Literary Leicester 2016

Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 November 2016

Leicester’s completely free literature festival

Bringing the Best in Literature to Leicester
Welcome to Literary Leicester 2016, open and completely free to everyone, whatever your age or background.

2016 is a year of anniversaries. Shakespeare died in 1616, Charlotte Brontë was born in 1816, the same year Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*. Evelyn Waugh died 50 years ago, Roald Dahl was born 100 years ago. We’re celebrating them all, and much more…

We welcome children’s authors Dame Jacqueline Wilson, David Wood and *Charlie and Lola*’s Lauren Child. Fay Weldon discusses her life in writing. David Crystal describes how Shakespeare would have sounded 400 years ago. *Happy Valley* writer/director Sally Wainwright tells us about putting the Brontës on film. Philip Eade and Alexander Masters talk Evelyn Waugh. Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze and Maggie Harris celebrate Caribbean verandah culture. Leicester’s own Leonie Orton, Joe’s sister, launches her autobiography. The University’s academics offer talks on subjects from *The Victorian Magic Lantern* to Charlotte Brontë’s readers. Celebrated poets Tom Pickard and Sarah Howe join us. We launch new writing, from the children involved in the First Story writing programme, to the first black British short story anthology in fifteen years. The festival opens with a panel of leading journalists and writers discussing ‘Writing and Racism’ after Brexit.

Including Q&As with famous writers, film screenings, panels, readings, workshops, new writing, children’s activities and more, the festival has something for everyone. And, as always, it’s completely free! We look forward to seeing you in November.

The festival is brought to you by the University of Leicester’s College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.
EVENTS PROGRAMME

Wednesday 16 November

**Life Cycles: An Inaugural Reading of Commissioned Writing** .....................................Page 8
11.00am – 12.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

**Lauren Child** ..................................................................................................................Page 8
10.00 – 11.00am, English Martyrs’ Catholic School, Anstey Lane, Leicester, LE4 0FJ

**Joe Orton and ‘Shoxbear,’ with Emma Parker** ...............................................................Page 9
1.00 – 2.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

**Leonie Orton, I Had It in Me** ...............................................................Page 9
2.00 – 3.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

**Literary Salon: Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze and Maggie Harris: Readings on The Verandah** .......................................................... Page 10
4.30 – 5.30pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

**Writing and Racism** .............................................................................................Page 11
6.30 – 7.30pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

**‘The Tongue That Shakespeare Spoke,’ with David Crystal** ................................. Page 11
8.00 – 9.00pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing
Thursday 17 November

First Story: Young Writers’ Showcase ................................................................. Page 12
1.00 – 2.00pm, Lecture Theatre 3, Ken Edwards Building

Charlotte Brontë and her Readers,
with Joanne Shattock and Julian North .......................................................... Page 12
2.00 – 3.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Film Screening: The Black Heathcliff ............................................................. Page 13
3.00 – 4.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Closure – Black British Writing ................................................................. Page 13
4.30 – 5.30pm, Library Seminar Room, David Wilson Library

Poetry with Sarah Howe and Tom Pickard ........................................ Page 14
6.00 – 7.00pm, Leicester Print Workshop, 50 St. George Street, Leicester LE1 1QG

Sally Wainwright ..................................................................................... Page 14
7.30 – 11.00pm, Phoenix, 4 Midland Street, Leicester LE1 1TG
Friday 18 November

Villa Diodati and Frankenstein with Andrew Mitchell .................................. Page 15
11.00am – 12.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Science and the Victorian Public – A Magic Lantern Performance ............ Page 15
1.30 – 2.30pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

David Wood: The Utterly Inventive World of Roald Dahl ....................... Page 16
4.30 – 5.30pm, Curve, Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1SB

Evelyn Waugh Day ..................................................................................... Page 17
Evelyn Waugh’s Vile Bodies: A Textual Editing Workshop
3.00 – 4.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Evelyn Waugh: A Life Revisited
6.30 – 7.30pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Letters, Diaries and Biographies
8.00 – 9.00pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Saturday 19 November

Make Your Own Book (for aged 8 and under) ............................................ Page 18
12.30 – 1.30pm, Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

An Afternoon with Jacqueline Wilson ....................................................... Page 19
2.00 – 3.00pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

The Wanderings of a Gay Moroccan Author and Filmmaker ...................... Page 20
3.00 – 6.00pm, Film Theatre, Attenborough Seminar Block

Fay Weldon in Conversation ....................................................................... Page 21
6.30 – 7.30pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing
Information

Entry to all events is free. All of our events are ticketed, which will guarantee you a place. Feel free to turn up on the day, but please note that priority will be given to those who have pre-booked a ticket.

