

Celebrating 10 Years

N
NEWARK
BOOK
FESTIVAL

9TH-12TH JULY 2026

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Welcome

Welcome to the 10th birthday edition of Newark Book Festival.

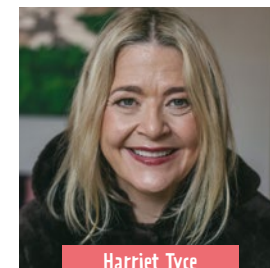
Our first festival was in 2017 (do you remember those early days?). It has been an adventure and journey taking us through themes covering play, creativity, heroes & legends, landscapes in literature, music and much more. We have been book buddies for schools, delivered outreach events, at-home and care packages, turned our Covid year into 5 chapters, celebrated Christmas, and toured the county. The 2026 birthday edition is a celebration of everything - where we have been, where we are, and our ambitions for the future! We are absolutely delighted to welcome new partners, from Waterstones Newark to moving over to the Palace Theatre and National Civil War Centre as our new hub. We can't wait to share with you what our Young Ambassadors have been up to and welcome inspiring headliners and authors this year, including Harriet Tyce and Jay McGuiness. We look forward to seeing you to support our 10th birthday and join the party!

A huge heartfelt thank you from me to you.

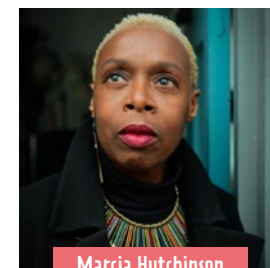


Sara Bullimore

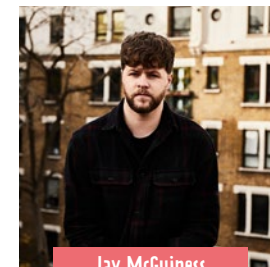
Artist Director



Harriet Tyce



Marcia Hutchinson



Jay McGuiness

How to Book

To get the most out of your visit to Newark Book Festival, we advise booking your tickets in advance.

Online

All tickets (unless otherwise stated) can be purchased in advance on newarkbookfestival.org.uk (use QR code) or directly through the Palace Theatre Website: palacetheatre.com. Tickets purchased online will be subject to a fee of £1.00 per booking (not per ticket), which is set by Palace Theatre, Newark.



During the Festival

All tickets are available for sale from Palace Theatre, Newark. On the door tickets can be purchased at the event venue before the event start time (subject to availability).

Most author events last 60 minutes, with book signings after the event.

Please note that tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable, except in the event of a cancellation by the festival or venue. Latecomers will not be admitted. See all our terms and conditions online: newarkbookfestival.org.uk/terms.

Newark Book Festival visitors can enjoy **free entry** to the National Civil War Centre throughout the Book Festival weekend – the perfect way to add even more discovery to your festival experience!

By telephone

Call the Palace Theatre Box Office on **01636 655755** to book your tickets in advance over the phone.

Palace Theatre Box Office

The Palace Theatre Box Office is open **Tuesday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm**, where you can book your tickets in advance, in person or over the phone.

Accessibility

We're committed to providing the best service possible for all of our festival goers and work with our venues to provide the following, where possible:

- Complimentary carers and personal assistant tickets
- Assistance and Guide Dogs are welcome
- Hearing Loop at select venues
- Step-free access where possible

Visit newarkbookfestival.org.uk/access-requirements for more information.

If you have any access questions or specific requirements please do email us at hello@newarkbookfestival.org.uk where our Access Co-ordinator will help to ensure an enjoyable visit with us and our partner venues.

Quiet Zone

Want some time out during the festival? Make the most of our quiet reading and tech-free zones – check out for where these are located in other venues across the town. The Palace Theatre and National Civil War Centre one will be located in the Tudor Attic.

Your Visit & Access

Entrance to the Festival Literature Village is free; you simply buy tickets to the individual events you wish to see.

Getting to the festival

Newark is easily accessible from all over the UK by train, bus and car. There are two train stations in Newark: Newark Northgate and Newark Castle. Both are within walking distance to the Palace Theatre, the main hub of the festival.

For information on how to travel to Newark, where to park and where to stay go to: newarkbookfestival.org.uk/plan-your-visit

Festival Venues

All festival venues are within walking distance of each other, including the Literature Village, with a maximum of 15 minutes walk between each venue at a leisurely pace.

