

# LEEDS LIT FEST

CONNECTING  
THROUGH WORDS.

TUES 2<sup>nd</sup> to  
SUN 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH



# LEEDS LIT FEST

## CONNECTING THROUGH WORDS



This 3rd edition of Leeds Lit Fest whilst retaining the creative spirit, fun and freshness of previous years will have a very different feel in 2021 as we go online and present 26 literary inspired events over a 6 day period from Tuesday 2nd to Sunday 7th March.

Leeds Lit Fest celebrates the talents of local writers alongside the work of nationally and internationally respected authors. The 10 local arts and cultural organisations which all champion literature in the city, work as one each year to make the festival happen. This year's digital festival programme is intended to engage as many people as possible with the written word and further grow the reputation of the festival. There are author talks, creative workshops, performances, children's events, poetry, spoken word, film, debates, a literary quiz and a whole lot more! We are known for and committed to delivering a high quality programme, with warmth and a sense of quirkiness. This philosophy and approach, along with the support and commitment of many volunteers, writers and participants, resulted in the festival being awarded Literary Festival of the Year in 2020 by the Saboteur Awards.

It would have been easy with the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis over the last 12 months for the festival to have a break in 2021. However, all of the festival partners agreed that it was more important than ever to deliver a festival that would once again celebrate all forms of the written word and galvanise an online audience with a unique opportunity to extend the festival beyond its past boundaries.

In being committed to ensuring that the festival is as accessible as possible, the majority of the creative programme is free to watch. Audiences are asked to help support the festival through donations if they are able. Writers of the calibre of Monique Roffey, Peter James, Iain Dale and Gary Younge feature in the programme, further extending the list of leading authors who have appeared at the festival over the last 3 years. Each of the festival partners has contributed events, resources, creativity and time to ensure this year's programme reflects their different and unique qualities and interests that when brought together presents a perfect online festival to enjoy in these complex and challenging times.

We hope that you take the chance to engage with as many of the online events as possible during the festival and we look forward to seeing you in person at future festivals in the coming years.

You can buy tickets for all this year's events at  
[www.leedslitfest.co.uk](http://www.leedslitfest.co.uk) / 0113 376 0318  
You can also donate there  
to help the continued running of the festival.

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# CALENDAR

# LEEDS LIT FEST

## EVENT LISTNING

## CONNECTING THROUGH WORDS

Tuesday 2nd	7pm-8pm	Origins with Lewis Dartnell
Tuesday 2nd	8pm-9pm	Leeds Lit Fest Literary Quiz
Wednesday 3rd	12.30pm-1.30pm	In conversation with UK No.1 best-selling crime and thriller author, Peter James
Wednesday 3rd	7pm-8pm	How to Be a Liberal with Ian Dunt
Wednesday 3rd	8pm-9pm	This New North. Anthology Book Launch from the Northern Short Story Festival
Thursday 4th	12 noon-1pm	Dreaming Through A Nightmare. A workshop with Abdullah Adekola
Thursday 4th	6.30pm-7.30pm	Celebrating Andrea Levy
Thursday 4th	7.30pm-8.30pm	Keeping your Head in the Game with Gary Bloom
Thursday 4th	8.30pm-10.30pm	Prismatic
Friday 5th	1pm-2pm	Reflections: A poet-theologian in Lockdown Leeds with Hannah Stone
Friday 5th	7pm-8pm	Iain Dale and Why Can't We All Just Get Along
Friday 5th	8pm-10pm	Bridges. A joint online poetry reading poetry reading
Saturday 6th	10am-2pm	The Poetry Business Writing Workshop with Ann and Peter Sansom
Saturday 6th	11am- 12 noon	Book Gobbling with Harry Heape
Saturday 6th	12 noon -1pm	In Conversation With Monique Roffey – The 2020 Costa Book Of The Year Winner
Saturday 6th	1pm-2pm	Writing the Landscape. Panel event with Helen Mort, Anna Chilvers, Jason Allen-Paisant and Professor John Whale
Saturday 6th	2pm-3pm	Draw Along with Liz Million
Saturday 6th	4pm-5.30pm	Weighted Words. Anthology Book Launch from the Peepal Tree Inscribe Readers and Writers Group
Saturday 6th	7.30pm-9pm	The Hound of the Baskervilles, 1929 silent film with live piano accompaniment by Jonny Best
Sunday 7th	Mid <sup>night</sup> - 6.00am	Adventures of the Night. Interactive overnight creative writing workshop with Becky Cherriman
Sunday 7th	12 <sup>noon</sup> - 1pm	LLF Lit Salon with Clare Fisher
Sunday 7th	1pm-2pm	Saima Mir discusses her debut novel The Khan
Sunday 7th	2pm-3pm	In conversation with authors Stephanie Scott and Catherine Menon for International Women's Day
Sunday 7th	3pm-5pm	LIVEwire x IWD2021
Sunday 7th	5pm-6pm	In conversation with Tim Glister, author of Red Corona
Sunday 7th	7.30pm-9pm	Strictly Sherlock performed by Don't Go Down to the Cellar

