Litfest 2022
6 – 12 October
Autumn Weekend
2022
Dear Friends,

Hello and welcome to the second Litfest Autumn Weekend!

We are delighted to provide a platform for writers with local connections to the Northwest, including Clare Shaw, Sarah Thomas, Tim Dee, Jon Carter and Kim Moore.

And we are delighted that this year’s Lancaster International Fiction Lecture, a joint venture with Lancaster University, will be given by Geetanjali Shree, winner of the 2022 Booker International Prize for her superb novel *Tomb of Sand*.

As in the spring, almost all the events will be hybrid, that is live in person and live online, so that you can watch in person or at home as suits you best, and you can even catch up later (see programme for details).

As a charity with irregular project funding, Litfest relies on its backers and partners and above all on you our co-creators and audiences for your work and your generous donations. Thank you for your support.

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*Julie Bell*
*Chair of Litfest*

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Litfest is grateful to be partially supported by these organisations, but to continue bringing the best in books, ideas, workshops and projects to the Northwest we also depend on the help of our audiences.

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**Support Litfest**

If you wish to support Litfest you can donate on a regular basis or with a one-off amount via our website www.litfest.org. And if you donate with Giftaid, Litfest receives an extra 25% via government support.

**What could a donation help to pay for?**

- £10 – two books to a local school
- £20 – a child to join in the Big Read
- £50 – a writer to attend a workshop
- £100 – venue hire
- £150 – a performance fee

No matter how big or small, your donation will play a part in the festival’s future. Thank you.

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Julian Bell
Chair of Litfest
Ticket Information & How to Watch Litfest

For Litfest’s Autumn Weekend 2022, you can attend in two ways: either in person at one of our partner venues, or online.

Attend in person

To book tickets to attend an event in person at one of our partner venues, you can purchase these tickets in advance in three different ways:

Over the counter at:
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 (Lancaster VIC)
01524 582808 (Morecambe VIC)

Through our website
www.litfest.org

In-person tickets are limited due to social distancing restrictions so advance booking is recommended. Any remaining tickets will be available to purchase on the door – cash only!

Ticket Price Bands
Concession tickets (£6) are available to those in receipt of a pension or unemployment benefits, students and children under the age of 18.
Child tickets (£5) are available for certain events to children under the age of 11
Full price tickets (£8) are available to everyone else!

Attend online

To book your tickets to attend an event online please visit the Litfest website www.litfest.org. All tickets to watch online are £5 per event.

Online events will be streamed on Crowdcast. If you have purchased an online ticket, you can stream the event live, or catch-up for thirty days after the event.

After booking, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the event page. You will also receive a reminder email 10 minutes before the event begins. Simply click on the link in the email to join the event. If you do not receive the email please check your junk or spam folders.

Accessibility note
Crowdcast now has a built-in closed captioning option.

Event duration
Most events last one hour, but some are longer. Please check the programme for details.

More information can be found at www.litfest.org

At Litfest we know that that financial concerns can prevent many from attending events. As such, we offer a limited number of free online tickets, which are available to anybody who would not otherwise be able to attend. If you would like to apply for a free online ticket, please email marketing@litfest.org by Sunday 2nd October. Please note that tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
To celebrate National Poetry Day on 6 October, Litfest is delighted to launch ‘The Litfest “Environment” Poetry Mosaic’. We will open for submissions at the beginning of September, and we invite everyone in the Northwest to contribute! The theme for National Poetry Day this year is ‘Environment’. After our successful exploration of poetry and place in our spring co-creation project, ‘This Place, This Planet’, Litfest invites you to explore your lived environments even further, perhaps writing about the built and work environments, the health and mental health environment, and the way social media creates an environment. We invite poets of all ages and levels of experience to submit poems that fit this broad theme.

When you are ready to submit your poem (or poems) go to www.litfest.org/EnvironmentPoetryMosaic. On the submission form we will also ask for your poem’s main topic and themes.

This information will help us to create our poetry mosaic which will be revealed on our website on Monday 3 October. All of the poems submitted and accepted will remain on the Litfest website after the Autumn Weekend.

