Litfest 2019
Friday 8th - Sunday 31st March 2019
40th Lancaster Literature Festival
Dear Festival-goers, welcome to Litfest’s 2019 Programme!

I am proud to introduce the programme for Litfest’s 40th festival and we’re doing what we do best – only bigger and better. Our month long festival runs from Friday 8th – Sunday 31st March. This year our festival launch coincides with International Women’s Day and we will be kicking off by exploring the lives of the Suffragettes with Diane Atkinson, then showcasing some of the best of fantasy and literary fiction with Genevieve Cogman, Jen Williams, Sarah Moss and Carys Davies.

Our second weekend opens on Friday 15th with the long-standing Lancaster staple Spotlight, before taking our traditional Poetry Day to another level on Saturday 16th with events for all ages running from 10:15am until far into the night. On Sunday 17th we’re celebrating all things local with both new and established writers presenting their work. Both days have plenty of opportunities for writer involvement through open mics and showcases.

In week three we’re celebrating the importance of reading with Ian Anstice and, demonstrating that not even ‘The Beast From The East’ can beat us, bringing back our much anticipated - and much delayed - snowed-off launch weekend from 2018. Olivia Lomenech Gill brings some pretty Fantastic Beasts, followed by our YA day with acclaimed author Cathy Forde and embracing new ways to love books with a talk on vlogging from Hannah Hodgson. On the Sunday we’ll be ‘going continental’ with our partners at Lancaster University’s Department of European Languages and Cultures (DELC) exploring the possibilities of Digital Literature.

In our final week we have an evening of nature writing with Karen Lloyd and Beth Pipe, followed by a second DELC collaboration, exploring the potential of translation. Our finale weekend begins with an afternoon panel celebrating the wonderful world of children’s literature, before a sensational gala event in the evening: the triumphant return to Lancaster of the much loved poet Roger McGough, with music from LiTTLe MACHinE. Our festival finale is a specially commissioned adaptation of Gareth Thompsons’s local fairytale - *The Sea Swallow* - in partnership with our friends at LUDUS Dance.

Alongside our programme of events we also have literary walks, an exhibition, the Litfest Bookshop, workshops, the inaugural Litfest Scarecrow Competition and the launch of the new Litfest Friends Programme.

I hope you enjoy our 40th Festival, which will be my last as Chair. It has been a privilege to be a part of the third-oldest literature festival in England and I look forward to many years attending events and supporting this great Lancaster institution.

Jacqueline Greaves
Chair, Board of Trustees
Festival Launch:
International Women’s Day - Rise Up, Women!

Friday 8th March 7:30pm

For our opening event, and to celebrate International Women's Day, we are delighted to welcome Diane Atkinson, author of *Rise Up, Women! The Remarkable Lives of the Suffragettes*, which is just out in paperback published by Bloomsbury. 101 years after the first women gained the vote, and 100 years after the election of Nancy Astor as the first woman MP, Diane will talk about the suffragette movement and why it was particularly strong in the north-west (Preston, especially, being a hot bed of activism) and how its membership spanned the divides of class and country. Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English actresses, mill-workers, teachers, doctors, seamstresses, scientists, clerks, boot-makers and sweated workers, are all brought together in a lively biography of a movement that helped to bring about defining social change. This event will also include an audience Q&A.

**Diane Atkinson** was born in the north-east and completed a PhD on the politics of women's sweated labour. She taught history at secondary schools in London before moving to the Museum of London, where she worked as a lecturer and curator, specialising in women's history. She is the author of two illustrated history books, *Suffragettes in Pictures* and *Funny Girls: Cartooning for Equality*, and three biographies, *Love & Dirt*, *Elsie and Mairi Go to War* and *The Criminal Conversation of Mrs Norton*. A regular lecturer on the suffragettes at conferences and literary festivals, Diane Atkinson has also appeared on radio programmes including *Woman's Hour*, and has consulted on numerous television documentaries as well as the film *Suffragette*, starring Meryl Streep and Helena Bonham-Carter.

venue: Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle, Castle Parade, Lancaster

Tickets: £12 Full/ £10 Concession/ £8 Student

Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:

Online: www.litfest.org

In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres

By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 9th March 7pm
Here There Be Dragons:
Genevieve Cogman & Jen Williams

Join us for an evening of multidimensional libraries, dragons with a difference and old gods with new ideas. Two fantastic voices in the world of Science Fiction and Fantasy come together to read from their work and to talk about their experience writing for one of Literature’s most popular genres.

Genevieve Cogman is the author of the *Invisible Library* series of books published by Tor. Five of the books in the series have been released so far including *The Invisible Library, The Masked City, The Burning Page* and *The Lost Plot*. The latest instalment - *The Mortal Word* - was published in November 2018. She has also written for various roleplaying game lines, including *GURPS* and *Exalted*. She works for the NHS and lives in the north of England.

Find out more at: [http://www.grcogman.com/](http://www.grcogman.com/)

Jen Williams lives in London with her partner and their cat. A fan of pirates and dragons from an early age, these days she writes character-driven fantasy novels with plenty of banter and magic. In 2015 she was nominated for Best Newcomer in the British Fantasy Awards. In 2018, *The Ninth Rain*, the first book in the Winnowing Flame trilogy, won the British Fantasy Award for Best Fantasy Novel. The sequel, *The Bitter Twins*, was published in March 2018, and the final volume, *The Poison Song*, will be released in May this year. Jen’s first series, The Copper Cat trilogy, consists of *The Copper Promise, The Iron Ghost* and *The Silver Tide*. Both *The Iron Ghost* and *The Silver Tide* have also been nominated for British Fantasy Awards. Jen is partly responsible for founding the Super Relaxed Fantasy Club, a social group that meets in London to celebrate a love of fantasy, and is partial to mead, if you’re buying.

Find out more at:
[www.sennydreadful.com](http://www.sennydreadful.com) or @sennydreadful

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £12 Full/ £10 Concession/ £8 Student
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org)
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Sunday 10th March 7pm
The Rise of the Novella:
Sarah Moss & Carys Davies

To close our launch weekend, we bring you a duo of superb fiction writers from Granta. Carys Davies makes a welcome return to Lancaster reading from her critically acclaimed novella West, following the epic journey of Cy Bellman as he travels far from home in search of mysterious giant bones and the trials of the daughter he leaves behind. Sarah Moss will be reading alongside her from her latest stunning novella Ghost Wall, following the intertwined fates of seventeen year old Sylvie at an experimental archaeology dig in Northumberland and a bog girl sacrificed millennia earlier...

Sarah Moss is a Professor at the University of Warwick. Ghost Wall is her sixth novel, following Cold Earth, Night Waking, Bodies of Light, Signs for Lost Children, The Tidal Zone and a memoir about living in Iceland, Names for the Sea. She has been shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize three times & the RSL Ondaatje prize once. She has written for the Guardian, New Statesman, Independent and BBC Radio & has been a reviewer on Radio 4’s Saturday Review. She was a guest curator at last year’s Cheltenham Literary Festival. She lives in Coventry with her husband & two sons.

Carys Davies' short stories have been widely published in magazines and journals, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. She has won the Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize, the Society of Authors' Olive Cook Award, the Royal Society of Literature's V S Pritchett Prize, and a Northern Writers' Award. Her second collection, The Redemption of Galen Pike, won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2015. She was longlisted for the 2014 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, and shortlisted for the 2015 Wales Book of the Year. Her first novel, West, was a 2018 Book of the Year for both The Guardian and The Sunday Times. She lives in Edinburgh.

