

Manchester Literature Festival 7—23 October 2016

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Manchester Literature Festival 7—23 October 2016

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Welcome

Manchester Literature Festival is a place where authors, poets and broadcasters come together to share stories. Some of these stories enthrall us with breathtaking plot twists and great leaps of imagination. Others are real-life stories that challenge and inspire us. Events like Refugee Tales, The Good Immigrant and Powerlines reflect the turbulence of the world we're living in and remind us why we need to come together to fight discrimination and xenophobia.

Manchester is a revolutionary, multicultural city and we are proud that this year's Festival features a wealth of talented regional, national and international authors, including Jackie Kay, Lemn Sissay, Ben Okri, Margaret Atwood, Lionel Shriver, Anne Enright and Tracy Chevalier, as well as visiting writers from Sweden, Holland, Spain, Sudan, Bangladesh and North and South Korea.

We celebrate stories from the South Asian Diaspora in a special series of events curated in partnership with Karachi Literature Festival and welcome back one of Pakistan's most acclaimed young writers, Kamila Shamsie, to deliver this year's Castlefield Manchester Sermon.

One of the UK's most lauded poets Jean Sprackland premieres new poems inspired by her time on a canal boat cruise from the peak district to Manchester, and acclaimed author Deborah Levy performs original work responding to Manchester Art Gallery's Fashion & Freedom 14–18 NOW exhibition.

International fashion designer and pioneering activist Vivienne Westwood, Olivier Award-winning actor Alan Cumming, legendary songwriter and guitarist Johnny Marr and politician Alan Johnson share their ideas and passions with us. Leading science writer Yuval Noah Harari discusses artificial intelligence and 21st century inequality.

From performances by leading children's poets Michael Rosen and Valerie Bloom and a Rockin' Rhinos gig, to theatre adaptations of children's picture books and a cartooning workshop, there are some novel ways to entertain the whole family.

Please join us for an unforgettable feast of stories and ideas!

Cathy Bolton & Sarah-Jane Roberts
Festival Co-directors

Foreword

We are delighted to continue our support of literature across the UK through our partnership with Manchester Literature Festival.

HSBC is committed to helping people fulfil their hopes and dreams and realise their ambitions, as well as supporting the communities we serve.

Now in its 11th year, the Festival is a great celebration of literature from around the world for all ages.

Literature is a great passion for many of us, and the Festival's values of promoting international exchange and cultural understanding are very much in line with HSBC's values.

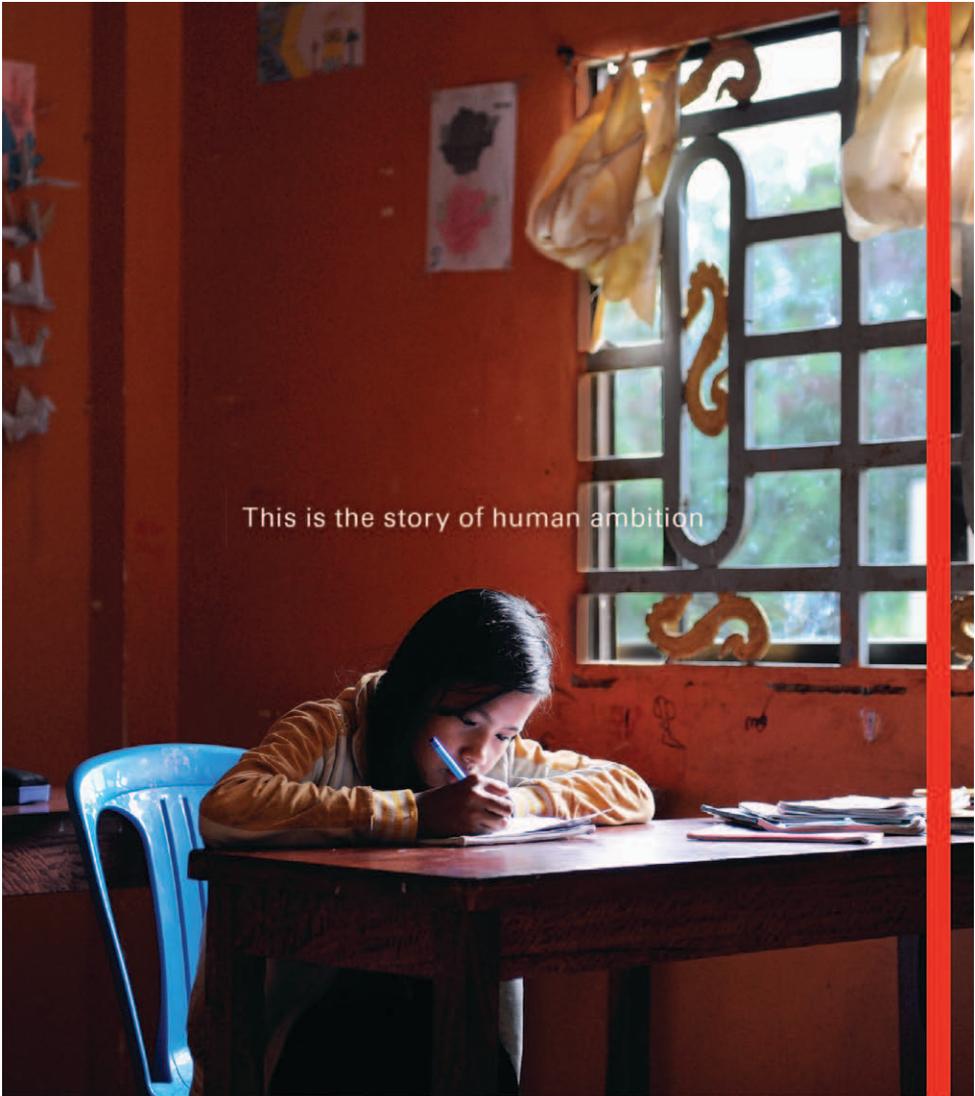
We look forward to welcoming our guests and thousands of visitors to Manchester in October.

António Simões
CEO, HSBC Bank plc



Principal Sponsor





This is the story of human ambition

There's ambition in all of us.
We're here to support you in any way we can.

HSBC 

GET CLOSER MEMBERSHIP

Become a Member of our Get Closer Membership scheme.

Support the Festival, be the first to hear the latest MLF news, enjoy priority booking and join us for special members-only events.

Join now and receive these benefits:

Member: £20pa

- 10 days priority booking for main Festival from 5 August ahead of general public 'on-sale' from 15 August and 7 days priority booking on year round events
- Members only 'meet the author' events
- Subscription to members only monthly e-newsletter (featuring must-read new authors, publication dates for new anticipated best-sellers, exclusive interviews with MLF authors and suggested reading from the Festival team etc)
- 10% off books purchased at Festival events with our partner Waterstones
- Occasional ticket offers and discounts from our partners



Premium Member: £50pa

Membership is strictly limited to 50 persons

Go the extra mile and receive all Members' benefits plus:

- Reserved seating
- Invitation to annual VIP Festival Launch event with Drinks Reception
- Annual Premium members-only special event

To join, simply add the preferred membership to your shopping basket when you book tickets* at manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Programme Notes

The 11th edition of the Manchester Literature Festival offers a bigger and more eclectic programme than ever before, with over 80 events to choose from. To help you navigate our busy schedule, we've badged events under several themed categories:

Bookend

Enjoy a pre or post Festival event with some of the most inspiring and entertaining thinkers and artists of our generation including leading science writer Yuval Noah Harari, Olivier (and Tony) Award-winning actor Alan Cumming, and Mancunian guitarist and songwriter Johnny Marr.

Main Event

Encounter some of your literary heroes in prestigious and unusual settings across the city and beyond.

New Commission

Experience world premieres of new work created especially for the Festival. This includes our annual Castlefield Manchester Sermon, our first Royal Literary Fund Lecture, and exciting commissions in collaboration with The Midland, Manchester Art Gallery, and the Canal & River Trust.

World Literature

Expand your reading horizons by checking out some of our acclaimed writers from around the world. Hear stories from other cultures and countries including Bangladesh, China, Korea, Netherlands, Spain, Sudan and Sweden. In partnership with the Karachi Literature Festival and the British Council, we are also delighted to present a special series of events showcasing voices from the South Asian Diaspora.

Rising Stars

Discover the authors, poets and spoken word artists of the future at our special showcase events. This series is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Literary Reputations

Revisit the work and discuss the legacy of past literary icons including Beryl Bainbridge, Charlotte Brontë, Graham Greene, Patricia Highsmith, Barry Hines and Vita Sackville-West, and celebrate 50 years of British Counterculture.

Weightmans Walking Tours

Discover the haunts of Manchester's literati in our ever-popular Walking Tours, exploring every genre from gothic to working class literature. This series is sponsored by Weightmans LLP.

Young Readers

Inspire a new generation of book lovers at our events aimed at schools and families.

Young Readers' Projects

In addition to our main events, Manchester Literature Festival also has a year-round programme of activities for children and young people. Taking place throughout Greater Manchester, these activities use stories as inspiration to engage young people as the readers and writers of the future. Current projects include:

Writing Squad

We are delighted to be working with The Writing Squad to support emerging young writers from the North West region to develop their craft. Our Squad offers ten writers aged 16–21 the chance to work with each other and with professional tutors for two years. Alongside this they are also offered on-going support to help make their way in the literature industry. Examples of their work can be found at writingsquad.com/push.

Story Time with Dad

We are working with fathers to help them engage with their children's reading habits, and to encourage reading for pleasure in early years and school-age children with regular reading groups in libraries across Manchester. We deliver Story Time with Dad in Levenshulme, Longsight, North City and Manchester Central libraries on a monthly basis. All families are welcome at our relaxed and fun sessions that focus on reading together, playing together and learning together. This project is Lottery funded through The Big Lottery Fund and generously supported by The Ernest Cook Trust and The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust.

Digital Reporters

Prior to the Festival we recruit a team of young Digital Reporters between the age of 15 and 25 and offer them an opportunity to attend and review our events. It's a fantastic opportunity for participants to flex their journalistic muscles, see their favourite authors speak, and to pick up new skills along the way. Their reviews are published on our Chapter & Verse blog.

Projects in the Pipeline

We will be working with New Writing North, Women's Voices and Longsight Library to deliver a writing in residence project that will work with women refugees. We will also be working in partnership with The Writing Squad to deliver a project supported by The Madeline Mabey Trust that will work with passionate young writers in Manchester.

At a Glance

Bookend

Yuval Noah Harari: The New Inequality 11

Thursday 8th September, 7.30pm
The Dancehouse

Johnny Marr: Set The Boy Free 61

Monday 7th November, 7.30pm
RNCM

An Evening with Alan Cumming 61

Saturday 26th November, 7.30pm
Contact

Main Event

Margaret Atwood 14

Friday 7th October, 7pm
RNCM

Black and Asian Writers Conference 15

Saturday 8th October, 10am – 11pm
Various Venues

Gillian Slovo 16

Saturday 8th October, 2pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Lemn Sissay 17

Saturday 8th October, 7 – 9pm
Contact

Bad Language featuring Henry Normal 19

Saturday 8th October, 7.30pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Afternoon Tea with Jenni Murray 20

Sunday 9th October, 3pm
Trafford Suite, The Midland

Rose Tremain 22

Monday 10th October, 7pm
Central Library

Beverley Bie Brahic, Jeffrey Wainwright & Matthew Welton 22

Monday 10th October, 7.30pm
Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Jonathan Safran Foer 25

In Conversation with Jeanette Winterson
Tuesday 11th October, 6.30pm
Central Library

Manchester Cathedral Poetry Prize 25

Featuring Michael Symmons Roberts & Jo Bell

Tuesday 11th October, 7pm
Manchester Cathedral

The Good Immigrant 26

Featuring Inua Ellams, Himesh Patel, Miss L & Nikesh Shukla

Tuesday 11th October, 7.30pm
Gorilla

Lionel Shriver 30

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Out of Bounds: Black and Asian British Poets 31

Thursday 13th October, 7pm
Chapter One

An Evening with Jackie Kay 36

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Hallé St Peter's

Shetland with Ann Cleeves 43

Monday 17th October, 6.30pm
Central Library

Anne Enright 43

Monday 17th October, 7pm
Hallé St Peter's

Kes with Ian McMillan & Richard Hines 44

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Afternoon Tea with Tracy Chevalier 44