You can find the Festival Map at the back of this programme, view or download the map on our website, or pick up a larger scale version at the festival from participating venues.

Filming & Photography

Please note that filming and photography will be taking place across the entire festival site and at each venue before, during and after events by the festival organisers, volunteers and official contractors.



The Festival Bookseller

The brand-new Waterstones Newark is the official Festival Bookseller, for 2026.

Waterstones will be running the Festival book shop at the Palace Theatre with books from all the festival authors, and for signings after every event. A pop-up book stall will be at other venues for author events.

Book signings for Palace Theatre events will take place in the Box Office foyer space, apart from events with schools and Jay McGuinness which will be in the auditorium.

Keep an eye out for in-store activities too!



Family Events

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18 with a valid ticket (where applicable) at all events.

Everyone over 12 months needs a ticket and a seat, except babies in arms (12 months and under) unless otherwise specified on the individual event information.



Over 10 YEARS

4,600 young people have been part of our schools and Young Ambassadors' programmes



Fringe Events

Celebrate 10 Exhibition

WEDNESDAY 1ST – FRIDAY 31ST JULY
NEWARK LIBRARY – NEAR THE COMPUTER CORNER

FREE

To celebrate Newark Book Festival turning 10 this summer, our 2026 exhibition looks back at the last decade. With the help of pictures from our festival archives, we will be sharing some of our favourite memories and recalling the highlights and challenges of putting on an all-inclusive literary celebration for audiences of all ages.

Curated by Chelsea Buckthorp

Riverside Herbal Forage, Workshop & Lunch with Hannah Sylvester

SATURDAY 4TH JULY
10AM – 12PM (PLUS LUNCH)
'TEA AT LIL MAGGIES' AND SECRET BARN,
NORTH MUSKHAM, NG23 6HU

£25.00

To book tickets, email
hello@newarkbookfestival.org.uk

An enlightening morning to deepen your connection with nature. Join Medical Herbalist, Hannah Sylvester, on a gentle morning stroll along the Trent's riverside, all while identifying and foraging for wild plants, before taking your collection back to 'Tea at Lil Maggies' for lunch and a workshop to create your own remedies, herbal infusion and make your own blend of herbal tea bags.



Festival Events

Open Doors Poetry

THURSDAY 9TH – SUNDAY 12TH JULY
10AM – 4PM
NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

FREE

Visit the studio on the top floor of the National Civil War Centre where Open Doors artist-in-residence, Leanne Moden, has been writing poems, stories and scripts based on the museum's collections. Try your hand at Leanne's self-led wordy arts and crafts. Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Gathered Leaves

THURSDAY 9TH – SUNDAY 12TH JULY
10AM – 5PM
VIBRANT MATTER, STODMAN STREET

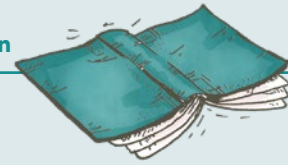
FREE

Visit local art gallery Vibrant Matter to see their beautifully curated selection of art books published by Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire artists in an exhibition called 'Gathered Leaves'. Celebrate the high standards of published creative practitioners and academics working across the region.



I Know You

10th Birthday Poem By Leanne Moden



You love books.

Library books, second-hand books, and the brand-new books that still smell of fresh printing and binding glue...

I know you.

You love hardback back-track finding yourself books, books stacked in nooks in every room of your home, carefully curated and shelved three volumes deep, the books you donate and the ones that you keep. The creep, creep, creep of one shelf becoming two....

I know you.

You love the water-wrinkled bathtime books, the hook of a riveting first sentence, the burst of adrenaline ascending as the plot gets really, REALLY good, like you absolutely, completely KNEW that it would. Bereft upon finishing, repeat readings never diminishing your love for what a book can do...

I know you.

You love books bought on foreign holidays, where the haze of sea salt and sangria infuses pages with possibility. The utility of cook books and car manuals; children's annuals from the seventies; the brevity and beauty of a pamphlet of poems; a familiar tale or one that's totally unknown. The pure flights of fancy and the ones that ring true...

I know you.

You scan bunches of bestsellers with your local weekly shop, narratives nestled neatly between the carrots and the pork chops. Stories snuggled in the boot amongst frozen peas and tins of stew...