Find out more at: www.carysdavies.net

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £12 Full/ £10 Concession/ £8 Student
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Friday 15th March 7pm
Spotlight

We are delighted to see the return of this staple of the Lancaster Arts Scene in our programme. Founded in 1995, Spotlight seeks to promote and encourage the development and performance of writers in the North West. On the third Friday of every month Lancaster’s Spotlight Club takes over The Storey Auditorium to provide a platform for poets, writers, comedians and musicians. The evening begins with six 5 minute open mic slots, to apply for one of these please email spotlightclub@btinternet.com. This will be followed by two fiction writers, two poets and two musical acts including Claire Dean, Geraldine Green and Kerry Darbishire.

Join us for an evening showcasing some of the best of the North West arts scene!

Claire Dean is a writer and performer whose short stories have been widely published in anthologies and magazines including The Best British Short Stories, Best British Horror and Cabinet des Fées. Her collection of short stories, The Museum of Shadows and Reflections, has been published by Unsettling Wonder with illustrations by Laura Rae. Claire also creates digital stories that respond to readers or their environments. She is a lecturer in Creative Writing at Edge Hill University and lives in Lancashire with her family.

Geraldine Green is the former writer-in-residence of both Brantwood, the home of John Ruskin, and Swarthmoor Hall, the home of George Fox and Margaret Fell. Geraldine has performed widely in the UK, North America, Italy and Greece. Her third full collection, Passing Through, was published in 2018 by Indigo Dreams. She has also completed a Research Diploma in Ecopoetics, exploring the influence of the land on the poetry of Emily Bronte.

Kerry Darbishire is a poet and songwriter. She grew up in the English Lake District where she continues to live on a Cumbrian fell side with her artist husband Stephen. Her poems have appeared in many anthologies and magazines and she has won several competition prizes including shortlisted Bridport 2017. Her first poetry collection, A Lift of Wings was published in 2014 by Indigo Dreams. Her biography, Kay’s Ark, the story of her mother, was published by Handstand Press in 2016.

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £5 Full/ £3 Concession available on the door
Doors Open: 7pm
I'm Stacey from Lancaster library and one of the best parts of my job is that I get to sing songs, read stories and generally make lots of noise at our baby groups three times a week. It's brilliant to see the smiling faces of all the families that join us at our busy sessions and I really hope that we'll always be a space where everyone in the community feels welcome. But today we'll be bringing Bounce & Rhyme out of the library, to kick off the Litfest Poetry Day at the Herbarium!

Bounce & Rhyme is an under 5s session suitable for bouncing babies and tireless toddlers alike. Our sing-alongs are not only lots of rhyming fun, but also a great way of meeting new people, helping your child develop their language and motor skills! So get ready to clap your hands and stamp your feet, and remember... if you see a crocodile, don't forget to scream!

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ
Tickets: Free
Saturday 16th March 11am

Poetry Day: Dinosaur poetry


Richard O'Brien's publications include 'The Emmores' (The Emma Press, 2014) and 'A Bloody Mess' (Valley Press, 2015), and work in a range of magazines and anthologies. Richard won an Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors in 2017, and currently works as a Teaching Fellow in Shakespeare and Creativity at the University of Birmingham. He is also a commissioning editor at the Emma Press, and the Birmingham Poet Laureate 2018-2020. His writing for children has appeared in a number of Emma Press anthologies.

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ
Tickets: £6 per child (under 11) accompanying adults come free!
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808

Poetry Day: 12pm

Lunchtime Open Mic

Whilst we all take a break from our poetry programming and have a bit of lunch, we want to hear from you! 10 minute slots are available for poets who would like their moment in the spotlight. All are welcome, including new, emerging and established voices.

To book your slot email marketing@litfest.org

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ
Tickets: Free
Poetry Day:
Ian Seed & Catherine Smith

Saturday 16th March 1pm

We open the afternoon of our bumper poetry day with the first of our traditional double bills. Catherine Smith and Ian Seed are two poets always seeking to push the boundaries of the genre and portray our world from their unique viewpoints.

Catherine Smith’s debut The New Bride (2001) was short-listed for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. The Butcher’s Hands (2004) was a PBS Recommendation and also short-listed for the Aldeburgh/Jerwood Prize. In 2004, she was also voted one of Mslexia’s ‘Top Ten UK Women Poets’ and one of ‘The Next Generation Poets’ by the PBS/Arts Council. Lip, (2008) was short-listed for the Forward Prize for Best Collection. Her latest collection Otherwhere was published in 2012. The New Cockaigne, a long supernatural, satirical poem, imagining the medieval fantasy land of Cockaigne imposed on 21st Century Britain, was written, adapted and performed as a Live Literature show in 2014.

Ian Seed’s collections of prose poems include New York Hotel (2018), Identity Papers (2016) and Makers of Empty Dreams (2014), all from Shearsman. His book The Thief of Talant (2016) (the first translation into English of Pierre Reverdy’s Le Voleur de Talan) is published by Wakefield. Identity Papers was featured by the BBC on their Radio 3 programme The Verb, hosted by Ian McMillan. New York Hotel is selected by Mark Ford as a TLS Book of the Year. Ford comments: ‘I greatly enjoyed the latest collection of Ian Seed’s beautifully-crafted prose poems, New York Hotel. Seed’s micro-narratives and oblique parables are at once droll and haunting, as unpredictable as quicksand, and as elegant as the work of those masters of the prose poem, Max Jacob and Pierre Reverdy.’ Ian has an MA and PhD from Lancaster University, and now lectures in the English Department at the University of Chester.

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ

Tickets: £10 Full/ £8 Concession/ £6 Student

or POETRY DAY COMBO 3 Double Bills for £25/£20/£15

Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:

Online: www.litfest.org

In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres

By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 16th March 2:15pm
Poetry Day:
Jacob Polley and John Glenday

Our second double bill of the afternoon brings together another two poets with a long literary pedigree. Join Jacob Polley, winner of the 2016 T.S. Eliot Prize and John Glenday, winner of a Scottish Arts Council Book Award, for an event showcasing some of the very best in lyrical poetry.

Jacob Polley was born and grew up in Cumbria. He has published a novel and four books of poems with Picador, winning the 2016 T.S. Eliot Prize for poetry for his fourth, Jackself. A poet of the uncanny and the startlingly lyrical, Jacob’s work explores his rural upbringing, the forces of tradition and history, and the power of speech as it approaches song. Jacob has written and performed drama for the radio, as well as made films and various collaborative public art and performance pieces. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University and lives with his family on the North East coast.

John Glenday’s first collection, ‘The Apple Ghost’ won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award and his second, ‘Undark’, was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. ‘Grain’ (Picador, 2009) was also a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and was shortlisted for both the Ted Hughes Award and the Griffin International Poetry Prize. His fourth collection ‘The Golden Mean’ won the 2015 Roehampton Poetry Prize. He was appointed Scottish/Canadian Exchange Fellow in 1990/91, based at the University of Alberta, and taught on the poetry faculty at the Banff Centre in 2010.

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ
Tickets: £10 Full/ £8 Concession/ £6 Student
or POETRY DAY COMBO 3 Double Bills for £25/£20/£15
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 16th March 3:30pm

Poetry Day:
Polly Atkin & Andrew McMillan

Our final double bill of the afternoon of brings together two poets with links to Lancaster University reading from their latest work. Experts in articulating the complexities of what it is to be human, Polly Atkin, a former lecturer, will be reading from her new pamphlet *With Invisible Rain* and Andrew McMillan, a graduate of their creative writing programme, will be reading from his new collection *playtime*.