Tuesday 18th October, 3pm
Wyvern Suite, The Midland

At a Glance

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& Blind Monk Trio** 45
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Gorilla

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Thursday 20th October, 1pm
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Anna Beer 54
The Forgotten Women of Classical Music
Friday 21st October, 7pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Vivienne Westwood 54
Friday 21st October, 7.30pm
RNCM

The Real Story 58
Featuring Horatio Clare
Saturday 22nd October, 7.30pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Afternoon Tea with Alan Johnson 60
Sunday 23rd October, 3pm
Trafford Suite, The Midland

New Commissions

Afternoon Tea with Jane Rogers 28
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Wyvern Suite, The Midland

Castlefield Manchester Sermon: 32
Kamila Shamsie
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Manchester Cathedral

The Royal Literary Fund 40
Lecture: Ben Okri
Sunday 16th October, 4pm
Whitworth Art Gallery

Deborah Levy: Fashion & Freedom 52
Friday 21st October, 1pm
Manchester Art Gallery

Jean Sprackland: Lock Songs 60
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Hope Mill Theatre

World Literature

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Friday 7th October, 1pm
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Cristina Sánchez-Andrade 14
Friday 7th October, 6.30pm
INNSIDE Manchester

Susan Barker 16
Saturday 8th October, 4pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

At a Glance

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Writing Karachi: Mohammed Hanif & Kamila Shamsie	38
Sunday 16th October, 2pm Whitworth Art Gallery	
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Rising Stars

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Louise Doughty on Graham Greene	23
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At a Glance

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Barry Miles & Iain Sinclair in Conversation
Wednesday 12th October, 6pm
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Olivia Laing: The Lonely City 27
Wednesday 12th October, 6pm
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Jill Dawson: The Crime Writer 27
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Portico Library

Brendan King on Beryl Bainbridge 35
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Portico Library

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Portico Library

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Sunday 16th October, 5.30pm
Elizabeth Gaskell's House

Reader, I Married Him 45
**Charlotte Brontë celebration with
Tracy Chevalier & Nadifa Mohamed**
Tuesday 18th October, 6.30pm
Central Library

Gavin McCrea: Mrs Engels 46
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Weightmans Walking Tours

Literary Manchester Walking Tour 15
Saturday 8th October, 11am
Wednesday 12th October, 1pm
Meet outside The Midland

Elizabeth Gaskell Walking Tour 19
Sunday 9th October, 1 – 4.30pm
Tuesday 11th October, 1 – 4.30pm
Meet Town Hall steps, Albert Square

**Manchester Thinkers and Drinkers
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Thursday 13th October, 6 – 8.30pm
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Meet inside the Corn Exchange atrium

Listen to the Women! Walking Tour 32
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Young Readers

Valerie Bloom 11
Tuesday 20th September, 11am
Royal Exchange Theatre

Michael Rosen 12
Friday 7th October, 10.30am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm
Z-arts

Hey Presto! 33
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Longsight Library and Learning Centre

Rockin' Rhinos 38
Sunday 16th October, 3pm
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**Family Reading Day: Cerrie Burnell,
Nick Sharratt & Kristina Stephenson** 55
Saturday 22nd October, 10am – 4.30pm
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**Comic Art Masterclass with
Kev F Sutherland** 55
Saturday 22nd October, 11am & 2pm
Central Library

Yuval Noah Harari The New Inequality: Will the 21st Century Be the Most Unequal Era in History?

MLF and Waterstones Deansgate are proud to present one of the most exciting and provocative thinkers today. Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens* was on the Sunday Times top ten bestseller list for over six months and has now been published in nearly 40 languages worldwide. His forthcoming book, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*, examines the future of humankind and his theories on the rise of data religion, artificial intelligence and genetic engineering. The Guardian dubbed it 'a provocative, and certainly speculative, gallop through the hopes and dreams that will shape the future of the species.' Come and hear him discuss why the 20th century was the great era of equality and how the 21st century, and its revolutions in biotechnology, economics and politics, may re-open some of the gaps with a vengeance.

Thursday 8th September, 7.30pm

The Dancehouse
Tickets £10/£8 or £22/£20 for ticket and
a copy of *Homo Deus*
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Valerie Bloom

Children will be thrilled by this exuberant and interactive poetry performance by Valerie Bloom. Valerie is an outstanding performer who delights in being on stage. Children will find themselves at the market, bargaining Jamaican-style for groceries, or balancing an imaginary tray on their heads and swaying as they sing the cake seller's song. Think ripe bananas and fresh callaloo, jerk chicken and rice an' peas. This performance bursts with fun and flavour! Suitable for children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Tuesday 20th September, 11am

Royal Exchange Theatre
Tickets £5
Book on 07866 311486 or
email liz.bookshaw@gmail.com

Michael Rosen

Manchester Literature Festival and Z-arts are delighted to announce the return of Michael Rosen, one of the UK's best-known figures in the children's book world. The fifth Children's Laureate and a passionate advocate of children's reading, Michael has published numerous poetry collections, picture books and anthologies for children including *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *This is Our House* and *Centrally Heated Knickers*. Come and hear Michael perform some of his favourite poems at what are sure to be three unforgettable events suitable for children at Key Stage 2, and children aged 7+ and their families.

Friday 7th October, 10.30am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Z-arts

Tickets £5

Book on 0161 232 6089

or z-arts.org

Tommy Wieringa

A rare Manchester appearance for one of Holland's greatest novelists, Tommy Wieringa, who celebrates the publication in English of his acclaimed novella, *A Beautiful Young Wife*. A brilliant microbiologist in his forties marries an alluring younger woman, only to learn that even his beautiful young wife cannot stop him from growing older – a lesson which turns out to have dramatic consequences. It's an unputdownable tale of sex, hubris and human frailty that has been compared to the work of Julian Barnes. Tommy Wieringa is author of four novels, including *These Are the Names*, *Joe Speedboat* and *Little Caesar* (shortlisted for the IMPAC Award and Holland's AKO Literature Prize). The Guardian called his writing 'poetic, ambitious and brave.' Tommy will be in conversation with Steve Dearden.

Friday 7th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)

Book on 0843 208 0500

or manchestreliteraturefestival.co.uk



**Margaret
Atwood
Hag-Seed
7 October**

Cristina Sánchez-Andrade

The Winterlings

Two sisters return to their grandfather's house in rural Galicia, the place they fled to as children, but their arrival wakes up long-dormant ghosts and memories. When American actress Ava Gardner arrives in Tierra de Chá to shoot a film, the Winterlings have a chance at stardom – will their past get in the way of their future? Cristina Sánchez-Andrade is a journalist and literary critic who has published three previous novels – her third, *Your King No Longer Walks this Earth*, won the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize and has been translated into English and Portuguese. Recently translated into English, *The Winterlings* was Heralde Novel Prize Finalist in 2013. 'Cristina Sánchez-Andrade is, without question, one of the most powerful female voices Spanish literature has produced,' said *La Razón*. Join us for an evening of fiction in translation and discussion chaired by Michael Schmidt presented in partnership with Instituto Cervantes.

Friday 7th October 6.30pm

INNSIDE Manchester

Tickets are free but booking is advised (Donations welcome on the door)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Margaret Atwood

Hag-Seed

'It's got a thunderstorm in it. And revenge. Definitely revenge.' A theatre director staging a groundbreaking production of *The Tempest* is betrayed and finds himself in exile; can the play that heralded his downfall bring about his redemption? Acclaimed Canadian author and MLF favourite Margaret Atwood returns to launch *Hag-Seed*, her imaginative retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The latest of the acclaimed Hogarth Shakespeare commissions, the play's incendiary collision of nature, enchantment and emotion is a natural fit for Atwood: artistic visionary and teller of magical tales. The author of more than 40 books of fiction, poetry and essays including *The Handmaid's Tale*, the Booker-winning *The Blind Assassin*, the MaddAddam trilogy and most recently *The Heart Goes Last*. She will be in conversation with writer and critic Alex Clark.

Please note: Margaret Atwood will not be signing books at this event. All those opting for the ticket and book deal will be guaranteed a pre-signed copy of *Hag-Seed*.

Friday 7th October, 7pm

RNCM Theatre

Tickets £12/10 or £25/£23 for ticket and a signed copy of *Hag-Seed*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Black and Asian Writers Conference

In a year when the lack of diversity in publishing has sparked a series of national initiatives such as the Jhalak Prize, the need to support BAME writers in the UK has never been greater. The 8th Black and Asian Writers Conference will be the most ambitious yet, encompassing a full day of talks, interviews and workshops covering everything from Afrofuturism, flash fiction and immersive poetry, concluding with an evening event headlined by Manchester's own Lemn Sissay (tickets available separately). With a confirmed lineup of speakers including Dawn Walton, Desiree Reynolds, Nii Parkes, Sandeep Parmar, Afshan D'souza-Lodhi and JJ Bola, it's sure to be a thought-provoking and inspiring day. Presented by Cultureword. Visit the website www.cultureword.org.uk/bawc16 to see the full list of events and buy tickets.

Saturday 8th October, 10am–11pm

Various Venues

Tickets £5–£20

Book on <https://bawc16.eventbrite.co.uk>

Weightmans Walking Tours

Literary Manchester Walking Tour With Anne Beswick

No city in the world is more storied than this one. So why not spend a pleasant afternoon rambling through the streets of Manchester while you learn about its literary heritage? In this walking tour, expertly guided by Mancunian book lover Anne Beswick, you'll hear about the many writers who have committed the metropolis to print, from our women of letters – Shelagh Delaney, Dodie Smith and Hilary Mantel – to our men – Anthony Burgess, Howard Jacobson and Walter Greenwood, among others. Come delve into the fascinating marginalia of the place that Benjamin Disraeli called 'the most wonderful city of modern times.'

Saturday 8th October, 11am

Wednesday 12th October, 1pm

Meet outside The Midland

Tickets £9

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Gillian Slovo

With London in the grip of a heatwave, things can happen fast. And when a man dies in police custody his death has an immediate impact, setting in motion a chain of events with repercussions at the highest political levels. Described as 'House of Cards meets Homeland', Gillian Slovo's intense new thriller *Ten Days* has drawn praise from writers and critics including Kamila Shamsie, who called it 'an extraordinary novel – a page-turner thick with greed, ambition, love and secrets, and simultaneously an incisive portrayal of power and powerlessness in today's Britain.' Born in South Africa but based in London, Gillian is a playwright and the author of 13 acclaimed books including the Orange-shortlisted *Ice Road* and courtroom drama *Red Dust*, now a film starring Hilary Swank and Chiwetel Ejiofor. The author will be in conversation with Observer writer Rachel Cooke.

Saturday 8th October, 2pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

World Literature

Susan Barker

A taxi driver in Beijing starts receiving letters from someone claiming to have known him for a thousand years, and so begins a wild ride back through time. Susan Barker's remarkable novel *The Incarnations*, winner of a Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize, is the result of deep engagement with China's history and culture. At this special event presented in partnership with the Confucius Institute, she will discuss the time she spent writing and researching the novel in Beijing and the way she interweaves characters from the Tang and Ming Dynasties, the Mongol invasion, the Opium Wars and the Cultural Revolution in the book. The *New York Times* called the book 'dazzling...her natural storytelling gifts shine from every paragraph.' Susan Barker is the author of two previous novels, *Sayonara Bar* and *The Orientalist* and the *Ghost*, both longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. Introduced by MLF Chair Jerome de Groot.

Saturday 8th October, 4pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Literary Reputations

Juliet Nicolson A House Full of Daughters

Every family is an ongoing story, peopled by characters who gradually fade from the page. In her fascinating book *A House Full of Daughters*, Juliet Nicolson turns her historian's eye on her own heritage – searching out the details behind the legendary allure of her flamenco-dancing great grandmother Pepita, the eccentricity of grandmother Vita Sackville-West, and her mother's Tory-conventional background. A sharp-eyed investigation into the nature of memory, familial love and the stories we tell about ourselves, it's a book full of wisdom and hope. Juliet Nicolson is the author of two history books about Great War-era Britain, *The Great Silence* and *The Perfect Summer*, and a novel, *Abdication*. *A House Full of Daughters* was featured on BBC Radio 4, and *The Guardian* described it as 'funny in parts, painful in others but always honest.' Hosted by Libby Tempest, former Senior Librarian at Central Library.