Book your tickets online at: www.le.ac.uk/literaryleicester

Book signings

Book signings are available at every event unless otherwise described.

Children

Events aimed particularly at younger audiences will have the suggested age range mentioned in the brochure. Other events may be unsuitable for children below the age of 12. All of our venues house suitable changing and toilet facilities, with plenty of options for refreshments nearby.

Parking

Car parking is available on campus after 5.00pm, and at the satellite pay and display car park on Welford Road, but spaces may be limited. Parking for blue badge visitors is available on campus, please contact us in advance. Leicester has an extensive network of public transport services to and from the city, and we would therefore encourage you to use public transport where possible.

Contact us

e: litleic@le.ac.uk
  t: 0116 252 5499
  www.le.ac.uk/literaryleicester

@LiteraryLeic · /LiteraryLeicester
Wednesday 16 November 2016

11.00am – 12.00pm,
Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Life Cycles: An Inaugural Reading of Commissioned Writing

Kevan Manwaring reads from his newly commissioned work, ‘Life Cycles’, designed to encourage you to get on your bike through exploring the pleasures of cycling. Kevan will be accompanied by the Red Leicester choir and joined by sedentary behaviour expert Dr Gary O’Donovan, and Dr Corinne Fowler, who directs the University of Leicester’s Centre for New Writing.

The work was commissioned by Leicestershire County Council.

10.00 – 11.00am,
English Martyrs’ Catholic School, Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ

Lauren Child

Lauren Child is the multi-award-winning creator of much-loved characters Clarice Bean, Ruby Redfort and Charlie and Lola. The BBC’s animated series of Charlie and Lola has won four BAFTAs, and her latest book, One Thing (October 2015) focuses on the joy of numeracy and its importance in art and music. (Suggested audience age of 6-10 years).

www.milkmonitor.com

This is a primary schools only event held in partnership with Whatever it Takes.

www.whatever-it-takes.org.uk

For school bookings please contact us directly at littleic@le.ac.uk

Whatever it takes...
Joe Orton and ‘Shoxbear,’ with Emma Parker

To mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare (‘Shoxbear’ in RP), this talk will examine what the library book covers that Orton defaced (or redesigned) with his partner Kenneth Halliwell reveal about his subversive attitude to the Bard, social class and sexuality in mid-century Britain.

Leonie Orton,
I Had It in Me

Join Leonie Orton to discuss her newly published memoir I Had It in Me. As well as offering personal insights into playwright Joe Orton’s early life in post-war Leicester, Leonie tells her own story – her fight to educate herself, nurture her brother’s legacy and become her own woman.

Chair: Emma Parker
Saturday 16 November 2016

4.30 – 5.30pm,
Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Literary Salon: Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze and Maggie Harris: Readings on The Verandah

In the Caribbean, verandahs are places where stories are shared. Join Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze MBE and Maggie Harris in conversation and performing new work.

Jean is among the world’s best-known Jamaican poets and was a Leicester resident for many years. Her new collection is The Verandah Poems. Maggie is a Guyana-born poet and short-story writer. Her awards include two Guyana Prizes for Literature and a Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

This event is held in partnership with Renaissance One.
www.renaissanceone.co.uk

‘The Verandah Poems Tour’ is funded by Arts Council England.
Wednesday 16 November 2016

6.30 – 7.30pm,
Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Writing and Racism

Britain has seen a rise in racist hate crimes after Brexit. What can writers do to challenge contemporary racism? Is their role limited to documenting society or can they truly affect change? Literary Leicester brings together a distinguished panel of authors, including award-winning Guardian columnist Gary Younge, to Britain’s first plural city.

Chair: Dr Corinne Fowler

8.00 – 9.00pm,
Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

‘The Tongue That Shakespeare Spoke,’ with David Crystal

English pronunciation has changed a lot in the past 400 years. So how did Shakespeare’s plays originally sound? Celebrated linguist, writer and broadcaster, David Crystal, explains how linguists reconstruct period speech, illustrates the accent, reports on some recent productions in ‘original pronunciation’, and describes its effect on actors and audience alike.

www.davidcrystal.com
First Story: Young Writers’ Showcase

First Story is a charity that brings professional writers into secondary schools serving low-income communities to work with teachers and students to foster creativity and communication skills. Following a year-long residency and a special festival workshop, join us for a showcase of First Story’s young writers performing their work, alongside leading local performance poets, Andy Craven-GriFFiths and John Berkavitch.