We will also be running a separate project for pupils in years 7 and 8 in Lancaster and District secondary schools, and providing supporting materials in the form of examples and ideas for teachers. If you are a teacher and would like to know more, please email: info@litfest.org
Thursday 6 October

Litfest Autumn Weekend Launch
National Poetry Day with Clare Shaw

To celebrate National Poetry Day 2022 for which this year’s theme is ‘Environment’ – we invite you to go beyond Litfest 2022’s ‘This Place, This Planet’ poetry map and respond to all the different environments we inhabit, from the natural and human-made, through towns and workplaces, play spaces and social media, to the health and mental health environments and all the spaces in between.

In the days leading up to National Poetry Day, Clare Shaw will curate a selection of 12 outstanding poems from those submitted to the Litfest “Environment” Poetry Mosaic by the deadline of midnight on 30 September. Then on 4 October Litfest will contact those poets to invite them to read their work in person or online at this special event!

MC’d by poet Clare Shaw, the event itself will feature Clare’s own poetry, poems from the past, and the 12 selected poets’ work. After the event, all submitted and accepted poems will remain online in the ‘Poetry Mosaic’.

‘Clare Shaw writes rawly and brilliantly’ - Jackie Kay

Clare Shaw is a poet and performer. They have published four poetry collections with Bloodaxe, most recently Towards a General Theory of Love. Clare is co-director of the Kendal Poetry Festival, a poetry tutor, and a mental health educator. Their work is grounded in place, and underpinned by a deep faith in language – the belief that words have the power both to harm and to heal at an individual and societal level.

How to Watch: In person at The Auditorium, The Storey
Online via Crowdcast

Tickets: Watch in person £8 (£6 concessions) or watch online £5
For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit www.litfest.org
Award-winning poet Kim Moore studied music and was a trumpet teacher for several years. *What the Trumpet Taught Me* is a collection of vivid snapshots, from first lessons to attending music college, from teaching trumpet in schools and conducting a brass band, right through to playing in working mens’ clubs in a ten-piece soul band.

Meditative, funny and moving these short prose pieces are open to experience and clear-eyed about the vagaries of class prejudice and the intricacies of gender in a predominantly male world. Woven into her performance will be poems from her latest collection, *All the Men I Never Married*.

‘The world is a better place for writing like Kim’s. And here, in her new book, we see the world through the prism of the trumpet. An Absolute delight’ - Cerys Matthews
Please consider sharing your thoughts with the rest of the Litfest community on social media, through the “Have Your Say” section of the website — or why not talk to one of our event stewards!

Submit a poem to ‘The “Environment” Poetry Mosaic’
For National Poetry Day this year, Litfest is inviting submissions to our poetry mosaic. We encourage submissions from everyone, regardless of age or experience. All poems will be displayed on the map, and the authors of the 12 best poems (judged by Litfest and poet Clare Shaw) will be invited to read at the National Poetry Day event on 6 October.

Get Involved

At Litfest we love to hear from our audiences, and we encourage you to get involved over the festival period and beyond. Here are some ideas:

Join the International Fiction Book Club
Litfest runs a successful and lively International Fiction Book Club, which gets together once a month via Zoom. New members are always welcome: www.litfest.org/internationalbookclub

Volunteer with Litfest
We are always on the hunt for volunteers to help out at events and behind the scenes. To find out more, please email marketing@litfest.org.

Share your thoughts and have your say
Please consider sharing your thoughts with the rest of the Litfest community on social media, through the “Have Your Say” section of the website — or why not talk to one of our event stewards!

Previous Litfest Projects

Available On Demand

Soundcloud
• The Walking Solo Podcast Series
• The New Divan International Poetry Podcast
• A Walk Around Lancaster’s Secret Literary Life

YouTube
• Illustration with Nadine Kadaan
• How We Live Now film series
• A. C. Grayling: 5 Key Questions About Democracy
• The first Lancaster International Fiction Lecture – Juan Gabriel Vásquez: Fiction as the News (also available on our website as a text)
• Introductions to books discussed at the Litfest International Fiction Book Club

Litfest Website
• ‘This Place, This Planet’ Poetry Map
• National Poetry Day 2021: Poetry Mosaic – Choice
• New Writing Northwest 2021 Anthology
• Places of Poetry: North West – Interactive Map
Sarah Thomas, with Lancaster Sewing Café

The Raven’s Nest

Saturday 8 October 3:00pm

Artfully weaving nature writing, memoir and travel, this is the story of learning to belong in the elemental landscape of Iceland’s bewitching West fjords.