**TUESDAY**

**MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**LEEDS LIT FEST**

**CONNECTING  
THROUGH WORDS**



↳ Frances Brody

**7PM —  
8PM**

## **ORIGINS WITH LEWIS DARTNELL**

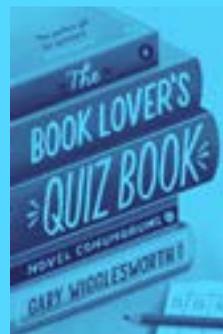


When we talk about human history, we focus on great leaders, revolutions, and technological advances. But how has the Earth itself determined our destiny? How has our planet made us? As a species we are shaped by our environment. Geological forces drove our evolution in East Africa; mountainous terrain led to the development of democracy in Greece; and today voting behaviour in the United States follows the bed of an ancient sea. The human story is the story of these forces, from plate tectonics and climate change, to atmospheric circulation and ocean currents. Professor Lewis Dartnell will explore these questions. Lewis is the author of the Sunday Times history book of the year *Origins*.

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**8PM —  
9PM**

## **LEEDS LIT FEST LITERARY QUIZ**



Come and test your literature knowledge in Leeds Lit Fest's first ever quiz night. Your quizmaster is Gary Wigglesworth author of *The Book Lover's Quiz Book*. Could you be the first LLF quiz champion? Gary Wigglesworth was a bookseller for sixteen years, he now works in publishing. In normal times he has a monthly residency at The Betsey Trotwood pub in Farringdon which provides the only monthly book quiz for London's literature lovers. His first book 'The Book Lover's Quiz Book' was published by Robinson (Little, Brown) last year.

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**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**LEEDS LIT FEST**

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**12.30<sup>PM</sup> – 1.30<sup>PM</sup> IN CONVERSATION WITH PETER JAMES – THE UK'S BEST SELLING CRIME AND THRILLER WRITER**

Peter James, a UK No. 1 bestselling crime and thriller author will be in conversation with Jonathan Straight. Synonymous with plot-twisting page-turners, Peter has garnered an army of loyal fans throughout his storytelling career – which also included stints writing for TV and producing films. He has won over 40 awards for his work, including the WHSmith Best Crime Author of All Time Award, Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger and a BAFTA nomination for The Merchant of Venice starring Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons for which he was an Executive Producer. Many of Peter's novels have been adapted for film, TV and stage.



**7<sup>PM</sup> – 8<sup>PM</sup> HOW TO BE A LIBERAL WITH IAN DUNT**

From Brexit Britain to Trump's America to Orban's Hungary, liberalism is under attack. In a soaring narrative that stretches from the English Civil War to the 2008 financial crash and the rise of populism, Ian Dunt will talk through the epic story of the development of liberal thought. His book How to Be a Liberal, is a rallying cry for those who still believe in freedom and reason. Ian is a British author, political journalist and broadcaster. He is the editor of politics.co.uk and a host on the Remainiacs podcast.



**8<sup>PM</sup> – 9<sup>PM</sup> THIS NEW NORTH. ANTHOLOGY BOOK LAUNCH FROM THE NORTHERN SHORT STORY FESTIVAL**

Join us for the book launch of This New North, a new anthology showcasing the range of writing talent in the North of England. 12 of the writers featured in this anthology are graduates of the Northern Short Story Festival Academy programme which has helped to develop the voices of brand-new short story writers based in the region, alongside stories by Litro fiction editor Barney Walsh, author Anna Chilvers and author and critic Richard Smyth. This New North is edited by SJ Bradley and Anna Chilvers and published by Valley Press.