This event is held in partnership with First Story.

www.firststory.org.uk

Charlotte Brontë and her Readers,
with Joanne Shattock and Julian North

Celebrating the bicentenary of Charlotte Brontë’s birth, we consider her readers – Victorian and modern. Alongside readings of responses to her work, by Richard Fallon and Isabelle Staniszek wearing Victorian costume, Brontë experts Professor Joanne Shattock and Dr Julian North discuss the passions that she rouses in her public. There will also be a chance to hear from you. What is it about her that continues to inspire us?

Image: NPG 1452, Charlotte Brontë by George Richmond, chalk, 1850
© National Portrait Gallery, London
Film Screening: The Black Heathcliff

A rare public screening of the documentary, A Regular Black: The Hidden History of Wuthering Heights, which presents the historical case for arguing that Brontë’s Heathcliff was a black man. This short film features local historians and the novelist Caryl Phillips. Dr Corinne Fowler will introduce the film.

Closure – Black British Writing

Literary Leicester celebrates the launch of Closure, the first Black British short story anthology in fifteen years. Voted ‘A 2016 Must Read’, by The Guardian and Buzzfeed, this anthology is rich with stories which, like life, rarely end in the way we might expect...

Come along to hear four top-notch writers read and discuss their stories with Peepal Tree Press Associate Editor, Jacob Ross. Readers include Jennifer Makumbi, Leicester’s own Mahsuda Snaith, and Leone Ross.
Thursday 17 November 2016

6.00 – 7.00pm,
Leicester Print Workshop, 50 St. George Street,
Leicester LE1 1QG

Poetry with Sarah Howe and Tom Pickard

Tom Pickard grew up in the working-class suburbs of Newcastle upon Tyne. His most recent books of poetry are *Hoyoot: Collected Poems and Songs* (Carcanet, 2014) and *Winter Migrants* (Carcanet, 2016). As well as poetry, Pickard has compiled books of oral history and directed documentaries.

Sarah Howe was born in Hong Kong, and moved to England as a child. Her first collection, *Loop of Jade* (Chatto & Windus, 2015), won the T.S. Eliot Prize and was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Prize and a Forward Prize.

This event is held in partnership with New Walk magazine www.newwalkmagazine.com and Leicester Print Workshop www.leicesterprintworkshop.com

7.30pm onwards,
Phoenix, 4 Midland Street, Leicester LE1 1TG

Sally Wainwright

**7.30 – 8.30pm:** BAFTA award-winning writer and director, Sally Wainwright (*Happy Valley, Last Tango in Halifax*) will talk about her new two-hour drama for BBC 1, *To Walk Invisible: The Brontë Sisters*. She will be in conversation with Dr Siv Jansson, research advisor on the film, and Dr Julian North, Brontë expert, from the School of Arts, University of Leicester.

**9.00 – 11.00pm:** The interview will be followed by a screening of a film by Sally Wainwright. Please note, the film screening is hosted by Phoenix and will be charged. Visit the Phoenix website to book tickets.

www.phoenix.org.uk
Friday 18 November 2016

Villa Diodati and *Frankenstein* with Andrew Mitchell

Accompanied by a cellist, poet Andrew Mitchell performs his new work about Mary Shelley’s writing of the novel *Frankenstein* at the Villa Diodati, Switzerland in 1816.

1.30 – 2.30pm,
Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Science and the Victorian Public –
A Magic Lantern Performance

Magic lantern shows were a widespread spectacle in Victorian England where audiences were exposed to some of the newest scientific findings. Come and experience a re-enactment of a lantern show set within its historical contexts, with Professor Gowan Dawson and Dr Geoff Belknap.
Friday 18 November 2016

4.30 – 5.30pm,
Curve, Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1SB

David Wood: The Utterly Inventive World of Roald Dahl

David Wood OBE – ‘the national children’s dramatist’ (Times) – has adapted eight Roald Dahl classics for the theatre. Join the Olivier award-winning writer as he talks about Dahl, the master storyteller, and the craft of turning his stories into plays. A must for all ages – lovers of Dahl, theatre students and budding authors and playwrights. This event includes a Q&A session.

www.davidwood.org.uk

This event is held in partnership with Curve.

www.curveonline.co.uk
Friday 18 November 2016

**Evelyn Waugh Day**

The University of Leicester’s ‘Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh’ project runs a day of events commemorating the fiftieth year since Evelyn Waugh’s death, and celebrating his legacy for life-writing and literature.