In partnership with Lancaster Sewing Café, we offer a contemplative event in the style of an Icelandic 'mending' session, at which we will hear about Lancaster Sewing Café's work and then Sarah will talk about and read from her wonderful book, The Raven’s Nest. You are invited to bring any mending projects you may have on the go to do during Sarah's reading, if you wish; some materials will be provided.

Visiting Iceland as an anthropologist and film-maker in 2008, Sarah Thomas was spellbound by its otherworldly landscape. An immediate love for this country and for Bjarni, a man she met there, turned a week-long stay into a transformative half-decade, one which radically altered Sarah’s understanding of herself and of the living world.

'Sarah Thomas’s lyrical, thoughtful prose takes us on a journey, both physical and emotional, to the far north’ -Cal Flynn, author of Islands of Abandonment

'A deeply thoughtful, vivid, enquiring and genre-traversing book... Sarah’s writing draws readers northwards and inwards upon a fascinating journey' -Robert Macfarlane

Sarah Thomas is a writer and filmmaker with a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her films have been screened internationally. She is a contributor to the Dark Mountain journal. Her writing has also appeared in the Guardian and the anthology Women on Nature (ed. Katherine Norbury). Longlisted for the inaugural Nan Shepherd Award and shortlisted for the 2021 Fitzcarraldo Essay Prize.

Sewing Café Lancaster is a grassroots project that advocates for an ethical textile industry and regenerative textile practices. Get in touch at sewingcafelancaster@gmail.com

How to Watch: In person at The Auditorium, The Storey
Online via Crowdcast

Tickets: Watch in person £8 (£6 concessions)
or watch online £5

For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit www.litfest.org
Saturday 8 October
6:00pm

Tim Dee & Jon Carter
Greenery

One December in midsummer South Africa, Tim Dee was watching swallows. They were at home there, but the same birds would soon begin journeying north to Europe, where their arrival marks the beginning of spring.

Greenery recounts how Tim Dee tries to follow the season and its migratory birds, making remarkable journeys in the Sahara, the Straits of Gibraltar, Sicily, Britain and finally by the shores of the Arctic Ocean. On each adventure he is in step with the very best times of the year. With Jon Carter of RSPB Leighton Moss, Tim will explore the continual loop of migration.

‘A masterpiece... This book has changed the way I think about seasons and migration, humans and birds, time and life. Dee is a virtuoso handler of sound, knowledge and language’ - Max Porter

Tim Dee was born in Liverpool and has been a birdwatcher all his life, and is the author of The Running Sky, Four Fields, Landfill and, most recently, Greenery. Before becoming a full-time writer he was a BBC radio producer for nearly 30 years. He follows the birds he loves, living at different times of year in England and the south-western tip of Africa, at the Cape of Good Hope.

Jon Carter first visited Leighton Moss as an 11-year-old and fell in love with the reserve’s vast wetland landscape. He is currently Visitor Experience Manager at RSPB Leighton Moss.

How to Watch: In person at The Auditorium, The Storey
Online via Crowdcast

Tickets: Watch in person £8 (£6 concessions)
or watch online £5
For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit www.litfest.org
Monday 10 October 6:30pm

Litfest International Fiction Book Club
Geetanjali Shree – *Tomb of Sand*
Winner of the 2022 International Booker Prize

The Litfest International (Zoom) Fiction Book Club was launched in response to Covid in April 2020. Since then, the club has discussed 28 books, with the writer, translator or editor. Our guests have included authors Delphine de Vigan, Andrey Kurkov and Juan Gabriel Vásquez, and translators Antonia Lloyd-Jones (Olga Tokarczuk), Sasha Dugdale (Maria Stepanova) and Frank Wynne (Alice Zeniter).

For this special edition of the book club we are delighted to welcome the acclaimed Indian writer Geetanjali Shree to discuss *Tomb of Sand* (Tilted Axis Press) and her story ‘These Days’ in *All Walls Collapse: Stories of Separation* (Comma Press).

‘We were captivated by the power, the poignancy and the playfulness of *Tomb of Sand*, Geetanjali Shree’s polyphonic novel of identity and belonging...This is a luminous novel of India and partition, but one whose spellbinding brio and fierce compassion weaves youth and age, male and female, family and nation into a kaleidoscopic whole’

-Frank Wynne, translator, writer and 2022 International Booker Chair

Geetanjali Shree is the author of five novels and several story collections, Her work has been translated into English, French, German, Serbian and Korean. She was born in Mainpuri, India, in 1957. *Tomb of Sand* is the first of her books to be published in the UK. She has received and been shortlisted for a number of awards and fellowships, and currently lives in New Delhi.