**Polly Atkin** lives in Cumbria. Her first full poetry collection *Basic Nest Architecture* (Seren: 2017) is followed by a third pamphlet, *With Invisible Rain* (New Walk Press: 2018), which draws on Dorothy Wordsworth’s late journals to find a way to articulate pain. Her first pamphlet *Bone Song* (Aussteiger, 2008) was shortlisted for the Michael Marks Pamphlet Award, 2009, and second, *Shadow Dispatches* (Seren, 2013), won the Mslexia Pamphlet Prize, 2012. She has taught English and Creative Writing at Lancaster University, and the Universities of Strathclyde and Cumbria. She is a Penguin Random House WriteNow mentee 2017/18 for a non-fiction book reflecting on place, belonging and chronic illness.

**Andrew McMillan’s** debut collection, *physical*, published by Cape Poetry in 2015 won multiple awards including the Guardian First Book Award 2015. His new collection *playtime* was also published by Cape Poetry in 2018 and is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, Telegraph Poetry Book of the Month and a Sunday Times Poetry Book of the Year. He lives in Manchester.

---

**Venue:** The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ

**Tickets:** £10 Full/ £8 Concession/ £6 Student

or POETRY DAY COMBO 3 Double Bills for £25/£20/£15

Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:

**Online:** www.litfest.org

**In Person:** Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres

**By phone:** 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 16th March 7pm

Poetry Day:
Evening Open Mic

Our final event of our bumper Poetry Day is hosted by BigCharlie Poet in a special one off collaboration with Working Title. Alongside the specially selected performers below we want to hear from you! This is your chance to bring your poems—regardless of previous experience, form or style—out into the light. To book your 15 minute slot email marketing@litfest.org!

Charlie Hart is otherwise known as BigCharlie Poet. He has performed across the North, including trips to Edinburgh to compete at the BBC Fringe Slam. His poem "It's The Grit That Makes The Pearl" was chosen as The Guardian's Spoken word video of the week. He was also the host of the monthly night Working Title in Lancaster.

Benjamin Guilfoyle is a woolly hat wearing performance poet. His unique style is wonderfully warm and woolly and has seen him headline poetry nights all across the North of England. His poetry covers all bases from ‘cinema eaters’ to the life teachings of Brian Blessed. Benjamin is the 2018 Morecambe poetry slam champion.

Steve Fairclough is a multi skilled creative with over 21 years of freelance experience. He writes script, blogs, short stories and poetry. His poetry is often written in the moment, short, punchy and direct. Sometimes it's handed out or left in envelopes for passers-by to find!

Geneviève L. Walsh is a writer and performer. She has performed at Kendal Calling, Manchester Literature Festival, Wakefield Lit Fest and every scary backstreet pub you can imagine. Her debut collection The Dance of a Thousand Losers was published by Flapjack Press in 2017 and her one-woman show A Place in the Shade will debut later in 2019. She is the founder and host of Spoken Weird (Halifax), including its main night at the award-winning Victorian Craft Beer Cafe, and its upcoming LGBT+ event, Spoken Queered. She is also co-host of Stirred (Manchester) and co-founder of their Invisible Disabilities Slam, which debuted in 2017.

Venue: The Herbarium, 5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ
Tickets: £6 Full/ £4 Concession - Free Entry for participants
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Sunday 17th March 1pm
Local Writers Day:
How to get published

Local authors, Zosia Wand and Caroline Gilfillan, describe their very different routes to publication. The inside story on the traditional agent/mainstream publisher deal and the independent press/self-publication route. Join us for a frank discussion and Q&A about how to navigate your way through the highs and lows of the publishing process and how to write quality fiction that has commercial potential.

**Zosia Wand** is a novelist and playwright. She has gained an MA in Creative Writing from Lancaster University and has had numerous plays commissioned for BBC Radio 4. Her stage play, *Quicksand*, was premiered at The Dukes Playhouse Lancaster in 2011 and sold out during its run at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. In 2014 she wrote the script for The Lancaster Williamson Park/Dukes Theatre production Hansel and Gretel and More Tales from the Forest, the largest outdoor promenade production in the country. In 2017 she was selected for the Royal Court Northern Writers Programme. Her novels, *Trust Me* (2017) and *The Accusation* (2018) are published by Head of Zeus. She was born in London and lives in the Lake District with her family. She currently developing a new drama for Radio 4. To find out more about Zosia’s work and teaching go to [www.zosiawand.com](http://www.zosiawand.com) or The Reading Room on facebook.

**Caroline Gilfillan** grew up in Sussex and spent most of her young adult life in London, where she played music in various groups, including *The Stepney Sisters*, one of the first women-only bands, and joined several inspirational writers’ groups. After taking an MA in Creative Writing at Lancaster University, she taught in universities and communities in Lancaster and North Norfolk and has published four collections of poetry, the two most recent of which are *Pepys* (Hawthorn Press) and *Poet in Boots* (Brewster Press). Her debut murder mystery novel, *The Terrace*, was published by Cowslip Press in 2018. She also writes plays and songs, and performs in the South Lakeland area of Cumbria where she now lives. She’s currently working on *The Theatre*, the second Rags Whistledown novel, which will be published by Cowslip Press in 2019. To find out more visit [www.carolinegilfillan.co.uk](http://www.carolinegilfillan.co.uk).

**Venue:** Pizza Margherita, Lancaster

**Tickets:** £7 Full/ £5 Concession

Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:

- Online: [www литfest.org](http://www литfest.org)
- In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
- By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Local Writers Day: Hotspots

Sunday 17th March 2:30pm

Following on from the open mic opportunities for poets as a part of our Poetry Day, we offer a last chance in our 40th Festival to get up on stage and present your work. Regardless of genre, form or experience, here is a platform where you can present yourself and your writing to a new audience and to existing friends. Over the course of two hours, we will present writers from Lancaster, Lancashire and the Northwest in a series of 10-15 minute slots. Slots are available on a first come basis so please contact marketing@litfest.org to book your place today!

Venue: Pizza Margherita, 2 Moor Lane, Lancaster LA1 1WD
Tickets: ‘Pay What You Can’
Available on the door only

Litfest will continue to celebrate our 40th festival throughout the year—some of these projects and events can be found towards the back of this programme. But there is much more to come! Keep an eye on our website for more details www.litfest.org.
Local Writers Day: Litfest Local Picks

Our third event of the day features three Litfest Local Picks: AS Chambers author of the Sam Spallucci series, Kurtis Murphy author of a globetrotting memoir and Jacqueline Harris an acclaimed storyteller turned author of YA fiction. They may be names you know well, or names you’re just hearing for the first time but sit down to listen to some of the best of Lancashire.

Lancaster’s master of the macabre, A S Chambers, is well known for marking his home town's place on the horror map of the United Kingdom. His Sam Spallucci books, with their quirky blend of urban fantasy, film noir and dry humour, have gained a cult following over the last few years with fans journeying from around the country to see where reality meets an ever expanding universe of vampires, werewolves, angels and a plethora of other supernatural characters. He has a dark and brooding website at www.aschambers.co.uk.

Kurtis Murphy was born into a travelling fairground family but by an early age his family chose to live and settle in Morecambe. This meant that dissimilar to many from his background, Kurtis was able to benefit from a full education and eventually attend Lancaster University. Upon graduation, Kurtis found himself with ‘itchy feet’ and a desire for travel and adventure that he felt he had lacked. Recruiting his best friend they decided to attempt to traverse the globe on motorbikes, not that either could ride a motorcycle, but this was a small detail to be addressed. The journey tested them physically, mentally and emotionally in what was a true coming of age experience.