I know you.

You love the books whose pages are stained sticky with elbow grease and creased at your favourite pages, the ones you whizz through and the ones that take ages. The ones whose edges are torn, covers covered in dints, whose black ink is smudged by the whirls of your fingerprints. You love pristine first editions that mean something to you, too.

I know you.

You love the books that fostered friendships and fandoms; the random, sustaining community that stories can create. The comforting weight of characters who feel like family. A deep-seated comradeship; the books that make you feel seen. The ones you love now, and those that nurtured you as a teen. The ones that helped you get back, and the ones that helped you through...

You love books; I know you.



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Thursday 9th July

The Lone Husky – Hannah Gold

10AM – 11AM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE



Free
Event



Part of our Schools and Home Educated Programme
Perfect for readers aged 8-12 years (KS2)

FREE - To book tickets, email hello@newarkbookfestival.org.uk

To book tickets, email hello@newarkbookfestival.org.uk

Hear about **Hannah Gold's** latest beautiful novel, **The Lone Husky**. A brand-new Arctic adventure from the internationally bestselling author of *The Last Bear* and *Finding Bear*. In this captivating story, a lovable duo, April and her Bear are joined by a reclusive Husky who becomes their secret weapon as they volunteer to take part in the Polar Race. Hannah's story balances urgent eco messages with heart, warmth and friendship.

Sponsored by East Midlands Energy Efficiency

Beyond the Blue – Dear Emily

10.30AM – 11.30AM

MEETING ROOM, NEWARK LIBRARY,
BEAUMOND GARDENS



£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Returning to the Festival for a fourth year, **Beyond the Blue** presents their brand-new show, **Dear Emily**, an evocative and poignant collection of songs inspired by the timeless poetry of **Emily Dickinson**. Through original music, they explore the themes we all know so well: the ache of solitude, the power of hope and the courage it takes to be heard. This is a musical mirror and a letter for everyone who is still finding their voice, mixing storytelling with captivating songs.



The Kingdom of Tigers – Felicity Yeoh

11AM – 12PM

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, CHURCH WALK

£2 per child. Adults free but must book.

Join author **Felicity Yeoh** for a musical suitcase production of **The Kingdom of Tigers**, a heartwarming new picture book about the environment, family and the search for a home, set in the Malaysian rainforest and inspired by UN Goodwill Ambassador and actress Michelle Yeoh.

Tiger cub Hari lives in the jungle. As deforestation threatens his home and separates him from his mother, Hari must brave the wild with the friends he meets along the way, to find his mother and the sanctuary of his dreams.

Thursday 9th July

Own the Awkward – Simon James Green

1.30PM – 2.30PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

Part of our schools and Home Educated Programme

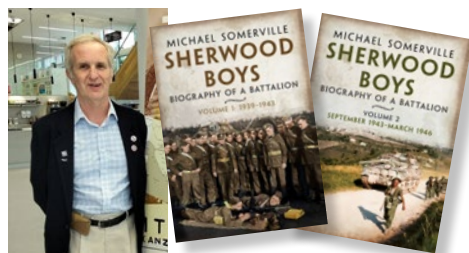
Perfect for readers aged 12-15 years

FREE - To book tickets,
email hello@newarkbookfestival.org.uk

Awkward teenage hilarity with a positive message? This interactive, laugh-out-loud event includes comedy anecdotes from Carnegie Medal nominated author **Simon James Green's** own (hapless) school days, an interactive synopsis, and a reminder of the power of comedy. There's a joyful and positive section on LGBTQ+ representation which everyone will enjoy, followed by a reading and a section about how Simon became an author, writing **Alex in Wonderland**, **Noah Can't Even**, **Heartbreak Boys** and many more titles.



Free Event



Sherwood Boys – Michael Somerville

1.30PM – 2.45PM

MEETING ROOM, NEWARK LIBRARY, BEAUMOND GARDENS

£6 / £4 Festival Friends

Discover the unique view of the British Army at war through the lens of a single battalion and the men who served in it. Join author and Military Historian **Michael Somerville** as he delves into his story of the 2/5th Sherwood Foresters and how ordinary men performed extraordinary feats to help win World War Two. Drawing on over 150 personal accounts, **Sherwood Boys** touches the hearts of specialist readers and those looking to find out more about their families' experience.