Saturday 8th October, 4pm

Portico Library

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Lemn Sissay

Longtime friend of the Festival, award-winning poet and University of Manchester Chancellor, Lemn Sissay returns to headline a celebration of diversity in writing following the 8th annual Black and Asian Writers Conference. One of the nation's best-loved voices, Lemn is the author of several volumes of poetry alongside articles, public art and plays. His *Landmark Poems* are installed throughout Manchester and London and he is frequently broadcast on radio and television. He will be performing a selection of new and favourite poems from his recent *Canongate* collection, *Gold from the Stone*. *The Independent* said, 'his name is magic, his poems are songs on the street.' Lemn will be supported by competition-winning writers from Cultureword performing a series of short monologues about family and adoption. The performances will be followed by an afterparty with music and an open mic stage. Presented by Cultureword and Black Gold Arts Festival.

Saturday 8th October, 7–9pm

Contact

Tickets £13/£7

Book on 0161 274 0600 or

contactmcr.com

The background features several large, overlapping, abstract shapes in a vibrant red color against a white background. These shapes are angular and irregular, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant, partially overlapping the white space and the red shapes.

**Susan
Calman
19 October**

Main Event

Bad Language

Featuring Henry Normal,
Melissa Lee-Houghton, Mark
Pajak & Genevieve Walsh

Manchester's two-time Saboteur Award-winning literature night hosts an evening of new poetry featuring poet, screenwriter and Manchester Poetry Festival founder Henry Normal. Henry returns to poetry after a glittering career in television comedy bringing us the likes of *The Royle Family* and *The Mighty Boosh*; his seventh collection, *Staring Directly at the Eclipse*, offers poems about death, human frailty and other classic conversation stoppers. The Scotsman called him 'the Alan Bennett of Poetry.' He will be joined by three other poets: Melissa Lee-Houghton's poetry was shortlisted for a 2016 Forward Prize, and she was named a Next Generation Poet in 2014 by the Poetry Book Society; she has published two collections. Mark Pajak's poetry has been shortlisted for a Bridport Prize and published in *The Rialto* and *Magma*; his pamphlet *Spitting Distance* will be published in late 2016. Genevieve Walsh is a fixture of the Yorkshire spoken word scene, and a member of the poetry performance group *A Firm of Poets*.

Saturday 8th October, 7.30pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £8/£6
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Weightmans Walking Tours

Elizabeth Gaskell Walking Tour With Kate Dibble

Join us as we take a tour of Elizabeth Gaskell's Manchester. Look at the many connections she had in Manchester, through visits to buildings connected with her, and readings from her books. We'll travel by bus to Plymouth Grove, South Manchester where she lived for 15 years and where she wrote many of her novels. Her home has been beautifully restored – it feels just as if she had stepped out for five minutes, so on this tour we truly step back in time, to a middleclass household in the mid-1800s. Sit in her drawing room, pick books off the shelf in the study, and hear stories about her busy life, her visitors, her writing and her Manchester.

Sunday 9th October, 1–4.30pm

Tuesday 11th October, 1–4.30pm

Meet Town Hall Steps, Albert Square
Tickets £16 (includes tea and cake at Elizabeth Gaskell's House but bus to Plymouth Grove not included so please bring money or bus pass)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Jonas Hassen Khemiri

A young man dies in a car crash, and an unnamed writer tries to piece together his story. In fragments of conversation, correspondence and interviews, a picture slowly forms – but the truth about what happened to Samuel, or why it matters, isn't so simple. Dazzling and inventive in form, Jonas Hassen Khemiri's *Everything I Don't Remember* is a bittersweet tale of love and memory, and an intriguing narrative puzzle from one of Sweden's most exciting and bestselling authors. He is the author of the generation-defining debut novel *One Eye Red*, and the acclaimed *Montecore: The Silence of the Tiger*. The winner of the prestigious August Prize, *Everything I Don't Remember* is Jonas Hassen Khemiri's fourth book and the first to be translated into English. Hari Kunzru called it 'heartbreakingly sad and laugh-out-loud funny.' He will be in conversation with MLF Chair Jerome de Groot.

Sunday 9th October, 2pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Afternoon Tea with Jenni Murray

For much of British history our visionary women have been shunted to the side-notes and denied their proper due. Now Jenni Murray, beloved presenter of *Woman's Hour* on BBC Radio 4, broadcaster, author and MLF patron talks about her forthcoming book, *A History of Britain in 21 Women*. A lively and accessible read full of fascinating, little-known stories, it profiles a sweeping range of women who have changed social, political, religious and cultural history in our country – from Boudicca and Jane Austen through to Margaret Thatcher and Nicola Sturgeon. Hear Jenni discuss the women who have inspired and motivated her in conversation with Observer writer Rachel Cooke. Ticket price includes tea and scones.

Sunday 9th October, 3pm

Trafford Suite, The Midland
Tickets £22/£20 or £35/£33 for ticket
and a copy of *A History of Britain
in 21 Women*
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



Jill Dawson

The Crime

Writer

12 October

Main Event

Rose Tremain

'It was a game of love and death. Neither of us will ever speak about it. It's locked inside us.' From beloved storyteller Rose Tremain comes an unforgettable new novel about a life-changing friendship between two boys in Switzerland following the Second World War. Fierce, astringent and profoundly tender, *The Gustav Sonata* asks us to consider the true cost of retaining a position of neutrality, when all life's hopes and passions continually surge against our borders. The bestselling author of novels including the Orange Prize-winning *The Road Home*, the Whitbread-winning *Music and Silence*, and the Booker-shortlisted *Restoration*, we are delighted to welcome Rose back to the Festival. She will be in conversation with writer and critic Alex Clark.

Monday 10th October, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets £10/£8

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk**Main Event**

Beverley Bie Brahic, Jeffrey Wainwright & Matthew Welton

Three gifted poets come together to read from eagerly-awaited new collections. Matthew Welton lectures in writing at The University of Nottingham. His debut, *The Book of Matthew*, won the Jerwood-Aldeburgh First Collection Prize; *The Number Poems* is his third collection. Jeffrey Wainwright grew up in Stoke-on-Trent and was Professor of English at MMU for many years. His new, seventh collection *What Must Happen*, is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and includes 'An Empty Street', which was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2014. Beverley Bie Brahic is a Canadian poet and translator who lives in Paris and San Francisco. Her book *White Sheets* was a finalist for the 2012 Forward Prize for Best Collection and her new book, *Hunting the Boar*, is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. The event will be hosted by John McAuliffe, Director of the Centre for New Writing.

Monday 10th October, 7.30pm

Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

John Thaw Studio Theatre

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Valley Press Poets

Jo Brandon,
Jonathan Davidson &
Matthew Hedley Stoppard

We are delighted to present three exciting voices in poetry from independent publisher Valley Press. Jo Brandon's debut, *The Learned Goose*, is a sensual and witty collection of poems exploring both the mystical and the domestic. Jonathan Davidson's highly original *Humfrey Coningsby* is a collection of 'poems, complaints, explanations and demands for satisfaction' loosely based on the travels of a lord of the manor from Shropshire in the late 16th century. Matthew Hedley Stoppard's debut collection, *A Family Behind Glass*, was included in the *Guardian's Readers' Books of the Year*, and his second, *Cinema Stories*, a collaboration with fellow Leeds-based poet James Nash, celebrates the cinematic heritage of Leeds. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Tuesday 11th October, 1pm

Central Library
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Louise Doughty on Graham Greene

What is it that makes a Graham Greene novel great? He considered himself an 'entertainer', his plots rip along, and the level of insight and observation he offers into the human soul puts him firmly in the rank of the literary stars of the 20th century. At the heart of his novels is often a man facing a moral dilemma and in Louise Doughty's compelling new novel *Black Water*, the main character Harper is doing just that. He's a man in fear for his life – but he isn't afraid of what's going to happen, he's afraid of something that he's done. Hear Louise share her thoughts on Greene's work and how his writing has influenced her. She is the author of eight novels including *Apple Tree Yard* (currently being adapted into a BBC One drama) and *Whatever You Love* (shortlisted for the Costa Award). Introduced by Matthew Frost.

Tuesday 11th October, 6.30pm

Portico Library
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

**Shetland
with Ann
Cleeves
17 October**

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent green shapes that resemble rolling hills or a stylized landscape. The colors range from a vibrant lime green to a slightly darker, muted green.

Main Event

Jonathan Safran Foer In Conversation with Jeanette Winterson

What keeps a family together – and what can tear it apart? In literary wunderkind Jonathan Safran Foer's long-awaited new novel, *Here I Am*, the Blochs face trying times. They're supposed to be rejoicing on the eve of their eldest son's Bar Mitzvah – but he's just done something so bad the whole thing might be cancelled, and meanwhile everyone else in the family has troubles of their own. Jonathan is the author of three previous books: *Everything is Illuminated* (winner of the Guardian First Book Award and the National Jewish Book Award), *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, and *Eating Animals*. He will read from his new novel and discuss his writing and life with Jeanette Winterson, author of award-winning books including *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, *The Gap of Time* and *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* Presented in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and Guardian Live.

Tuesday 11th October, 6.30pm
Central Library
Tickets £10/£8
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Manchester **Cathedral Poetry Prize** Featuring Michael Symmons Roberts & Jo Bell

Wendell Berry claims, 'there are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places.' Religious poetry has the rare capacity to traverse the high-wire between holiness and desecration and the poems entered in Manchester Cathedral's international poetry competition often explore the sacred and profane in the space of a few lines. This celebratory event comprises a specially commissioned talk on the connection between the spiritual and the poetic by acclaimed poet Michael Symmons Roberts. His writing has won several awards including the Forward Prize and Costa Book Award, and his *Selected Poems* was published by Cape earlier this year. There will also be wide-ranging readings from the shortlisted poets and competition judge Jo Bell. Her recent awards include the Charles Causley Prize, the Manchester Cathedral Prize and an honorary doctorate for services to poetry stemming from her global workshop project (and now workbook) *52*. She is a former director of National Poetry Day and was the UK's first Canal Laureate.

Tuesday 11th October, 7pm
Manchester Cathedral
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

The Good Immigrant Featuring Inua Ellams, Himesh Patel, Miss L & Nikesh Shukla

Keep out, Britain is full up. Or so goes the narrative of immigration all too often. We are a country in flux – our media condemns refugees one day and sheds tears over them the next. The Good Immigrant brings together twenty one emerging British black, Asian and minority ethnic writers, poets, journalists and artists. In powerful essays on race and immigration they paint a picture of what it means to be ‘other’ in a country that wants you, doesn’t want you, doesn’t accept you, needs you for its equality monitoring forms and would prefer you if you won a major reality show competition. We’re delighted to host poet, playwright and performer Inua Ellams, actor and writer Himesh Patel, actor and Casting Call Woe blogger Miss L and the anthology’s editor, the passionate advocate for BAME writers, Nikesh Shukla, who has published essays, journalism and the novels *Coconut Unlimited* and *Meatspace*. Join us for an enlightening, thought-provoking evening.

Tuesday 11th October, 7.30pm

Gorilla

Tickets £10/£8

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Literary Reputations

British Counterculture Then and Now Barry Miles & Iain Sinclair in Conversation

Half a century on from 1966, the seminal year of British counterculture, acclaimed writers Iain Sinclair and Barry Miles reflect on the major events and characters of the period's underground scene; its writers, artists and publications. Inspired by The John Rylands Library's forthcoming exhibition, *Off Beat: Jeff Nuttall and the International Underground*, the speakers will discuss the influence of Nuttall's magazine *My Own Mag*. Barry Miles has written extensively on the Beat Generation and the sixties counterculture. His books include *London Calling: A Countercultural History of London Since 1945*. He was the co-founder of *Indica Bookshop and Art Gallery* (1965) and of the *International Times (IT)*, Europe's first underground newspaper. Iain Sinclair has lived in (and written about) Hackney, East London, since 1969. His books include *Downriver*, *American Smoke* and *London Overground*, and he has made award-winning documentaries including *Asylum*.