Jacqueline Harris is a writer/storyteller whose performance work brings together folktale, autobiography and people’s stories. Previous performances of her work for Litfest include festival finales East o’ the sun, West o’ the moon and In Skrikers Footsteps. Her latest collaboration, Where We Land, is an exploration of stories from The Isle of Arran and a collaboration with musician/composer Lee Affen and film maker Graham Kay. Today Jacqueline will be reading from her first YA novel, The Shadow.

Venue: Pizza Margherita, 2 Moor Lane, Lancaster LA1 1WD
Tickets: ‘Pay What You Can’
Available on the door only
Deep Cabaret are a special band not just because they bring together specialists in jazz, folk, improv and world music to make deeply intelligent pop. And not just because they include bagpipes, hurdy-gurdy, cello bass clarinet and throat singing alongside the usual guitar and drum kit combo.

No, what is most special about Deep Cabaret are the lyrics of their atmospheric songs. The band don’t write them. Instead lead singer Steve Lewis finds them in his reading. Novels, poetry, science, history, psychology and nature are all grist. So Deep Cabaret songs adapt sentences from contemporary writers like Jonathan Franzen, Haruki Murakami, Alice Munro and Marylinne Robinson. Sometimes neat, sometimes mashed together with extracts from books on the neuroscience of attachment or the geology of Morecambe Bay.

This homecoming performance will be the band’s first Lancaster gig in over two years and marks the end of their Jazz North supported ‘Slow Tour’.

In honour of Litfest’s 40th anniversary they will premiere a sequence of songs adapted from Jonathan /Safran Foer’s most recent novel “Here I Am”, focussing on Foer’s astute take on the satisfaction and desperations of love in couples, in families, in life.

Join us for a spectacular evening celebrating the power of words - and music!

Venue: Pizza Margherita, 2 Moor Lane, Lancaster LA1 1WD
Tickets: £9 Full/ £7 Concession
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808

Steve Lewis (vocals & guitar)
Maja Bugge (cello)
Ben McCabe (drums & vocals)
Matt Robinson (clarinets, baritone saxophone & flutes)
Paul Sherwood (hurdy-gurdies & bagpipes)
Jayson Stilwell (overtone vocals & percussion)
He looked at the children and, in front of their teachers, tried to get them addicted. He felt no remorse. After all, he had to pay for the Nissan Micra somehow...

Self-described as "probably the biggest library nerd in Britain", multiple award-winning librarian Ian Anstice talks about the joy and impact of reading, using anecdotes from his career and examples from around the world before opening up the subject to the audience for views. Is reading the only addiction that is good for you apart from the joy of stamping library books? You decide...

Ian Anstice does many things: in charge of the reading development partnership Time To Read for 22 northwest library services, a book-buyer and manager for the national award-winning Cheshire West and Chester Libraries and the person responsible for Public Libraries News which is the main source of news on the sector. He is regularly consulted by the media, the public, professionals and politicians on public libraries. In-between times, he’s also the father to two daughters in High School who keep him busy, walker to one dog and husband to a leading expert in religious education. Ian has won several awards for his work, including an honorary fellowship from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. He was also awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year’s Honour List.
Friday 22nd March 7:30pm

Fantastic Beasts and How to Illustrate them: An evening with Olivia Lomenech Gill

The magical worlds conjured up by J. K. Rowling have enchanted readers for over two decades. Litfest are delighted to bring back to the festival 2018’s snowed-off launch event— a very special evening with Olivia Lomenech Gill, illustrator of the new coffee table edition of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.

Set in the historic Shire Hall at Lancaster Castle, this is a not-to-be-missed event for all fans of the books, films and anyone interested in illustration. Olivia will offer a behind-the-scenes insight into the creation of this extraordinary book, her life and work and some truly fantastic beasts.

Cosplay is welcome at this event.

‘There is a wildwood spirit about Olivia’s work. She seems to be in touch with an inventiveness that everyday life knocks out of most people, as we toil through adulthood. She knows it’s not easy to keep that spirit alive, and consequently there is a determined joy in her work, a playfulness with hidden gravity.

Animals and children are Olivia’s touchstones, all living creatures in fact, in their various landscapes. There are some imagined beasts too, but living ones triumph. Olivia calls herself ‘an untaught artist and accidental illustrator’. Perhaps that’s her secret. Her work speaks to everyone, unforced, and full of soul’. Kathleen Jamie, poet. Olivia lives and works in Northumberland, UK.

http://www.oliviagill.com/

Venue: Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle, Castle Parade, Lancaster
Tickets: £12 Full/ £10 Concession
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Young Adult fiction has seen a real boom in recent years and Litfest are delighted to welcome acclaimed novelist Cathy Forde to speak as part of its programme. Known for gritty and uncompromising prose that leaves readers thinking long after the final pages of her books are finished, Cathy has also worked with National Theatre Scotland on Theatre for young people. In this session, she will discuss her bestselling novels Fat Boy Swim and The Drowning Pond exploring the journey of adapting these from novels to the stage. A fascinating talk that will be of interest to writers and all interested in drama.

Cathy's breakthrough novel, Fat Boy Swim, was shortlisted for the Booktrust Teenage Prize and Blue Peter's 'Book I Couldn't Put Down.' It won the inaugural Grampian Book Award in 2004, and in 2014 was voted their 'Winner of Winners'.

Cathy has adapted Fat Boy Swim for the theatre, commissioned by National Theatre of Scotland. Her novels Skarrs and The Drowning Pond won Scottish Arts Council book awards, and Dead Men Don't Talk was shortlisted for a Scottish Children's Book Award.

Cathy is an experienced public speaker and leads many workshops in creative writing and drama.

She was the virtual writer-in-residence for the Scottish Booktrust and is mentor to young writers at Toonspeak in Glasgow.

http://cathyforde.co.uk/

Venue: The Gallery, The Dukes, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QE
Tickets: £6 per event or SPECIAL OFFER YA COMBO £10
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 23rd March 5:30pm

YA Day: Event 2

Hannah Hodgson: The World of vlogging

Ever wondered how to take the plunge and start a Bookish YouTube channel? Or maybe you already have, but wonder how to build up a relationship with Publishers, viewers or authors themselves? In this talk and Q and A session Hannah Hodgson will be revealing everything she has learned (sometimes the hard way) to get you on your way towards starting a YouTube channel. She will be discussing everything from how to approach publishers for free books, how to manage your time when you have a serious illness or many commitments, and how to get yourself out there using Twitter and other social media platforms. Most importantly, Hannah will be talking about how to enjoy yourself in your new online diary. Her favourite thing about her channel is the fact that her viewers feel like her friends - which means that she has avoided social isolation due to her disability. There will also be a Q and A session, where you can ask Hannah anything, from why she started her channel to what editing software she uses.

Hannah Hodgson started her YouTube channel in June 2017. She quickly gained over 2.3k followers.

www.youtube.com/c/HannahHodgson

She reviews books and poetry collections on her channel; and also discusses her ill health to try and raise awareness of seriously unwell young people. Her first poetry pamphlet was published by Wayleave Press in 2018.

https://hannahwritesablog.wordpress.com/

Venue: The Gallery, The Dukes, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QE
Tickets: £6 per event or SPECIAL YA COMBO OFFER £10
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
When Stories go Digital: Explore and Contribute!

Literature is (much) more than just books in any form. Digital technology allows authors and readers – who become users and players – to play with words, worlds, and stories differently, to offer and experience many stories in one, and to interact and create together. This session offers just that: Alexandra Saemmer and Serge Bouchardon, both digital authors and academics based in France, will present two of their works that engage the digital medium in the form of a performance and discussion and invite the participants to experiment and create their own in the following workshop.