Great Art Explained with James Payne

7.30PM – 8.30PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£10 / £8 Festival Friends

Spend the evening with gallerist, curator, and writer **James Payne**, reframing how we see art. With a mission to democratise art and make it more accessible and entertaining, James started a YouTube channel, **Great Art Explained**, which now has over 60 million viewers worldwide.

Drawing on his three decades in the art world, he challenges long-held assumptions about what art is, who it is for, and how we engage with it. Expect stories of Michelangelo to Basquiat, Velázquez to Kusama, delivered with clarity, wit, and passion. Talk hosted by Dr Tim Rideout.



In partnership with
**Vibrant Matter,
Newark**

Friday 10th July

Capybara Disco Dreams with Frances Stickley

9.30AM – 10.15AM

LEARNING ROOM, PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

Perfect for children aged 3+ years

£2 per child. Adults are free but must book.

Join bestselling picture book author **Frances Stickley** as she and Colin the Capybara teach you all the latest moves from their new book, **Capybara Disco Dreams**. From the hip-hipping hippo to the boogying bear, you'll all be dancing like you just don't care.



Bring your child along for a multi-sensory disco experience where we meet Colin and all of his friends and play a range of different music and movement games designed to shake out our sillies and wiggle our waggles away.

Sponsored by Sarah & Duck



Alexandra Benedict



Michelle Harrison



Mysteries, Murder and Mayhem

10.30AM – 11.30AM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Step inside a world of dark secrets and deadly twists. Join acclaimed authors **Michelle Harrison, Sarah Hilary, and Alexandra Benedict** for a gripping Friday morning of suspense. From the tense, witchcraft-laced intrigue of **Two Little Liars**, to the haunting depths of **The Drowning Place**, and the fairy tale-twisting mystery of **Little Red Death**, expect chilling insights and captivating conversation. In discussion with Dr Tim Rideout.



Sarah Hilary

Friday 10th July



The Flight of Millicent Stanley

12PM - 7PM (13-MINUTE SCREENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DAY)

TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

FREE - No booking required.



Free Event

Discover the story of **Millicent Stanley** in a beautifully immersive installation by **Electric Egg** that brings Georgian Lincoln to life through animation, light, and sound. Step inside a clockmaker's workshop and follow Millicent, a young apprentice with dreams of flight, as inspiration strikes and imagination takes hold.

Blending projection mapping, theatrical set design, and spatial sound, this 13-minute multidimensional show surrounds you in a world of invention, wonder, and possibility. Performances run on a rolling basis throughout the day, simply arrive and catch the next showing.

Sponsored by Newark and Sherwood District Council

Orbs of the Openlands

1.30PM - 2.30PM

MEETING ROOM, NEWARK LIBRARY, BEAUMOND GARDENS

Perfect for readers aged 11-16

£6 / £4 Festival Friends



As an undead sorcerer rises and the Openlands edge toward ruin, a band of unlikely heroes must race to recover five ancient Orbs of power. Join **Lawrence Mahon**, **Clare Lawrence**, and **Olivia Macnab** for a lively discussion on this gripping fantasy series from Badger Books, created with hi-lo readers in mind by a neurodiverse author for neurodiverse audiences. Packed with peril, magic, and high-stakes choices, this series is perfect for readers aged 11-16, offering an accessible gateway into richly imagined fantasy worlds.



10 YEARS AGO

We began with 54 authors, that has risen to over 200 creatives visiting Newark!



Friday 10th July

The Gothic Revival

1.30PM - 2.30PM

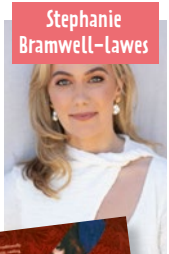
PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Enter a world of shadow, obsession, and simmering unease with two Gothic novelists. Join **Essie Fox**, Sunday Times bestselling author of **Catherine**, a bold, feminist reimagining of **Wuthering Heights**, alongside **Stephanie Bramwell-Lawes**, whose debut **Thornby Manor** channels the haunting brilliance of classic gothic fiction. Expect atmosphere, obsession, and beautifully crafted unease as these authors explore dark romance, mystery, and the enduring power of gothic storytelling. In conversation with Dr Tim Rideout.