Wednesday 12th October, 6pm

The John Rylands Library

Tickets are free but booking is essential

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Olivia Laing The Lonely City

Why is the state of solitude such a source of shame in our society? Laing's latest book, *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone*, is a profound meditation on creativity, art, solitude and urban alienation. She will talk about her own experience of living in New York and how it granted her deeper insights into the work of Andy Warhol, Edward Hopper, outsider artist Henry Darger and queer icon David Wojnarowicz. Olivia is the author of two acclaimed previous books of nonfiction, *The Trip to Echo Spring* and *To The River* – each similarly located at the intersection of memoir, travelogue, critical biography and philosophy. The *New York Times* said 'this book serves as both provocation and comfort, a secular prayer for those who are alone — meaning all of us.' Olivia will be in conversation with MLF's Kate Feld.

Wednesday 12th October, 6pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Jill Dawson The Crime Writer

What really goes on in the heads of novelists who write about sociopaths and murderers? Much-loved author Jill Dawson presents a new work drawing inspiration from the life and books of cult writer Patricia Highsmith, whose work was adapted into the films *Carol* and *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Jill's new novel, *The Crime Writer*, is an intriguing blend of fact and fiction, using the facts of Highsmith's life as a starting point to reimagine the author's life and clandestine love affairs with women in 1964 Suffolk. Jill's previous books include *Fred and Edie* (shortlisted for the Whitbread and Orange Prizes), *The Great Lover* and *Wild Boy*. *Carol* scriptwriter Phyllis Nagy said, 'this book is the real deal. Beautifully written and a must for all Highsmith fans.' Jill will be in conversation with Katie Popperwell.

Wednesday 12th October, 6.30pm
Portico Library
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Garth Greenwell & Andrew McMillan

Join us to hear two acclaimed young writers whose work navigates the complicated territories of desire, masculinity, sexuality and the body. Garth Greenwell's astonishing debut novel, *What Belongs to You*, follows an American professor in Sofia, entering an intense relationship with a hustler and facing up to his past. *New York Times Book Review* called it 'a rich, important debut, an instant classic to be savoured by all lovers of serious fiction because of, not despite, its subject: a gay man's endeavour to fathom his own heart.' Poet Andrew McMillan's debut collection, *Physical*, is a hymn to the male body – to male friendship and male love – muscular, sometimes shocking but always moving. The book won the Guardian First Book Award and the Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Award. Michael Symmons Roberts called it 'a glorious, vivid exploration of the body as the loved and broken ground on which we meet and are transformed.' The event will be hosted by Adam Lowe. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Wednesday 12th October, 8pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Afternoon Tea with Jane Rogers

Writer in residence at Manchester's iconic Midland Hotel, Jane Rogers has been jointly commissioned by MLF and The Midland to write a story inspired by the hotel. Jane is an award-winning author of nine novels including *The Testament of Jessie Lamb*, which won the Arthur C. Clarke Award and *Mr. Wroe's Virgins*, which she adapted for the BAFTA-nominated BBC drama series. Her latest novel, *Conrad & Eleanor* is a compelling read and a forensic exploration of the love, rivalry, and betrayals that make up a long marriage. Her short story collection, *Hitting Trees with Sticks*, was shortlisted for the 2013 Edge Hill Short Story Prize, and the title story won a BBC National Short Story Award. In the words of Hilary Mantel, 'her observation of our species is tender, precise, illuminating'. Come and hear her read and discuss her work with Festival Co-director Cathy Bolton. Ticket price includes tea and scones.

Thursday 13th October, 3pm
Wyvern Suite, The Midland
Tickets £22/£20 or £32/£30 for ticket
and a copy of *Conrad & Eleanor*
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**Afternoon
Tea with
Jenni Murray
9 October**

Manchester Thinkers and Drinkers Pub Tour With Suzanne Hindle

The link between pubs and literature is a long-established, much celebrated one. Pubs have traditionally been environments conducive to the culture of writing and ideas, and there's also an undeniable (sometimes treacherous) link between writing and inspiration for many authors; as James Joyce wrote, 'the sacred pint alone can unbind the tongue...' Join us for this amble through some of the city's most literary watering holes, during which guide Suzanne Hindle will regale us with stories and snippets of spoken word from writers past and present including a punk poet, a communist thinker, a doomed opium dreamer and a modern Mancunian bard. It'll be a page turning, thirst quenching tour.

Thursday 13th October, 6–8.30pm

Saturday 15th October 4–6.30pm

Meet inside the Corn Exchange atrium

Tickets £9

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Lionel Shriver The Mandibles: A Family, 2029 – 2047

Over the course of her writing career, Lionel Shriver has shown herself to be an unforgivingly astute observer of modern society, and her new novel proves that few can equal her. The straight-shooting American author returns to MLF to talk about *The Mandibles*, her blistering new satire that touches on climate change, bankruptcy and an extreme future. As America's fate hangs in the balance, so do the lives of the Mandibles – a privileged family forced to come to terms with an unwelcome reality when an economic cataclysm hits. 'Shriver's intelligence, mordant humour and vicious leaps of imagination all combine to make this a novel that is as unsettling as it is entertaining,' said the Financial Times. Lionel is the author of a dozen previous novels including *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (which won the Orange Fiction Prize), *Big Brother* and *Double Fault*. She will be in conversation with Dr Katy Shaw.

Thursday 13th October, 6.30pm

Central Library

Tickets £10/£8

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Jessie Burton & Megan Bradbury

We're delighted to bring together two rising talents whose vivid novels examine creativity, inspiration and the perilous relationship between artist and muse. Jessie Burton's debut novel, *The Miniaturist*, was a publishing sensation, topping bestseller lists around the world, and is currently being adapted for television. Her much-anticipated new novel, *The Muse*, concerns a surrealist painting that mysteriously surfaces in 1960s London, and the compelling characters caught up in its story. Megan Bradbury's debut novel *Everyone is Watching* tells the story of New York City through the lives of four men who left their mark on the city. In sharply drawn fiction, she re-imagines key moments in the lives of city planner Robert Moses, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and writers Walt Whitman and Edmund White – distilling the essence of what makes this city unlike any other. Olivia Laing said of it, 'I really doubt I'm going to read a better novel this year. Electric on art, sex and New York.' Hosted by MLF's Kate Feld. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Thursday 13th October, 6.30pm

Portico Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Out of Bounds

Featuring Kayo Chingonyi,
Pete Kalu, Shamshad
Khan, Cheryl Martin
& John Siddique

Join Cultureword writers and Out of Bounds Poets at a performance and discussion on the transformative poetics of place in Britain today. The Out of Bounds anthology is comprised of new poetry that questions stereotypes and conventional tropes around black people and space in UK society and literature. Hear contributors Shamshad Khan, Cheryl Martin, John Siddique, Pete Kalu and Kayo Chingonyi and watch film-poems from Cultureword writers. *Beyond Bounds* builds on the anthology *Out of Bounds (Bloodaxe)* and continues the nationwide touring phase of a project hosted by the Universities of Newcastle and Stirling. Mingle with poets and guests and add your voice to help create a digital poetic map.

Thursday 13th October, 7pm

Chapter One

Tickets are free but booking is advised

(Donations welcome on the door)

Book on [https://outofboundsmanchester.](https://outofboundsmanchester.eventbrite.co.uk)

[eventbrite.co.uk](https://outofboundsmanchester.eventbrite.co.uk)

Castlefield Manchester Sermon: Kamila Shamsie

We are delighted that Kamila Shamsie will be giving the 7th Castlefield Manchester Sermon, reflecting on ethical issues of the day. One of our finest contemporary writers, Kamila grew up in Karachi and now lives in London. She has written six compelling and beautifully crafted novels including *Burnt Shadows*, *Broken Verses*, *Salt and Saffron*, and *A God in Every Stone*, which was shortlisted for both the Walter Scott Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. Her work has been translated into over twenty languages and she is a Granta Best of Young British Novelist. Championed as ‘a writer of immense ambition and strength’ by Salman Rushdie, she frequently explores history, conflict, empire, freedom, love, friendship and the call of adventure in her work. In 2015 she delivered a National Conversation provocation that suggested publishers should make 2018 the Year of Publishing Women. Her Sermon will be followed by a conversation with author Jeanette Winterson. This event is in partnership with Manchester Cathedral and sponsored by Castlefield, responsible finance and ethical investment specialists with headquarters in Manchester.

Friday 14th October, 7pm

Manchester Cathedral

Tickets £10/£8

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Listen to the Women! Walking Tour With Anne Beswick

For much of our literary history, women writers have played second fiddle, and only in recent years has their work been given its proper due. Redress the injustices of the past with us as we walk the streets of Suffragette City with local guide Anne Beswick, on a tour designed to show us literary Manchester through the eyes of its women of letters. From modern voices such as Jeanette Winterson and Carol Ann Duffy to women of yesteryear like Frances Hodgson Burnett and Elizabeth Gaskell, celebrate the female writers we can claim as Manchester’s own, on the streets of the city they loved.

Saturday 15th October, 11am

Friday 21st October, 1pm

Meet Town Hall Steps, Albert Square

Tickets £9

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Hey Presto!

Roll up, roll up! There's a brilliant new production in town, from the creators of *Man on the Moon*, *The Worst Princess* and *My Granny is a Pirate*. Join New Writing North's newest production for Durham Book Festival, *Hey Presto!*. Presto and Monty are best friends. Monty is great at singing, eating ice cream and pulling funny faces, while Presto is a brilliant magician. When the carnival comes to town, Presto and Monty decide to join up with their amazing magic act. The show is a huge success, but fame goes to Monty's head. Can the friends figure out how to work together, before it's too late? Featuring original live music, magic tricks and lots of laughs for children under 7 and their families.

Saturday 15th October 11am & 2.30pm

Longsight Library and Learning Centre

Tickets £3

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Sungju Lee

In partnership with MCBF, MMU and the Manchester branch of Amnesty International, we are proud to present an afternoon with North Korean-born writer and activist Sungju Lee. *Every Falling Star*, his riveting memoir co-written by author and journalist Susan Elizabeth McClelland, recounts his experiences of living on the streets following abandonment by his parents at 12 years old. Forced to fend for himself, he lives by thieving and fighting, and finds great comfort in his friendships with his fellow gang members, his 'brothers'. His story introduces audiences to North Korea, one of the most isolated countries in the world, and a culture where many of the freedoms we take for granted do not exist. Chaired by Dr Roz Fox, and suitable for ages 12+.

Saturday 15th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

(50% of proceeds from this event will be donated to Manchester Amnesty International Group)

Kes

18 October



The Book of Dhaka

Syed Manzoorul Islam
& Pushpita Alam

The Book of Dhaka, Comma Press' latest instalment in the 'City in Short Fiction' series creates a literary map of the city, bringing together 10 short stories by some of Bangladesh's finest authors. Dhaka is the world's tenth largest city with a population of more than 18 million people. It is home to a complex political and social history and an incredibly rich and varied cultural inheritance. We are honoured to present author Syed Manzoorul Islam, a Professor of English at the University of Dhaka, who has published eight volumes of short stories and four novels in Bengali, as well as a volume of self-translated stories in English: *The Merman's Prayer and Other Stories*. With him will be translator Pushpita Alam, the managing editor of English language publishing house Bengal Lights; and the Dhaka Translation Center. They will be discussing their contribution to *The Book of Dhaka* with Comma's Ra Page.

Saturday 15th October, 3pm

Central Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Brendan King

Beryl Bainbridge: Love
& All Sorts of Means

Beryl Bainbridge was one of the best loved English novelists of her generation. She was shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times and her critically acclaimed novels including *The Dressmaker*, *An Awfully Big Adventure* and *Master Georgie* are considered modern classics. Unforgettable in person, Beryl Bainbridge was famous for her gregarious personality and unconventional lifestyle. Yet underneath the public image of a quirky eccentric lay a complex inner life that was only hinted at in her novels. In this first full-length biography, Brendan King draws on unpublished letters and diaries to reveal the real woman behind the image. He explores Bainbridge's difficult childhood in Formby, her career as a young actress at the Liverpool Playhouse, and her life as a writer in Camden Town – a life story every bit as dramatic and compelling as one of her own novels. Brendan King is an author, editor and translator. Between 1987 and 2010 he worked for Bainbridge, and helped prepare her final novel *The Girl in the Polka-dot Dress* for publication after her death. Brendan will be in conversation with Matthew Frost.