**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>**

**LEEDS LIT FEST**

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**6.30<sup>PM</sup> — CELEBRATING  
7.30<sup>PM</sup> ANDREA LEVY**

Journalist and broadcaster Gary Younge is joined by family and friends of novelist Andrea Levy, for an evening celebrating her life and work. Expect personal stories, readings from her papers, and sound recordings for an intimate portrait of the prize-winning author. This event marks the British Library's acquisition of Andrea Levy's archive and also her birthday. This is a British Library event in association with Leeds Lit Fest and the Royal Society of Literature.



**12<sup>NOON</sup> — DREAMING THROUGH A  
1<sup>PM</sup> NIGHTMARE. A WORKSHOP  
WITH ABDULLAH ADEKOLA**



An exploration of poems about dreams and what they can tell us about ourselves, and society in a workshop led by Abdullah Adekola. A reflection on how creativity can help us navigate through our current social situation. The inspiration behind this is that over the course of the past year people have noticed a change in their dreams. Some more scary and stressful, Some more silly and sexual, some weird and wonderful. Changes that are probably a result of the swift and serious changes in society and our anxieties relating to these changes.

**7.30<sup>PM</sup> — KEEPING YOUR HEAD IN THE  
8.30<sup>PM</sup> GAME WITH GARY BLOOM**



Gary Bloom Sports broadcaster and clinical sports psychotherapist will be in conversation with Adam Pope BBC football commentator about Gary's latest book Keeping your Head in the Game ten stories of sports people in therapy - is scheduled to be published in February 2021. Gary who was born and brought up in Leeds was a commentator on Channel 4's Football Italia. He hosts the award winning show On the Sporting Couch on talkSPORT radio.

**8.30<sup>PM</sup> — PRISMATIC  
10.30<sup>PM</sup>**



A diverse array of local writers, spoken word performers, DJs and visual artists bring you the kind of kaleidoscopic artistic expression Leeds does best; eclectic, multidisciplinary, multimedia, and underground.

**FRIDAY**

**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>**

**LEEDS LIT FEST**

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**7<sup>PM</sup> —  
8<sup>PM</sup>**

## **IAIN DALE AND WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG**

Why Can't We All Just Get Along is part-memoir, part-polemic about the state of public discourse in Britain and the world today. In an increasingly divided society, LBC radio presenter, Iain Dale examines why we've all become so disrespectful and intolerant. Using experiences from his career in politics and the media, he says it doesn't have to be this way, and suggests how we can all emerge from tribalism and division and become more respectful to each other and those who govern us. It is a book that is optimistic about the fundamental decencies embedded in human nature and uses deeply personal anecdotes to explain why we can look forward in a positive way to a better life both in personal and material terms.



**1<sup>PM</sup> —  
2<sup>PM</sup>**

## **REFLECTIONS: A POET-THEOLOGIAN IN LOCKDOWN LEEDS WITH HANNAH STONE**



In April 2020, poet Hannah Stone was invited to become poet theologian in virtual residence for Leeds Church Institute, charged with writing an uplifting and empathetic weekly reflection on the impact the Covid 19 Lockdown was having on the communities of Leeds, using her own and others' poetry as a medium. Week by week Hannah drew on religious ideas, poetry, art and music to map a route through this fast-changing and unpredictable experience. Join Hannah as LCI launches the book based on the blogs, and offers it to Leeds as we enter the uncertain times of 2021.

**8<sup>PM</sup> —  
10.30<sup>PM</sup>**

## **BRIDGES. A JOINT ONLINE POETRY READING BETWEEN THE DAVID OLUWALE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION AND LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES**



A joint online poetry reading between the David Oluwale Memorial Association and Leeds Irish Health and Homes, celebrating their links, work and plans. DOMA is fundraising for a civic blue plaque on Leeds Bridge, near where David was tragically drowned and reading for them are Malika Booker, Kayo Chingonyi, Abdullah Adekola, Emily Zobel Marshall, Ian Harker with Ian Duhig bridging to LIHH, which launches Corona Ceoil, their book of the Leeds Irish pandemic response, where contributing performers include Natalie Rees and Teresa O' Driscoll with music from Des Hurley and Friends.