Essie Fox



Stephanie Bramwell-Lawes



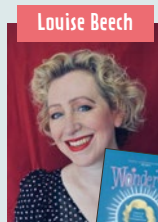
Now we are 10

3.30PM - 4.30PM | PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

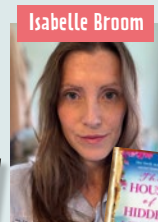
£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Five bestselling authors take to the stage to celebrate a decade of storytelling. Featuring **Louise Beech**, **Isabelle Broom**, **T. M. Logan**, **Sarah Ward**, and **Michael Wood**, this special event marks ten years since each first became published authors.

From gripping thrillers and crime fiction to emotionally rich contemporary stories, they'll reflect on their journeys, the realities of writing careers, and how their work has evolved over the past decade. Chaired by Louise Beech, expect honest insights, behind-the-scenes stories, and a celebration of creativity, resilience, and the power of storytelling.



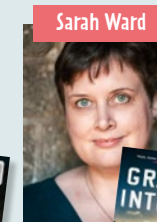
Louise Beech



Isabelle Broom



Michael Wood



Sarah Ward



T.M. Logan



Becoming an Independent Author with J.A.C Beardmore

4PM - 5PM

MEETING ROOM, NEWARK LIBRARY,
BEAUMOND GARDENS

£4 / £2 Festival Friends

Discover the realities of going it alone in publishing in this interview with independently published and widely recognised author, **J.A.C Beardmore** (who's been penning stories since the age of seven). This session explores his journey to becoming an author and building a cult following in North America, alongside a look at **This Way Lies Madness**, the latest in the THUMBverse series, that blends horror, comedy and sharp satire. Interviewed by Alex Lewczuk.



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Newark

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The Walking Cure

7.30PM - 8.30PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£12 / £10 Festival Friends

Discover the restorative power of the natural world with **Annabel Streets**, award-winning writer and dubbed "the Queen of walking."

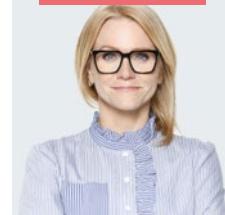
In **The Walking Cure**, she explores the surprising benefits of 20 everyday landscapes, from city parks and rivers to coastal paths and mountain trails, revealing how each can transform mood, mind, and overall wellbeing.



Antti Tuomainen



Katrín Júlíusdóttir



Nordic Noir

9.30AM - 10.30AM

TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR
CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

£6 / £4 Festival Friends

Dark, gripping, and laced with sharp wit. Bringing together two standout voices in Scandinavian crime fiction published by Orenda Books. **Antti Tuomainen**, dubbed "the funniest writer in Europe," with **The Winter Job**, a darkly comic thriller racing through the frozen Finnish landscape with chaos, heart, and high stakes. **Katrín Júlíusdóttir** presents her latest novel, **Stop Dead**, an international bestseller that follows a detective-in-training caught in a deadly race against time. Expect chilling tension, unexpected humour, and thrilling insight into the Nordic noir genre. Interviewed by the festival's Artistic Director, Sara Bullimore.

Literature Village

THE COLONNADES, NEWARK TOWN HALL
9.30AM - 4PM

FREE

Wonderful local bookish crafts and trinkets, stories and books of all genres. Find the Literature Village inside the entrance to Newark Town Hall, spreading through the Lobby, Colonnades and Prison Cells.

Meet the Fosseway Writers

NEWARK BOOK SHOP, QUEEN'S HEAD COURT
9AM - 1PM

FREE

Meet the voices behind Newark's thriving writing scene at Meet the Fosseway Writers. Head to Newark Book Shop for an informal and friendly opportunity to chat with local authors, explore their books, and learn more about this long-established group.

Fosseway Writers offers a welcoming, supportive space for writers at every stage, whether you're just starting or looking to develop your craft. Discover how their workshops, socials, and community spirit help bring stories to life.



The Doodling Poet

NEWARK LIBRARY (OUT & ABOUT)
9AM - 1PM - DROP IN

FREE

Expect laughter, creativity, and a whirlwind of imagination with **Chris White**, writer, illustrator, and performance poet from Derby. Known as **The Doodling Poet**, Chris brings his books, including **The A-Z of Completely Made-Up Dinosaurs** and **Don't Put Dave in the Microwave!**, to life. Packed with doodles and poems, you're invited to draw, write, and let your imagination run wild. Find The Doodling Poet pop-up in and around Newark Library.