Saturday 15th October, 4pm

Portico Library

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Literary Reputations

Sarah Bakewell At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being and Apricot Cocktails

Can you make a philosophy out of a cocktail? A group of intellectuals inhabiting the cafes of 1930s Montparnasse saw their new, radical way of thinking blaze through Europe like a wildfire and change the world. Sarah Bakewell's riveting new book *At the Existentialist Café* presents Modern Existentialism as a series of passionate encounters between people and ideas, beginning with Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir and expanding out to include friends, adversaries and fellow travellers such as Camus, Heidegger, and Iris Murdoch. The *Telegraph* said of it, 'vivid, humorous anecdotes are interwoven with a lucid and unpatronising exposition of their complex philosophy...Tender, incisive and fair.' Sarah Bakewell is the author of three biographies, including *How to Live: A Life of Montaigne*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Biography Award and was shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award. Introduced by Matthew Frost.

Saturday 15th October, 7pm

Portico Library

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

An Evening with Jackie Kay

On the heels of her widely celebrated appointment as Scottish Makar, we are delighted to host an intimate event with poet, author and playwright Jackie Kay in the beautiful Hallé St Peter's. Jackie's first collection of poetry, *The Adoption Papers*, was published in 1991 and was awarded the Forward Prize, Saltire Award and Scottish Book Council Award. Since then, she has written six outstanding collections including *Off Colour*, *Life Mask* and *Fiere*, three collections of short stories and the acclaimed memoir *Red Dust Road*. Her debut novel *Trumpet*, a beautiful multi-voiced account of the life of a transgender jazz musician, won the Guardian Fiction Prize and was recently reissued as a Picador Classic with a foreword by Ali Smith. Currently the Chancellor of the University of Salford, Jackie is working on her second novel. She will read and discuss her work with Observer writer Rachel Cooke.

Saturday 15th October, 8pm

Doors open at 7.30pm

Hallé St Peter's

Tickets £12/£10

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Gothic Literature Walking Tour

With Anne Beswick

Manchester is a buzzing, regenerated city full of hedonism, culture and sport, yes? Look a little deeper however and you'll see the gothic undertow writhing below its glossy surfaces. Mostly we're blinded by the busyness of everyday life but this walking tour will show you a little of what is hidden in plain view. Manchester was home to John Dee, Shakespeare's model for Prospero and gave birth to Thomas De Quincey, author of *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*. The industrial revolution turned the old order upside down and brought down horror and retribution on our dark satanic streets. There's more here than you know. Come and find out what really happened on the streets of our modern city.

Sunday 16th October, 11am
Thursday 20th October, 1pm

Meet Manchester Cathedral, South Porch
Tickets £9
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

The Whole Kahani

Kavita A Jindal, Radhika Kapur, Shibani Lal, Iman Qureshi & Reshma Ruia

The Whole Kahani is a collective of British fiction writers of South Asian origin. Formed in 2011, their aim is to reflect the complexity and diversity of voices in contemporary Britain and to increase the visibility of emerging South Asian writers. Between them, they have published multiple award-winning short stories, novels, poetry and plays that straddle cultures and boundaries. Kavita A Jindal, Radhika Kapur, Shibani Lal, Iman Qureshi and Reshma Ruia will read their funny, moving and engaging stories from the recent anthology *Love Across a Broken Map*. Spanning London to Goa, Manchester to Mumbai, expect to hear tales of love, loss, girl crushes, unfulfilled dreams, obsessive fans and astrological mishaps. This special event will be hosted by The Whole Kahani co-founder Reshma Ruia and is presented in partnership with the Karachi Literature Festival, with support from the British Council.

Sunday 16th October, 12pm

Whitworth Art Gallery
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations are welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Writing Karachi: Mohammed Hanif & Kamila Shamsie

Mohammed Hanif and Kamila Shamsie discuss how the City of Lights has influenced and shaped their writing. Based in Karachi, Mohammed Hanif is the author of the comedic and highly inventive novels, *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* and *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti*. Mohsin Hamid described his writing as ‘unputdownable and darkly hilarious,’ whilst *The Scotsman* praised, ‘Alice Bhatti’s Karachi is so alive with sensations that you can smell the sewers, hear the screeching of tyres, and feel the humidity.’ Born in Karachi, Kamila is one of Pakistan’s most critically acclaimed young authors. She has written features and radio broadcasts that document the vast geography of her hometown from the bustling streets and barren hills to the beautiful beaches. Four of her six novels have been set in Karachi including *In the City by the Sea*, *Salt and Saffron*, *Kartography* and *Broken Verses*. This special event is presented in partnership with the Karachi Literature Festival with support from the British Council. Chaired by broadcaster Erica Wagner.

Sunday 16th October, 2pm

Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations are welcome on the door)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

**Live subtitling will be provided
by Stagertext at this event**

Rockin' Rhinos

The Rockin' Rhinos Autumn gig marks the first time MLF has commissioned new work from a cat, a bear and a gorilla ... imagine a rocked-up Banana Splits celebrating the joy of reading to children and the magical places that books take you to and you'll be part way there with this song premiere that will form the highlight of the gig. The Manchester band brings real gigs to under-7's that their grown-ups dig too – fronted by John Cooper Cat with Liam Lion, Mani Mouse and Guy Gorilla amongst others – their fans love their mix of punk, ska, country & rock.

Sunday 16th October, 3pm

Doors open at 2pm

The Union MMU

Advance tickets £6/£18 Family Ticket (for 4)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

**Rockin'
Rhinos
16 October**



The Royal Literary Fund Lecture: Ben Okri

We are delighted that Ben Okri will be delivering the inaugural MLF and Royal Literary Fund Lecture. A prolific and award-winning writer, Ben has written short stories, poems, plays, film scripts and essays. His eight novels include *The Famished Road* (winner of the 1991 Man Booker Prize), *Dangerous Love*, *Astonishing the Gods*, *A Way of Being Free* and *The Age of Magic*. Born in Nigeria and now based in London, Ben is well known for his imaginative stories, vivid fables and his profound meditations on war, politics, society, art and creativity. He will reflect on the strange art of storytelling before a discussion with broadcaster and host Erica Wagner. This event is presented in partnership with The Royal Literary Fund, a benevolent fund that has been supporting writers since 1790.

Sunday 16th October, 4pm

Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Helen MacEwan on Winifred Gérin Biographer of the Brontës

Winifred Gérin wrote biographies of Elizabeth Gaskell, Anne Thackeray Ritchie and Fanny Burney but is most famous as the biographer of four Brontë sisters. Gérin had a fascinating life story of her own, uncovered now for the first time by Helen MacEwan in this original and revealing biography of the biographer. 'Using much previously unknown and unpublished material, Helen MacEwan has painstakingly put together a portrait of one woman and her times that adds significantly to Brontë studies and literary biography...' praised Claire Harman. A translator and former teacher, Helen has written two books about Charlotte and Emily Brontë's time in Brussels, and lives in Brussels herself. This event is presented in partnership with The Gaskell Society and will be chaired by Ann O'Brien and Libby Tempest of The Gaskell Society.

Sunday 16th October, 5.30pm

Doors open at 4.45pm

Elizabeth Gaskell's House

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi A Monkey at the Window

One of the best-known poets in his native Sudan, Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi is celebrated for the vivid imagery of his lyric poems. He has published four volumes of poetry including his Collected Poems, and has been widely acclaimed in Britain following the translation of his work into English by the Poetry Translation Centre for the 2005 World Poets' Tour. Forced into exile in 2012, he claimed asylum in the UK and now lives in London. He will be reading poems from his new Bloodaxe bilingual Arabic-English collection A Monkey at the Window, with poems in English read by writer Travis Elborough. Don't miss this chance to hear transcendent poetry from the Arabic-speaking world.

Monday 17th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets are free but booking is advised

(Donations welcome on the door)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Hwang Jung-eun & Deborah Smith

Korean fiction is on the ascendancy, and we're thrilled that one of the most successful of South Korea's younger generation of writers, Hwang Jung-eun, will come to Manchester to talk about her novel, One Hundred Shadows, published for the first time in English by Tilted Axis this Autumn. The book won Korea's version of the IMPAC Prize and is a potent concoction of oblique fantasy, offbeat almost-romance, and hard-hitting social issues. Hwang Jung-eun is the author of two acclaimed short story collections and three novels. She will be in conversation with Tilted Axis publisher and translator Deborah Smith, who along with Han Kang has just won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize for The Vegetarian. They will discuss Hwang Jung-eun's writing, explore the rising interest in Korean fiction globally, and consider the art of translation from those on both sides of the process. Join us for what's sure to be an unforgettable evening of talk about international fiction in translation. Chaired by Jerome de Groot.

Monday 17th October, 7pm

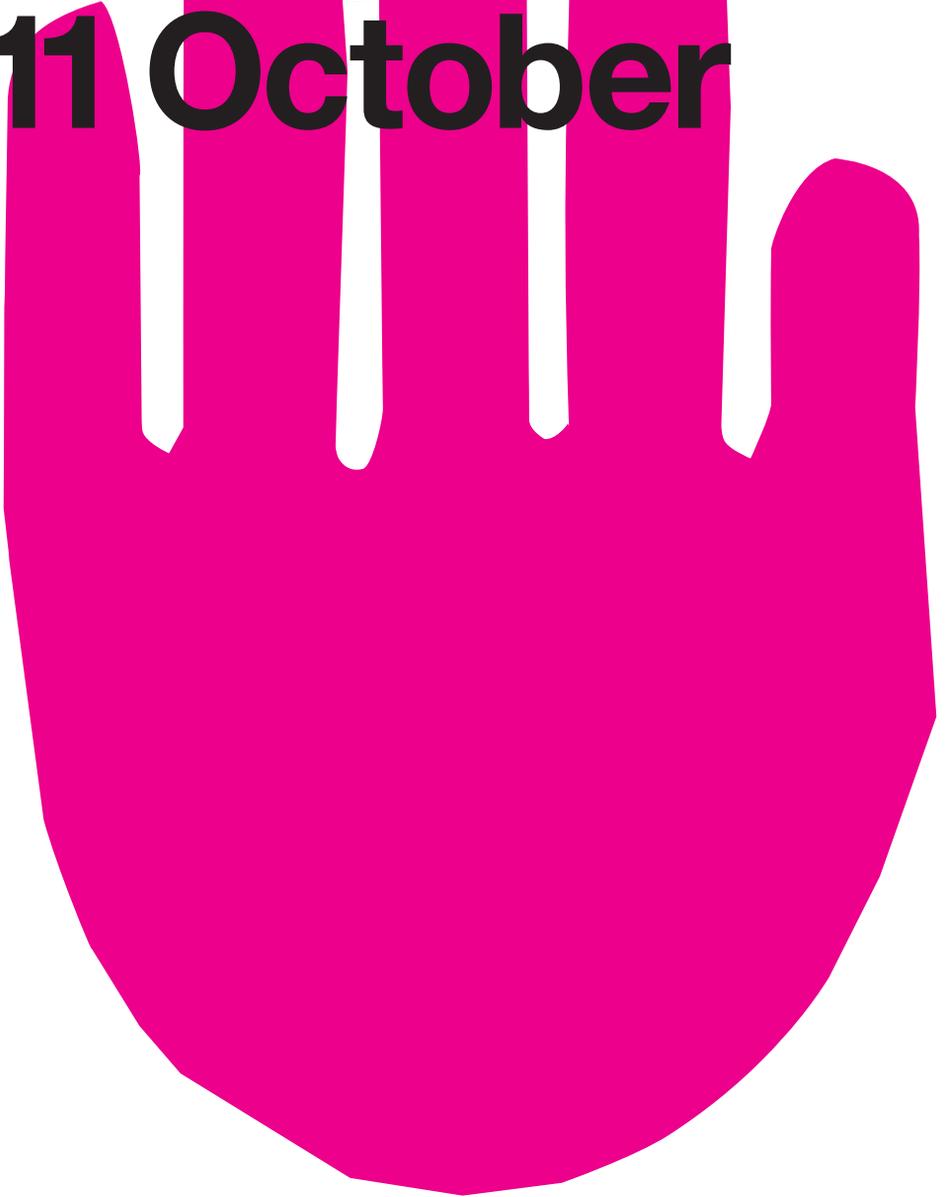
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

The Good Immigrant 11 October



Main Event

Shetland with Ann Cleeves Featuring Gaby Chiappe & Alison O'Donnell

Ann Cleeves is one of Britain's most popular crime writers, and her bestselling Vera Stanhope and Shetland series of novels have been adapted for acclaimed ITV and BBC dramas. With her cracking plots, sharp attention to detail, stunning sense of place and wonderful characterisation, Ann has been heralded as the natural successor to PD James and Ruth Rendell's alter-ego Barbara Vine. On the publication of her 30th novel, *Cold Earth*, in which the enigmatic Jimmy Perez discovers a dark secret buried on Shetland, we are delighted to host this special celebration of the Shetland novels and BBC One drama. Ann will be joined in conversation by Gaby Chiappe, lead scriptwriter on the series, and Alison O'Donnell, the actress who plays Tosh in Shetland. Chaired by broadcaster Erica Wagner.