*The Litfest International Fiction Book Club* is convened by Bill Swainson (Litfest) and Sam O’Donoghue (Lancaster University), and supported by the Fondation Jan Michalski

“The Litfest International Fiction Book Club has reignited my love for reading. It has opened my eyes to different cultures and a whole new world of fiction”

-Lisa Keys, Lancaster

How to Watch: Online via Crowdcast
Tickets: £5
For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org)
We are delighted to announce that the second Lancaster International Fiction Lecture, a joint venture between Litfest and the Department of Languages & Cultures and the Department of English Literature & Creative Writing at Lancaster University, will be given by Geetanjali Shree whose novel written in Hindi and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell won this year’s International Booker Prize.

Fiction is an artform shared by almost all languages. Right now, the English-speaking world – thanks to translators and innovative publishers – has become more aware of the extraordinary fiction that has been and is being written everywhere and in all languages. So it seemed to us that a lecture to discuss and celebrate fiction as an international artform could not be more timely.

Borders have loomed large in Geetanjali’s life, and so it’s not surprising that her prize-winning novel, *Tomb of Sand*, should be an urgent and timely protest against the destructive impact of borders and boundaries, whether between religions, countries, or genders. It is also extremely funny and utterly original.

Geetanjali Shree is the author of five novels and several story collections. Her work has been translated into English, French, German, Serbian and Korean. She was born in Mainpuri, India, in 1957. *Tomb of Sand* is the first of her books to be published in the UK. She has received and been shortlisted for a number of awards and fellowships, and currently lives in New Delhi.

Supported by the Departments of English Literature & Creative Writing and Languages & Cultures at Lancaster University.

**How to Watch:** Online via Crowdcast

**Tickets:** £5

For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org)
Watch this space! Date & Time TBC

Litfest & @lancaster_words – Poetry on campus
Readings and Open Mic Sessions

As the finale to Litfest’s Autumn Weekend, Litfest and the Department of English & Creative Writing present three award-winning poets with a close connection to Lancaster University.

Lecturers Paul Farley and Eoghan Walls, with student Beth Train-Brown will read from their latest collections, plus Open Mic sessions. Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

If you would like to read at the Open Mic session, please contact: office.manager@litfest.org

Eoghan Walls teaches English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University. He has published two poetry collections with Seren, The Salt Harvest and Pigeon Songs.

Paul Farley is Professor of Creative Writing at Lancaster University. He has published many prize-winning poetry collections with Picador, including Tramp in Flames and The Mizzy.

Beth Train-Brown is completing her final year in English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University. Her debut poetry collection, Salmacis, is just out from Renard Press.

How to Watch: In person - Venue TBC
            Online via Crowdcast

Tickets: Free
For further information on how to book see page 3 of the programme or visit www.litfest.org
Join the Litfest Board!

We are recruiting new members for the Litfest Board of Directors. Litfest are particularly seeking people with a background in the health sector, environmentalists and practising writers.

We actively encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds.

For more information please email marketing@litfest.org.
SAVE THE DATE!

Litfest
2023
17-26 March
Contact Details & General Information

Telephone: 01524 582394

Email: marketing@litfest.org

Litfest
The Storey
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TH

www.litfest.org

All details are correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to change the programme if circumstances dictate.

Lancaster & District Festival Ltd, trading as Litfest.

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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 St.
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**The Litfest Bookshop**

Support Litfest and buy your books direct from our online bookshop.

[www.litfest.org/shop](http://www.litfest.org/shop)

All of the titles featured in our programme and many others besides can be purchased from the Litfest Bookshop at discounted prices.

All books are sold at £2 off the recommended retail price.

You will also have the option of a free bookplate signed by the author!

And for the 2022 Autumn Weekend...

**The Litfest Poetry Bookshop**

Each evening throughout the festival, from 5pm until 9pm, we will be running an exclusively discounted poetry bookshop in The Thomas Storey Room at The Storey, Lancaster.

Come along for some exclusive bargains and rare finds!