Free Events



Saturday 11th July



The Singing Mermaid

9AM - 10AM | 10.30AM - 11.30AM | 12PM - 1PM
ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, CHURCH WALK

FREE - Booking required.

Dive into a magical undersea adventure with professional actor **Kirsty Baker** from Rhubarb Theatre. **The Singing Mermaid** will captivate you with her lively interactive storytelling before you get hands-on in a creative workshop, perfect for sparking young imaginations.



Free Events

Meet Peter Rabbit

10AM, 2PM & 4PM
WATERSTONES NEWARK, STODMAN STREET

FREE

Join the team at Waterstones for a weekend of hopping good fun! Meet **Peter Rabbit** and join the hunt to find the squad of cute and cool characters who have escaped and hidden around the store. Locate them all to win a sweet treat!



AIMEE'S
Book
CLUBS



Newark Book Festival's Book Club

10AM - 12PM
MEETING ROOM, NEWARK LIBRARY, BEAUMOND GARDENS

FREE - Booking required

Join us for the first ever Newark Book Festival Book Club, hosted by **Aimee Horton**, who runs fun and inclusive book clubs across Lincolnshire. We'll be reading **One Thousand Stars and You** by **Isabelle Broom**, and everyone is welcome - whether you're a seasoned book club regular or someone who's always wanted to try one but felt a little unsure. Come along on your own or with friends and enjoy a relaxed, friendly couple of hours of good conversation and a chance to connect with others who love books.

Free Event



Saturday 11th July



The Storm Cloud

11AM - 12PM
CHILDREN'S AREA,
NEWARK LIBRARY

Perfect for
children aged 5+

FREE -
No booking required

Join bestselling picture book author **Frances Stickley** for a reading of her new book, *The Storm Cloud*, as part of the Summer Reading Challenge. Then, have fun with some arts and crafts as you make your own Storm Cloud dreamcatcher to take home and finish.

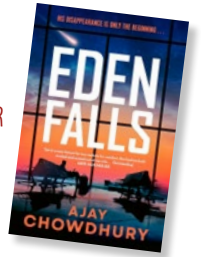
Free Event

Deadly Landscapes

11.30AM - 12.30PM
TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR
CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

£6 / £4 Festival Friends

How does setting shape suspense? Three leading crime writers explore the power of place in their work. **G.D. Wright** draws on his experience as a retired police officer in the tightly plotted **Against the Tide**. **Ajay Chowdhury**, award-winning creator of the Kamil Rahman series, brings a speculative edge with **Eden Falls**. **M. J. Arlidge** returns with **Out of the Ashes**, a gripping DI Helen Grace thriller. In conversation with Alex Hawley, this session uncovers how landscapes become characters in their own right.



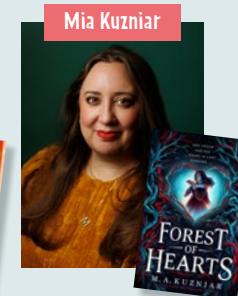
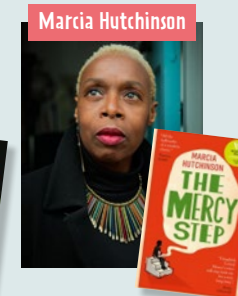
Battle of the Genres

1PM - 2PM | PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Four authors. Four genres. One lively literary showdown. *Battle of the Genres* brings together **Mia Kuzniar** (fantasy), **Laura Purcell** (gothic horror & historical fiction), **Marcia Hutchinson** (contemporary), and **Tom Mead** (golden age crime) as they go head-to-head to champion their craft.

From magical fantasy worlds and dark histories to powerful contemporary storytelling and classic crime, expect spirited debate, fascinating insights, and plenty of surprises as each author makes the case for their genre in an interview with Dr Tim Rideout.



Saturday 11th July

Harriet Tyce: Witch Trial

3PM - 4PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

Gripping, provocative, and impossible to put down, **Witch Trial** sees The Traitors contestant **Harriet Tyce** at her most compelling. A former criminal barrister and bestselling author of **Blood Orange**, Tyce joins us on stage with her tense new novel exploring truth, trust, and the power of public judgement.