Monday 17th October, 6.30pm
Central Library
Tickets £8/£6
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Anne Enright

Anne Enright is one of the leading novelists at work today. Born in Dublin, her novels include *What are You Like?*, *The Forgotten Waltz* and *The Gathering* (winner of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award and the Irish Fiction Award). Her latest novel, *The Green Road*, was published in May 2015 to a sea of praise. Her short fiction was collected in *Yesterday's Weather*, and she was the editor of *The Granta Book of the Irish Short Story*. In 2015 she was appointed as the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction. The *New York Times* said, 'Enright possesses an unusual combination of talents. She is a rich, lyrical prose writer, who cascades among novelties – again and again, she finds the unexpected adjective, the just noun.' She will be reading and discussing her work with John McAuliffe, poet and Director of The University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing.

Monday 17th October, 7pm
Hallé St Peter's
Tickets £10/£8
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Kes with Ian McMillan & Richard Hines

Ken Loach's 1969 film *Kes* had a tremendous impact on British popular culture, changing the way people think about the North, class, education and the natural world. But before *Kes* was a film it was a book – Barry Hines' novel *A Kestrel for a Knave* – and that book was, in turn, based on one boy's real story. This afternoon we'll hear from that boy, Barry's brother Richard Hines, who has recently published *No Way But Gentleness*, his own captivating memoir about the salvation he found in training a kestrel while growing up in a crumbling mining community, and how his boyhood experience inspired a lifetime of working with birds. Helen Macdonald called it 'a work of enchanting honesty and tenderness.' He will be joined by Ian McMillan, poet and host of *The Verb*, Radio 3's cabaret of the word. Ian is the author of *Neither Nowt Nor Summat: In Search of the Meaning of Yorkshire*, and several collections of poetry including, most recently, *To Fold the Evening Star: New and Selected Poems*. The event will be hosted by Steve Dearden.

Tuesday 18th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets are free but booking is advised (Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Afternoon Tea with Tracy Chevalier

No matter how far away we go, our roots pull us back to the past. Over tea and cakes at the Midland Hotel, best-selling historical novelist Tracy Chevalier will discuss the pleasures of writing, reading, researching and her latest compelling novel, *At the Edge of the Orchard*. The book tells the story of the Goodenough clan as they struggle to eke out an existence as apple farmers in 1830s Ohio, and follows their son Robert into adulthood as a plant collector in the California Gold Rush, haunted by the broken family he fled. Joanne Harris called it 'minutely researched, surefooted, touching and at times, heartbreakingly beautiful.' Tracy is the author of eight novels including *The Last Runaway*, *Remarkable Creatures* and *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which sold more than five million copies and was made into a feature film. Born in America, she has lived in London for many years. Tracy will be in conversation with host Carol Ackroyd. This event is sponsored by Squire Patton Boggs.

Tuesday 18th October, 3pm

Wyvern Suite, The Midland

Tickets £22/£20 or £35/£33 for ticket

and a copy of *At the Edge of the Orchard*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Literary Reputations

Reader, I Married Him Charlotte Brontë celebration with Tracy Chevalier & Nadifa Mohamed

'Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong! – I have as much soul as you, – and full as much heart!' No heroine is more beloved in British literature than the independently-minded governess of Charlotte Brontë's eponymous novel, Jane Eyre. Now author Tracy Chevalier (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) has edited a collection of 21 stories inspired by the book and shaped by its themes of love, compromise and self-determination. At this special event to mark the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë's birth, award-winning authors Nadifa Mohamed (*Black Mamba Boy*, *The Orchard of Lost Souls*) and Tracy Chevalier will read their stories and discuss their thoughts on *Jane Eyre* with host Carol Ackroyd.

Tuesday 18th October, 6.30pm
Central Library
Tickets £8/£6
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Ian McMillan, Mona Arshi & Blind Monk Trio Poets & Players

Carol Ann Duffy describes Ian McMillan as 'world-class – one of today's greatest poetry performers.' Join us to hear poetry read by the Bard of Barnsley, the hugely popular and entertaining Ian McMillan, presenter of *The Verb* on BBC Radio 3, and by ex-human rights lawyer Mona Arshi, whose debut collection *Small Hands* won the Forward Prize for best first collection in 2015. Music will be played by the energetic, original and quirky Blind Monk Trio – Bob Whittaker on tenor saxophone, Hugo Harrison on double bass and Johnny Hunter on drums. Join us for a celebration of contemporary poetry and music in one of Manchester's most beautiful venues.

Tuesday 18th October, 7pm
Hallé St Peter's
Tickets £8/£6
Book in 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Working Class Writing Walking Tour With Anne Beswick

Manchester is a city made by working people and some of these have made themselves heard – in writing. Some have used verse, some prose and some (be warned!) have spoken in dialect! Mrs Gaskell speaks from the sunny uplands of Ardwick to document the horrors of Ancoats industrialisation. Burgeoning commerce is described in *The Manchester Man* (written by a working woman), the beginnings of the Co-op movement is recalled by Simon Armitage, and the despair of destitution is shown in Walter Greenwood's *Love on the Dole*. City life for a more recent generation is in the work of Lemn Sissay and John Cooper Clarke. Join us for an entertaining and informative look at the literature of a working city. Up the workers!

Wednesday 19th October, 1pm

Saturday 22nd October, 11am

Meet at the People's History Museum

Tickets £9

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Gavin McCrea Mrs Engels

Gavin McCrea's beautifully written debut novel, *Mrs Engels*, is set in the 1870s and concerns Lizzie Burns, the poor worker who catches Frederick Engels' eye during his researches in Manchester's Irish slums and eventually becomes his wife. A glimpse of life in London and Manchester during the Industrial Revolution, from the perspective of a real woman portrayed with tenderness and craft – it was shortlisted for both the Desmond Elliott and Walter Scott prizes, and longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award. The Spectator called *Mrs Engels* 'an assured, beautifully-written debut about a woman wiser than her lover perhaps, and slowly growing into herself – reminiscent of Molly Bloom in *Ulysses*.' Gavin will be in conversation with Libby Tempest, former Senior Librarian at Central Library.

Wednesday 19th October, 6.30pm

Chetham's Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**An
Evening
with
Jackie Kay
15 October**

Main Event

Margaret Drabble

The Dark Flood Rises

What constitutes a good death, and how do we know if we've lived well when the end finally comes? One of Britain's most prolific and popular authors returns to MLF to talk about her forthcoming novel, *The Dark Flood Rises*. Margaret Drabble's book follows protagonist Francesca Stubbs into the liminal space between old age and death, occupying us with errands of her everyday life and existential questions in equal measure – and has the excoriating wit and keen eye for detail that are Drabble's hallmarks as a writer. Margaret is the author of 18 acclaimed novels including *The Millstone*, *The Red Queen*, and most recently, *The Pure Gold Baby*. She was awarded the 2011 Golden PEN Award for services to literature, and has been described by *The Independent* as 'the mistress of English Literary Letters'. She will be in conversation with host Carol Ackroyd.

Wednesday 19th October, 6.30pm

Central Library

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

**Live subtitling will be provided
by Stagertext at this event**

Main Event

Hollie McNish & Salena Godden

MLF present an evening with two stars of the UK performance poetry scene reading exciting new work that shocks, surprises and amuses. Salena Godden is one of Britain's foremost spoken word artists and poets whose electrifying live performances and radio broadcasts have earned her a devoted following. She is the author of the collection *Fishing in the Aftermath: Poems 1994-2014*, and the childhood memoir *Springfield Road*. She will be performing some of her favourite poems alongside new material. Based on diary entries written during pregnancy and the first three years of her daughter's life, new book *Nobody Told Me* sees Hollie McNish turn her frank and funny sensibility to the experience of becoming a mother in a collection of poems crackling with dialogue and razor-sharp observations. A former UK Slam champion whose YouTube videos have been viewed more than 3 million times, Hollie has published the collection *Papers* and released the poetry albums *Touch* and *Push Kick*. Benjamin Zephaniah said, 'I can't take my ears off her.'

Wednesday 19th October, 7.30pm

Gorilla

Tickets £10/£8

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Susan Calman

Susan Calman has had depression and she's not alone in that. Despite being one of the funniest women in the UK (OK, the world) she's had her own black dog, the Crab of Hate, whispering in her ear her whole life. So she wrote a book about it. Join us as the popular comedian and broadcaster talks about her funny, moving and honest new memoir, *Cheer Up, Love: Adventures in Depression with the Crab of Hate*. A regular on BBC radio and television shows like *QI* and *Have I Got News For You*, Susan's first national tour was a sell-out, and her new show *The Calman Before the Storm* debuts at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe. Sarah Millican said, 'Susan Calman never fails to make me hoot with laughter.' Susan will be in conversation with host and fellow Fringe performer Viv Groskop.

Wednesday 19th October, 8pm

Doors open at 7.30pm

The Dancehouse

Tickets £10/£8 or £22/£20 for ticket

and a copy of *Cheer up, Love*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Marina Lewycka The Lubetkin Legacy

North London in the 21st century: a place where a good job involves dressing up as a coffee bean, lingua francas include Swahili, Romanian and managementese, and a man asks an old lady to impersonate his mother in order to keep his council flat. *The Lubetkin Legacy* is a witty and compelling new novel about identity, migration, gentrification and contemporary life from Marina Lewycka. She is the author of four critically acclaimed and incredibly funny novels. Her first, *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and her second novel, *Two Caravans*, was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize. She will be in conversation with host Carol Ackroyd.

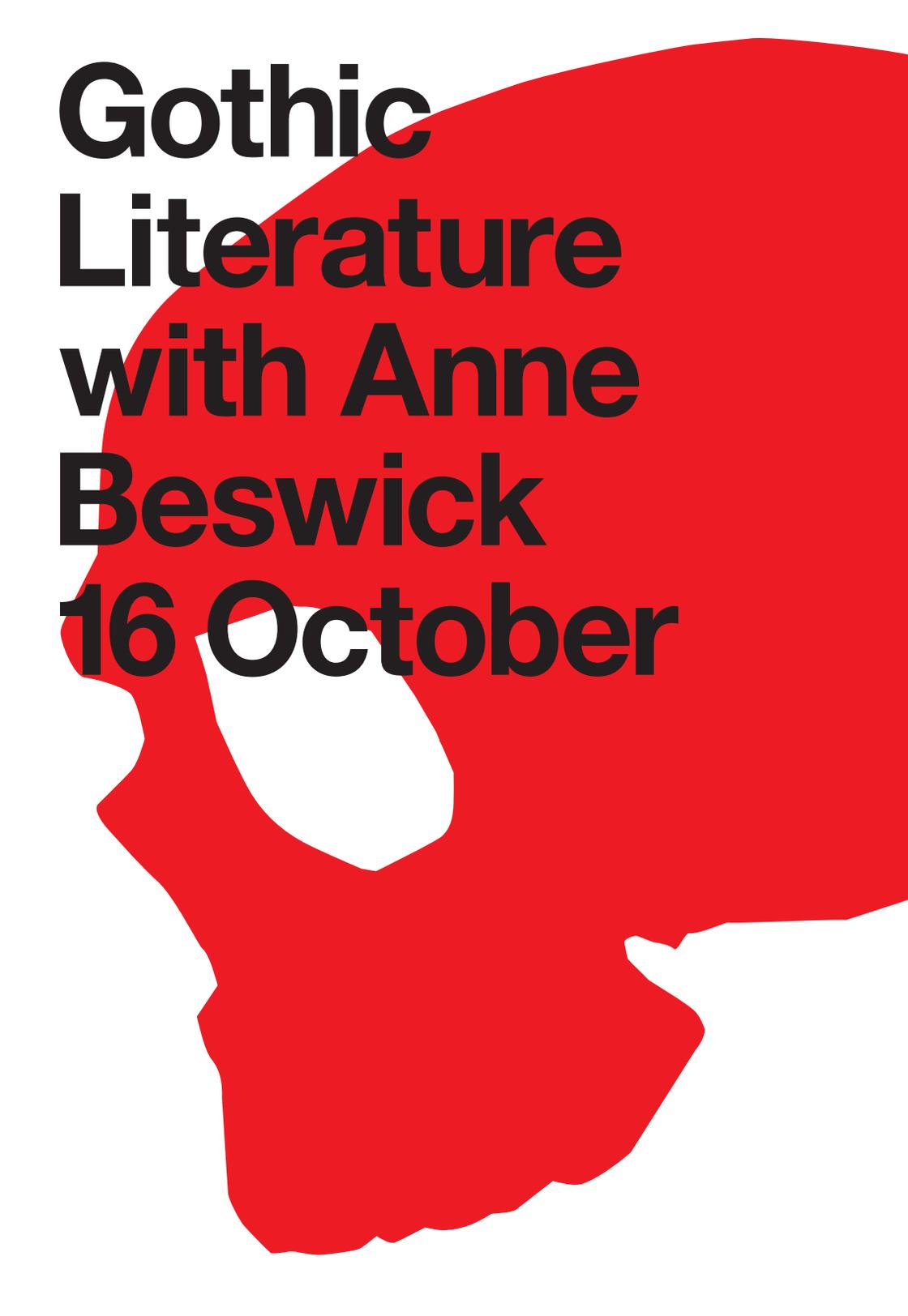
Thursday 20th October, 1pm

Central Library

Tickets £7/£5

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**Gothic
Literature
with Anne
Beswick
16 October**

