Peter Rabbit, the mischievous character from the Beatrix Potter books, film and TV shows. Plus make bunny masks with The Children's Art School (11am-1pm). Free drop-in event, with character walkabouts at 11.15am-12pm & 1pm-1.45pm.

- Tipi, Courtyard | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Free (no booking required)
- Age guidance: All ages





MIC CHAMPS

The Mic Champs Programme

Saturday 17 May | 12pm-1pm

- Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Free
- Age guidance: 10+

FREE EVENT

Local school students showcase work produced in a music/art workshop with local musician Joel Simmy & artist Benaiah Matheson.

Project funded by

PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

POSTCODE NEIGHBOURHOOD TRUST



Grandad Wheels – storytelling & drawing activity

Saturday 17 May | 12pm-1pm

A free storytelling session for primary school age children with drawing activity to design a futuristic wheelchair. Free copy of one of Grandad Wheels' books for each child attending (up to 40). Booking advised but not essential.

- Birkby Library | Lea Street | HD1 6HF
- Free (booking advised)
- Age guidance: 5-10 years

FREE EVENT

Joanne Harris – Vianne

Saturday 17 May | 2pm-3pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£12 (£10 conc)

Age guidance: 12+

SUBTITLES

"Twenty-five years after the publication of Chocolat, I've finally chosen to share with you the origin story of Vianne Rocher, the mysterious chocolate-maker (and witch) with the power to change the lives of the people around her."
Joanne Harris

Working in a run-down bistro in Marseille, a young Vianne discovers the joy of cooking and the true magic of chocolate – but will her secret threaten her future? Joanne Harris OBE is the bestselling and multiple-award-winning author of 25 novels.



© Kyte Photography

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Workshop: 'Origins' Poetry workshop

Saturday 17 May | 2pm-4pm

Poet Chérie Taylor Battiste leads a workshop on the profound aspects of identity, heritage, and self-discovery. In 'Origins': An Exploration of Identity, Heritage, and Self-Discovery, participants will be encouraged to delve into their personal histories and reflect on the experiences and influences that have shaped their unique identities.

TEN | Lawrence Batley Theatre | Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£15 (£10 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

Stuart Maconie on The Beatles

Saturday 17 May | 4pm-5pm

Acclaimed author and broadcaster Stuart Maconie talks about his latest book: **With a Little Help from their Friends**. With a subtitle of **The Beatles changed the world. But who changed theirs?** – this is an engaging, surprising and revealing look at the Beatles story. Stuart Maconie is a celebrated radio broadcaster and non-fiction author.

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£12 (£10 conc)

Age guidance: 14+

SUBTITLES



Open Mic hosted by Musica Kirklees

Saturday 17 May | 5.30pm-7pm

FREE EVENT

#MUSICA KIRKLEES

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: 16+

Musica Kirklees hosts a welcoming open mic evening, with performances from their members and open sign-ups for solo musicians or groups. To perform, please email **grace.turner@musicakirklees.org**



Poetry Slam 2025

Saturday 17 May | 7.30pm-10pm

Cellar | Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street | HD1 2SP

£10 (£8 conc)

Age guidance: 16+

Ten fantastic poets compete to become our 2025 Slam Champ. Hosted by award-winning poet Rose Condo with a special performance by Chérie Taylor Battiste and guest spot from Christopher Bowles (2024 Slam winner).

First Prize: £50, and a guest spot at our 2026 Poetry Slam. **To apply:** Send a video (max length 3 minutes, phone videos accepted) of you performing your work to **HLFPoetrySlam@gmail.com** by Monday 14 April. Visit HuddLitFest website for T&Cs.

Meet Peter Rabbit

Sunday 18 May | 12pm-12.45pm

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: All ages

FREE EVENT

Hop along to meet Peter Rabbit, the mischievous character from the Beatrix Potter books, film and TV shows. Free drop-in event.





Huddersfield Authors' Circle – Celebrating 90 Years

Sunday 18 May | 2pm-4pm

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

Free (no booking required)

Age guidance: 16+

FREE EVENT

Huddersfield Authors' Circle was first formed in 1935. To celebrate its ninetieth anniversary, the writing group will be launching its latest book, **90: An Anniversary Compilation**, with selected readings and a Q&A.



Finding Stories in the Park

Sunday 18 May | 2pm-4.30pm

Community Room | Greenhead Park Gledholt Road | HD1 4HS

£15 (includes refreshments)

Age guidance: 16+

Join creative coach and writer Juliet Thomas at Greenhead Park to have some creative fun, ignite your imagination and boost your wellbeing. Juliet will set you challenges to explore the park and discover its secrets to then turn into stories.



Friends of Greenhead Park

Supported by funding from

Arnold Clark COMMUNITY FUND

An Afternoon with Rachel Joyce

Sunday 18 May | 3pm-4pm

The Civic Holmfirth | Huddersfield Road Holmfirth | HD9 3AS
£10 (£8 conc)
Age guidance: 12+

The author of **Perfect** and **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** (released as a film in 2023) chats about her latest work: **The Homemade God** – a beautifully observed novel about art, fame and sibling relationships. Rachel Joyce is the award-winning and multi-million-copy bestselling author of six previous novels, and many Radio 4 original plays and adaptations.







Lesley McEvoy

Sunday 18 May | 4pm-6pm

Empire House (Braise) | Lewisham Road Slaithwaite
£7.50 (includes a drink and snacks, and discount on book purchase)
Age guidance: 16+

The Yorkshire crime writer with a background as a Behavioural Analyst/Profiler and Psychotherapist, chats about her Jo McCready series of crime novels, from her debut **The Murder Mile** to latest **The Invisible Dead**. In partnership with A New Leaf bookshop.

HD Sounds Performance

Sunday 18 May | 5pm-6.30pm

FREE EVENT

Award-winning community organisation Conscious Youth presents an inspirational performance from aspiring songwriters aged 16-30, who have taken part in a Songwriting Camp led by four-times Platinum (US) singer-songwriter Ruby Wood.

- Turntable Café | 35 New Street | HD1 2BQ
- Free (booking recommended)
- Age guidance: 16+



Supported by funding from Arnold Clark COMMUNITY FUND



Wrap Party

Sunday 18 May | 6pm onwards

- Tipi, Courtyard, Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street | HD1 2SP
- Free (no booking required)
- Age guidance: All ages

A free event to wrap up another fabulous year at HuddLitFest.

FREE EVENT

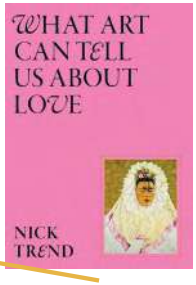
And on YouTube

ONLINE: What Art Can Tell Us About Love

YouTube premiere on Friday 9 May at 12 noon

- Online
- Free resource
- Age guidance: 16+

Author Nick Trend talks about his new book at: YouTube.com/@huddlitfestHD1



ONLINE: Storytelling with Spider-Man

YouTube from May

- Online
- Free resource
- Age guidance: All ages

Spider-Man reads children's books at: YouTube.com/@huddlitfestHD1



Booking and other info

Booking is via our website through Eventbrite unless otherwise stated. Tickets will be available on the door for events that are not sold out. Visit our website for the full programme. **Online events** take place on Zoom and must be booked in advance through our website, where you can also find our Guide to Using Zoom.

HUDDERSFIELD LITERATURE FESTIVAL
Bringing words to life

Don't miss out on **Early Bird tickets** for most events – visit our website for details

General info:
info@huddlitfest.org.uk | 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**. 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.

Find us on:

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