When a murdered classmate casts a long shadow over two teenage girls, a modern-day witch trial ignites, dividing a nation. Who's telling the truth, and what really happened? In conversation with Dr Tim Rideout.

Sponsored by Tailored Marketing Solutions



An evening with Jay McGuiness

7PM - 8PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£12 / £10 Festival Friends

Join us for an evening with **Jay McGuiness**, best known as a vocalist in the boyband The Wanted and winner of Strictly Come Dancing, as he discusses his latest fantasy novel, **Poison Tides** the sequel to his debut hit **Blood Flowers**. Now forging a powerful path in writing, Jay's dystopian fantasy explores identity, power, and belonging through the journey of Bear, a small-town boy navigating a world that is as treacherous as it is transformative.

In conversation with **Coco Omer**, a dynamic cultural commentator and creator behind **The Cult of Coco**, known for championing stories across books, film, and TV, expect a lively, insightful discussion full of energy and humour.

There will be a post-event meet and greet with Jay McGuiness, where he'll be signing copies of **Blood Flowers** and **Poison Tides**. Please note that due to time constraints, Jay McGuiness will only be able to sign books purchased at the festival.



Sunday 12th July

Literature Village

10AM - 3.00PM - NEWARK MARKET PLACE

FREE

We're taking over the Market Place! Find local crafts, bookish organisations, authors and published books of all genres at the Festival Literary Village, under the red and white stripes of Newark's Royal Market.

You'll also find the festival's **Storybook Emporium** by **Ally Pally Arts** hosting our very special Birthday Party zone with free children's crafts, with some of your favourite picture book characters and stories.



Free Event



The Overthinkers Club: Happy List

10.30AM - 11.30AM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

Perfect for children aged 9+ years

£4 / £3 Festival Friends

Funny, honest, and full of relatable chaos, **The Overthinkers Club** introduces a brilliantly anxious new heroine from **Nat Luurtsema**, BAFTA-nominated screenwriter and stand-up comic.

Meet Birdie, a champion worrier facing friendship changes, big life shifts, and all the awkward moments in between. Can a "Happy List" really keep her overthinking in check? Packed with humour and heart, this illustrated diary-style story is perfect for readers aged 9+. In conversation with Festival Board member Kate Hancock.

Cancer Works - Alex Kinnear-Mellor

10AM - 11.30AM

GANNETS DAYCAFÉ & BISTRO, 35 CASTLE GATE

£10 - Including coffee and cake

How do you balance a career with not dying? Join **Alex Kinnear-Mellor** in a refreshingly real and unexpectedly uplifting conversation about cancer. Enjoy a short reading of Alex's book **Cancer Works: Balancing your career with not dying**, followed by an informal "ask me anything" discussion, where no question is off limits, from the practical to the deeply personal. A relaxed, no-judgement space to explore the realities of cancer in a way we rarely get to, and with delicious coffee and cake.



Sunday 12th July

Meet Peter Rabbit

11AM, 1PM & 3PM
WATERSTONES NEWARK, STODMAN STREET



Free Event



FREE

Join the team at Waterstones for a weekend of hopping good fun! Meet **Peter Rabbit** and join the hunt to find the squad of cute and cool characters who have escaped and hidden around the store. Locate them all to win a sweet treat!



Pilgrim Cello

11AM - 12PM
TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

A unique account of a remarkable journey of one man on a bicycle with his cello strapped to the front. Enjoy the powerful live cello performance by **Kenneth Wilson** as he retells the journey cycling 1,900 miles to all forty-two English cathedrals, filling these sacred spaces with the music of Bach.



Paddington Cook & Craft Workshop



11AM - 12.30PM
LEARNING ROOM, PALACE THEATRE NEWARK

Perfect for children aged 2-11 years
£10 per child (accompanying adults free)

Come and bring the stories of Paddington alive with a delicious marmalade cake cooking workshop run by **Jess Mitchell** from **Cook Stars**. While the cakes bake, enjoy bear-themed arts and crafts, a drink and snack, and stories for you to read together, Happy Birthday Paddington!

All tools, aprons, and ingredients for the workshops are provided.



Sunday 12th July

Wenallt Star

1PM - 2.30PM (WITH INTERVAL)
PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends



A bold and immersive live performance with writer/musician **David Lambert** and **Sean South**. Blending spoken text, narration, and live and recorded music, this performance brings to life fourteen original texts set against a rich mix of electronic, punk, and atmospheric soundscapes.