Refugee Tales: Marina Lewycka & Dragan Todorovic

Those with 'citizenship' enjoy basic human rights – like the right to not be detained for more than 14 days without charge. Unfortunately, these rights do not extend to some of the most vulnerable people in society. To raise awareness of the detainee, asylum seeker and refugee experience in this country, and to call for an end to indefinite detention, The Refugee Tales project commissioned 14 authors to work with refugees who had direct experience of Britain's detention system, re-telling their stories anonymously as a modern day equivalent to The Canterbury Tales. Tonight, Marina Lewycka (author of A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian and herself born in a refugee camp), and the poet and novelist Dragan Todorovic (author of Diary of Interrupted Days) tell two of these stories. This event is presented in partnership with Comma Press, and chaired by Ra Page.

Thursday 20th October, 6.30pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Powerlines: New Stories from the Urban Edge Jo Bell, Darryl Cunningham, Gary Fisher, David Gaffney & Stephen May

Some people struggle to get from one end of the day to the other – but their stories are not being told. Five artists have worked with people in Salford to explore the lives unfolding far beyond the aspirational city of artisan coffee shops and slick new builds. Join poet Jo Bell, graphic novelist Darryl Cunningham, sound artist Gary Fisher, short story writer David Gaffney and novelist Stephen May as they place these stories centre stage. These stories will make you cry, laugh and shout with rage at inequalities perpetuated by a social security system that is no longer social or secure. Produced in partnership with Church Action on Poverty, Salford City Council Welfare Rights Service, and The University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing, Powerlines will shed light on some of the too-little considered realities of life in the Northern Powerhouse. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Thursday 20th October, 6.30pm
Central Library
Tickets are free but booking is advised
(Donations welcome on the door)
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Eimear McBride

The Lesser Bohemians

Join us for an evening with brilliant young Irish novelist Eimear McBride. Described by The Times Literary Supplement as ‘a writer of remarkable power and originality,’ Eimear’s astonishing debut *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* received the inaugural Goldsmiths Prize, the Baileys Women’s Prize for Fiction and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. Her short stories have appeared in *Dubliners 100*, *The Long Gaze Back* and have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Her forthcoming novel, *The Lesser Bohemians*, follows a young Irish woman who arrives in London to study drama and falls passionately, dangerously in love with an older actor. A bold and subversive story about sexual passion, *The Lesser Bohemians* is also a celebration of love, and how it can both destroy and create. Come and find out why Anne Enright said, ‘Eimear McBride is that old-fashioned thing, a genius.’ Eimear will be in conversation with John McAuliffe. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Thursday 20th October, 7.30pm
 Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
 Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall
 Tickets £8/£6
 Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Deborah Levy

Fashion & Freedom

Novelist, poet and playwright Deborah Levy has been commissioned by MLF to respond to the Fashion & Freedom exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery. Co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, the exhibition explores the impact the First World War had on the changing role of women and fashion, and includes pieces by Vivienne Westwood and Roksanda. Deborah is the author of the short story collection *Black Vodka* and five novels including *Swallowing Geography*, *The Unloved* and *Swimming Home*. Her latest novel, *Hot Milk*, is a bold and sensual exploration of family, identity, female rage, desire and sexuality. The Sunday Times described Deborah as ‘an exciting writer, sharp and shocking as the knives her characters wield,’ whilst The Washington Post suggested ‘the seductive power of Levy’s prose derives from its layered brilliance.’ Deborah will perform her new piece then discuss her writing with Katie Popperwell.

Friday 21st October, 1pm
 Manchester Art Gallery
 Tickets are free but booking is advised
 (Donations welcome on the door)
 Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**Kamila
Shamsie
Castlefield
Manchester
Sermon
14 October**

Main Event

Anna Beer The Forgotten Women of Classical Music

Since the birth of classical music, women who dared to compose have been patronised, slandered and had their authorship questioned. Come lend an ear to the remarkable composers who bravely challenged the musical establishment only to be silenced by history. Cultural historian and biographer Anna Beer discusses her new book, *Sounds and Sweet Airs: The Forgotten Women of Classical Music*, and the secret history of eight women composers including Francesca Caccini, Barbara Strozzi and Fanny Hensel. Anna's previous books include much-praised biographies of Milton and Lady Bess Raleigh; she is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and 6 Music. The Sunday Times said, 'Anna Beer's eye for detail is outstanding.' Join us for this moving musical journey ranging from Florence of the Medicis to London in the Blitz. Chaired by Manchester Camerata's Samantha Morgan.

Friday 21st October, 7pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Vivienne Westwood

Incomparable in both style and substance – MFL are proud to present an evening with one of Britain's most iconic and pioneering women, Dame Vivienne Westwood. Her forthcoming book, *Get A Life: The Diaries of Vivienne Westwood*, brings together the best of her much-loved online diaries, granting us an insight to the intellectual curiosity and playfulness that underpins her fashion design, her ideas and her way of life. A passionate activist committed to human rights and the environment, she has travelled up the Amazon to draw attention to tribal communities' struggles to maintain the rainforest, driven a tank to David Cameron's house to protest about fracking, and created the ongoing Climate Revolution campaign. Join us as Vivienne discusses her diverse career, her work as a campaigner and her urgent concerns about climate change and the planet with ethical writer and broadcaster Lucy Siegle.

Friday 21st October, 7.30pm
RNCM Theatre
Tickets £12/£10 or £25/£23 for a ticket
and a copy of *Get A Life*
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Family Reading Day

Cerrie Burnell, Nick Sharratt,
Kristina Stephenson &
Alastair Watson

Join us for a day of fictional fun as popular children's authors, illustrators and performers bring stories to life. Start the day with an interactive storytelling of Clangers: The Brilliant Surprise and make your own planet or comet. Bring along your own pad and pencils and join us for a Draw Along with one of the UK's best loved illustrators, Nick Sharratt, whose characters have appeared in books by Jacqueline Wilson, Julia Donaldson and Jeremy Strong as well as his own. Enjoy a marvellous mash-up of Sir Charlie Stinky Socks stories in one bumper show as we celebrate ten years of our favourite character with Kristina Stephenson. Popular CBeebies presenter Cerrie Burnell introduces her latest story about a little girl and her magic umbrella, Harper and the Circus of Dreams. Drop into our Market Place for free arts and crafts activities and a bear hunt, and come along to our free Story Time Teddy Bear's Picnic – stories supplied but please bring your own sandwiches! Suitable for children aged 3–8 and their families.

Saturday 22nd October, 10am – 4.30pm

Central Library

Tickets £4 per event

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Comic Art Masterclass with Kev F Sutherland

Fancy having a go at making your own comic? Cartoonist and writer Kev F Sutherland is back to run two comic art workshops ideal for children aged 8+. The Beano and Marvel artist will show you all there is to know about making comic strips, and will teach you the tricks of the trade. At the end of the workshop, you'll take home a completed caricature of yourself. Kev's skills as a stand-up comedian promise to make the workshop entertaining and fun as well as a brilliant opportunity to try something new. Workshops last two hours and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 22nd October, 11am & 2pm

Central Library

Tickets £10 (accompanying adult free)

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



**Deborah
Levy: Fashion
& Freedom
21 October**

Sarah Howe

At this event, poet Sarah Howe presents selections from her acclaimed debut collection, which explores the duality of her Anglo-Chinese heritage and sees the poet travel back to Hong Kong in search of her roots. Written with a deft and exhilarating command of language, the poems in *Loop of Jade* build into a profound meditation on hybridity, intermarriage and love, migration and inheritance. *Loop of Jade* won the 2015 TS Eliot Prize: the first ever debut collection to be awarded one of British poetry's most prestigious prizes. AS Byatt called it 'one of the very best books of poems I have read for a long time — complicated and moving and very accomplished.' Sarah's pamphlet, *A Certain Chinese Encyclopaedia*, was published in 2009, and she received an Eric Gregory Award in 2010. She will be introduced by fellow poet John McAuliffe. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Saturday 22nd October, 2pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Writing the North Jenn Ashworth & Andrew Michael Hurley

What distinguishes the landscape of the North? And how do you capture it on the page? Two novelists distinct in their portrayal of a foreboding Morecambe Bay are in conversation about their haunting new novels that follow families in search of a miracle. Jenn Ashworth's *Fell*, told through the combined voices of a husband and wife who are no longer alive, explores what ordinary, imperfect people do in the face of mortality. Andrew Michael Hurley's gothic novel *The Loney*, described as a 'masterful excursion into terror,' by *The Sunday Times*, follows two brothers, one mute and the other his protector, as the boys and their parents seek help from a sacred shrine on the desolate stretch of coastline known as *The Loney*. Join us as we explore just what it is about the Lancashire coastline that inspires stories that cause the back of your neck to prickle. Hosted by MLF's Kate Feld. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Saturday 22nd October, 4pm

International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £7/£5
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

The Real Story Featuring Horatio Clare

The truth is often more interesting than fiction, and online journal and reading series The Real Story celebrates the exciting literary form that is creative nonfiction. At this special Festival edition hear author Horatio Clare, supported by a curated selection of writers reading essays crafted especially for the event. A popular new addition to Manchester's live literature scene, The Real Story has hosted headliners including Amy Liptrout, Michael Symmons Roberts and Laura Barton, helped develop new writing and broadened audiences for nonfiction literature. Horatio Clare is the best-selling author of two memoirs, *Running for the Hills* (winner of the Somerset Maugham Award) and *Truant*, three books of nature and travel including *Orison for a Curlew*, and acclaimed fiction for adults and young people. He presents essays and documentaries for BBC Radio and is regularly published in the national press.

Saturday 22nd October, 7.30pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation
Tickets £6/£4
Book on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Rising Stars

Young Identity Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Talented collective Young Identity have been forging a reputation as some of the most magical young poets and performers in the city for the past decade. But their work draws on a long established initiative in Manchester to support and develop the work of young performance poets – quite right for a city where spoken word is woven into the bricks and cobbles. In this special anniversary show, the poets of Young Identity collaborate with their predecessors Speakeasy, and their older sibling, Inna Voice, to present a unique production of epic proportions. Join us for this one-off celebration of young people's voices in the city, past and present. This event is supported by Contact and Cultureword. This event is sponsored by Ten Acre.