**SATURDAY**

**MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>**

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**10<sup>AM</sup> —  
2<sup>PM</sup>**

## **THE POETRY BUSINESS WRITING WORKSHOP WITH ANN AND PETER SANSOM**

Poet Laureate Simon Armitage said that in his view, Ann and Peter Sansom are “the UK’s most astute and effective poetry tutors”. Find out for yourself, as the Sheffield-based poets, publishers and editors head up the M1 (digitally) to Leeds. The workshop consists of writing exercises, followed by a critiquing session – have a poem of your own ready to discuss.  
£35/ £30 concessions

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**11<sup>AM</sup> —  
12<sup>NOON</sup>**

## **BOOK GOBBLING WITH HARRY HEAPE**

CALLING ALL BOOK GOBBLERS! Come and join Harry Heape as he takes you on a big wiggly adventure with Shiny Pippin and all her friends. Harry’s Shiny Pippin books have been making children from the ages of 6-96 laugh like drains from Gran’s End to Dawn O’Groats since they were first invented. Join us for some grade A book fun to celebrate his work with a fun and interactive event for children. Find out the truth about the real Harry Heape, help unpack Granny’s backpack, build comic characters, and pick up handy tips on how to put them into a funny story that has a beginning, a muddle and an end.

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**SATURDAY**

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**12<sup>NOON</sup> —  
1<sup>PM</sup>**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH  
MONIQUE ROFFEY – THE  
2020 COSTA BOOK OF THE  
YEAR WINNER**

Join us for a lunchtime conversation with multi award winning author Monique Roffey as she chats to Dr Emily Zobel Marshall. The conversation will explore Monique's distinguished career to date and talk about her latest novel *The Mermaid of Black Conch* (Peepal Tree Press) which has recently won the 2020 Costa Book of the Year Award, a work about an ancient Taino woman cursed to be a mermaid who is caught in contemporary times.

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**1<sup>PM</sup> —  
2<sup>PM</sup>**

**WRITING THE LANDSCAPE.  
PANEL EVENT WITH HELEN  
MORT, ANNA CHILVERS,  
JASON ALLEN-PAISANT AND  
PROFESSOR JOHN WHALE**

In *Writing the Landscape*, our panel featuring Helen Mort, Anna Chilvers, Jason Allen-Paisant and Professor John Whale, will discuss their prose and poetry writing and how landscape has affected and influenced their writing and lives.

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**SATURDAY**

**MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>**

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**2<sup>PM</sup> —  
3<sup>PM</sup>**

## **DRAW ALONG WITH LIZ MILLION**

Liz Million is a fantastically funny, professional and whacky children's Illustrator of *There's a Crocodile in the House*, *Digger* and many more. Come along to this lively session to draw along with with Liz. She'll show you how to create fab characters using weird shapes and how to bring your cartoons to life using expressions and action lines! Draw humans, animals and much more. Suitable for ages 5 to 105 yrs.

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**4<sup>PM</sup> —  
5. 30<sup>PM</sup>**

## **WEIGHTED WORDS. ANTHOLOGY BOOK LAUNCH FROM THE PEEPAL TREE INSCRIBE READERS AND WRITERS GROUP**



Celebrate with Jacob Ross, Khadijah Ibrahiim and members of the Peepal Tree Inscribe Readers and Writers Group as they launch their new anthology, *Weighted Words*. Through a dazzling mix of poetry, short stories, confessionals and memoir, contributors with fresh perspectives interrogate race, gender, relationships with self and with family, as well as identity in contemporary Britain. Not to be missed!

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**7. 30<sup>PM</sup> —  
9<sup>PM</sup>**

## **THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, 1929 SILENT FILM WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY JONNY BEST.**



1929 silent film with piano accompaniment by Jonny Best. Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories were the basis for scores of silent films; this is the very last of them, made in Germany in the dying days of the silent era. An international cast, lavish sets and bravura camerawork combine with the familiar Conan-Doyle world of secret passages behind sliding panels, creaking country houses, and swirling mists on dark, mysterious moors. This film was unseen since 1929 and considered long lost - until it was found in Poland in 2009, stored in a parish priest's basement. Restored in 2019, this is the first opportunity for audiences in Yorkshire to see it - with Jonny Best's atmospheric, improvised piano accompaniment performed especially for Leeds Lit Fest. Running time: 66 minutes plus introduction. Certificate PG. Screening by permission of Flicker Alley.

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**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>**

**LEEDS LIT FEST**

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**MID<sup>NIGHT</sup> — 6<sup>AM</sup> — ADVENTURES OF THE NIGHT.  
INTERACTIVE OVERNIGHT  
CREATIVE WRITING  
WORKSHOP WITH BECKY  
CHERRIMAN — £30**

A group of people meet at midnight. Where do they meet, why and what happens when they do? You will answer these questions and others before embodying a character and shaping their path through this collective story. This interactive overnight workshop will take place online and the story will be constructed as a basic Twine story. There will be an opportunity to write in a range of forms and your own style. No experience of creative writing or technical skills are necessary other than the ability to join a Zoom session and to type. Be prepared to take creative risks, write collaboratively and stay up till dawn.