Created after Lambert paused his second novel and turned to published inspiration that also addresses themes of family, loss, racism, memory, deceit, bisexuality, identity and love. Each piece has been transformed and developed in collaboration with musicians, resulting in a powerful, multi-sensory performance exploring identity, memory, and imagination. www.wenalltstar.com



Wildlife & Words

1PM - 2.30PM
MEET - OUTSIDE TOWN HALL

£4 - 30-min walk followed by 60-min workshop at the Learning Room, Palace Theatre, Newark, Appletongate

Join award-winning writer and facilitator **Emma Oldham** for a gentle, creative workshop that blends walking, urban wildlife, observation and writing, that invites you to slow down and see Newark with fresh eyes. After a 30-minute walk, you'll gather your words for a writing workshop, transforming your observations into poetry or micro-fiction. Perfect for beginners and experienced writers alike.

Young Ambassadors VS Interviewers

2PM - 3PM
TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

£4

Four of Newark Book Festival's **Young Ambassadors** turn the tables in this lively and unpredictable session, putting the festival's interviewers and organisers in the hot seat. Featuring the festival's interviewers, **Dr Tim Rideout** and **Alex Hawley**, Southside Broadcaster **Alex Lewczuk**, and Waterstones Newark Manager **Megan Taylor**. Expect sharp questions, behind-the-scenes insights, and plenty of surprises as the next generation of readers takes charge.



Young Ambassadors
2024

Sunday 12th July

Wine & Words

3PM - 5PM (DOORS OPEN 2.30PM)

LETSXCAPE CAFÉ, UNIT 16, ROYAL MARKET SQUARE

£15.00 - To book tickets, call Fiona on 07553 928099

Join local poets **Fiona Theokritoff** and **Jane Wyles** for an afternoon of poetry, wine and afternoon tea at Newark's Boardgame Café. Fiona and Jane will perform an entertaining mix of their own work, as well as some well-loved poems. You'll also have the chance to contribute to the Wine and Words poem for 2026! Tickets include a welcome drink, plus tea and scones.



Go All In: Reading for Pleasure

3.30PM - 4.30PM

PALACE THEATRE, NEWARK, APPLETONGATE

£7 / £5 Festival Friends

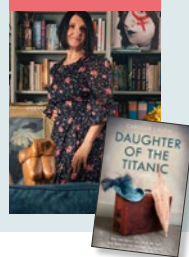
Celebrate the joy and power of reading at this special "Go All In" Year of Reading event, championing reading for pleasure at every stage of life. In conversation with **Nick Quantrill**, three authors explore how stories shape us, comfort us, and bring us back to ourselves.

L. C. Winter introduces **Spider Spider**, a gothic debut steeped in atmosphere and human connection. **Mike Gayle** shares **On We Go**, a deeply moving story of loss, love, and rediscovery. **Dr Caroline Cauchi** discusses **Daughter of the Titanic**, a powerful reimagining of memory, myth, and legacy.

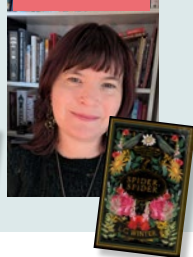
Together, they'll reflect on why reading for pleasure matters, for children, teens, and adults alike, and how building a reading culture at home and beyond can transform lives.



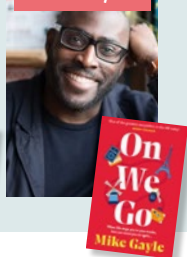
Dr Caroline Cauchi



L.C. Winter



Mike Gayle



Toby and the Pixies, Draw-a-Long Workshop

4PM - 5PM

TUDOR HALL, NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, APPLETONGATE

Perfect for children aged 7-9 years

£4 / £3 Festival Friends

Discover all the secrets of making great comics, from character design to speech bubbles, and have a lot of fun along the way. Join comics writer and artist **James Turner**, creator of the award-winning Star Cat graphic novel series and writer of **Toby and the Pixies**, in a draw-a-long workshop. Come up with your own magical pixie characters and learn how to bring your characters to life in a silly adventure.



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The programme is correct at the time of going to print. However, Newark Book Festival reserves the right to alter the programme or to substitute participants at events if circumstances make it necessary.