Saturday 22nd October, 7.30pm
Contact
Tickets £11/£6
Book on 0161 274 0600 or
contactmcr.com

Johnny

Marr

7 November

New Commission

Jean Sprackland Lock Songs

Jean Sprackland presents a new sequence of poems commissioned by MLF and the Canal & River Trust, and inspired by a boating weekend along the Peak Forest Canal from Whaley Bridge to Castlefield passing through magnificent countryside into post-industrial Manchester. Jean has published four acclaimed collections of poetry including *Tilt* (winner of the Costa Poetry Award), *Hard Water* (shortlisted for both the TS Eliot Prize and the Whitbread Award), and most recently *Sleeping Keys*, described by Sean O'Brien as 'a book distinguished by rueful but unembittered wisdom'. She is also the author of *Strands: A Year of Discoveries on the Beach*, and the winner of the Portico Prize for Non-Fiction. Be the first to hear Jean's beautiful, witty and original reflections on our waterways and take a stroll along the nearby stretch of canal that inspired them.

Sunday 23rd October, 2pm

Hope Mill Theatre

Tickets £8/£6

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Main Event

Afternoon Tea with Alan Johnson

When Tony Blair brought Alan Johnson into Parliament in 1997, it was something of a culture shock; Blair famously said to him, 'oh, so you really are working class.' In *The Long and Winding Road*, the third volume of his much acclaimed memoirs, Alan takes us inside the corridors of power. Learn the truth about how he found his feet in Westminster while staying true to his constituents in Hull West and Hessle, and what the day to day life of an MP is really like. Alan Johnson served as Home Secretary 2009-10 and filled a variety of cabinet positions in the governments of Blair and Gordon Brown. The first two volumes of his memoirs – *This Boy and Please, Mister Postman* – were huge critical and popular successes, with the first winning the 2013 RSL Ondaatje and Orwell Prizes, and the second winning the 2014 National Book Award for Autobiography. The *New Statesman* called *Please, Mister Postman* 'wry, self-deprecating, sometimes uproariously funny and sometimes unbearably sad.' At this relaxed and intimate event, Alan will discuss his life, his political career and his writing with broadcaster Sarfraz Manzoor. Ticket price includes tea and scones.

Sunday 23rd October, 3pm

Trafford Suite, The Midland

Tickets £22/£20 or £35/£33 for ticket and a copy of *The Long and Winding Road*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Johnny Marr Set The Boy Free

Johnny Marr is the creator of an iconic guitar sound that made a permanent impression on popular music. His groundbreaking work in the 1980s with his first band The Smiths continues to influence songwriters and artists all over the world, and his music career shows no signs of slowing down. Now, one of Manchester's most loved guitarists and songwriters returns to his native city for a rare in-conversation event about his forthcoming memoir, *Set The Boy Free*, and his impressive career as a solo artist and member of later bands including The The, Electronic, Modest Mouse and The Cribs. A candid account of his journey from the council estates of Wythenshawe through The Smiths' tumultuous climb to the spotlight, breakup and beyond, *Set The Boy Free* is one of the most eagerly anticipated memoirs of the year.

Monday 7th November, 7.30pm

RNCM Theatre

Tickets £12/£10 or £27/£25 with a copy of *Set The Boy Free*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

An Evening with Alan Cumming

Witty, sharp, sophisticated and provocative...Described by Time Magazine as one of the most fun people in show business, Alan Cumming has built up a devoted audience over decades of unforgettable performances on television, stage and screen. In his frank and funny new book, *You Gotta Get Bigger Dreams: My Life in Stories and Pictures*, the actor, writer and man-about-town shares wildly entertaining tales of louche late night parties, backstage anecdotes, bicoastal life and travels with his dog, Honey. The Olivier and Tony Award-winning actor has appeared most recently in the CBS television series *The Good Wife*, for which he received multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations, and has toured the cabaret show *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs*, of which he released an album. He is the author of a novel, *Tommy's Tale*, and the best-selling memoir *Not My Father's Son*. The event will be hosted by Viv Groskop.

Saturday 26th November, 7.30pm

Contact

Tickets £12/£10 or £27/£25 for ticket and a copy of *You Gotta Get Bigger Dreams*

Book on 0843 208 0500 or

manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Support The Festival

Did you know Manchester Literature Festival is a registered charity that alongside the annual Festival regularly commissions writers, poets and musicians to create new work?

Over the last ten years, we have worked with dozens of writers including Ali Smith, Jeanette Winterson, Jackie Kay, Lemn Sissay, Andrew Motion, Kei Miller and Olivia Laing to produce exciting and thought provoking fiction, poetry, essays and our annual Castlefield Manchester Sermon.

As part of our Children and Young Peoples programme, we also regularly organise life-changing projects and workshops in Greater Manchester schools and libraries. If you have enjoyed our events and would like to help the Festival continue to grow, produce more exciting and ambitious projects, and create new opportunities for people to experience the power of literature, there are a number of ways you can support us.

- **Make a donation to the Festival**
- **Become a Festival Friend and sponsor one of our events or commissions**
- **Leave a legacy to the Festival in your will**
- **Join our MLF Membership scheme from £20/£50 per annum via manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk**

For further details please contact Charlotte Platt by phone on **07791 356 384** or by email at **charlotte@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk**

MLF 2016 Venue List

For Google map links and further information on venue accessibility, please check the Festival website: manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/venues

1. Central Library
St Peter's Square
Manchester M2 5PD
0161 234 1983

2. Chapter One
Chatsworth House
19 Lever Street
Manchester M1 1BY
0161 278 0405

3. Chetham's Library
Long Millgate
Manchester M3 1SB
0161 834 9644

4. Contact
Oxford Road
Manchester M15 6JA
0161 274 0600

5. Corn Exchange
Exchange Square
Manchester, M4 3TR
0161 834 8961

6. The Dancehouse
10 Oxford Road
Manchester M1 5QA
0161 237 9753

7. Elizabeth Gaskell's House
84 Plymouth Grove
Ardwick
Manchester M13 9LW
0161 273 2215

8. Gorilla
54–56 Whitworth
Street West
Manchester M1 5WW
0161 407 0301

9. Hallé St Peter's
40 Blossom Street
Ancoats
Manchester M4 6BF
0161 237 7000

10. HOME
2 Tony Wilson Place
First Street
Manchester M15 4FN
0161 200 1500

11. Hope Mill Theatre
113 Pollard Street
Manchester M4 7JA
0161 275 9141

12. INNSIDE Manchester
1 First Street
Manchester M15 4RP
0161 200 2500

13. International Anthony Burgess Foundation
The Engine House
Chorlton Mill
3 Cambridge Street
Manchester M1 5BY
0161 235 0776

14. The John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate
Manchester M3 3EH
0161 306 0555

15. Longsight Library and Learning Centre
519 Stockport Road
Longsight
Manchester M12 4NE
0161 227 3706

16. Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street
Manchester M2 3JL
0161 235 8888

17. Manchester Cathedral
Victoria Street
Manchester M3 1SX
0161 833 2220

18. Manchester Town Hall
Albert Square
Manchester M60 2LA

19. Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street
The University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL
0161 275 8951

20. The Midland
16 Peter Street
Manchester M60 2DS
0161 236 3333

21. People's History Museum
Left Bank
Spinningfields
Manchester M3 3ER
0161 838 9190

22. Portico Library
57 Mosley Street
Manchester M2 3FF
0161 236 6785

23. RNCM
124 Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9RD
0161 907 5555

24. Royal Exchange Theatre
St Ann's Square
Manchester M2 7DH
0161 833 9833

25. The Union MMU
21 Higher Cambridge Street
Manchester M15 6AD
0161 247 1162

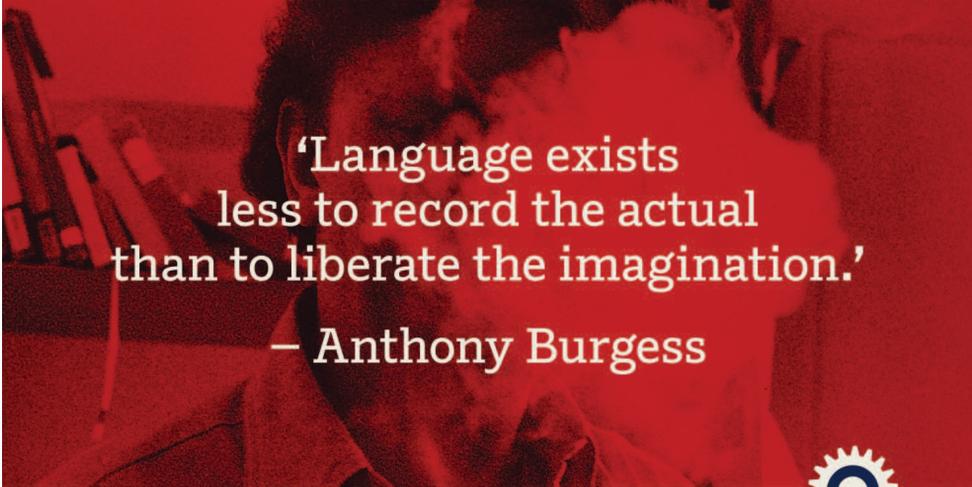
26. Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road
Manchester M15 6ER
0161 275 7450

27. Z-arts
335 Stretford Road
Manchester M15 5ZA
0161 226 1912



Waterstones is proud to support the Manchester Literature Festival

Find us selling books at events throughout the city,
or see us on Deansgate and in the Arndale Centre.



‘Language exists
less to record the actual
than to liberate the imagination.’
– Anthony Burgess



Encouraging and supporting public and scholarly
interest in the life and work of Anthony Burgess
anthonyburgess.org @MisterEnderby

International
Anthony Burgess
Foundation

Literary Afternoon Teas

Jenni Murray

Sunday 9 October, 3pm

Jane Rogers

Thursday 13 October, 3pm

Tracy Chevalier

Tuesday 18 October, 3pm

Alan Johnson

Sunday 23 October, 3pm

Enjoy bookish conversation with acclaimed writers and thinkers over delicious tea and cakes in the stunning Midland Hotel.

Tickets from £22/£20 per person
Book now on 0843 208 0500 or
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk



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Credits and Information

Booking

Please see individual events for booking details – tickets for most events can be booked through our main box office agent Quaytickets on **0843 208 0500**. **Calls cost 7p per min plus network operator's access charge**. The box office is open **Monday – Sunday from 9.30am - 8pm**. Alternatively book online via the festival website: **manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk** or **quaytickets.com/mlf**.

When you book directly through Quaytickets, you won't have to pay any additional booking fee on your tickets. The only cost on top of the ticket price is £2 postage or 75p e-ticket per transaction.

Access

We endeavour to make Festival events accessible to all and welcome you to contact us at the address below regarding any specific requirements you may have to enable your participation in the Festival.

Manchester Literature Festival

The Department Store, 5 Oak Street,
Manchester M4 5JD
0161 832 5502
office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk
manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

Company Registration No. 4369668
Charity Registration No. 1121276

To the best of our knowledge, all programming information was correct at the time of going to print.

Festival Staff

Festival Co-Directors:
Cathy Bolton & Sarah-Jane Roberts
Children and Young People's
Programme Coordinator: Jennie Brown
Festival Fundraiser: Charlotte Platt
Digital Engagement Coordinator
and Copywriter: Kate Feld
Event Managers: Jon Atkin,
Ian Hyde & Clare McCann
Volunteer Coordinator:
Liz Coupe

Board of Trustees

Katherine Beacon, Stella Bowdell,
Martin Carr, Ed Farrelly, Jerome de Groot,
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Festival Patrons

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07947 644110 / 07971 819016

Branding, Design and Production

MARK
0161 237 3712 / markstudio.co.uk

Hotel Partner

The Midland
0161 236 3333 / qhotels.co.uk

Festival Bookshop

Waterstones Deansgate
0161 837 3000 / waterstones.com

Credits and Information

Thanks

We are truly grateful for the continued support of the Festival's Principal Sponsor HSBC and our main public funders Arts Council England and Manchester City Council for enabling us to produce our most ambitious celebration of literature so far.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all our project and event partners and sponsors, participating artists, publishers, and our dedicated team of freelance associates, volunteers, trustees and business advisors for helping us put this year's Festival together.

Donate to MLF

Manchester Literature Festival is a registered charity and operates on modest means. To help support the Festival's valuable work in programming and commissioning the best contemporary literature from across the world, please make a donation via the Festival website.

Manchester Literature Festival is sponsored by Manchester City Council as part of the Council's Unmissable Manchester events programme, which includes live music, multicultural festivals and world class sport.

For the full programme go to:
manchester.gov.uk/mcrevents

This brochure is printed on 100% recycled paper.



Manchester Literature Festival

The Department Store, 5 Oak Street

Manchester M4 5JD

office@manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk

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