Alexandra Saemmer’s Bömische Dörfer uses Prezi, the presentation software inventively to walk us through a historical moment, the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Brno in 1945 and their ‘March of Death’, mixed with personal memory of the author’s mother who lived through it. On a much lighter tone but not without reminding us of the risks involved in technological progress, StoryFace, created by Serge Bouchardon and Alexandra Saemmer, imagines what might happen when machines read and interpret our facial expressions.

The workshop the following performance offers participants the opportunity to experiment with the tools and create their own Prezi stories with Alexandra’s guidance or create characters for StoryFace guided by Serge.

Alexandra Saemmer is Professor of Information and Communication Sciences at University Paris 8. Her research projects focus on the semiotics and aesthetics of digital media, reading and writing on digital platforms. She is author and editor of several books and articles on digital textualities, and she also writes ‘paper’ poetry and fiction in German and French, as well as and digital poetry and fiction on Facebook.

Serge Bouchardon Professor of Communication Sciences at the University of Technology of Compiègne in France, where he teaches interactive writing. His research focuses on digital creation, in particular digital literature. As an author, he is interested in the way the gestures specific to the digital contribute to the construction of meaning. His creations have been exhibited across Europe, America, Africa, and the Middle East and selected in various online journals (bleuOrange, Hyperrhiz, SpringGun, The New River). His Loss of Grasp (http://lossofgrasp.com/) won the New Media Writing Prize 2011.

Venue: The Auditorium, The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £4 Full/ £3 Concession Performance Only or DIGITAL COMBO £8/£6
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Thursday 28th March 7:30pm
Hidden Wonders of the North: Beth Pipe & Karen Lloyd

Following on from last year’s popular series of nature writing events, the first ‘Litfest Springfest’, we bring you two more emerging voices from the genre. First, we have the welcome return of festival favourite Karen Lloyd, author of the award winning The Gathering Tide, who will be reading from her latest book The Blackbird Diaries. Over the four seasons, Karen intimately chronicles the drama of the natural world as it all unfolds in her garden and in the limestone hills and valleys of Cumbria’s South Lakeland. Karen will be joined by Beth Pipe, whose passion for Cumbria turned into a popular blog and a prolific writing career as one half the ‘Cumbrian Ramblers’. Beth brings the forgotten corners of the Lake District alive with a vivid sense of humour and fun.

Beth Pipe describes herself as an “accidental writer” after a blog, which she wrote for family and friends, turned into a writing career. Based in Grange-over-Sands she works with her husband Steve (she does the words, he does the photos) and between them they delight in sharing their love for Cumbria with the world. Their first book Historic Cumbria, Off the Beaten Track, was shortlisted for the Lakeland Book of the Year award and Gin, Cakes and Rucksacks was a big hit following its launch in October 2018. In total they have published five books with three more due out in 2019 and the sequel to Gin, Cake and Rucksacks already confirmed for spring 2020.

Karen Lloyd is a writer of creative non-fiction and poetry and a wildlife conservationist specialising in ground-nesting birds. Based in Kendal, Cumbria, she is a contributor to the Guardian, BBC Countryfile magazine, Scottish Island Explorer, Scotland Outdoor and the Caught by the River blog. Karen is a member of Kendal’s Brewery Poets and gained a distinction from the Creative Writing M.Litt programme at Stirling University. Her first book, The Gathering Tide, won a Lakeland Award and was selected in the Observer books of the year feature for 2016.

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £10 Full/ £8 Concession/ £6 Student
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Friday 29th March 11 am + 1pm

Translate, Create, Debate: Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe

11am — Try your hand at creative translation from French by using a short film by literary author Noemi Lefebvre and film maker Laurent Grappe commissioned for the evening “Found in Translation! Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe” in this workshop. Discuss the issue of the “European periphery” raised in the short film with the writers themselves and try your hand at freely translating and rewriting them in English with the guidance of literary translator Sophie Lewis. No knowledge of French is needed for this creative exercise as gloss translations of the texts will be provided as well as the originals.

Sophie Lewis has been translating fiction and other literature from French since graduating from Oxford University in 2004. Following a stay in Rio de Janeiro, she also began translating from Portuguese. Her translations include works by Stendhal, Jules Verne, Marcel Aymé, Violette Leduc, Emmanuelle Pagano, Natalia Borges Polesso and João Gilberto Noll. She has pursued a career in publishing alongside translation, running the UK office at Dalkey Archive Press, then as Senior Editor at And Other Stories publisher and currently as fiction editor at the Folio Society. She has also edited translation-rich issues of Litro and Sonofabook magazines. In 2017 her translation of Héloïse is Bald by Emilie de Turckheim received a Scott Moncrieff Prize commendation and her most recent translation, the novel Blue Self-Portrait by Noémi Lefebvre, was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize.

1pm - Try your hand at creative translation from German using a text by Ulrike Almut Sandig and Grigory Semenchuk commissioned for the evening “Found in Translation! Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe”. In this workshop. Discuss the issue of the “European periphery” raised in the text with the writers and try your hand at freely translating and rewriting them in English with the guidance of literary translator Sophie Lewis. No knowledge of German is needed for this creative exercise as gloss translations of the texts will be provided as well as the originals.

Ulrike Almut Sandig was born in Großenhain (GDR) in 1979 and now lives with her family in Berlin. Two prose books, three pop music albums, radio pieces and four volumes of her poetry have been published to date. In 2016 Karen Leeder’s stunning translations of Sandig’s latest poetry Thick of it (Seagull Books, 2018) won the English PEN translation Pitch and have been awarded with a PEN America/Heim Translation Fund Grant. In 2018 Sandig and Grigory Semenchuk aka Poetry-Band “Landschaft” published their debut album with Schöffling & Co (Berlin). Meanwhile Hurst Street Press (Oxford/London, UK) launched a cycle from Sandig’s latest poetry collection in Karen Leeder’s translation. Grimm reanimates the dark side of The Children’s and Household Tales of the Brothers Grimm and uses it as a backdrop for contemporary European concerns: war, migration, the rise of the Right. Ulrike Almut Sandig is a member of the German PEN section.

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: Free
Found in Translation: Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe

Writers Emma McGordon (Whitehaven, Cumbria), Grigory Semenchuk (Ukraine), Ulrike Almut Sandig (Germany) and Noémi Lefebvre (France) have been commissioned to write and creatively translate each other’s works on the topic of the European periphery. How similar are the challenges faced by German, French or Ukrainian societies? Where is the European periphery today and who represents it? Expect a lively and truly inspired evening of spoken word poetry, filmed poetry, music and creative exchange on what living at the periphery of Europe currently means for these four writers.

Emma McGordon is an award winning writer and spoken word artist from West Cumbria. She has been anthologised with Penned in the Margins, Morden Tower poetry and Handstand’s New Cumbrian Writers as well as having a pamphlet collection with Tall Lighthouse. She is a former Julia Darling Fellowship winner and also has a Northern Writers’ award. Her work has been supported by Arts Council England and she has performed nationally and internationally.

Ulrike Almut Sandig was born in Großenhain (GDR) in 1979 and now lives with her family in Berlin. Two prose books, three pop music albums, radio pieces and four volumes of her poetry have been published to date. In 2016 Karen Leeder’s stunning translations of Sandig’s latest poetry Thick of it (Seagull Books, 2018) won the English PEN translation Pitch and have been awarded with a PEN America/Heim Translation Fund Grant. In 2018 Sandig and Grigory Semenchuk aka Poetry-Band “Landschaft” published their debut album with Schöffling & Co (Berlin). Meanwhile Hurst Street Press (Oxford/London, UK) launched a cycle from Sandig’s latest poetry collection in Karen Leeder’s translation. Grimm reanimates the dark side of The Children’s and Household Tales of the Brothers Grimm and uses it as a backdrop for contemporary European concerns: war, migration, the rise of the Right. Ulrike Almut Sandig is a member of the German PEN section.