**12<sup>NOON</sup> — 1<sup>PM</sup> — LLF LIT SALON WITH  
CLARE FISHER**



The LLF Lit Salon is a chance to hear new work from an exciting and eclectic range of Yorkshire-based authors. Hosted by Clare Fisher, the event will feature short readings of prose and poetry from Kayo Chingonyi, SK Perry, Cherie-Baptiste Taylor, Sarah Dawson, Kimberly Campanello and Rachel Bower; there will also be the opportunity to ask questions. Pets, children, hot drinks and brunch/lunch/cake very welcome!

**1<sup>PM</sup> — 2<sup>PM</sup> — SAIMA MIR DISCUSSES HER  
DEBUT NOVEL THE KHAN**



Join award winning journalist, Saima Mir as she talks about her critically acclaimed, debut crime thriller *The Khan*, a gritty debut thriller set among the British Pakistani community in a northern city. It features an unforgettable female protagonist – a London barrister who is drawn back into her father's gangland world when he's found murdered with themes of family loyalty, gang warfare and retribution. Saima was born in Bradford, has written for *The Guardian*, *Times* and the *Independent* and contributed an essay to *It's Not about the Burqa*. She grew up in Bradford and now lives in London.

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>**

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**2<sup>PM</sup> —  
3<sup>PM</sup>**

**IN CONVERSATION  
WITH AUTHORS  
STEPHANIE SCOTT &  
CATHERINE MENON FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**

Debut novelists Stephanie Scott, *What's Left of Me Is Yours*, and Catherine Menon, *Fragile Monsters*, will read from their novels and talk about creating female-led narratives set in Asia and inspired by true events in a panel discussion chaired by arts journalist Yvette Huddleston in celebration of International Women's Day.



**3<sup>PM</sup> —  
5<sup>PM</sup>**

**LIVEWIRE X IWD2021**

Join the UK's leading spoken word record label Nymphs & Thugs in celebrating International Women's Day 2021 and marking the occasion with an afternoon of electric spoken word poetry featuring some of Yorkshire's most vibrant and acclaimed voices. These 'LIVEwire' events have been taking stages by storm at festivals, theatres, music venues and pubs since spring 2017. Since completing their most ambitious tour to date in 2020, Nymphs & Thugs have firmly established themselves as one of the most sought-after event producers on the UK's flourishing spoken word poetry scene. A celebration of womxn and words to kick-start 2021!



**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>**

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↳ open mic reader at the Northern Short Story Festival's First Page Competition

**5<sup>PM</sup> —  
6<sup>PM</sup>**

## **IN CONVERSATION WITH TIM GLISTER, AUTHOR OF RED CORONA**



Tim Glister discusses his debut novel, *Red Corona*, a gripping Cold War spy thriller about the beginning of the surveillance era, spanning 3 countries: Britain where MI5 agent Richard Knox is trying to find out who put his boss in a coma; Russia where a brilliant scientist makes a breakthrough that could change the world and the US where a young CIA recruit is determined to make a difference. The novel is packed with beautifully observed period detail and real menace and has received fantastic pre-release reviews. Tim was born in Newcastle and is a former literary agent.

**7.30<sup>PM</sup> —  
9<sup>PM</sup>**

## **STRICTLY SHERLOCK PERFORMED BY DON'T GO INTO THE CELLAR**



Retaining the Leeds Lit Fest tradition that the last event in the festival programme is a theatrical performance with a literary theme, enjoy *Strictly Sherlock*, performed live and streamed from The Leeds Library by Don't Go into the Cellar! Don't miss this unique opportunity to Join the king of the detectives as he brings to life *The Sussex Vampire*, *The Creeping Man!* and *The Devils Foot*. Jonathan Goodwin returns as Sherlock Holmes, in a show scripted by himself and co-directed by Goodwin and Gary Archer.

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THANKS TO THE PARTNERS  
AND ORGANISATIONS THAT  
HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE



FOUNDED 1764  
The Leeds Library





[www.leedslitfest.co.uk](http://www.leedslitfest.co.uk)