**All Day, David Wilson Library**

**Study Sessions (for A-level students)**

Throughout the day, the British Library offers three A-level study sessions at the University of Leicester for local school children.

For more information and school bookings, please contact us directly at litleic@le.ac.uk

*3.00 – 4.00pm, Diana, Princess of Wales Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre*

**Evelyn Waugh’s *Vile Bodies*: A Textual Editing Workshop**

Why do academics edit texts? What problems do they encounter? Have a go yourself at editing a section of Waugh’s *Vile Bodies*. Professor Martin Stannard, Principal Investigator for *The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh* (Oxford University Press) and Dr Barbara Cooke and Dr Sharon Ouditt, will be on hand to guide you. If you like puzzles, you’ll love this.

*6.30 – 7.30pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing*

**Evelyn Waugh: A Life Revisited**

Celebrated biographer Philip Eade discusses his fantastic new biography, *Evelyn Waugh: A Life Revisited*.

*8.00 – 9.00pm, Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing*

**Letters, Diaries, Biographies**

What role do letters and diaries play in biographical writing? A panel discussion with Alexander Waugh – acclaimed biographer and Evelyn’s grandson – and Alexander Masters, author of *Stuart: A Life Backwards* and *A Life Abandoned.*
Saturday 19 November 2016

12.30 – 1.30pm,
Ogden Lewis Seminar Suite, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

Make Your Own Book
(for aged 8 and under)

Would you like to make your own little book? We have just the workshop for you! Participants will be given a choice of pre-printed paper to fold and cut into simple book forms. You can take these away and then make your own at home easily. Sumiko Eadon runs this workshop for children of 8 years and under. Come along and see how great stories become beautiful books!
Saturday 19 November 2016

2.00 – 3.00pm,
Peter Williams Lecture Theatre, Fielding Johnson Building South Wing

An Afternoon with Jacqueline Wilson

The much loved children’s author talks about her books and how she creates unforgettable characters like Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather. She will read from her new book, Clover Moon which introduces a brand new Victorian heroine. As well as discussing her own books, Jacqueline will talk about books she loved as a child, particularly her first reading of Jane Eyre, still one of her favourite books now.

Suitable for ages 7+.

Please note there will be no book signing after this event but book plates with Jacqueline’s signature printed on them will be available with every book purchased on the day.

www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk

This event is held in partnership with The Letterbox Club.
www.letterboxclub.org.uk
Abdellah Taïa is the first Arab author to ‘come out’ in the Islamicate world. His autobiographical and fictional writings in French deal with such hot topics as homosexuality, feminism, class, terrorism and migration. His novels *Salvation Army* (2009), *An Arab Melancholia* (2012) and *Infidels* (2016) have been recently translated into English.

*Salvation Army* is Taia’s film début, based on his own novel. It depicts his experiences as a gay man in Morocco and his migration to Europe.

This event is held in partnership with the project *Queer Diasporas: Islam, Homosexuality and a Micropolitics of Dissent.*

[www.le.ac.uk/english/research](http://www.le.ac.uk/english/research)
Fay Weldon will discuss her latest book, *Before the War* (2016), with Founder Chair of the Contemporary Women’s Writing Association, Professor Mary Eagleton. They will reflect on changes in the social and literary landscape since the publication of Fay’s first novel, *The Fat Woman’s Joke* (1967), almost 50 years ago.

This event is the first in an annual series of talks and lectures held in partnership with the Contemporary Women’s Writing Association.

[www.the-cwwa.org](http://www.the-cwwa.org)
How to find the venues

1 **Leicester Print Workshop**
   50 St. George Street, Leicester LE1 1QG

2 **Phoenix**
   4 Midland Street, Leicester LE1 1TG

3 **Curve**
   Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1SB

4 **English Martyrs’ Catholic School** (off map)
   Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ
Literary Leicester is proud to be working in partnership with:


For more information

Literary Leicester, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH

@LiteraryLeic · /LiteraryLeicester

© University of Leicester

All information in this document was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the University, and alterations may occur to the programmes and services described in this document.