Born in 1964 in Caen, Noémi Lefebvre lives in Lyon and is the author of four novels, all of which have garnered intense critical success: L’autoportrait bleu (2009) (Blue Self-Portrait, translated by Sophie Lewis), L’état des sentiments à l’âge adulte (2012), L’enfance politique (2015) and Poétique de l’emploi (2018). She is a regular contributor to the French investigative website Mediapart and the bilingual French-German review La Mer gelée. She has has written and produced more than thirty short films with her partner Laurent Grappe, a sound artist and director of Studio Doitsu.

Venue: The Storey Auditorium, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH
Tickets: £5 Full/ £3 Concession
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 30th March 2pm
Beatrix Potter to Harry Potter, Looking Glass to Spyglass:
the much loved worlds of Children’s Books

The books and stories we read as children often play a formative role in our tastes and interests. This session will explore childhood classics, personal favourites and winners of the prestigious CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals, looking at what makes them endure. It will engage with audience members so why not bring along your own childhood favourite and share what it meant to you. The session will be hosted by Christopher Moore critic and creator of the #YAtakeover digital Festival. Panellists include Amy McKay - selected as School Librarian of the Year, had judged the Blue Peter Book Awards and is co-ordinator for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal - and Jake Hope Chair of the Youth Libraries Group, reviewer for numerous publications and official blogger for the Carnegie Medal anniversary when he read and appraised every past winner of the award. Whether you are looking to reminisce and remember or are wanting recommendations in the best books for children, join us for a lively and fascinating discussion!

Jake Hope is the Chair of the Youth Libraries Group. He has judged almost every major literary award for children's books in the UK and has spoken at the London Book Fair, Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Hay and even South Korea. A passionate advocate for children’s books, libraries and reading, Jake is currently writing a book on visual literacy.

Amy McKay was School Librarian of the Year in 2016. A familiar face at festivals and on judging panels, she makes regular appearances at Edinburgh and Hay and has judged the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medals, the Blue Peter Book Awards and the Nibbies. Describing herself as a 'stealth librarian', Amy lures readers in to the library with innovative clubs and activities. using her natural rapport to introduce them to the world of books and reading.

Chris Moore is an influencer for books for children and young adults. He has studied an MA in Publishing and Creative Writing, has written articles for Bookmachine and Writing Ireland and established the popular digital reading promotion, the #YAtakeover on Twitter. Chris is a regular reviewer and commentator.

Venue: The Sanctuary, Lancaster Library, Market Square, Lancaster LA1 1HY
Tickets: £10 Full/ £8 Concession
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Saturday 30th March        7pm

joinedupwriting:
Roger McGough + LiTTLe MACHiNe

For the Saturday evening of our final weekend we have a very special event for you! In partnership with Lancaster Arts at Lancaster University we have a stunning evening of music and poetry with a literary legend. The triumphant return of Roger McGough to Lancaster.

Roger McGough is one of Britain's best-loved poets. The author of over seventy books of poetry and editor of numerous anthologies, his exuberant new collection ‘joinedupwriting’ ranges from forgotten friendships and the idiosyncrasies of family life to the trauma of war and contemporary global politics. These poems explore the human experience in all its shades of light and dark but always with McGough's signature wit, irreverence and vivacity. This is the nation's favourite poet at his finest.

Roger’s show with LiTTLe MACHiNe features a fine selection of vintage, classic & surprising poems set to music. Join us for a gala gig that’s making waves!

For adults & 14+. The event will be followed by a book-signing.
President of the Poetry Society, Roger has been honoured with a CBE for services to literature and the Freedom of the City of Liverpool. Roger is well known for being a member of The Scaffold (Lily The Pink, the Aintree Iron) and GRIMMS, The Mersey Sound with Adrian Henri & Brian Patten, his Molière adaptations for English Touring Theatre and the long-running Poetry Please. The beat goes on.

Roger has continued to flourish in recent years. 2016 saw the release of a new album The Likes of Us with Little MACHiNe. 2017 embraced the 50th anniversary of the iconic & top-selling Penguin Modern Poets’ no.10 - The Mersey Sound by Adrian Henri, Roger McGough & Brian Patten and the summer of ’67 epic poem of love & lust, broken promises and unfettered dreams, Summer With Monika, was republished and newly illustrated by Chris Riddell. Plus a host of country-wide dates with The Bootleg Beatles and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in It Was Fifty Years Ago Today which sold out the Royal Albert Hall in hours. Roger’s significant birthday year also saw the publication of 80 - a selection of poems for children (Puffin). 2019 opens with Roger back on tour with a fantastic new poetry collection— joinedupwriting.

@McgoughRoger www.rogermcgough.org.uk

‘The patron saint of poetry’ - Carol Ann Duffy
‘rueful, unpredictable observation to please the sharpest wits’ - The Independent
‘a poemy torch in dark corners’ - Ian McMillan Poetry Review
‘a witty and ingenious chronicler of British life, who manages a range of perennial themes with a deftness and agility that is hard to beat’ - The Poetry Society
‘Liverpool's own Poet Laureate' - Daily Post
‘What a night. Roger and Little Machine stormed it’ - Bewdley Festival

Formed in 2009 LiTTLe MACHiNe are the musicians, composers, and writers Walter Wray, Steve Halliwell & Chris Hardy. The 'must have' act at Literary Festivals from York to Dubai. They have appeared with Carol Ann Duffy, Roger McGough, Gillian Clarke, Liz Lochhead, John Cooper-Clarke, John Hegley and many others. It's poetry - but not as you've heard or seen it before. Music that moves the feet for words that move the soul!

www.little-machine.com

‘It's a long time since I heard something so exciting, a wonderful way of delivering poetry. The most brilliant music and poetry band in the world’. Carol Ann Duffy

‘LiTTLe MACHiNe’s sophisticated way with poetry made me fall in love with old and new favourites all over again. They make you laugh and break your heart.’ Gillian Clarke

Venue: The Great Hall, Lancaster University, North Spine, Bailrigg , Lancaster LA1 4YW
Tickets: £18.50 — £16.50
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.lancasterarts.org
In Person: Great Hall Booking office, The Great Hall Complex, Lancaster University
By phone: 01524 594151
Sunday 31st March          3pm
Festival Finale:  The Sea Swallow

Litfest has initiated several projects over the years, including The Castle Park Stories and The Slave Trade Memorial Project to name but two. The Sea Swallow commission was a part of the Mythic Coastline project; Litfest commissioned Gareth Thompson to write a narrative that blended local features and legends, with illustrations by Hannah Magee. These illustrations have been realised in public artworks to be seen on the coast at Cleveleys, including The Sea Swallow Sculpture, the Shipwreck Memorial, the Giant Ogre’s Paddle, the Stone Ogre and Mary’s Shell.

For our 40th festival Litfest has commissioned a very special adaptation of this much loved story. In partnership with friends of the festival Ludus Dance, we present a very special production combining pre-recorded and live storytelling, soundscape, dance, music and virtual reality technology. Experience the story of The Sea Swallow as never before in this unique promenade-style performance. The event will run from 3pm with groups leaving at 15 minute intervals.

