

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

World's top crime writers head to city for festival weekend

Hundreds of visitors are expected to the city this weekend for the Noirwich Crime Writing Festival. International bestsellers including Lee Child, Andy McNab, Linwood Barclay and Ann Cleeves (creator of ITV's Vera Stanhope) top the line-up with organisations across the city getting involved.

The festival kicks off with Lee Child at Jarrold on Thursday 17 September and continues through to Sunday 20 September - rounding off with a Bloody Brunch in the spectacular Dragon Hall - where visitors can enjoy a Bloody Mary, themed food and four sensational crime writers.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive at Writers' Centre Norwich, one of the festival organisers says "Crime fiction and thrillers are hugely popular in the UK and we're delighted to be welcoming some of the biggest and most exciting names writing at the moment. This festival will grow and grow and help our city and region promote tourism and attract new visitors to our cultural attractions and businesses".

Henry Sutton, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at University of East Anglia and award-winning crime novelist, is one of the founders of Noirwich. He says "We want to make Norwich the world's leading centre for the enjoyment and study of crime fiction, and our huge line-up of leading authors will bring us a big step closer to that goal. UEA launches a new MA in Crime Fiction this month.

Lynsey Dalladay, Senior Digital Marketing Manager at Dead Good Books (Penguin Random Houses' crime community) says "We're delighted to be partnering with the festival this year. The quality and variety of events at this year's Noirwich is outstanding and really offers crime fans the inside scoop on crime writing. It's going to be a thrilling four days."

Events will be taking place across Norwich, England's only UNESCO City of Literature. For details and tickets see www.noirwich.co.uk

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Notes to editors:

1. For more information or to arrange interviews or photographs, please contact Alice Kent, Director of Communications, WCN on 07779029055 or at alice.kent@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

2. Noirwich Crime Writing Festival 17 – 20 September, Norwich. The core festival partners are Dead Good Books, UEA and Writers' Centre Norwich. Events will take place at UEA, Writers' Centre Norwich at Dragon Hall, Jarrold, Waterstones, The Millennium Library and Norwich Castle and Art Gallery. Tickets are for sale at www.noirwich.co.uk #Noirwich

3. About Dead Good Books

Dead Good is the home of killer crime books, drama and film. Established in October 2012, it's dedicated to discovering, sharing and recommending thrilling crime. Whether you visit to find out about your favourite authors' new book, to enter an exclusive competition or to find out more about your favourite crime drama, Dead Good is the place for you. www.deadgoodbooks.co.uk

4. About University of East Anglia (UEA)

UEA is one of the best universities in the UK for student satisfaction according to the 2014 Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey and is ranked in the top 1% of HE institutions in the world. The School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at UEA has a long-established international reputation in literary studies and is world famous for pioneering courses in creative writing. www.uea.ac.uk/literature

5. About Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN)

WCN is a literature development organisation based in England's first UNESCO City of Literature, Norwich. WCN is interested in both the artistic and social impact of creative writing, and work with writers, readers and diverse communities on a wide range of ongoing and one-off projects and events. Writers' Centre Norwich is currently developing a National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall to open in 2017 as a major cultural venue for the city. www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

6. This event is supported by Arts Council England, Norwich City Council, Norwich County Council and the Norwich Business Improvement District.