Venue:  Ludus Dance, Assembly Rooms, King St, Lancaster, LA1 1RE
Tickets: £10 Full /£7.50 Concession /£5 Child (11 and under)
SPECIAL OFFER— Family Deal available for £25 (two adults two children)
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.litfest.org
In Person: Lancaster and Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
For many years Lancaster has inspired writers to pick up pen and write down observation in poetry & prose. This guided tour takes visitors around the historic city, highlighting locations of literary significance and bringing them to life with a number of short readings. Contributions range from the quill of 16th Century bargemen, singing the praises of local hospitality, to the laptops of 21st Century crime writers, casting sinister shadows over the streets of the city!

Spaces are limited, so pre-booking is recommended, any remaining places will be available to book on the day at the start of the tour.

Lancaster Walks, Talks & Tours are a small company providing bespoke guided walks, illustrated talks and themed tours, exploring the rich history of the City of Lancaster and the surrounding district.

Lancaster Walks, Talks & Tours principal guide is Gregory Wright. With a background in performing arts, and over twenty years experience in the world of tourism, Gregory provides informed historical narratives in an entertaining and memorable manner.

For further details on our guided tour programme, or to enquire about private group bookings, please visit our website at: http://lancasterwalkstalksandtours.co.uk/

Venue: John O’Gaunt Gatehouse, Lancaster Castle, Castle Parade, Lancaster, LA1 1YJ
Tickets: £5 Adults/ £4 Students & Under 16s
Tickets can be purchased in a variety of ways:
Online: www.lancaster.gov.uk/VICticketbox
In Person: Lancaster & Morecambe Visitor Information Centres
By phone: 01524 582394/ 01524 582808
Litfest Friends Programme

New for 2019—the Litfest Friends Programme. As we look to the future, Litfest aims to continue to grow and diversify. But we’ll need your help to do it. Whether you have been a supporter of Litfest for many years or have only just learned of our work, please consider contributing to our work by becoming a friend of the festival. In exchange for either £2.50, £5 or £10 a month/£30, £60 or £120 a year we can offer a variety of Litfest benefits!

The yearly membership will be available to purchase from February. However, the monthly rate will only be available from 1st April. For more information see our website at [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paperback</td>
<td>£2.50 per month</td>
<td>- £1 of tickets&lt;br&gt;- Priority mailing &amp; Booking&lt;br&gt;- Name on the Litfest Friends Bookshelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£30 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardback</td>
<td>£5 per month</td>
<td>- 2 free tickets to a Litfest event&lt;br&gt;- Free copy of The Sea Swallow&lt;br&gt;- 50p off tickets for visiting companies&lt;br&gt;- £1 off tickets to Litfest events&lt;br&gt;- Priority mailing &amp; booking&lt;br&gt;- Name on the Litfest Friends Bookshelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£60 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed Edition</td>
<td>£10 per month</td>
<td>- Supporters only events&lt;br&gt;- 2 free tickets to a Litfest event&lt;br&gt;- Free book of choice from Litfest Bookshop&lt;br&gt;- 50p off tickets for visiting companies&lt;br&gt;- £1 off tickets to Litfest events&lt;br&gt;- Priority mailing &amp; booking&lt;br&gt;- Name on the Litfest Friends Bookshelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£120 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to the first Litfest Scarecrow Competition! Members of the Lancaster & District community are invited to create a scarecrow in the form of a character from literature. The character can be from any book, from Harry Potter to Sherlock Holmes, Dorothy Gale to the Gruffalo. Simply create your scarecrow and place it somewhere that can be seen from the road. Whether that is in your front window, your front garden or even the roof!

Go to the Litfest website and download a copy of our competition sign to be put in the window of your house. Then send us an email to marketing@litfest.org or post a letter to Litfest, The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1TH. Please include your name, your address, the character your scarecrow represents, what book the character is from and where the scarecrow is displayed.

Our judges will tour the lanes of the Lancaster District in search of your scarecrows, before awarding the winner with a grand prize!
Monday 4th - Sunday 31st March

Litfest Heritage Exhibition

We’ve delved into the Litfest archives to give you a glimpse into the festival’s 40 year history. Join us for a unique exhibition, including a stunning display of decades-worth of Litfest programmes, the beautifully sculpted ‘book dress’, our extensive portfolio of author letters and autographs, a catalogue of Litfest projects and events captured on camera. There will also be a digital display of the Otter award -winning illustrator Jackie Morris conjured for us from ink at her event last year. Join us for all this and much, much more...

Venue: The Thomas Storey Room, The Storey, Lancaster, LA1 1TH

Litfest Needs You!

Over the years our festival has flourished due to the invaluable help from our volunteers. If you’d like to offer your support, whether that is working front of house at an event or even simply putting up a poster, we’d love to hear from you.

Please contact marketing@litfest.org if you think you could lend us a hand!
The Litfest Bookshop

Litfest are proud of the books we have published over the years. Copies of the books we still have in stock are available to purchase through the Litfest website (www.litfest.org) and in the coming weeks we will be supplementing this with our extensive catalogue of stock from the former Litfest Poetry Bookcase. We currently have nearly a 1000 titles available and these will be moving onto the website in batches of 30. Apart from our own publication, most titles only have a handful of copies available. Be sure to keep an eye on the website to get your copies before they’re gone!

The Sea Swallow by Gareth Thompson

When Mary’s father the fisherman is killed in a storm, Mary uncovers a terrible war between land and sea. To save her town from being swallowed by the waves, Mary must face the wild water that took her father and go on a journey like no other.

£9.99 including free delivery

A Discoverie of Witches by Blake Morrison

Lancaster Assizes, 1612. Ten people from Pendle in Lancashire were hanged, pronounced guilty of the crime of witchcraft. The poems in this collection give voice to characters involved in the trials: from the accused to the accusers, from a child who bore witness against her own mother to the hangman who carried out his job loyally and efficiently, yet not without stirrings of compassion. Also included are several poems set in the Pennine countryside where Blake grew up, as well as the controversial tour-de-force ‘The Ballad of the Yorkshire Ripper’.

There are two editions available. A limited edition, signed and numbered clothbound run of only 100 copies including a DVD of a half hour interview with the author filmed early in 2012 for £39.99 plus postage. Or a green clothbound hardback trade edition for £12.99 plus postage.

Malkin Child by Livi Michael

Jennet’s family all believe they are witches. Other folk think they are, too. But 1612 is a dangerous time to be a witch. When her family are imprisoned and put on trial in Lancaster Castle, Jennet’s evidence will help decide their fate...

£7.99 including delivery
As our 40th festival approaches, we at Litfest felt it was more important than ever to give back to our local community, in particular to the booklovers of tomorrow – our community’s children. Inspired by similar initiatives across the country and particularly by Jackie Morris’ fantastic event at Litfest 2018, we are delighted to announce this forthcoming project.

In the lead up to our March festival, Litfest will be aiming to crowdfund the purchase of one copy of *The Lost Words* for each school in the Lancaster and Morecambe district! The practicalities of undertaking this project are still ongoing so please watch this space for details on the launch and how you can contribute!

To keep up to date with our progress please keep your eye on [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org)
Contact Details & General Information

Telephone: 01524 582394
Email: marketing@litfest.org
Facebook: litfestLancaster
Twitter: @Litfest
Hashtag: #LancasterLitfest
Website: www.litfest.org

Litfest
The Storey
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TH

Booking & Tickets

For all Litfest Tickets excluding Roger McGough + LiTTLe MACHiNe

In person: Lancaster Visitor Information Centre
The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH
Or Morecambe Visitor Information Centre
Old Station Buildings, Morecambe, Lancashire, LA4 4DB
(Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm)
By Phone: 01524 582394
Any remaining tickets will be available to purchase on the door - cash only!
Online: www.litfest.org

For Roger McGough + LiTTLe MACHiNE

In person: Great Hall Booking Office
Great Hall Complex, Lancaster University, LA1 4WY
(Monday - Friday 12pm - 5pm)
By Phone: 01524 594151
Online: www.lancasterarts.org

Concession tickets are available to those in receipt of a pension, unemployment benefits, students and children under the age of 18.

Student tickets are available for some events to those with a Valid Student ID

Child tickets are available for some events to children under the age of 11

Full price tickets are available to everyone else!
Travelling to Events

The Storey

Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH

The Storey is located in Lancaster City Centre, just 2 minutes’ walk from Lancaster Railway Station (follow signs to the city centre). There are several Pay and Display car parks in and around the city centre, the closest being Dallas Road and Parksafe which is accessed via Bridge Lane and Damside Street.

Lancaster Castle

Castle Parade, Lancaster LA1 1YJ

Lancaster Castle is located in Lancaster City Centre. Parking on-site is restricted. There is a small car park at the rear of the castle but this is reserved for Court users only during the week. However, they will always accommodate visitors with Blue Badges / mobility problems. Please contact them in advance to discuss & arrange car parking.

There are also Pay and Display spaces nearby with two hour meter parking on Castle Hill, and longer stay parking on Dallas Road and at Parksafe on Damside Street.

Pizza Margherita

2 Moor Lane, Lancaster LA1 1WD

Pizza Margherita is located in Lancaster City Centre. There are several Pay and Display car parks nearby.

http://www.pizza-margherita.co.uk/contact/

The Herbarium

5-7 Great John St, Lancaster, LA1 1NQ

The Herbarium is located in Lancaster city centre, close to several car parks.

For more details see:
https://www.facebook.com/TheHerbariumBar/

The Dukes

Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QE

The Dukes is located in the centre of Lancaster. There is some street parking available around the theatre and several car parks within walking distance. A car park space can usually be reserved at the back of the building (access via St Anne’s Place) in advance for those who need access to the building via the ramp. Please mention this when booking.

For further information please see:
www.thedukes.org/your-visit/access

Lancaster Library

18 - 20 Market Street, Lancaster LA1 1HY

There is no immediate car parking outside the library but there are car parks and disabled spaces nearby. For more details see:
www.lancaster.gov.uk/parking

All details are correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to change the programme if circumstances dictate. Litfest cannot refund money for purchased tickets, except in the case of a cancelled event.

Lancaster & District Festival Ltd, trading as Litfest.

Registered Company No. 1494221. Registered Charity No. 510670.
The Great Hall, Lancaster University  
Great Hall Complex, North Spine, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YW

Visitor parking is available including wheelchair accessible spaces. Parking charges, across the entire campus, only apply weekdays before 6pm. The nearest visitor parking zone for Lancaster Arts is Visitor Parking Zone A on the north west drive. To access this zone, take the first exit at the main roundabout and then continue forward for a hundred yards – the parking spaces are then located on each side of the road. Continue along the ring road to access other parking areas across campus. Blue Badge holders should either park in Bowland Avenue or next to the LICA building.

For more details see: [https://www.lancasterarts.org/visiting/finding-lancaster-arts](https://www.lancasterarts.org/visiting/finding-lancaster-arts)

Ludus Dance, Assembly Rooms, King St, Lancaster, LA1 1RE

The main entrance is at street level. The reception and dance studio are up two flights of stairs. These are accessible via a stairiser wheelchair platform. This will take a maximum combined weight (wheelchair and user) of 150 kg. Seating is available in the reception area where there are toilets with disabled facilities, and the flooring throughout the building is either wooden, linoleum or short pile carpet. There is an induction loop system in the Ludus Dance Reception Area. Visitors wearing a hearing device should turn this to the 'T' position. Assistance dogs are welcome in all areas.

For further information see: [www.ludusdance.org](http://www.ludusdance.org)

Access Information

If you require a large print version of the brochure please contact marketing@litfest.org

The Storey is fully accessible to wheelchair users. If you wish to reserve a wheelchair space in the auditorium please email marketing@litfest.org

Guide dogs and hearing dogs are welcome.

Further access information for our venues can be found by contacting:

The Herbarium Tel: 07903 356458

Ludus Dance Tel: 01524 35936  Email: info@ludusdance.org

Lancaster Central Library Tel: 0300 123 6703  Email: lancaster.library@lancashire.gov.uk

Pizza Margherita Tel: 01524 36333  Email: hello@pizza-margherita.co.uk

The Dukes Tel: 01524 598515  Email: kroe@dukes-lancaster.org

Lancaster Castle Tel: 01524 64998  Email: info@lancastercastle.com

The Great Hall, Lancaster University Tel: 01524 594151  Email: boxoffice@lancasterarts.org

Disabled toilet facilities are available at The Storey, Lancaster Central Library, The Dukes and Lancaster University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Festival Launch: International Women’s Day—Rise up, Women!</td>
<td>The Shire Hall, @Lancaster Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Here there be dragons: Genevieve Cogman &amp; Jen Williams</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 10th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>The Rise of the Novella: Sarah Moss &amp; Carys Davies</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Spotlight</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>Poetry Day: Bounce &amp; Rhyme</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Poetry Day: Dinosaur Poetry</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Lunch time open mic</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Poetry Day Double bill 1: Ian Seed and Catherine Smith</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
<td>Poetry Day Double Bill 2: Jacob Polley &amp; John Glenday</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Poetry Day Double Bill 3: Andrew McMillan &amp; Polly Atkin</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Evening Open Mic</td>
<td>The Herbarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 17th March</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Local Writers Day: How to Get Published</td>
<td>Pizza Margherita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 17th March</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Local Writers Day: Hotspots</td>
<td>Pizza Margherita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 17th March</td>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Local Writers Day: Litfest Local Picks</td>
<td>Pizza Margherita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 17th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Local Writers Day: Deep Cabaret—Homecoming</td>
<td>Pizza Margherita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on additional workshops and other activities keep an eye on the Litfest website www.litfest.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Are Books the Best Drug in the World?: Confessions of a library dealer</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Fantastic Beasts and How to Illustrate Them: an evening with Olivia Lomenech Gill</td>
<td>The Shire Hall, @ Lancaster Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23rd March</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>YA Day: Cathy Forde</td>
<td>The Gallery, @The Dukes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23rd March</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>YA Day: The World of Vlogging</td>
<td>The Gallery, @The Dukes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 24th March</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>When Stories Go Digital: Explore and Create</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Hidden Wonders of the North: Karen Lloyd &amp; Beth Pipe</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th March</td>
<td>11am + 1pm</td>
<td>Translate, Create. Debate: Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe</td>
<td>The Reading Room, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Found in Translation! Literary Dispatches from the Peripheries of Europe</td>
<td>The Auditorium, @The Storey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 30th March</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Beatrix Potter to Harry Potter, Looking Glass to Spyglass</td>
<td>The Sanctuary, @Lancaster Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 30th March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Joinedupwriting: Roger McGough + LiTTLe MaCHInE</td>
<td>The Great Hall, @Lancaster University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 31st March</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>The Sea Swallow</td>
<td>LUDUS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Extras**

Throughout festival - Litfest Heritage exhibition - The Thomas Storey Room, @ The Storey

Throughout festival - Litfest Scarecrow competition -

Sunday 3rd March 2pm Literary Lancaster: Walks, Talks and Tours Main Entrance @ Lancaster Castle

Wednesday 20th March 2pm Literary Lancaster: Walks, Talks and Tours Main Entrance @ Lancaster Castle